



INFORMATION CENTER ESPERANTO LEAGUE FOR NORTH AMERICA

Vol. II No. 4

NEWSLETTER

October 1966

GIANT ESPERANTO PETITION PRESENTED TO UNITED NATIONS BY U.E.A. PRESIDENT

A petition to the United Nations, signed by 920,954 individuals in 74 countries and by 3843 organizations with 71 million members, was presented at the U.N. Secretariat on October 6 by the President of the Universala Esperanto-Asocio, Dr. Ivo La-Penna as head of a delegation.

Asserting that "the multiplicity of languages represents one of the most serious obstacles to the development of international cooperation," the petition proposes that the U.N. "solve the language problem by real and effective aid to the propagation of Esperanto, the neutral international language," and by recommending to its member states that they "further the teaching of the language and encourage its use in international relations between the peoples of the world."

Many Government V.I.P.'s Sign

Among 114 high government officials who signed are: Franz Jonas, President of Austria; the Vice Presidents of the French Senate and National Assembly; Trygve Lie, Secretary General of the United Nations 1946-53; Dr. Walter Hallstein, President of the World Common Market; Brock Chisholm, Director General of the World Health Organization 1948-58; Sir Walter Nash, ex-Prime Minister of New Zealand; and 43 cabinet ministers from 16 countries, including Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, West Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Norway and Uruguay.

The 1,347 members of parliaments who signed include 9 United States Congressmen: Brown and Edwards (Cal.), Pucinski (Ill.), Fraser (Minn.), Krebs and Patten (N.J.), Halpern and Rosenthal (N.Y.), Rhodes and Vigorito (Pa.).

The university world furnished nearly 8,000 names, ranging from science academy members and philologists to research workers. Other categories include 6,600 authors, artists and journalists; 58,000 doctors, lawyers, merchants and industrialists; 51,675 teachers in secondary and elementary schools; 366,214 white collar and industrial workers; 27,446 farmers and farm laborers.

Organizations supporting the petition include labor unions, political parties, humane societies, welfare organizations, youth and sports groups, auto and tourist associations, producer and consumer cooperatives.

In the delegation with President Lapenna to present the proposal were: Miss M.H. Vermaas, director of the U.E.A. central office in Rotterdam; Francis Helmuth, president of the Esperanto League for North America; Mark Starr, director of the Esperanto Information Center; Eskil Svane of the U.E.A., Denmark; and Alexander Schwarz, representing the U.E.A. Youth Section. Receiving the documents on behalf of U Thant, Secretary General of the United Nations, was C.V. Narasimhan, Undersecretary for General Assembly affairs and Chef de Cabinet of the United Nations.

Getting Those Signatures

The petition presentation marks the culmination of many months of hard work by thousands of Esperantists all over the world who faithfully made the rounds of meetings and acquaintances, soliciting signatures. To single out any individuals for praise is to slight many others, but according to E.I.C. records, those who obtained the most names in the United States were Dr. Julius Balbin of New York who got more than 1000, Don Stephens of Arden, Del., and Allan Boschen of Pittsfield, Mass.

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New York-California Phone Hookup

The Southern California Esperanto Congress on October 22-23 featured an across-the continent telephone hookup on which President Ivo Lapenna of the Universala Esperanto Asocio spoke from New York to 125 listeners from 21 communities.

The mayor of Covina, Oscar Yaeger; Philip Ackley, principal of Tri-Community Adult Education; Joseph Scherer, an Esperanto world traveler; and Francis Helmuth, president of ELNA, also addressed the sessions. The conference, arranged by the Esperanto Society of San Gabriel Valley, was held in Covina.



U.E.A. Delegation with C.V. Narasimhan, U.N. Chef de Cabinet. Left to right--Francis Helmuth, Alexander Schwarz, Dr. Ivo Lapenna, Mr. Narasimhan, Mark Starr, Miss M.H. Vermaas, Eskil Svane, John Lewine.

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 * ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS NOW! *
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 * on one-fold green embossed paper; fits standard envelope. *
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 * This is a project of the Portland Esperanto Society. *
 * * * * *

150 Children in Summer School

"The children didn't want to stop the lessons. They begged every day for homework. Many parents visited the class and congratulated us."

Did you get that sort of report from your children who attended summer classes? Probably not, unless they happened to be in the four Esperanto classes in which Doris Vallon and Betsy Brandenburg taught 150 4th-to-7th grade children in the San Mateo, Calif., public schools.

With pictures, wordcards, tapes and earphones, the children saw the words, heard them, and then pronounced them so that they were soon able to use their new vocabulary easily and correctly.

One result is a course which other teachers can use. Another was poems written by the children for "Grains in the Wind," a collection of children's writings in Esperanto from all over the world.

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Report on Portland

A debate on "Is it wise to travel to the moon?" was the October menu for the Portland, Ore., Esperanto Club meeting. Tom Davidson and Anne Whitteker were the team leaders.

Short talks on "Esperanto and I" were given at the September meeting by a business man, a housewife, a scientist, a 7th grader and a traveler. Meetings are held in the recital room of the Day Music Company. (For details of Portland's Christmas card project, see offer in this Newsletter.)

