

THE DEATH OF FRANTISEK KROUTIL



A former member of the IOC in Czechoslovakia from 1965 to 1981, **Frantisek Kroutil**, 79, passed away on February 8th 1987 after a long illness.

He was born in 1907 and studied law at Bucovice, his home town, then at Dijon, in France, Vienna and Brno, whilst at the same time practising several sports, such as swimming, cycling, canoeing, and skiing. He was also one of the promoters of mountaineering in Czechoslovakia, with a large number of ascents to his name, including some first ascents in the Tatra Mountains and the Alps, and numerous articles on this sport. He qualified as a lawyer, and became involved from 1937 onwards in the development of the national sporting movement within the Czechoslovakian Association of Physical Education (CSTV), and of the Czechoslovakian Olympic Committee, of which he was the Secretary General from 1957 to 1974. His knowledge of foreign languages — he knew six — was very useful to him in running the international department of the CSTV and also when he took charge of the national delegations to the Games at Melbourne, Rome and Tokyo, and the Winter Games at Cor-

tina d'Ampezzo and Innsbruck. Frantisek Kroutil became a member of the IOC in 1965, succeeding Dr. Joseph Gruss. His wide culture, his understanding of international relations, but also his interest in the athlete's problems, made him an outstanding Olympic representative, whose participation in various IOC commissions, particularly the legal commission, was much appreciated. A keen supporter of popular sport, one of his greatest pleasures was that the Czechoslovakian Association of Physical Education received the Olympic Cup in 1976 for its exemplary organisation of the Spartakiades.

He gave up mountaineering at the age of 60, and he then devoted himself to writing about this subject and about sport generally. Decorated several times over for his services in the development of sport, Frantisek Kroutil has a worthy place in the history of the Olympic Movement, as upholder of the famous Czechoslovakian school of sport.



HOMAGE TO KEES KERDEL IN AMSTERDAM

The President of the IOC, H.E. Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch went to Amsterdam (HOL) on January 17th to present the Olympic Order to the family of the late **Cornelis (Kees) Kerdel**. The whole Olympic family from the Netherlands was present at this private, warm, remembrance ceremony, including H.E. Judge Keba Mbaye, member of the Executive Board of the IOC.

The president is on the right of the photograph, with Mrs. Kerdel and her two sons.