

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS FROM THE IOC PRESIDENT



1988 saw the XXIVth Olympiad brought to a triumphant close. The unforgettable days of Seoul following those of Calgary, provide us with a new basis from which to continue our Olympic mission. The Movement has demonstrated admirably its ability to bring together young athletes in top class competition, the proof of highly sophisticated and efficient organization.

Why conceal our pride? After this glorious year, we can look to the future with the confidence which our unity inspires.

Today no-one remains in any doubt as to the real power of Olympism in the world, a fact which serves only to reinforce the strength of our greetings here at the start of the XXVth Olympiad during which we shall be turning our attention to Europe, to Barcelona and Albertville.

The next four years will once again be a time of construction, organization, preparation and training, four words which concern every member of the Olympic family: athletes, International Federations, National Olympic Committees and Organizing Committees. Everyone knows how much past successes have been the product of a joint effort inspired by a spirit of frank and close collaboration.

We must take full advantage of this positive approach to find definitive answers to the dishonest trickery which threatens the sports ethic. In this respect, the unanimous support recently shown for the Olympic Movement by the world's sports ministers, meeting under the aegis of Unesco, and, in particular, the adoption of the international Olympic Charter Against Doping in Sport, constitute a new step

forward with world-wide repercussions for top level sport. This consensus is clear evidence of the important position sport continues to occupy within our societies.

And so, with its powerful challenge to transcend one's limits which attracts young people and brings peace and friendship between nations, the Olympic Movement is set to play a major role in the future development of our civilization.

Juan Antonio Samaranch