At the State Fair, children's books and Esperanto letters from many lands were displayed. When Con and Mary Murray came to Portland, The Oregonian had a big feature story on their round-the-world trip and they were interviewed on KOIN-TV.

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Fall and Winter Classes

It looks like a banner year for Esperanto classes, but details are being deferred until the next Newsletter because of the space devoted in this one to the U.N. Petition presentation and President Lapenna's first visit to the United States.

Together, a Methodist monthly magazine (201 8th Ave., Nashville, Tenn.) had a long eulogistic article, "Dr. Zamenhof's Amazing Language," by Stanley Jacobs in its October issue. Conrad Fisher, ELNA secretary, reports receiving 250 requests for information within two weeks of the article.

"A Language for Everybody - Esperanto Comes Into Its Own" was the title of a feature story by Ed Arnow in the San Francisco Chronicle for September 11.

Dr. James Liebe rman had an excellent letter in the Washington Post, commenting on William Benton's proposal that the nations of the world should be invited to learn English - A proposal which led the Post, while giving the idea general approval, to hope that this would move the natives of the U.S.A. to study the language too.

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Governor Edmund G. Brown of California sent a message to the Southern Calif. Esperanto Conference which read in part:

"Your promotion of the use of Esperanto as an international auxiliary language in order to increase understanding around the world is a most interesting and worthwhile endeavor. As our world continues to shrink due to the ever-increasing efficiency of our technology, it is vital that all nationalities become better acquainted and obtain a greater degree of understanding. As you exchange ideas on how to promote the spread of the teaching of Esperanto and on how to generate unity among your enthusiasts, I commend you for your efforts in bringing the people of the world closer together."

Among the messages received at E.I.C. in connection with the petition presentation to the U.N. were the following:

From Congressman Donald M. Fraser, Fifth Dist., Minnesota-- "The theme of your meeting, the advantages of Esperanto in international cooperation, is a significant one. The time is fast approaching when an international language will become imperative, and I cheer your efforts in that direction."

From Senator Robert F. Kennedy of New York: "World peace and understanding must come with language bonds and I congratulate you on your efforts to promote these goals."

Earlier, Senator Kennedy had written in a letter, "It may well be that a neutral language might provide a better means of communication between the different nations of the world. Esperanto has long been a major contender as this medium. I hope you will keep me informed of your work on this problem."

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In Springfield, Ill., a Mid-Western Conference brought together Esperantists from Illinois (including 14 from Chicago), St. Louis, Madison, Wis., central Ohio, Indiana and Arkansas on the weekend of October 15-16.

Fresh Strong Winds From England Hit Eastern Seaboard -
Dr. and Mrs. Lapenna Arrive on Queen Mary



Wed., Sept. 21.--Neither an early dawn arrival at New York harbor nor driving winds and buckets of rain could dampen the spirits of the arriving visitors or their reception committee. Dr. and Mrs. Ivo Lapenna were greeted on board ship before it passed the Verrazano bridge and photographed, thanks to the know-how of Dewey Frezzolini, newest member of E.I.C.'s executive board.

The magnetic vitality of Dr. Lapenna (who is not only president of the Universal Esperanto Association and honorary director of its Research and Documentation Center but also Assistant

Professor of International and Comparative Law at the London School of Economics) was readily apparent to Mark Starr and Margot Gerson, chairman and secretary of the Esperanto Information Center, who had lunch with him and his charming wife.

Wed., Sept. 28.--Dr. Lapenna was the main speaker at a public meeting last night. Publicized by two ads in the Sunday Times and 1200 mailed leaflets, the meeting was well attended despite a torrential rain. The audience was greatly impressed by his speech dealing with the language problem in international relations and his closing remarks in Esperanto. Humphrey Tonkin, John Lewine and Mark Starr also spoke briefly.

Wed., Oct. 5.--A cocktail party in honor of the Lapennas was given by Mr. and Mrs. Jasha Levi, long-time friends from the time Dr. Lapenna was Professor of International Law at Zagreb University in Yugoslavia. The party provided a background for informal talks with journalists about the presentation of the Esperanto proposal to the United Nations tomorrow. . . . 5 p.m.--Dr. Lapenna just returned from a very lively and informative interview taped at Station WNYC for broadcast at 7 and 8 a.m. tomorrow. This was arranged by Francis Helmuth, ELNA president, who came to New York October 3 and has been a constant worker at E.I.C. ever since.

Dr. Lapenna's morning was spent at a press conference at E.I.C. where he was interviewed and photographed by a reporter from Transmondo Pictures and one from Reuters who had had a cable from his London office for an interview with the president of U.E.A.

Thurs., Oct. 6.--The big day is over and the huge volume of 300 photo-copied pages of representative signatures, together

with a memorandum in five languages dealing with the language problem and the present position of Esperanto in the world, and various other important documents are in the hands of C. V. Narasimhan, Under Secretary for General Assembly Affairs and Chef de Cabinet of the United Nations.

As head of the delegation presenting the Proposal (See Page 1) Dr. Lapenna also pointed out that due to the work of the U.E.A. and its affiliates, approximately 50 million people all over the world were informed about the United Nations and specifically about the International Cooperation Year.

