



Mr. Henri Dujol, Mayor of Albertville, the next Olympic town, carries the historic Olympic flag presented by the city of Oslo which has just been handed to him by Mr. Ralph Klein, Mayor of Calgary.

KILLY BACK FOR PEAK PERFORMANCE

Mr. Henri Dujol, Mayor of Albertville, the next Olympic town, carries the historic Olympic flag presented February 1988 symbolised the opening of a vital new chapter in preparations for 1992.

But an old friend and architect of the town's Olympic nomination was welcomed back to the COJO as co-President ten days later : Jean-Claude Killy, triple Olympic gold medallist of the Games in Grenoble in 1968, joined his friend and fellow President Mr. Michel Barnier and Mr. Jacques Chirac on the steps of the Hotel Matignon in Paris to announce his long-awaited and much-rumoured return to the French public, for whom he is the very spirit of the Games. His post was officially confirmed on 30th March, after modification of the organizing committee's statutes.

The meeting with the French Prime Minister highlighted the close accord between the COJO and the government, which committed 400 million FF to the Games back on 25th November last year. Their agreement set out the responsibilities of the local and regional governments of Savoy and Rhone-Alps : the financing of the Lyon-Grenoble-Albertville motorway project, scheduled for completion in 1992, the building and renovation of hospitals and all infrastructure needed for the Games.

Mr. Barnier made it clear to members in his report on 11th February that Albertville is no Cal-

gary. A more typical ski resort, a town of 20,000 inhabitants, it stands on the threshold of a valley, throughout which the various competitions will be scattered. improved road communications and the town's inclusion in the TGV, the French high-speed train, network would, however, place it firmly on the map.

In a different way, this has already started, with the appearance of a chamois, emblematic of the Alps, skating amongst Hidy, Howdy and Hodori at the Closing Ceremony. With its new logo, an improved version of the one used as aspirant Olympic City and the slogan "Olympic Savoy 1992, the Peak of Performance", Albertville is already presenting its face to the world. And the world is starting to arrive : two thousand youngsters, all promising athletes from a round the globe, are expected this summer for the start of the youth programme.

One last question put at the Session : the weather forecast for early 1992, snow or no snow ? Mr. Hodler, President of the Association of the Winter Sports Federations, was confident that Nature would be sporting, especially as the Savoy area had been one of the areas least affected by the general snow shortage in Europe during the 1987/88 season and able to operate normally.

Messrs. Michel Barnier (left) and Jean-Claude Killy stand either side of the French Prime Minister, Mr. Jacques Chirac.

