

PARKVEIEN 45

Med forbehold om endringer
SPERRET til 6. mars
kl. 1930

Prime Minister
Gro Harlem Brundtland

DINNER SPEECH IN HONOUR OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE, HIS EXCELLENCY JUAN ANTONIO SAMARANCH, OSLO, 6 MARCH 1989.

YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES,
MR. PRESIDENT,
EXCELLENCIES,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

"THE DECISION IS LILLEHAMMER". I CAN THINK OF FEW OTHER SINGLE STATEMENTS IN RECENT YEARS WHICH HAVE BROUGHT MORE PRIDE AND JOY TO THE PEOPLE OF NORWAY THAN YOUR STATEMENT, MR. PRESIDENT, FROM THAT ROSTRUM IN SEOUL LAST SEPTEMBER.

IT IS THEREFORE A PARTICULAR HONOUR AND PRIVILEGE FOR THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT TO HAVE YOU HERE AS OUR VERY DEAR GUEST TONIGHT ALONG WITH SO MANY FRIENDS OF THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT AND INDEED WITH SO MANY SPORTS ENTHUSIASTS AND PROPONENTS OF THE IDEALS ENSHRINED IN THE OLYMPIC CHARTER.

WE ARE HONOURED BY THE PRESENCE OF THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES THE CROWN PRINCE AND THE CROWN PRINCESS, THEMSELVES ACTIVE SPORTS ENTHUSIASTS. YOU HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO WATCH THE HOLMENKOLLEN SKI-JUMPING COMPETITION WITH THEM YESTERDAY. I HOPE WHAT YOU SAW RENEWED YOUR CONFIDENCE IN OUR ABILITY TO DO JUSTICE TO THE OLYMPIC IDEAS WHEN THE YOUTH OF THE WORLD GATHER IN LILLEHAMMER IN 1994.

WE HAVE THE RESOURCES; AND WE HAVE THE NECESSARY ORGANIZATIONAL EXPERIENCE. YESTERDAY'S VICTORY OVER GREEN HILLS AND SPRING-LIKE CONDITIONS REMINDED MANY OF THE REPORT IN "AMERICAN SKI MAGAZINE", WHICH STATED IN 1952, THE LAST TIME WE ORGANIZED THE OLYMPICS, THAT "IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT ANY OTHER NATION WOULD HAVE PERFORMED SUCH HERCULEAN EFFORTS FOR THE SAKE OF SPORTS ALONE".

MR. PRESIDENT, YOU HAVE FAMILIARIZED YOURSELF WITH PREPARATIONS THUS FAR. LILLEHAMMER 94 IS AN INSPIRATION TO US ALL. I CAN ASSURE YOU OF THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO CONTRIBUTE TO LILLEHAMMER'S SUCCESS.

A COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF HIGH OFFICIALS HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED. IN ORDER TO HELP GET THINGS MOVING, AND IN KEEPING WITH OUR DETERMINATION TO COMBAT THE UNACCEPTABLY HIGH UNEEMPLOYMENT RATES, A BILL PROPOSING EXTRAORDINARY APPROPRIATIONS WILL BE SUBMITTED TO PARLIAMENT IN THE NEAR FUTURE. MOST OF THESE FUNDS WILL BE

ALLOCATED TO ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND BROADCASTING FACILITIES. THE INVESTMENT PROCESS WILL BE CONTINUED IN THE COMING YEARS IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH LILLEHAMMER AND THE OTHER MUNICIPALITIES INVOLVED.

IN 1940, ONE OF OUR MOST HIGHLY ESTEEMED NORWEGIAN PAINTERS, HENRIK SØRENSEN, WROTE THAT "THERE ARE THREE TRUE CITIES IN THE WORLD, - PARIS, ROME, AND LILLEHAMMER". WHILE LILLEHAMMER IS TRULY A CULTURAL CENTRE WHICH HOLDS A PARTICULAR ATTRACTION FOR ARTISTS, HENRIK SØRENSEN MAY HAVE EXAGGERATED SLIGHTLY. FOR INSTANCE, HE MAY NOT HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO VISIT BARCELONA, YOUR HOME CITY, WHICH WILL BE HOSTING THE SUMMER OLYMPICS IN 1992.

THE OLYMPIC FLAG WILL BE HANDED OVER TO LILLEHAMMER IN BARCELONA. LET US RECALL THE WORDS OF THE GREAT SPANISH WRITER CERVANTES WHO WROTE: " BARCELONA, ARCHIVO DE LA CORTESIA, ALBERGUE DE LOS EXTRANJEROS - EN SITIA Y EN BELLEZA ÚNICA", IN ENGLISH, "BARCELONA, CASTLE OF COURTESY, REFUGE FOR STRANGERS - UNRIVALED IN LOCATION AND BEAUTY".

AND THE CATALAN LITERARY GIANT VERDAGUER DESCRIBED THE MOUNTAIN WHERE THE OLYMPIC VILLAGE WILL BE LOCATED IN 1992 AS FOLLOWS:

"QUAN A LA FALDA ET MIRO DE MONTJUIC SEGUNDA,
M'APAR VEURE'T ALS BRACOS D'ALCIDES GEGANTI".

WHEN I SEE YOU SITTING ON THE LAP OF MONJUIC,
IT IS LIKE SEEING YOU IN THE ARMS OF THE GIANT HERACULES

MR. PRESIDENT, BOTH BARCELONA AND LILLEHAMMER HAVE A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY. THEY WILL BOTH BE HOST TO IDEALS AND MOVEMENTS THAT KNOW NO BOUNDARIES. THESE IDEALS MUST CONTINUE TO INSPIRE AND ENCOURAGE HUMAN RESOURCES, HUMAN CREATIVITY, AND HUMAN EFFORTS.

SPAIN AND NORWAY, BARCELONA AND LILLEHAMMER, BOTH OF US ARE FACING FORMIDABLE CHALLENGES. THE NORTH AND SOUTH OF EUROPE WILL BE THE FOCUS OF THE WORLD WIDE ATTENTION AND ANTICIPATION IN THE FINAL DECADE OF THIS MILLENNIUM. MUTUAL SUPPORT AND COOPERATION WILL BE NECESSARY. ONE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT IS TO EDUCATE YOUNG PEOPLE IN A SPIRIT OF UNDERSTANDING AND FRIENDSHIP, AND THEREBY, CONTRIBUTE TO BUILDING A BETTER, MORE PEACEFUL WORLD. LILLEHAMMER AND NORWAY ARE READY TO TAKE ON THE CHALLENGE THIS WILL ENTAIL.

I PROPOSE A TOAST TO HIS EXCELLENCY JUAN ANTONIO SAMARANCH AND TO THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT.