



Speech by Mr Richard W. Pound

Transcription of the Closing Ceremony of the World Conference on Doping in Sport

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Madrid, Spain

Minister, Arne, and Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you very much for those kind words. They were so nice that I was sitting there pinching myself to make sure I hadn't died and was listening to some eulogy. I'm already at the stage where, if I wake up in the morning and nothing hurts, it means I died during the night.

I do not want to add much to what has already been said and done at this conference, other than to say this: that the work that we are doing, the fight against doping in sport, is one of the most important challenges faced by sport today. Cheating in sport has to be confronted, not tolerated, ignored or excused. We have to continue to change attitudes towards doping so that education and prevention become paramount but, in the process, as we all know, we must continue to have robust programmes of detection, testing, research and sanctions that will serve as appropriate punishment and deterrence.

Could I say that it has been for me an honour, and occasionally a pleasure, to have served sport in this most recent capacity, and I thank everybody who has worked to make our progress possible, including the superb team of WADA employees that we have been able to attract to our cause. I doubt if there is any organisation on the face of the planet that could boast of such a dedicated and motivated team, and I hope that each of you will take the opportunity to express your own appreciation to them when you see them around here.

I look forward to 1 January 2008 with mixed emotions, but I will certainly toast WADA with a glass of champagne at midnight on 31 December. I suspect that there will be other glasses of champagne consumed in other quarters of the world at the same time to celebrate my departure from this position. They should know, however, that the next version of WADA will not be the shy and retiring and diplomatic leadership that I may have personified. No more Mr Nice Guy. So, if you're out there cheating, your days are numbered. Thank you so much.