TOKYO EXPRESSWAY

The Tokyo Expressway has just been completed. This new super highway connects Tokyo, International Airport to the heart of Tokyo, then goes on to the main Olympic stadium via the Olympic Village in Yoyogi and ends in Shinjuku, one of the city's metropolitan centers. The section from Hanao to central Tokyo has a commanding, often breath-taking view, running along the bay and through the port section. On the one hand, ocean-going ferries are anchored. On the other, glittering new buildings tower up from the Ginza, and over all rises Tokyo Tower, higher than the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

Coming into the mid-town area, this elevated highway drops underground to run along an ancient river bed. In the very center of Tokyo at Erdosuhi has been constructed, the largest interchange in Asia (Photo). It sweeps in a vast curve over the Ginza river and then branches off to Route No. 4, straight for the Olympic sites. Route No. 4 is the shortest link between downtown Tokyo and some of the metropolitan centers further out. This section contains a variety of highway tricks dictated by the terrain. In addition to curves and tunnels, you will never forget the impression of driving through buildings in Ochanomizu, over the floating park, through the world's first underground interchange, along tree-lined avenues, and by the Meiji Shrine. The speed limits for this ultra-modern expressway are 60 km/hr on straightaways and 50 km/hr maximum on curves and in tunnels. Highway patrol cars make regular rounds to help drivers in distress and keep traffic flowing.

This superb expressway takes you from Hanao to the Ginza in about 15 minutes. The width of the highway is 36 meters - four lanes. A net of such highways is now being planted to cover the entire Tokyo area in the near future.