

The Party's Over, the Games Go On

This final day surpassed all expectations, leaving the Olympic supporters with some powerful images of sport: the fifteen hundredths of a second needed by Tomba who, despite an expert and astonishing recovery, ceded victory to the Austrian Stangassinger; the three bobs fighting for gold and the Swiss quartet who, by six thousandths of a second, finally slipped into second place be-

tween the two German teams; the arrival of Vitali Smirnov at the end of his 50km cross-country trek, cheered on by the throng of Norwegian enthusiasts who, abandoning their own champion, gave him a hero's welcome. But it had to be faced: these XVII Olympic Winter Games were coming to an end. Slowly. On the ice in Haakons Hall, the dying embers of the Games glowed brightly until early



SPEECH OF THE IOC PRESIDENT AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE XVII OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

Tonight, we can really say that when awarding our games to Lillehammer and to Norway, we placed them in the very best hands. These White-Green Games have shown that it is possible to organize environment-friendly Games. You have also demonstrated that the Olympic Winter Games can be perfectly staged in a small community. All of Norway has been involved, with great enthusiasm, in the true Olympic spirit of friendship solidarity and fair play. Ten years ago, we were in Sarajevo. After many horrors, the situation now seems to be improving. Let us hope that this truce- to which, in our own limited way, we may have contributed, let us hope that this truce will turn into lasting peace. and for our children. DRAGO SARAJEVO. We do not forget you. We will continue to support you. It is now time to express our gratitude to the entire Olympic Movement. Especially to the International Federations and the National Olympic Committees. Thanks to our unity, we are, without a doubt, stronger than ever. Our deep gratitude also, goes:

-To Their Majesties King Harald and Queen Sonja.

-To all authorities in Lillehammer and in Norway, and especially the Prime Minister

-To all the sponsors who have brought their technology, their support and their friendship.

-To the broadcasters and the media for taking these wonderful Games to the world.

-To all of you watching the Games on television in historic record numbers. Thank you for joining us and for supporting the Olympics.

-To the thousands and thousands of volunteers.

-And, most important of all, to you athletes of the world. Your victories have inspired our youth. You have brought honour and pride to your countries.

Our very special thanks go to the entire team of the Lillehammer Olympic Organizing Committee. I now invite my good friend, President Heiberg, to come forward to receive the highly-deserved Gold Olympic Order. To all of you, the people of Norway, it is my great honour to say that you are the real winners of these magic Games. You have presented to the entire world the best Olympic Winter Games ever.

And now, in accordance with the Olympic Charter,

I declare the Seventeenth Olympic Winter Games in Lillehammer closed.

In accordance with our tradition, I call upon the youth of the world to assemble four years from now in Nagano, Japan, to celebrate with us the Eighteenth Olympic Winter Games.

TUSEN TAKK LILLEHAMMER

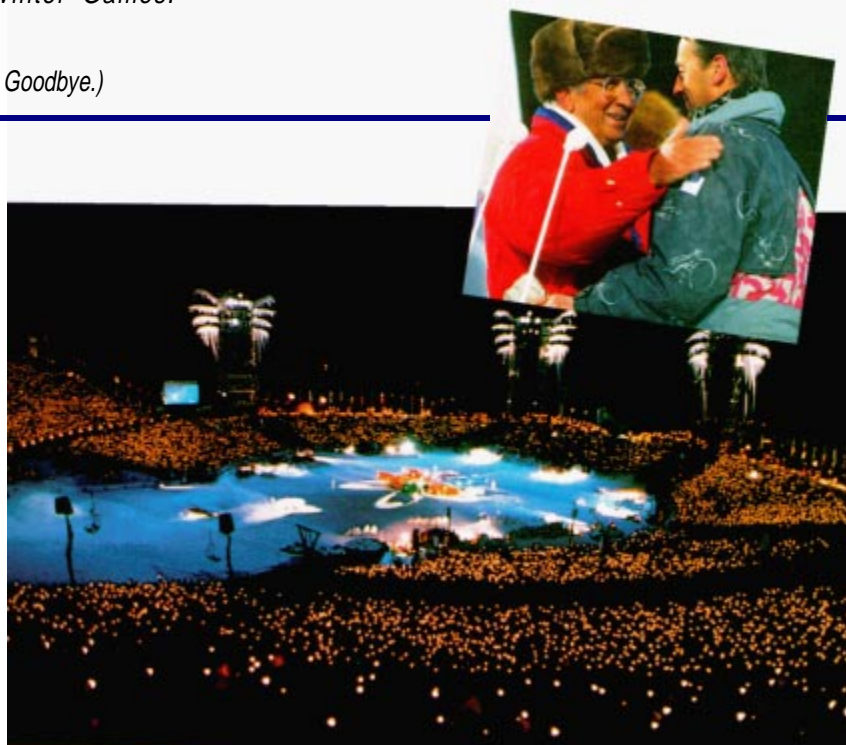
TUSEN TAKK OG FARVEL NORGE

(Thank you Lillehammer, Thank you, Norway. Goodbye.)

evening, when the Swedes with their nerves of steel finally overcame the Canadian team under the ecstatic eyes of the whole of Sweden, including the king.

