

The Closing Ceremony

It is all over, the Games have come to an end. While the setting sun casts a pink mist on the peaks of the Dolomites, the Stadium tilled for the last time with a large crowd speaking every language of the earth. On the smooth ice of the rink, the Olympic champions of skating evolved gracefully, tracing most elaborate figures, while an imposing background was formed by the wonderful alpine and the Olympic banners. Once more, the flagbearers representing the 32 competing nations filed into the arena when displaying their multi-coloured flags. The national hymns were heard then the flag offered by the City of Oslo in 1952 was officially handed to the Mayor

of Cortina. Mr. Brundage, President of the International Olympic Committee closed the ceremony by addressing the young people of the world, expressing the wish to see them all in four year's time at Squaw Valley.

As the setting sun casts its last shadows over the Stadium facing the mountain peaks silhouetted against the sky, the Olympic Flame died down gradually. The Olympic Emblem with its five symbolic rings is brought in, and whilst the fanfare measured the receding treads of the flagbearers, a burst of spectacular fireworks flamed forth on Mount Tosala. This glorious fairylike display created a worthy finale to the VIIth Winter Olympic Games of Cortina.