

## An experience for life

On behalf of the 18,000 volunteers of the XVII Olympic Winter Games in Lillehammer in 1994, I am proud to address you today and am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to do so.

When we signed up as volunteers it was not for glory, but to be part of a community working towards a common goal. During the preparations, we were almost overwhelmed by the scope of the task that we had dared to attempt, but when the Games finally arrived, it was like a party and was an experience of a lifetime. The skills we learned were used over the next few years to organize a number of international events. I would like to thank you all for having given us the opportunity to play a role – even though it was only

by Rolf Kjærnsli



a small one – in the Olympic Movement.

It has been said that the success of the Games unduly strengthened our self-esteem. That may be so – but it also definitely strengthened our feeling of being part of an international community. For two weeks we rubbed shoulders with representatives of many

nations; a Babylonian assortment of languages were heard in the streets of our small town; contacts and friendships were established.

In Norway we could draw on a long tradition of organizing winter sports. But the world of sports is getting more and more specialized. The challenge for future hosts of Olympic Games will be not only to recruit the required number of volunteers, but to find volunteers with know-how and competence.

Finally a quotation from a volunteer at the Games of the XXVI Olympiad in Atlanta in 1996: "You become a volunteer not for what you get out of it, but for what you become by doing it".

With those words I would like to wish Salt Lake City the best of luck for the XIX Olympic Winter Games.

## An essential force

Supported by 32,597 volunteers, the Nagano Games were a great success as the last Olympic Winter Games of the 20th century. I worked as attaché to the British Olympic Association delegation as their focal point in Nagano for one year. In addition, I was involved in the Organizing Committee (NAOC) as head of volunteer training for three years. It was a great pleasure and honour for me that I was able to contribute to the success of the Nagano Games as well as to the good results of the BOA delegation at the Games.

The volunteer spirit and activities created through the Games have steadily

by Hiroji Koide



taken root in Nagano and become an essential power in organizing various international events. I believe that the World Youth Volunteer Summit 2001 to be held in Nagano will be an event to symbolize this wonderful legacy.

The One School One Country Programme initiated by Nagano has been taken over by Salt Lake City and I was told that they are already carrying out various exchanges. I sincerely hope that this programme will continuously be included in future Olympic Games as part of the Olympic Movement and create many more volunteers who have deep international understanding.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the best for the great success of the Salt Lake City Games, with the support of many volunteers and the participation of many NOCs from around the world.