

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.**