

# XVth OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

## SPEECH OF THE IOC PRESIDENT

Once again, the Olympic flag flies over France, cradle of modern Olympism. Through these Games in Albertville and Savoy, we pay tribute to the country where Baron Pierre de Coubertin, father of the modern Olympic Games, was born.

For two weeks, the whole world will follow with passion the performances of the world's best athletes in sports on snow and ice. I wish you all a warm welcome to this great festival characterized by unity, friendship and fair play.

We are convinced that, thanks to the efforts of all of you, and especially those of the Organizing Committee and its Presi-

dents, Michel Barnier and Jean-Claude Killy we shall witness the success we all hope for. I shall not forget the help of the thousands of volunteers who have contributed to these wonderful Games.

They will be a new success, a triumph for the Olympic Movement and a symbol of a world united in brotherhood and the desire for peace.

And now, I have the honour of inviting Mr François Mitterrand, president of the French Republic, to declare open these sixteenth Olympic Winter Games in Albertville-Savoy.

