
SPEECH BY H.E. JUAN ANTONIO SAMARANCH, PRESIDENT OF THE IOC

When, on 30th September 1981, the members of the International Olympic Committee chose the city of Calgary to host the XVth Olympic Winter Games, no-one would have imagined how much work would fill these seven years nor just how much the Olympic Movement itself would evolve in that time.

The rapturous reception which greeted the announcement of the result demonstrated something which has never been in any doubt: the enthusiasm and the heartfelt emotion with which the people of Calgary and Alberta, and through them the whole of Canada, have welcomed and prepared for these Games, being held on Canadian soil for the second time.

I should therefore like to take this opportunity to address all the members of the Candidature Committee, the Organizing Committee, all the inhabitants of Calgary as well as the leaders of the city, Alberta and the whole of Canada, to say a profound and sincere thank you : thanks to your efforts, your generosity, your hospitality and warm welcome, we are sure that these XVth Olympic Winter Games will be an unprecedented success within the history of the Olympic Movement.

But before we start to get enthusiastic about the competitions, we must initially think about the state of our movement, endeavour to resolve the most urgent questions facing us and outline the way ahead in the coming months and years.

In six days time these XVth Winter Games will be starting. Nearly 2,000 competitors drawn from 57 National Olympic Committees from five continents will meet in sporting competitions in what we hope will be the usual spirit of fairness and honesty. We shall unfortunately have to take precautions, since it seems that the desire to win at all costs drives some to illegal and totally dishonest means in order to ensure that their athletes possess an often illusory advantage over their rivals. As means of detection have improved, they now attempt to cheat scientifically by using artificial means to provoke natural physiological reactions, or by attempting with



various tricks to hide the irrefutable evidence of their dishonest actions.

It will come as no surprise to anyone that, as President of the International Olympic Committee and custodian of the whole Olympic Movement, I am taking such a serious and firm stand against these practices. Not only do they lead to disqualification for those who employ them or who recommend them, but they totally ruin their reputation. Such an attitude, such behaviour in themselves constitute very serious infractions of the sporting laws, prescribed in the first instance by the International Olympic Committee, and recently by a growing number of International Sports Federations and even NOCs not to mention by governments themselves. But above all such behaviour makes a mockery of the very essence of sport, the soul of what we, like our predecessors, consider sacrosanct ideals : the desire within oneself to exceed one's own limitations, the social need to compete with others, to find one's identity within society and to develop one's abilities on all levels.

At the start of this XXIVth Olympiad of the modern era, it is thus you I am addressing: you, the athletes of the world, sportsmen and women; you who in increasing numbers every year enthusiastically take part in popular sporting events, in sport for all; you who make the most of your leisure time by devoting yourselves to physical activity and who through sport show how the joy of excelling oneself and fighting against oneself overcomes every obstacle, every inhibition, every "impossibility", thereby demons-

trating the power of heart and mind over matter. What do they represent to you, this group of individuals who think they can attain your goal only by cheating and concealing the truth? They are only a minority amongst you and yet we must be on our guard, we must ensure that this one small drop does not pollute the rest of the ocean. Herein lies the responsibility of the International Olympic Committee and its Medical Commission which for nearly twenty years has been led with competence, devotion and firmness by our colleague, Prince Alexandre de Merode. We were the first to take on this responsibility, and we intend to carry on doing our utmost within this field, continuing to work in close collaboration with the International Sports Federations and the National Olympic Committees. We know that this will be a long, hard battle, never-ending, but at the same time extremely delicate. That is why, whilst we appreciate the help that is offered to us, we like at the same time to consult as widely as possible, since the fragile balance within the world of sport is difficult to maintain. Our unity here, too, will be indispensable.

The real question is not about penalizing, but about prevention, education. Sanctions are necessary; they are not absolute. Could anyone amongst us cheerfully assert : this person is guilty, and only this one, since he is the one who has been tested? Much of the time this would make a mockery of justice. We are not a court and have no desire to be one, I want this to be quite clear. We simply intend that the rules we have laid down are respected by those who have joined us. If they wish to apply other rules, they are free to do so at their own risk and amongst themselves. We shall not change our rules simply to please them.

Let me state solemnly, in the name of the whole Olympic Movement, on behalf of the many hundreds of millions of those who freely accept our principles and share our ideals, that we utterly and absolutely reject these attempts to cheat which endanger the very lives of those involved. Doping is alien to our philosophy, to our rules of conduct. We shall never tolerate it.

I have said on many occasions that the Olympic Movement cannot live outside time and outside the rest of the world. Everything which happens in the world concerns us and affects us in one way or another. That is inevitable

with any human enterprise. I have personally pleaded on dozens of occasions for national voluntary sporting organizations to maintain the best possible relations with their governments. But I hope the history of the last twenty years will have taught everyone the lesson that, as seems likely with these next Games, at the end of the day, the only victims of political conflicts which use sport as a weapon are the athletes, manipulated, exploited and often sacrificed with little chance of making their voice heard.