ENVIRONMENTAL SLED

Night could fall at last, This was a vintage year: the Games had found their limits. Norwegians in their tens of thousands trekked back down the Birkebeiner hill for the last time; this hill that they had climbed every day for sixteen days, cheerfully and ardently, to commune in a single mad, all-encompassing passion. The immense, enthusiastic Norwegian crowd in their multicoloured sweaters, enveloped in red, white and blue banners, will remain one of the strongest images of these Games. On

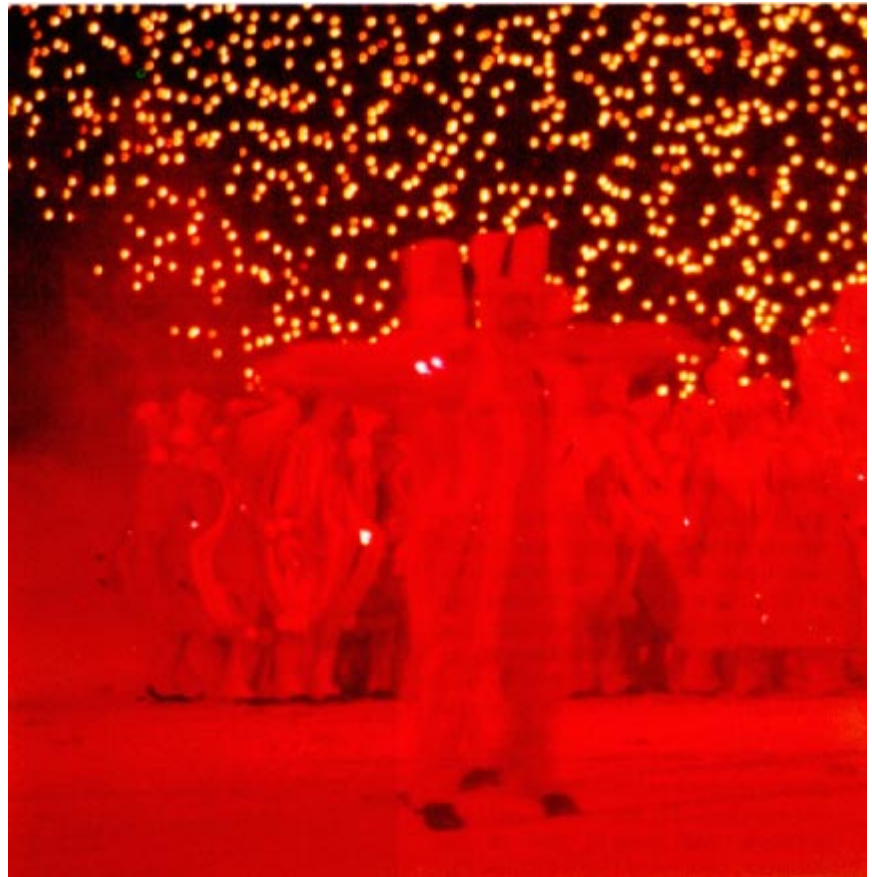


**CLOSING SPEECH OF
MR GERHARD
HEIBERG, LOOC
PRESIDENT**

Sixteen days have passed since the Opening Ceremony. Now, the question is, did we achieve what we set out to do: to give the world the Olympic Games the Norwegian way, Games with a human touch, in a friendly atmosphere, with strong emphasis on the environmental aspect. Together with the IOC, we also planned to show the world that it is possible to work together and compete in harmony and in peaceful surroundings. This is a time in life when such coexistence is absolutely essential. The athletes have given us their answer through their excellent results with drama, excitement and only fair play. You have with your performances, attracted a large number of spectators, and the spectators have given you a lot of inspiration in your efforts to achieve better results. To my fellow countrymen who have been in this area during the Games, I would not have been possible without the support of the 30,000 volunteers and regular staff. You can really be proud of yourselves, always willing to help, service-minded and smiling. You are excellent ambassadors for Norway and the Olympic movement. Representatives of the media have in an excellent way brought these Games to all parts of the world. As far as we understand, the millions and millions who have followed us through the mass media have been pleased with what they have seen and heard. As the president of the Lillehammer Olympic Organizing Committee, I am deeply honoured and touched at this moment. On behalf of the organization, I would like to thank the IOC for having placed such great confidence in us, the mass media for the way they have presented the Games to the world, the public for their enthusiasm, the athletes for their performances and the staff for their strong support and help.

