

Then it was time to take leave of these Games. "They will go down in history", said the IOC President, presenting the Olympic Order to the co-presidents of the

CLOSING SPEECH OF THE IOC PRESIDENT, H.E. JUAN ANTONIO SAMARANCH

As President of the International Olympic Committee, I wish to express our heartfelt congratulations to all of you, athletes, officials, leaders of the International Federations and National Olympic Committees.

For sixteen days, you have shown us that the Olympic Games are still the great universal celebration of friendship. You have put your whole heart into it.

To all of you, organizers and volunteers in your thousands, I extend my warmest thanks. Winter Games, spread over thirteen sites in the mountains; it was an immense challenge. You took up this challenge like the mountain-dwellers that you are. It was not easy, but you succeeded.

Yes, you succeeded, and Olympism will remember these Games which will be a milestone in its history. We are all winners, but above all Savoy, for its present and its future.

I should therefore like to congratulate particularly your presidents, Michel Barnier and Jean-Claude Killy. I have the great honour to award them our highest decoration: the Olympic Order in gold... you have certainly earned it.

Permit me, finally, this evening to say thank you to France, France which now as always holds high the torch of modern Olympism, thanks to the efforts of all of you.

I now declare closed the XVI Olympic Winter Games of Albertville/Savoy. In accordance with our tradition, I call upon the youth of the world to assemble two years from now in Lillehammer, Norway, to celebrate with us, in 1994, the XVII Olympic Winter Games.

