

Statement

Secretary of
State for
External Affairs



Déclaration

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Affaires
extérieures

90/52

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NOTES FOR A SPEECH BY

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE JOE CLARK,

ON THE OCCASION OF THE PRESENTATION OF

TORONTO'S BID TO HOST THE 1996 OLYMPIC GAMES

AT THE 96TH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

TOKYO, JAPAN

SEPTEMBER 18, 1990.

Good morning.

Your Excellency, President Samaranch,

Distinguished Members of the International Olympic Committee,

Mesdames, Messieurs.

Toronto is an international city; Canada an international country. You see that in our population - every culture, every colour, every faith of this wide world flourishes freely in Canada, and most particularly in Toronto. But we hope you see it also in our attitude to the world. We try to advance internationally the standards of excellence and justice we pursue at home. Often that involves direct cooperation with members of the International Olympic Committee - it does, for example, in the fight against apartheid; and in the Canadian initiative, within the Commonwealth, to ensure that international hosting is open to all countries, not just the rich. That broad view, which you exemplify in sport - the idea of excellence without barriers - we try to apply to the wide world agenda, through leadership in the United Nations, the Commonwealth, La Francophonie, the Organization of American States, and an active innovative program of foreign aid and peacekeeping.

This is a new day. The world is changing, and we can make it better, by challenging people to excel together. Toronto's bid is, of course, to host the 1996 Olympic Games; but it is also to express the best of that international tradition which Canada and the Olympic Movement share.

The Games of the XXVIth Olympiad will be unique. They will be a valedictory to a century of Olympic accomplishment. The purpose of these Games must go beyond commemoration. They must look forward and define what Olympism will mean in the century to come.

Should the 1996 Olympic Games be awarded to Toronto, you can be certain that we will help you ensure that the Olympic message will be heard around the world and that the Movement will be superbly launched into the next century.

With appropriate modesty, we Canadians do those things well. Through recent summits of the Commonwealth, La Francophonie, the Toronto Summit of Industrialized Nations, we have demonstrated both the technical competence, and the sustained public support, which make international events succeed.

I repeat that commitment of the Canadian Government that every member of the Olympic family, without exception, will find no barriers to entering Canada. Access must be universal, because that is the Olympic mission. Beyond that, we are committed to sharing sports resources, expertise and opportunities between countries like our own and those which are less advantaged. The Olympic Games must be characterized not only by the right of universal access, but also by the tactical capacity to exercise that right.

The Olympic Movement thrives because it leads. It is a beacon to the world. The 1996 Olympic Games must be a springboard to a future, both for the Olympic Games and for the world that your Olympic Movement serves. On behalf of Canada, I offer you our commitment to share your vision of that future. I hope you will accept our invitation to gather in Toronto in 1996.

And now Carol Anne Letheren, the President of the Canadian Olympic Association, will tell you more about our plans.