

IGF



The International GO Federation

c/o the Nihon Ki-in, 7-2, Gobancho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-8668

E-mail: igf@nihonkiin.or.jp Fax: 03-3262-1527

Tokyo, 13 September 2004

Dear Go Friends,

On behalf of the Nihon Ki-in, of which our dear friend Hans was a member for more than ten years, and also on behalf of the International Go Federation, many members of which owe so much to him, I would like to express again our sincere regret to his family members and our thanks for his dedication to promoting go all over the world on this occasion of the second Hans Pietsch Memorial Tournament.

Dear Hans, you were one of my colleagues at the Nihon Ki-in where, I believe, your existence had multiple significance: as a professional go player you were ambitiously pursuing a hard road up to higher rank among your colleagues; as one of the first European professionals, you were regarded by many European go players as a symbol of their go world. In addition, you were loved by many amateur go players not only in Japan but also in other countries where you taught. In particular, I should mention that one of the main reasons for your popularity was your unfailing cheerfulness and friendliness and your obvious love of go.

I believe that the memory of Hans cherished especially by those close to him and the respect for his achievement have enabled this memorial tournament to be born last year. I would like to express my sincere respect for the German Go Association and Hans's family members for their support of this distinguished event for German school children. It should no doubt be a good opportunity for German children to think of the game of go not just as a simple pastime on the board but also as something that can deepen their mind and broaden their horizon.

In closing, I am confident that Hans Pietsch's memory will be with us at this tournament year after year and hope that a second or third Hans might come out of this memorial event in the very near future.

Thank you very much.

Kato Masao

President, the International Go Federation

Chairman of the Board, the Nihon Ki-in