

In my capacity as President of the International Olympic Committee, leader of the Olympic Movement, may I take this opportunity to welcome you to Vienna and to wish you the greatest success in your forthcoming discussions.

The ceremony taking place this evening is for us one of the best demonstrations of the importance which has gradually been acquired over the years by your association, under the direction and leadership of our friend, Mario Vázquez Raña, to whom I should today like to pay a well-merited tribute. It is in fact due to his untiring and very innovative efforts that the ANOC has attained its current status.

Just a few weeks ago, we saw the conclusion of the truly extraordinary Games in Seoul, which for the first time in the history of our Movement gathered together 160 National Olympic Committees. I believe that everyone will agree with me when I say that this was an excellent demonstration of the unity of the Olympic Movement, owing to both to a spectacular improvement in international relations and the constant efforts over more than five years of each of the members of our family.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank the 160 National Olympic Committees who accepted the invitation of the IOC to go to Seoul and particularly the NOC of the Republic of Korea and the SLOOC which provided us with conditions for participation which will be hard to follow in the future.

These Games, which were undoubtedly a tremendous success in terms of prestige and participation, also experienced difficult moments, which thanks to our firmness, appear finally to have proved extremely beneficial to our continued fight against doping. In not hesitating to bear our responsibilities, all our responsibilities, we have brought to the entire world and to all those who questioned it the proof of our determination and our firm will to fight effectively against this cancer.

Thus, several days ago in Moscow, together with the bureau of the Olympic Movement, to which in passing I should like to express our gratitude, we were able with the Canadian Government to persuade the Second International Conference of Sports Ministers, meeting upon the initiative of Unesco, to grant us the supreme



**SPEECH OF THE  
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responsibility for this fight on a worldwide basis, particularly by granting us the possibility of carrying out random out-of-competition controls. This enormous progress which was achieved thanks to the ardent support of the Socialist Sports Ministers several days beforehand in Budapest, consecrates the pioneering work which we have achieved in this domain over the last thirty years under the energetic leadership of the Prince de Merode. I am certain that he can, as usual, count on your collaboration and your determination to combat this disease.

If I speak here of collaboration and cooperation, of unity and dialogue, you are all aware that these are not words spoken in vain. For eight years now, I have met with each of you individually or on the occasion of meetings such as these and I have always insisted on the importance of this attitude which for me is primordial. I reiterate that unity is the secret of our success, of our actions, of our importance. The unprecedented success of the XVth Olympic Winter Games in Calgary and of the Games of the XXIVth Olympiad in Seoul have obviously contributed considerably to a new respect, to a renewed awareness of our identity, our role and our function.

My friends, I am sure that we have crossed a barrier, an important, essential

and crucial barrier which gives us the right, but also the duty, to go forward, not independently but all together, of a common accord, whilst bearing in mind the realities, the needs and the possibilities of everyone. If we are able to comply with this discipline, if we are able to moderate our immediate requirements in order to reply better to our true aspirations, we shall have proved our true fraternity, solidarity and responsibility. I am convinced that we are all able to follow the same path, the most fruitful for the youth of the world.

Before concluding, I should like to say a word of thanks to our hosts. The entire Austrian Olympic Committee, its President, our friend Kurt Heller and all his colleagues, not forgetting our colleague of the IOC, Philipp von Schoeller, have all worked relentlessly to provide us with the best working conditions and the warmest welcome. We can but thank them from the bottom of our hearts, as we know that through them we are seeing the love of the Austrian people for sport, something we have been able to witness on two occasions, in 1964 and 1976. I am convinced that this meeting in Vienna will leave lasting memories for all of us and I hope that all participants will find a moment to discover the charm and attractions of this city and this country.

*Viennese choirboys set the harmonious tone of ANOC's General Assembly.*