this sixteenth day they were probably exhausted, but nevertheless overjoyed that they had shown such a perfect and fitting response. Norway is truly the country of the Winter Games; because of its snow, its candid passion for winter sports, and its sports talent. With twenty-six medals, including ten golds, their record gave many people something to think about. President Juan Antonio Samaranch was unstinting in his praise when, in the great white arena, the hour for compliments and thanks had arrived: "The best Olympic Winter Games ever," he said. The words were not new, but they were very welcome, being proclaimed before so many witnesses. In the opinion of Gerhard Heiberg, the president of LOOC, the Games had achieved their

aims (see left). Lillehammer was determined to share this hard-won experience. The city of the next Winter Games in 1998, Nagano, will of course be the first to benefit. The relay will be handed over in the form of an expedition to the limits of human endurance, over the Arctic wastes of Siberia to Japan. In the arena the dogs were growing impatient, the sleds were ready to depart, and night was bringing polar temperatures with it. In a year Nagano will receive the ecological message and Norway's encouragement to follow the example it has just set. Then came the Olympic flag. Standing either side of President Samaranch, the two mayors, Audun Tron and Tasuku Tsukada exchanged the solemn symbol. The athletes had already performed their lap of honour.



This final salute, an exuberant but orderly parade by the heroes of snow and ice, warmed the spectators. They continued to clap when the President, after his words of praise, awarded the Olympic Order in gold to his great friend Gerhard Heiberg, with the satisfied approval of the King and Queen. The Resident closed the Games, called upon the youth of the world to meet again in four years' time, and the flame was extinguished as the anthems played. One always feels rather like an orphan when the flame dies, but then fifteen thousand torches suddenly shone out with their piercing brilliance, hiding the solitude and harshness of the weather. Messages of solidarity and memories of Sarajevo, which was never forgotten during these Games.

RETURN OF THE TROLLS AND ENTRANCE OF NAGANO

It was time to come down to earth, probably harder for us than for the trolls, who appeared out of nowhere as in the opening ceremony, and slid with exuberant virtuosity down the hills under the kindly and watchful eye of Liv Ullmann, who had returned to close the book of legends she had opened sixteen days earlier. The tale took a hellish turn. Strange black-clad veterans, huge and gangling, came to disturb the non-believers, who could see only a dubious battle with ill-defined outlines. National legends keep their secrets well hidden, but they always give an image of life that provides food for thought. The mellifluous sound of a flute brought in a circle of light that closed on a Japanese



SPEECH OF AUDUN TRON, MAYOR OF LILLEHAMMER

Today we are very proud, and very grateful. Proud to have hosted a world sports event. Very grateful for the trust you have shown in us, and for the opportunity we have been given to show the world that the Olympic challenge can be taken up by small towns, and small countries. The Olympic Games are a cultural and sports event. However, for the inhabitants of Lillehammer, the environment became the third Olympic dimension. The Lillehammer Games were the first green Games of Olympic history, and this is why, before you leave us, Lillehammer wishes to give the world a message: it is in this spirit that the international ecological expedition 1994-1995 will now depart from Lillehammer. Like real Vikings, its members will undertake a journey of a year and a half across Siberia. At the end of their voyage they will arrive in the Japanese city of Nagano, the Olympic city of 1998. There they will hand over our message: "Take care of your environment and do even better than we did. I know that Nagano has the necessary resources to continue the efforts already made, and to promote the ecological ideal. To the ecological expedition, I say: Bon voyage to Nagano: Lykke Til Paa Ferden! To everyone gathered here today, to the spectators of the whole world and to the International Olympic Committee, I say: Thank you for sharing with us the Olympic Games in Lillehammer!"

girl in a kimono. The Winter Games prepared to change continent, while other kindly trolls gently strewed petals in the colours of the Nagano emblem on the ground. But the party really was over. The proof? Fountains of fireworks and laser beams that sprang up to meet the heavens.

D. E.