On 18th January last, the whole Olympic Movement had cause to rejoice in having successfully avoided the trap of disunity and confrontation. Indeed, an all-time record number of 161 National Olympic Committees had, by the agreed deadline, confirmed their participation in the Games of the XXIVth Olympiad. But we cannot really talk of "victory" since there are still some, very few, who will be missing.

Since 1985 when the NOC of the DPR of Korea demanded the right to co-host the Games of the XXIVth Olympiad which the plenary session of the IOC had awarded to the city of Seoul, the IOC, taking into account the fact that there is only one "Korea", at present split between two states, endeavoured to find a human and sporting solution which would satisfy both the spirit and the letter of our "Olympic Charter".

For the first time, under the auspices of the IOC, representatives from the two sides agreed to meet on foreign soil to seek a way to permit harmonious organization and participation by everyone in the Games. On four occasions we found ourselves in Lausanne, at our Olympic House, amongst people willing to cooperate, and I am convinced that, had they not had their hands tied, the athletes could have found a satisfactory solution, as we have succeeded in doing in the past. For reasons of their own, athletes from the DPR of Korea, Cuba and Ethiopia amongst others will thus be missing from the great universal festival of sporting youth which will start in Seoul in exactly 225 days time. It is regrettable that young people who have spent many years of preparation in the hope of being worthy representatives of their countries should be thus deprived of any opportunity to compete with fellow athletes from all over the world.

While we may not have totally succeeded this time, I believe that our action has enabled everyone to appreciate what was at stake, and, at

the end of the day, convinced the 161 NOCs who have accepted the IOC's invitation to take part in the Games in Seoul. I should, however, also like to use this opportunity to remind everyone that we are part of a large family. As with all families we too know how to be lenient when disruptive members return to a better frame of mind. Our attitude and our desire to succeed remain unchanged. Even though with every passing day discussions are made more difficult and the possibilities for agreement more limited, we shall still strive right to the end to find a solution which will allow the athletes from the missing NOCs to take part in our great celebration, thereby making it truly universal.

Going beyond this particular context, I should like everyone once again to reflect on the possibilities of seeing the world recognise and acknowledge the independence and authority of our movement. Such recognition, as I said, would ensure a degree of stability to all the members of our movement without encroaching upon the prerogatives of any state. May I be permitted, in this Olympic year, to evoke the ancient custom and call upon every official, every government, every head of state to allow the Olympic Games to be forever more the symbol of tolerance of dialogue, of human brotherhood, of understanding and of Peace.

At a time when we are getting ready to celebrate the first centenary to the modern Olympic Movement, what better proof of confidence, optimism and open-mindedness could we offer to the youth of the world, those to whom the future of our planet belongs and into whose hands it is our ultimate responsibility to place a world where the quality of life improves every day? If I have chosen to make this appeal today, here in Calgary, it is because the time and the place seemed particularly appropriate.

The time I have already explained. After three Olympiads each of which saw countries staying away for reasons of their own, every country has, I believe, realised the long term dangers which such an attitude entails. I won't go over that again.

Here we have assembled representatives from all the members of the Olympic family, members of the IOC, of the winter and summer International Federations, of NOCs, of organizing committees; all are aware of the importance of what is at stake. All know very well that our most effective weapons are the safeguarding and reinforcement of our unity, and all have demonstrated during recent years

their total support and active involvement. I wish to thank them all for their efforts.

The place, finally, is far from immaterial. Canada, more than perhaps any other country at the present time, is justly proud to have brought together in one nation a diverse multitude rich in nothing but hope, with no other bond but its humanity. Are not these precisely the very same characteristics of our movement such as I have just described them ?

With the celebration here in Calgary of the XVth Olympic Winter Games, barely twelve years after the Games of the XXIst Olympiad in Montreal, and when the city of Toronto is hoping to be a candidate for the Games of the centenary, Canada has furnished ample proof of the deep attachment it holds to the Olympic Movement.

For this reason, then, I should like before I finish to pay a richly deserved tribute to all those who have contributed towards preparing for, and who will tomorrow contribute to the unprecedented success of these Winter Games. Members of the candidature committee, whose faith and devotion persuaded us to put our confidence in them ; members of the Organizing Committee who have patiently worked for six long years sorting out the tiniest details of this gigantic feat of organization ; citizens and councillors of Calgary, who by their warm welcome and generous hospitality have always given us their support and assistance ; volunteers of all ages and backgrounds who by their generosity have enabled this miracle of shared friendship to take place once again; and finally, the authorities of Alberta and Canada, who have supported and helped the organization of these Games to the utmost of their abilities. To everyone then, our profound gratitude and sincere thanks for the magnificent work you have accomplished.

On behalf of the International Olympic Committee, the Olympic International Winter Sports Federations, the National Olympic Committees, the representatives of the media from all over the world, permit me, Deputy-Prime Minister of Canada, Prime Minister of Alberta, Mayor Klein, Chairman and President of the Organizing Committee, to ask you to pass on our thanks to all of them.

The success of the XVth Olympic Winter Games in Calgary will be the best reward they could have, and will for us be the shining symbol of strengthened and triumphant Olympic unity.