

Echoes of the Session in Munich

Munich, the Athens of 1936, extended a sumptuous welcome to the participants of the Session. The German members of the International Olympic Committee, Dr. Karl Ritter von Halt and Dr. Daume did everything in their power for the complicated organization of the various Conferences and Sittings to run smoothly according to timetable, also with a view to make everybody's visit as comfortable as possible. They were admirably assisted in their task by Dr. Koenig, Secretary of the German Olympic Committee, and by Mr. Werner Klingeberg, both very conversant in Olympic affairs. The ladies, who accompanied the members of the Session, appreciated the marvellous programme prepared for their entertainment by three charming hostesses: Mrs. von Halt, Mrs. Daume and Mrs. Klingeberg.

Numerous festivities, receptions and excursions were provided for the participants of the Session, the delegates of the International Federations, the delegates of the candidate cities and for the members of the International Olympic Committee. Everybody could choose according to his taste, and the choice was not always very easy because everything was so enticing. Let us mention especially a concert of chamber music in the reception rooms of the Castle of Schleissheim, where Mrs. Elly Nev, pianist, and Mr. Ludwig Hölcher, cellist interpreted Beethoven in an outstanding manner.

The Bavarian Government held a most successful reception in one of the museums, while the Mayor of the City welcomed his guests in the ancient Town Hall. The following day? a gala performance of the *Wedding of Figaro* by Mozart, was provided for us at the rebuilt theatre of Cuvilliés. We cannot praise enough the ambiance of all these receptions which were cordial and happy.

The delegates of the City of Tokyo gave a surprise party to celebrate the attribution of the 1964 Games to their city. Unbound happiness pervaded everywhere and the

members of the International Olympic Committee were glad to meet again their hosts of last year while associating themselves unreservedly in their Japanese friends' triumph.

At last the work of the Session being over, the members of the International Olympic Committee were free to go for an excursion in a motorbus which led them to the romantic city of Frankfurt on the Main. This ride was a revelation of beauty for all those who did not know that part of the country. The mediaeval character of the towns with their ramparts, their towers and their fortified surrounding walls which have been kept by the former generations. The recent bombardments have unfortunately destroyed many dwellings but they have been rebuilt most carefully in their former style and the countryside offers to the modern tourist an opportunity to step in and relive the past. One falls in a dream and thinks oneself living at the time of the Hundred Years' War.

At Dinkelsbühl, while the visitors walked through a district composed of very ancient and quaint buildings for old age pensioners, a stork hovered over its nest. But time was up, and the car took us to Rothenburg on the Tauber, another mediaeval beauty spot. At the gate of the town, gaily dressed knights mounted on horseback, dressed in a cane with feathered hat stopped the car. Who goes there? was the challenge. The President and the members of the International Olympic Committee was the reply. Then, unfolding a parchment paper, a knight read the proclamation giving the right of access to the city of Rothenburg.

Preceded by two heralds at arms, the cars and our bus made a gay entrance in the city, passing through the city gates.

The members of the International Olympic Committee took residence at the Eisenhut Hotel. The hostess was an authentic descendant of a patrician family who built the house in the XIIth century. A farewell banquet was served in this enchanting

setting and every guest had to drink from the historical hanap from which the Burgo-meister Georg Nusch drank in one gulp, in 1631, in order to save his city from destruction in the hands of Marshall Tilly who imposed this condition to the eminent citizens of Rothenburg which was besieged. It was in a most friendly atmosphere that we took our leave, some of the members of the International Olympic Committee continued their journey to Frankfurt where the actual dispersion took place. Every guest was presented with an etching of Rothenburg produced by a new drawing of an ancient copper plate dating from the 17th century. This was a delightful token given us by our German friends who made each one of us appreciate their generosity and warm welcome.



SESSION DE MUNICH 1959

Three and a half days meetings have given a recording of 730 metres.





