

CLOSING SPEECH BY THE GRAND DUKE JEAN DE LUXEMBOURG, IOC DOYEN



In my closing speech to the Session Barcelona. I made some remarks about the fundamental principles of our movement. I recalled that, although the Olympic Games are the supreme and most media-covered expression of Olympism they alone must not mobilize all our energy and occupy all our attention. Indeed, the goal of Olympism is to place everywhere sport at the service of the harmonious development

of man, with a view to encouraging the establishment of a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity, and to do this by blending sport with culture and education. Since these reflections in the middle of 1992, many great Olympic events which were not Olympic Games have taken place. There are countless examples, but I shall cite just two of them:

- in June 1993, the inauguration of the Olympic Museum, a long-held dream of Baron Pierre de Coubertin;*
- in October 1993, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 1994 "International Year of Sport and the Olympic Ideal", and called for the observance of an Olympic truce.*

Finally, Mr President, on behalf of all my colleagues, I would like to congratulate you most heartily on your masterly chairmanship of our 102nd Session in this charming town of Lillehammer.

I wish to express our warm thanks to colleagues Jan Staubo and Olaf Poulsen, as well as to the Organizing Committee for their preparatory work for this important Session.

I should also like to offer our congratulations to the President and members of the Organizing Committee of the Lillehammer Games for their efforts with regard to environmental protection and architecture, which could serve as an example for future Olympic Games. It remains only for me to wish all the athletes and officials at the Olympic Winter Games and the Paralympic Games in Lillehammer every success in an atmosphere of friendship, solidarity and fair-play.