

Closing Ceremony of the XIIIth Winter Games



In his remarks at the closing ceremony of the XIIIth Winter Games, Lord Killanin issued a moving appeal for unity and mutual understanding among the peoples of the world through the medium of the Olympic Games. Here is the complete text of the President of the IOC's address.

" In the name of the International Olympic Committee, I offer to the President and to the people of the United States of America our grateful thanks. I particularly would like to thank the people of Lake Placid, not only those whose names have appeared on the programmes, but the many who have worked behind the scenes and at times even have been criticised. We know how hard they have

worked and how much they have contributed to the success of these Games. I would like to thank, and apologise for turning my back on them, the competitors, for without the competitors there would be no Games. I would like to thank all "the officials from the national and International Federations and also the spectators: The spectators of these Games have contributed to the understanding which we of the Olympic movement believe in—an understanding which is without race, religion or colour. I would like to thank the media—and I hope at this moment there is no commercial break—and all those who have contributed to the success of the Games. Ladies and Gentlemen, I feel these Games here have proved that we do something to contribute to the mutual understanding of the world... what we have in common and not what our differences are. If we can all come together it will be for a better world and we shall avoid the holocaust which may well be upon us if we are not careful. I declare the XIIIth Winter Games closed, and in accordance with tradition, I call upon the youth of all countries to assemble four years from now at Sarajevo, there to celebrate with us the XIVth Olympic Winter Games. Thank you. "