



The Games of the XVIIIth Olympiad, Tokyo 1964

from October 10th (Saturday) to 25th (Sunday)

Housing Committee Formed to Aid Olympic Visitors in Tokyo 1964

One of the greatest tasks that Olympic planners normally face is that of providing comfortable accommodations for the thousands of overseas visitors attending the Games.

International enthusiasm for the Olympiads has risen steadily over the past decades and mounting thousands of visitors jam the host cities. Even the largest of world metropolises, supplied with great numbers of hotels, are now required to institute special advance measures so that disorder and inefficiency can be minimized. The usual countermeasures include finding substitute hotel facilities, and enforcing special rules to make the maximum number of accommodations publicly available.

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government, working closely with several advisory groups, is actively arranging for as many beds as possible. Tokyo authorities are expanding other tourist and service facilities with equal vigour. A crash planning programme, now underway, calls for all building and renovation to be completed well before the start of the 18th Olympiad.

To aid operational efficiency and co-ordination, city officials several months ago formed the Tokyo Olympic Housing Committee. This

organization is composed of representatives from governmental and private bodies responsible for or closely connected with accommodations for foreign visitors to the Games.

Committee member groups include : hotel and *ryokan* (Japanese style inn) associations, travel and tour organizations, the Ministry of Transportation, the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Japan Tourist Association.

Since its formation, the Committee has investigated all the methods suggested for increasing the number of adequate rooms. The findings have been reported to the Organizing Committee.

Although decisions on many important projects must still be taken during the next months, the following measures have been agreed upon :

(1) Accommodations must be found for 30,000 overseas visitors each day. Housing availability must span the period of the Games as well as the pre and post Olympic periods.

(2) To help achieve the goal of daily accommodating 30,000 visitors, facilities suitable for overseas guests will be chosen from

those available in Tokyo and the surrounding resort areas. The rooms selected will be registered and put under the control of the Tokyo Olympic Housing Committee.

(3) Rooms will be selected from western style hotels and from traditional Japanese style hotels (*ryokan*) where these latter are able to provide suitable western style facilities. Subsidies will be granted to *ryokan* owners where minor remodeling would make their premises suitable for overseas guests.

(4) *Ryokan* personnel with little or no experience in serving foreign visitors will be offered basic training in languages and western style catering.

(5) All applications for hotel reservations are to be made directly to the hotels or *ryokan*, either individually or through a travel agent.

(6) A 'Reservations Certificate' will automatically be issued by proper authority when applied for and confirmed. 'Reservations Certificates' must accompany applications for Olympic Games tickets. It has been ruled that, following the pattern set at Rome, the Organizing Committee may issue tickets only in the presence of confirmed accommodations.

(7) To avoid unnecessary confusion and arbitrary cancellation, individuals applying for reservations will be required to make a partial payment in advance. The amount

of the advance payment and the method of paying the sum is still under review by the Committee.

The registration of suitable rooms for Olympic visitors has been completed by March 31st of this year, and the Committee now plans to get everything ready to be able to accept applications for reservations starting October 1st, 1962.

A detailed circular letter on applying for reservations accompanied by a comprehensive list of the hotels and *ryokan* available will be sent to all interest parties (including travel agents) before October 1st.

It has been decided that prior to that date, Tokyo hotels and *ryokan* will not accept reservations for the period of the Olympics so that all individuals and agents will have an equal opportunity starting October 1st.

Accommodations for members of the International and National Olympic Committees and other officials not staying at the Olympic Village will be taken care of apart from the general reservations procedure. Members of the press will also fall into this separate category.

Two new committees are being organized to insure that transportation, and guide service will be adequately handled during the 18th Olympiad. It is hoped that the work of these committees will make the 1964 Olympics one of the best from the standpoint of efficiency and convenience.