



THE BEST ORGANIZATION

The best organized Olympic Winter Games ever". During the press conference, traditionally given the day after the Games end, the President repeated the symbolic phrase that he had used on the eve of the Closing Ceremony, to the satisfaction of Messrs. Frank King and Bill Pratt who were present along with Mr. Marc Hodler, the FIS president, Messrs. Gafner and Tröger, Mrs. Zweifel and several IOC members.

Both as regards organization and sites, the events benefited from the best possible conditions, even despite the wind", declared the President. "We have seen a record number of countries participating. There has been no major incident, no problems of a political nature, either in the area of security or regarding the admission of athletes. Despite sometimes difficult atmospheric conditions the best champions prevailed".

Mr. Samaranch then praised the work undertaken by the Organizing Committee and the 10,000 volunteers who distinguished themselves at every level. He also revealed that just one case of doping had been recorded during the tests, involving the hockey player Jaroslaw Morawiecki, and affirmed that the laboratories and the procedures used had been entirely satisfactory.

The journalists, in their questions returned to the length of the Games, which for the first time lasted 16 days instead of 13, as before. The President claimed that 16 days was an ideal length of



After Mr. Frank King, the IOC President presented the Olympic Order to the Mayor of the Olympic city, Mr. Ralph Klein, and the President of OCO'88, Mr. Bill Pratt.

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time to avoid having, as in the past, three ice-hockey matches before the Opening Ceremony, and, in addition, to allow competitions to take place over three weekends thereby reaching more spectators throughout the world. To avoid any possible loss of interest, the President hinted at the possibility of increasing the number of sports which, in any case, would still have to be connected with snow and ice.

Mr. Hodler, for his part, replied to questions concerning technical aspects after having in turn congratulated the organizers for their work. "The Winter Games", declared the president of the FIS, "are a union between snow and ice." Calgary was better for ice, he said, referring to the speed skating oval which is practically the only one of its kind in the world. As for the snow,

taking into account the impossibility for ecological reasons of using the resorts in the Banff National Park, a compromise between a quality venue and distance from Calgary was found at Nakiska. Nonetheless, what could have been done to counter the bad weather was done, the competitions had been judiciously scheduled so that any postponements did not pose any insurmountable problems, and the artificial snow proved to be of a better quality than natural snow. Concerning the controversial site of the Olympic park, where the ski jumps were not protected against the effects of the wind, Mr. Hodler explained that the FIS had chosen the site with full knowledge of the facts "in order to provide Calgary with facilities young people can use, close to the city".



Albertville's chamois takes up the baton.