

ADDRESS BEFORE THE 94TH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE, SEOUL, SEPTEMBER 14TH 1988

BY PRIME MINISTER
GRO HARLEM BRUNDTLAND

Mr. President,
Honourable Members of the International Olympic Committee,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour and privilege to present the city of Lillehammer and its candidacy to host the 1994 Olympic Winter Games. The decision which this distinguished assembly will make tomorrow is being awaited with eager anticipation by the people of Norway. We all identify with Lillehammer and her application.

Lillehammer has hoisted the sails, and we sense favourable wind. A whole nation will be waiting to hear the verdict of this 94th session of the IOC.

The city of Lillehammer enjoys the staunch support of the Norwegian government, politically as well as financially. The government has issued a special financial guarantee which has complete parliamentary support, and need I remind this assembly of how actively and enthusiastically our King,

Crown Prince and the whole Royal Family endorse Lillehammer and her candidacy?

Comparisons are of course difficult. We know that Lillehammer is facing a competition of Olympic format. Most of you have seen for yourselves the excellent preparations that the candidate has made. You have seen a candidate with the highest of ambitions backed by the whole nation of sports enthusiasts.

A completely new winter sports centre is presently being created. Investments are being made this very minute. We are determined to create a compact sports centre where all Olympic events can be enjoyed without much travel. All accommodations and facilities will be very comfortable. The new sports centre will be easily accessible to millions of people for future use. It will be a permanent tribute to the Olympic Movement and the ideals as enshrined in its Charter. We are ready to take on the challenge this entails.

As you have seen on the screen, winter sports have always been an integral part of the Norwegian culture. The successful organization of Olympic Winter Games would be a matter of national honour, and we would spare no effort in our endeavours.

Our national desire to host the games has deep historical roots. We Norwegians are proud of the role we have played in the evolution of winter sports. Norwegians introduced skiing to Continental Europe, and Norwegians took the sport to North America in the early part of the last century. Now, Norwegians are inviting winter sports back to Norway, the cradle of winter sports.

However, our present commitment to the Olympic Movement and its objectives has far wider ramifications. A fundamental principle of the Olympic Movement is to educate young people in a spirit of understanding and friendship and, thereby, help to build a better and more peaceful world.

We are living in an era of rapid change. Today, we see encouraging progress in many areas which are of decisive importance for humankind. Familiar concepts have been reconsidered and new ones are being developed. This calls for courage, awareness and responsibility not least on the part of international organizations. The IOC is an organization which has the objectives and the authority to play an important, constructive role in the complex and vital mosaic of international relations.

Unless corrective action is taken, the future may come to different parts of the world at different speeds. There are still many obstacles hindering the realization of a more peaceful, just world. There is clearly a fundamental need to build more confidence on a global scale. We need a network of confidence-building measures, not least on the non-governmental level. We need a broader dialogue and real cooperation based both on mutual respect and on the fundamental principles of human rights.

Our objective must be that people and nations can develop and realize their full potential in peaceful and just competition and without fear. The world is growing smaller, but in many respects, the gaps between us are widening. Thus, we need ideals and organizations that can unite us.

The challenge which confronts us is intellectual, ethical and political. Humankind is exposed to risks, not only political and economical but also ecological risks. We can only safeguard the future if we work together – not at each other's expense. The future will truly be our Common Future – it will depend upon how successful the people of the world are in adopting common attitudes towards common challenges.

What we need is a new global ethic – an ethic of solidarity with present and future generations – a responsibility for nature and humankind's place in nature. The ideals of the Olympic Movement are indispensable to the network of international relations which we need now more than ever.

As we face the beginning of a new century, the Olympic ideals must remain part of the first line of defense against isolation and apathy. These ideals know no boundaries. They must continue to inspire and encourage human resources, human creativity and human effort.

We know too well that some countries face difficulties in raising the resources necessary to ensure real equality of opportunity in sport. Olympic Solidarity demonstrates that the Olympic ethic means solidarity in practice. These ideals are truly appreciated in Norway. For several years our per capita official transfers to Third World countries have surpassed those of any other country.

In the field of sports we are supporting the conclusions of the Conference on Apartheid in Sports which was held in Lausanne this summer. We are anxious to see the day when apartheid has been abolished.

As a doctor and specialist in public health, I cannot emphasize strongly enough how important it is for people to assume responsibility for their own health and well-being. Sports activities inspire us to do so. Of particular importance is the commitment of the IOC to spearhead the international campaign against doping in sports. This commitment was highlighted at the World Conference on Anti-doping in Ottawa this June, which produced the Anti-doping Charter before the present session.

Doping goes against the philosophy and rules of conduct of the Olympic Movement. Doping must never be tolerated. I commend Prince Alexandre de Merode, President of the Medical Commission, for his initiative to eradicate doping completely among the athletes who serve as ideals for today's youth. In this work you will have our total support.

That which is worth doing is worth doing well. I have endeavored to share with you why we firmly believe that Lillehammer will do honour to the five interlaced rings. We have the resources. We have the necessary organizational experience. We know that cooperation with the IOC and with the international federations is essential. With your help and guidance, success is imminent. Norway is ready to take on this challenge. We welcome the coming generations. We welcome the youth of the world.