

**SPEECH OF MR GERHARD HEIBERG  
PRESIDENT OF THE LILLEHAMMER  
OLYMPIC ORGANIZING  
COMMITTEE**

It is both with a sense of awe and pride that I, as president of the Lillehammer Olympic Organizing Committee, bid the IOC's 102nd Session welcome to Lillehammer. Little Lillehammer - a small town, even by Norwegian standards, yet one which soon will have the whole world's attention focused on it.

This is, in fact, the third time the IOC has held its Session in Norway. The first time was in Oslo in 1935, when there were twenty-three participants. The next occasion was again in Oslo in 1952 in connection with the Winter Games, when there were 34 participants. Now, at this 102nd Session, there are more than 100 participants. This says something in itself about the exciting and positive development the Olympic Movement has been through.

In Norway, the some 4 1/2 million inhabitants have an almost inherent relationship to sport and to winter sports and the Olympic Winter Games in particular. With a small population and a geographic location on the edge of the inhabitable, this little country has more than once been the best nation in the Winter Games.

Winners and many Olympic medals are one thing, but of greater impor-

tance is the inspiration and sporting activity generated amongst the people in this long and varied country. In Norway there is no other movement or recreational pastime that attracts anything like the number of members of participants that sport does. For Norwegians, sport gives life.

The individual Norwegian either participates actively or actively supports the hundreds of thousands who do. In Norway generally, and here in

Lillehammer especially, we have spent over five years preparing ourselves to show you and the rest of the world that we are worthy of the trust you showed us in Seoul on the 15th September 1988, when the decision was made to place the XVII Olympic Winter Games in Lillehammer.

Much has happened since then, both in Lillehammer and in the rest of the Olympic region. This Olympic development has lacked neither doomsday prophecies nor storm warnings and many feared that idyllic and traditional Lillehammer would be destroyed.

Dear IOC delegates, use your time in Lillehammer well! See for yourselves that there has been no destruction. On the contrary, you will see that, through environmental consciousness, we have built Olympic venues and an infrastructure that enrich nature rather than besmirch it.

At the Lillehammer Olympic Organizing Committee we are proud that we have added a third dimension to the Olympic Movement through our environmental profile. And, whenever in the future we and our environmental profile can help the IOC and the Olympic Movement, we will be ready to help both organizing



*Opening speeches, from Messers  
Gerhard Heiberg, Arne Myrkvold,  
Juan Antonio Samaranch and Mrs  
Gro Harlem Brundtland.*





committees and candidate cities. We believe that we have laid foundations that are well worth building on.  
*I wish you luck, both for the Session and the coming Winter Games!*