Dear Henrich,

I am standing for the Director General who was very disappointed to be unable to attend. He is currently on his way to Tokyo. He has prepared a message to you that I will read a little later.
But I would like first to say a few words on my own behalf.
Over the last four years, I have had ample occasions to appreciate the quality of NA48 and of your personnal contribution. After all, NA48 has provided one of the most important scientific results obtained at CERN in the recent period, namely the observation, with a 7 σ significance, of direct CP violation. In the financial severe circumstances that CERN has had to face, wich resulted into a strong reduction of ressources devoted to non-collider experimental programs, you have been able to maintain dynamism and ambition alive in the collaboration. This was demonstrated with the successful proposal to extend NA48 to study some rare K decays in the NA48/ 1 and NA48/ 2 experiments.
Your leadership, Heinrich, and the dedication of the collaboration have been put to a stringent test. Everybody is good when the going is smooth. But difficulties constitute drastic tests and the implosion of beam pipes some three years ago has faced NA48 with a severe challenge that you have passed with flying colours. I have also been witness to your continuing attempt to understand and reduce systematic errors so that your ε'/ε measurement could gain in significance. Actually the quality of that work has been repeatedly taken as a reference in various discussions of scientific committees.
The ceremony of today, Heinrich, is certainly a fitting tribute to the quality of your work as a physicist and a scientific leader.
Let me read the message of the Director General.

Dear Heinrich,

A duty travel to the ICFA meeting in Japan forbids me to participate in your FestKolloquium, but I wanted to be present anyhow with a letter of congratulations and some concluding remarks.

Talking with Horst Wenninger, we noted from the Programme that colleagues and friends have accounted, very completely, for you career at CERN, so one of the points I'd like to make is to recall your participation in important experiments elsewhere.

Your career in physics started at the Van de Graaf accelerator of Hamburg University, and you became staff member at DESY before joining CERN as a Fellow and Research Associate in 1969-1971.

At DESY you have been involved in an experiment on the photo-production of mesons with polarized photon beams, a work recognized in 1970 by the Physikpreis of the German Physical Society, together with the DESY team F35.
Later, as a visiting scientist at DESY, you joined the Pluto experiment at DORIS (1976-1977) in preparation of the e^+e^- experiment ALEPH at LEP. More recently (1993-1994) you have participated in the HEGRA cosmic ray experiment (in La Palma, Canary Islands) as a guest scientist of MPI Munich.

These contributions outside CERN add to the impressive work you have done here and qualify you, with few others, as one of the important contributors to the great adventure in modern physics, the discovery of the Standard Theory of Particle Interactions.

To me, your career is definitely associated with NA31 and NA48, that is with the observation of direct CP violation in K decays. The measurement of $'/$ complements the basic discovery of K-Long decay into two pions, by Cronin, Fitch, Christensen and Turlay in 1964. It also opens the way to the understanding of basic aspects of our world such as the matter-antimatter asymmetry of the Universe.

Above all, NA48 is the result of a long-standing effort by CERN, European and Russian physicists, to which you have definitely given your mark.
Personally, I like to recall the animated discussions in the INFN Executive Board, in 1994-1995, about the funding of the Italian participation in NA48 and about the adequate staffing of the Pisa group, which was involved in the construction of the Liquid Krypton calorimeter.
If I had known you better at that time, I would have been much more relaxed on the outcome of the enterprise.

At that point allow me to say that I also remember similar discussions which were going on IN2P3 to decide whether LAL Orsay would join NA48, and I too would have been much more relaxed then..

It became apparent to me only later how strong and professional was the collaboration, for example the way you coped with an unforeseen accident to the beam pipe, which severely damaged the Drift Chambers in November 1999.

It is a happy circumstance that while we are here speaking about past successes, NA48 is still alive and will take data, later this year, to search for a possible CP-violating asymmetry in charged K decays. In an old paper with Gino Isidori and Nello Paver, we computed this asymmetry in the Standard Theory and found it very small, out of your reach.
Well, who knows….the Standard Theory is supposed to fail, sooner or later, and I would be really delighted to have to come here and reconsider the calculation in the face of a positive result from NA48. Gino, Nello and I will not forget to bring with us a good bottle of Italian wine for you, in case.

In conclusion, let me thank you for the exceptional services you have given to CERN, with your insight, skill, professionalism and dedication. Personally, I'd like to add my thanks for the advice and collaboration.

Best wishes for your future career!

Luciano Maiani

Again best congratulations on behalf of the Directorate.