Olympic Truce
International Olympic Committee
Bureau Of Coordination

PRESS RELEASE

APPEAL BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS
FOR AN OLYMPIC TRUCE

Lillehammer, 11th February 1994. The United Nations Secretary
General, Mr Boutros Boutros-Ghali, has sent a message to the IOC
President, in which he expressed the importance he attaches to the IOC's
initiative concerning the Olympic truce.

This is the complete text of the message:

"The International Olympic Committee has called for a general
cease-fire during the forthcoming Olympic Winter Games in Lillehammer,
Norway. On behalf of the United Nations Organization, I wish to offer my
full support for this initiative.

"At a time when crises are multiplying, when conflicts are emerging
within the very heart of nations, this truce provides a gleam of light in a
world beset by hate and destruction.

"The purpose of the Olympic Truce is to silence weapons for several
days, allowing lives to be saved wherever combat rages. I hope also that
it will facilitate dialogue between warring parties, and encourage
negotiations with a view to settling disputes peacefully.

"The Olympic ideal is a hymn to tolerance and understanding
between people and cultures. It is an invitation to competition, but
competition in the respect for others. In its way, Olympism is a school of
democracy. There is a natural link between the ethics of the Olympic
Games and the fundamental principles of the United Nations.

"This is what the General Assembly of the United Nations wished to
underline by proclaiming 1994 the Year of Sport and the Olympic Ideal.

"The Games in Lillehammer will not be solely a festival of sport:
thanks to the Olympic truce, they will spread a message of hope to
millions of women, men and children who are suffering because of war.

"I therefore solemnly urge all political and military leaders in
countries engaged in conflict to observe the Olympic truce and, on this
occasion, to take the path of dialogue and peace."
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