

## ***Torch Relay Route***

*for Tokyo Olympic Games selected;  
to be airborne from Athens to Naha*

The 20,000 kilometer route for the torch relay for the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games has been selected by the Tokyo Olympic Organizing Committee, subject to final approval by the International Olympic Committee meeting to be held in Kenya, Africa, next year.

The relay route was determined by the Committee after studying the results of extensive surveys through the countries of the Middle East and Asia. The suggested plan has been submitted to the Olympic Torch Committee which met in Djakarta in August in connection with the 4th Asian Games. Representatives of all Asian and Middle Eastern nations attended and the final plan referred to the National Olympic Committees of the countries concerned.

According to the proposed route, the Olympic torch will leave Olympia, birthplace of the ancient Greek Olympic Games, two months before the opening of the Tokyo

Olympics, set for October 10, 1964. The torch will be carried by Greek runners from Olympia to Athens and from there will be airborne through Istanbul, Ankara, Beirut, Damascus, Baghdad, Teheran, Kabul, Karachi, New Delhi, Katmandu, Calcutta, Dacca, Rangoon, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Djakarta, Manila, Hong Kong, and Taipei to Naha (Okinawa).

There is an alternate plan for the relay route after Singapore. This plan calls for dividing the torch in two, with one flame proceeding from Singapore to Hong Kong, Taipei and Seoul, and the other going from Singapore to Djakarta, Manila and Naha. The sister flames would then be reunited in Japan.

Under the Japanese plan, the torch would make a short visit at each of the cities designated between Olympia and Naha. It will be borne by runners, selected by the national committee of each country visited, from the

airport to the center of the city for a short period. The entire course is scheduled to take one month.

Upon its arrival on Japanese soil, the torch would be hand-carried by specially selected runners through every prefectural capital, over a course requiring more than one month. It will be timed so that the Olympic Sacred Flame would arrive at the Main Stadium at the proper moment to signal the opening of the XVIII Olympiad. In case the torch is

divided at Singapore, the two flames would meet at the Main Stadium in Tokyo.

The air route has been selected in lieu of an original proposal to use an overland route following the ancient 'Silk Road'.

(Ed. : *What shocks us in this plan, which is certainly well done, is the division of the torch at a certain moment and the arrival of two flames in the Main Stadium in Tokyo.*)