Seven years ago, in 1993, the Session of the International Olympic Committee elected Sydney as the host city of the Games of the XXVII Olympiad, the Games of the new millennium. For seven years, the Federal and New South Wales Governments, the city authorities and citizens of Sydney, the Organizing Committee, the Australian Olympic Committee and the sports movement as a whole, were mobilized to show to the world the best Games ever. Australia rose to the challenge in a unique way, and to the satisfaction of all. Sydney 2000 spared no effort in ensuring that the Cultural Olympiad, the youth camp, university symposia and the initiatives of the city’s various communities, were a success. The city of Sydney has benefited from infrastructures which will allow it, from now on, to be an attractive centre of world sport with all the necessary assets. When the Australian Olympic Committee launched Sydney’s bid, it promised that the Games would be dedicated to the athletes. Australia kept its word and did everything possible to welcome the athletes from 199 National Olympic Committees with its traditional hospitality and particular attention, We are grateful to Australia for everything it has done for the well-being of the athletes, of whom 38% were women. Among the athletes present in Sydney, many were escaping war, poverty and difficult social conditions to come together in the Olympic Village and live, if only for a short while, a peaceful and unforgettable life in pursuit of excellence. We are certain that the success of all these athletes is a result of their efforts and determination, and of the Olympic education which inspired many athletes before them who found themselves in the same situation and then became success stories and role models within society. Our dearest wish is to see children at school and on playing fields, not armed with machine guns on the front lines of wars or in refugee camps. Education is the only wealth individuals can possess which allows them to evolve. Sport is a school of justice, democracy and human rights. The first laws we learn, independently, are the rules linked to games and sports. Many athletes from developing countries, recipients of Sydney 2000 Scholarships awarded by Olympic Solidarity, gave some excellent performances. Out of the 472 Olympic Solidarity scholarship-holders who qualified in their respective sports, 61 of them, 28 women and 33 men, won 28 gold, 21 silver and 21 bronze medals, while 92 others obtained diplomas. A new record was therefore set with athletes representing 80 National Olympic Committees winning medals. The parade by the athletes from the two Koreas, North and South, as one team behind the flag of the Korean Peninsula at the opening of the Games of the XXVII Olympiad in Sydney amply demonstrates that sport and the Olympic ideal can serve as an instrument to promote peace. Sydney was the scene of numerous achievements, in terms of both organization and spectators The media coverage throughout the world, using state-of-the-art technology, was greatly appreciated. The Games of the XXVII Olympiad in Sydney were the last Olympic Games celebrated under my Presidency. I am therefore grateful to all those who, directly or indirectly, contributed to making these the best Olympic Games ever.