

REMARKS OF THE IOC PRESIDENT
OPENING CEREMONY
XIX OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
8 FEBRUARY 2002

Athlètes du monde, nous voici réunis pour célébrer les idéaux olympiques, rénovés par Pierre de Coubertin. Soyez les bienvenus dans ce généreux pays qui organise les Jeux Olympiques pour la huitième fois.

Athletes of the world, the day for which you have prepared for so long has finally arrived. Your dream has come true. Years of dedication and hard work have been rewarded. Now you dream of gold.

Please remember though, that it takes more than crossing the finish line first to make a champion. A champion is more than a winner. A champion is someone who respects the rules, rejects doping, and competes in the spirit of fair play. A champion is someone who surpasses personal limits. This means all of you can be champions, regardless of your final ranking.

Good luck to you all.

People of America, Utah, and Salt Lake City, we are gathered once again in your great country. Your nation is overcoming a horrific tragedy. A tragedy that has affected the whole world. We stand united with you in the promotion of our common ideals and hope for world peace.

To all who have helped make these Games possible and kept the Olympic Spirit alive, thank you.

I now have the honor and privilege of inviting the President of the United States of America to declare open the XIX Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City.

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