

In my capacity as President of the International Olympic Committee, allow me to wish you a very warm welcome, an excellent stay and constructive work in my native city of Barcelona.

We are happy to see assembled here tonight representatives of central, regional and municipal government, delegates of the International Federations, members of the Organizing Committee of the Games of the XXVth Olympiad, Barcelona 1992, members of the International Olympic Committee, representatives of the media and various sponsors and associates of the Olympic Movement. We do indeed have a shared responsibility before the world, each in our own field, namely, to ensure the greatest degree of success and the best possible celebration of the Games of the XXVth Olympiad here in Barcelona, here in this town which, for more than fifty years, has been patiently, hopefully, waiting for just such an event.

Following the resounding success of the Olympic Games last year in Seoul, it cannot be denied that it will not be an easy task to shoulder such a great responsibility, as our Korean friends have produced a hard act to follow. It is therefore all the more necessary that we should meet and achieve balanced and productive talks, as these, and these alone, are the only way of guaranteeing final success. The necessary decisions become easier to make and implement if each of us fully appreciates the needs and requirements of the others. This is the sign of mutual trust, of the close cooperation which the International Olympic Committee, the leader of the Olympic Movement, has been striving to create, and which, in my opinion, it has succeeded in communicating to all of us.

I could not end this brief intervention without first greeting, as is his due, His Royal Highness, the Prince of Asturias. We are all aware of your personal interest in sport. I can also say that your presence here today is proof of the interest and support which the Spanish Royal Family, and above all, your father, His Majesty Juan Carlos I and Her Majesty Queen Sofia and

the Infantes Elena and Cristina have always shown towards the Olympic Movement. All of us here today are extremely grateful.

Allow me also to express my gratitude to the representatives of the Games of the XVth and XVIIth Winter Games in Albertville-Savoy and Lillehammer, as well as the Candidature Committees of the cities of Athens, Atlanta, Belgrade, Manchester, Melbourne and Toronto for the Games of the XXVth Olympiad. Thank you for coming.

On the eve of the last decade of the century, let us show the world that sport is a living and dynamic activity which is always capable of testing and improving itself and preparing for the years to come, provided, that is, that it is given the necessary authority and scope for action. The Olympic Movement brings a new dimension to sport, a human, spiritual and philosophical dimension, this is the "added dimension of the soul" that Coubertin spoke of. We must also ensure that we constantly adapt this dimension to the changing conditions of the world around us. Over the years, we have been able to create a situation, to draw up guidelines for action and to establish a spirit of cooperation which is completely new, both in our relations amongst ourselves, and with the outside authorities, who have finally come to recognize our unique character.

It is now up to us to show that we are capable of taking advantage of these conditions to perfect this shared undertaking with which we have been entrusted, although we know that it is a never-ending task.

My friends, take courage, and may these Olympic meetings in Barcelona act as the happy prelude to the Games which, in three years' time, will bring together more than 10,000 athletes, come from the four corners of the earth to share with us that "added dimension of the soul" which is part and parcel of the Olympics.



**THE SPEECH OF H.E. MR. JUAN ANTONIO SAMARANCH, PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE**