



# PRIME MINISTER

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

EMBARGOED UNTIL DELIVERY

SPEECH BY PRIME MINISTER  
MELBOURNE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE  
FAREWELL DINNER  
MELBOURNE - 8 SEPTEMBER 1990

---

---

If Australians tend to like their sport, then the people of Melbourne are positively and passionately in love with it - and at no time more than in spring.

The annual bout of September fever brought on by football finals - followed by the first Tuesday in November when the whole nation stops for the running of the Melbourne Cup - followed in its turn by the Australian Tennis Open - feed Melbourne's hunger for great sport and make Melbourne an experienced and qualified host of top quality sporting events.

This year the springtime passion is even more powerful.

On September 18 - in ten days time - Melbourne and Australia will stop once more, for the final event of another great contest in which Melbourne is involved.

There will be parties in the streets, in homes, all over the city, at the Arts Centre, at the Town Hall, waiting for the answer to the urgent question: has Melbourne won the bid to host the 1996 Olympic Games?

And for those of us in Tokyo, it will be a night to remember and, we hope and believe, to celebrate.

If Melbourne is successful, the Games will return to the Southern Hemisphere for only the second time in the hundred-year history of the modern Olympic movement.

To win that high honour - to be host to the centenary Games - Melbourne will have to satisfy the International Olympic Committee on a vast range of practical criteria.

We will have to show the close links that exist between the Olympic Committee and the Australian Government. We will have to demonstrate that the bid has the full support of the community. We will have to show that we have the ability to stage the Games with all the advance planning and the infrastructure that this implies.

It's not my job to detail our whole case tonight on each of these criteria.

That can wait for the hard-sell in Tokyo.

But I do want to underline one of them by pointing to the depth of my Government's commitment to the bid - and the breadth of the political support it has drawn from throughout Australia.

It is a great strength of the Australian community, that this bid will be supported in Tokyo not only by political office-holders - myself as Prime Minister, the Premier of Victoria and the Lord Mayor of Melbourne - but also by Federal and Victorian Opposition leaders, and by the three previous Lords Mayor.

We are united in our support for Melbourne's bid to host the Games and we are working fully with the Australian Olympic Committee to make it a success.

Tonight we are farewelling the team that will travel to Tokyo to put Melbourne's case.

Just like a team sport, where victory requires the coordinated efforts of many individuals, so our team is working together to ensure the best possible presentation is made to the IOC on September 18.

In its composition, our team reflects the broad political support for the bid and the even broader community support for it. Business, trade unions, community groups will all play a part in Tokyo.

Not least, the team shows the enormous support for the bid from our sporting community, from Olympic heroes to younger stars of the future to ordinary folk who have taken part in the Darwin to Melbourne relay run that, like sparks from the Olympic torch, has touched off Olympic enthusiasm wherever the runners have been seen.

And there is a larger team of people who can't come with us, the volunteers and supporters, whose hard work and dedication to Melbourne's Candidature has been the backbone of our bid.

We thank you all.

The degree of support and cooperation that the bid has received from throughout this city, this State and this nation gives the greatest source of confidence for success.

I outlined earlier some of the formal criteria that Melbourne needs to succeed. But you know there is one extra ingredient in any successful Olympic Games.

It's called character - that intangible quality of spirit that sets a city apart as a special place.

And Melbourne has it by the tonne.

With each host city it chooses, the Olympic Movement incorporates a new spectacle, a new culture, a new people into the fabric of the Games.

Those differences create the character of each Olympiad and help retain the magic of the Olympics for the entire world.

And the athletes who star at a Games become loved and honoured in the place of their achievement as well as by the citizens of their own nation and the world.

Place and performance become linked in memory:

- . Jesse Owens in Berlin
- . Emil Zatopek in Helsinki
- . Vladimir Kutz - hand upraised in victory in Melbourne
- . Herb Elliott in Rome
- . Dawn Fraser in Tokyo
- . Mark Spitz with 7 gold in Munich
- . Nadia Comaneci in Montreal
- . Carl Lewis in Los Angeles
- . Flo-Jo in Seoul.

What an incredible collection of memories are conjured up by those names and places - memories of individual achievement in a global context - shared global memories of our shared global heroes.

Anybody who doubts Melbourne's capacity in 1996 to add to that superb record of triumph has forgotten the special qualities of this great sporting city.

The contribution of the Olympics to this century has been quite extraordinary and, as John Ralph said earlier, it is due to the power of the Olympic ideals.

Few global institutions survive 100 years. Even fewer survive and thrive like the OIC has.

It is certainly thriving in Australia.

Australia has been a part of the Olympic Movement's past. Our commitment has taken us to every Games. We have been fervent supporters of the ideals and the practice of the Olympic spirit.

For the future, we believe Australia can provide an unparalleled stage for the launch of a new century of the Olympic Movement.

We respect and in many ways embody the traditions of the past, while being youthful and flexible and outward-looking in the structure and nature of our society.

Our very population represents an exciting amalgam of the peoples of the world.

In every respect we echo and reinforce the Olympic ideals; in every capacity we are qualified for the high honour of hosting the 1996 Olympic Games.

That is our mission in Tokyo. On behalf of all Australians I wish success to the Melbourne bid; and as a member of the team that will be in Tokyo presenting that bid, I can assure you all we will be doing our darndest to come home winners.

\* \* \* \* \*