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WORLD PARACHUTE CONTEST.

At Tushino Airport, Moscow, parachutists from ten countries meet for the Third World Championship - the biggest yet organised by the International Aeronautical Federation. Inside a hangar, competitors prepare their chutes.

Soviet AN-2 planes of the Chlakov Air Club are being used for the jumping. The American team go aboard for the first item on the eight-day programme.

In the first test, two jumps are made from about 2,000 feet. Competitors have to land as near as possible to the centre of a circle of 500 feet radius. Later on come the delayed drop tests; jumping from about 6,500 feet, each man plunges earthwards for 30 seconds before he pulls the cord - and with nothing between you and the ground, 30 seconds can seem endless.

Ground observers check each jump, and time the interval of free drop before the parachute opens.

In this particular test, it is not necessary to pick the moment of jumping so that you land accurately within the circle. All the same, some competitors manage to come pretty near it.

The last jumps are being made, the last of the daredevil parachutists are touching down. And when the points are added up, the man's team title goes to the Czechs, with Gustav Koubek as individual Champion. The woman's title is won by Russia's Josefa Mazova. Last time there were only two women entries - this year there were eight women's teams!