

## SPEECH BY THE IOC PRESIDENT JUAN ANTONIO SAMARANCH

Mr Governor General,  
Dear athletes and friends,

Seven years ago, I said:  
“And the winner is ...Sydney!”  
Well, what can I say now? Maybe, with  
my Spanish accent:  
“AUSSIE, AUSSIE, AUSSIE!”  
To you, all the people of Sydney and  
Australia. These have been your  
Games.

And to you, our friends from the  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander  
communities, we say: You have  
helped to write a glorious chapter in  
the history of Australia.

Our warmest congratulations and  
many thanks go to all those who have  
made this fantastic success possible:

- to the New South Wales govern-  
ment, the Sydney City Council, the  
other local authorities and also to  
the federal government,
- to Sydney 2000, its leaders and  
entire staff,
- to the Australian Olympic  
Committee, for its 58 medals: What  
an achievement, particularly taking  
into account the numbers of  
Australia’s population,
- to all the International Federations,
- to all 199 National Olympic  
Committees,
- and also to my colleagues and  
friends members of the international  
Olympic Committee and to our staff.

The time has also come to express our  
gratitude and pay a very special tribute  
to the most dedicated and wonderful  
volunteers ever. As I have already said:  
no Games without you.

To you, the athletes of the world, we  
say: You have given us your very best.  
Your best performances. Your best  
spirit of fair play. Thank you for these  
exceptional competitions. These have  
also been your Games. The Games of  
the athletes and of the sport-loving  
people. Indeed, **we did** celebrate  
humanity.

Many thanks also to all the media of  
the world. They came in unprece-  
dented large numbers, thus demon-  
strating the growing importance of the  
Olympic Games.

Congratulations to all broadcasters for  
bringing the Olympic spirit to the four  
corners of this planet.

Our gratitude also goes to all our part-  
ners and sponsors for their support  
and belief in the Olympic ideal.

The Games of the XXVII Olympiad in  
Sydney were driven by the Olympic  
spirit. This spirit, revived by Pierre de  
Coubertin, is one of mutual under-  
standing, friendship, solidarity, fair play  
and respect.

The Sydney 2000 Games also  
showed that, with the support of the  
United Nations, the Olympic Truce  
can be a reality, as demonstrated by  
the historical joint parade of the two  
Korean delegations at the Opening  
Ceremony.

These are my last Games as IOC  
President. They could not have been  
better.

I am therefore proud and happy to  
proclaim that you have presented to  
the world the best Olympic Games  
ever.

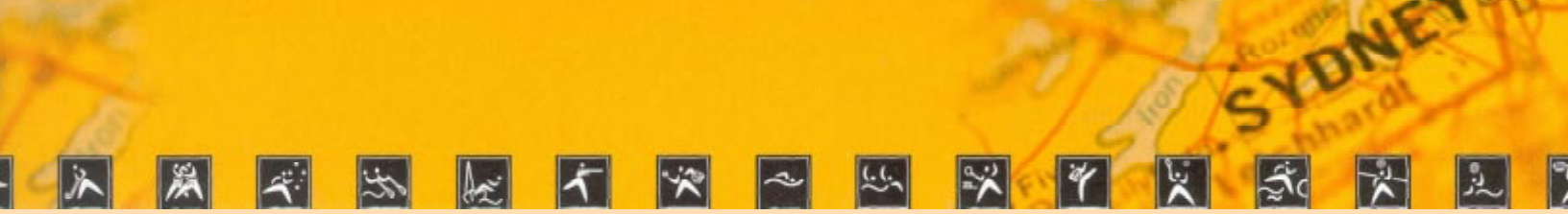
And now, on behalf of the International  
Olympic Committee, I have the honour  
of presenting the Olympic Order in  
gold to Mr Michael Knight, President  
of Sydney 2000, as an expression of  
our gratitude for the perfect organiza-  
tion, and also to Mr John Coates,  
President of the Australian Olympic  
Committee, for fulfilling the promise of  
these being the athletes’ Games.

In addition, the International Olympic  
Committee has decided to award the  
Olympic Cup to the people of Sydney.

*Thank you Sydney,  
Thank you New South Wales,  
Thank you Australia!  
You made it!*

Now, I have the honour to introduce to  
you the eight athletes who have just  
been elected as members of the  
International Olympic Committee by  
you, the athletes participating at these  
Games: Roland Baar, Sergey Bubka,  
Charmaine Crooks, Robert Ctvrtlik,  
Manuel Estiarte, Susie O’Neill,  
Alexander Popov and Jan Zelezny.

I now declare the Games of the XXVII  
Olympiad in Sydney closed and, in  
accordance with our tradition, I call  
upon the youth of the world to assem-  
ble, four years from now, in Athens,  
Greece, birthplace of Olympism, to  
celebrate with us, the Games of the  
XXVIII Olympiad.



*The IOC President and the Minister Michael Knight.*