

Hungarian sportsmen taking the oath

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Dr. Sandor BECKL, President of the Hungarian Olympic Committee, opens the ceremony

"I will prepare myself for the Olympic Games with conviction, willingness and honest work."

These words were uttered on Sunday morning, 13th February, in one of Budapest's theatres, where Hungarian sportsmen whose participation in the Munich Games is anticipated, took their Olympic oath.

The ceremony began to the strains of the Hungarian National Anthem, before a packed audience of sportsmen, trainers, and officials of

federations and sports organizations. This event was honoured by many leading personalities in social and public life - headed by Dr. Miklos AJTAY, Vice-President of the Council of Ministers - as well as members of the presidium of the Hungarian Olympic Committee, ex Hungarian champions of both sexes and those gaining the highest places in previous Games.

After reading the "Ode to Sport" by Pierre de COUBERTIN, Dr. Arpad CSANADI, I.O.C. member and Chairman of this cere-



A group of Hungarian athletes. In front, Mr. P. TIBOR poses with his friends, Olympic medalists at Tokyo

mony, welcomed everybody. Then Dr. Sandor BECKL, President of the Hungarian Olympic Committee took the floor. He emphasised that the taking of the oath had become traditional and was repeated every four years by athletes preparing for the Olympic Games.

"All the world knows," said the President, "that Hungary was one of the first countries to associate itself, at the end of last century, with the idea of reviving the ancient Games. In the 75 intervening years, we

have not ceased working for the greatest possible promotion of the Olympic ideal. Our sportsmen have taken part in 15 Summer Olympic Games in all and have merited, by the results gained since 1948, the recognition and often the admiration of the whole world."

He finished his speech with the following words:
"Take your oath and do your best to attain results worthy of our high Olympic traditions so as to cheer the hearts of our hard-working people, who love sport so much."

In this friendly atmosphere, Miss Angela NEMETH, javelin champion at the Mexico Games, then mounted the rostrum and invited the sportsmen to take the oath.

Hearts beat, eyes shined and the words of the oath resounded. And when Karoly TAKACS, twice Olympic shooting champion, wished all the candidates success and hoped for good performances, no words of reply were needed: *"we will do our best to be worthy of the trust put in us and to continue the glorious tradition of our predecessors!"*

... The best Hungarian sportsmen are therefore preparing for Munich.

A. C.

