



The sumotori.

Speech by the IOC President

*"Your Imperial Majesty,
Dear athletes,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*Nagano-e Yobkoso!
Bienvenue!*

"On behalf of the International Olympic Committee, the International Winter Sports Federations and the National Olympic Committees, I greet the Japanese people, the members of the Olympic family and television viewers throughout the world.

"These XVIII Olympic Winter Games are being celebrated in the year of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

"It is therefore our hope that the appeal

of the 185 Member States of the United Nations to observe the Olympic Truce will foster international dialogue and diplomatic solutions to all conflicts, in an effort to bring human tragedies to an end.

"The future of our society truly lies in our youth.

"Let us build together for them a peaceful and better world.

"Let us strive to provide an education for all in which sport and the Olympic ideal also play an essential role, based on the values of respect, dignity, tolerance and solidarity.

"As we look forward to the future, let us also salute the cultural legacy of our predecessors and pay tribute to:

*- Greece, the birthplace of Olympism,
- and to France, the country of Baron Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympic Games.*

"I would also like to express my sincere thanks to Japan, to the Nagano Organizing Committee presided by Mr Eisshiro Saito and directed by Mr Makoto Kobayashi, and to the volunteers for their dedication and their contribution to Olympism.

"We are sure that these Games will be a great success.

"I now have the honour and privilege of inviting His Imperial Majesty to proclaim open the XVIII Olympic Winter Games.

"Arigato Nippon! Arigato Nagano!"