Two sets of books were presented, one for the Secretary General, U. Thant, and one for Mr. Narasimhan, including Dante's "Dia Komedio," "Memorlibro pri la Zamenhof-Jaro," "Malsata Ŝtono" by Rabindranath Tagore, and "Zamenhof" by Marjorie Boulton.

Fri., Oct. 7. Dr. Lapenna addressed a large gathering of the New York Esperanto Society at Sloane House, together with Miss M. H. Vermaas, director of the U.E.A. central office in Rotterdam, who had flown to New York for the U.N. presentation. Before her return, Miss Vermaas visited Washington and Niagara Falls. In Canada she spoke with Esperantists in Toronto.

Other Lapenna Engagements

Dr. Lapenna came to the United States under a grant by an American foundation to do professional studies in his special field of law. He attended a seminar at Columbia University and spent some time at Yale, Harvard and Washington universities. He addressed a student assembly at Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pa., and met with the Washington, D.C., Esperantists.

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Hear All About It!

Would you like to have a firsthand account from the Murrays--Mary and Conn--of their year's trip around the world on behalf of Esperanto?

It just might be (to use one of Mary's favorite phrases) that early in 1967 they will travel back from California to New York with stopovers for meetings with Esperanto groups at which Mary would talk and Conn would show color pictures from all parts of the world.

There would be no lecture fee, but the local group would be expected to provide hospitality and a pro rated sum for travel expenses. No definite plans can be made until we have some indication of the number and location of possible lecture dates.

If you are interested in having the Murrays address your local club or a public meeting in your area, write to Mrs. Margot Gerson, Secretary, Esperanto Information Center, 156 5th Ave., New York 10010, N.Y.

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+ EVERYBODY TALKS ENGLISH - AND HOW! +
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This gem is from the back of a restaurant menu in Thailand, quoted in the Saturday Review of October 8:

Have the map with Thai and English for your-tourist of Cholburi. We have cars at your service all the time. If you reach to Smarnmit Restaurant already. If you wish to meet someone or want to-go somewhere or buy somethings. We pleasure to advice to you always.

If your car have objects, we have the mender for you. If you want the food already make to your resident. We pleasure to bring to your resident or if you want the good go with you for travel, we have the box prepare for you all the time.

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Preliminary Information on Flights to Israel
For World Esperanto Congress in Tel-Aviv, August 2-9, 1967

Cost of 2-way Flight, New York--Tel-Aviv, \$535. A choice of departure and return dates for this group price will appear in the next Newsletter. Since on flights to Israel special regulations apply, delegates do not have to go in one group but can join existing groups. East-bound flights go direct to Israel but on the way back stop-overs may be made at various points in Europe. West coast travelers can leave in minimum groups of 10 from Los Angeles or San Francisco to New York for a round-trip excursion fare of \$217.65 as compared to \$290.20 regular fare. (A slight extra charge for those joining from Portland or Seattle.)

The same arrangement is available from Chicago for \$65.55 as compared to \$85. Passengers from Montreal and Boston can fly to New York free of charge to meet the flights here. In all cases, departure must be made by a minimum of 10 people, but return can be individual.

See the next Newsletter for details of possible itineraries and information on hotel accommodations and tours in Israel.

To give you the best service, E.I.C. asks all those interested in going to the Congress to send a postcard indicating the amount of time they would like to spend on the trip. This is in no way binding on either party. Congress registration forms are obtainable from E.I.C. Send stamped, self-addressed envelope.

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David McCallum, known to television fans in many countries as The Man from U.N.C.L.E., rates an invitation to the next ELNA conference. In a recent interview for TV Week he was asked, "If you had the chance to change anything in the world situation, what would that be?" McCallum replied:

"I would insist and advocate very strongly that the Esperanto language be taught to every school child in the world so that in a generation we could achieve total communication."

Leaflets for YOUR Use!

Proposal to Solve a Problem - Lapenna interview in the
U.N. Secretariat

UNESCO--Esperanto - Reprint from U.N. Secretariat

Esperanto Vivas Tutmonde - Montage of press clippings

La Esperanto-Inform-Centro Novjorka - Reprint from
U.E.A. Journal "Esperanto"

How European Business Men Use Esperanto - Reprint
from Business Abroad

Esperanto Petition Presented - Historic press release

Any of the above items, \$2.00 for 100
of one kind or assorted. Please specify.

Basic Facts About Esperanto, 10pp., Doc. RDC/7. 25¢ ea.

Esperanto Posters, see enclosure.

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ESPERANTO INFORMATION CENTER 156 5th Ave., New York 10010

Although English is a compulsory second (and sometimes a first) language in every school, it is still difficult to find Puerto Ricans outside San Juan who are fluent in English."

-- M. M. Karpatkia, New Republic, 5/7/66

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If your local typewriter dealer cannot supply language supersigns, write Ace Typewriter Co., 28 W. 46 St., New York 2, N.Y., giving brand, age and type-size of your machine.

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REPORTS ON 1966-67 CLASSES in the next Newsletter! Send yours in to E.I.C. if you have not already done so.

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SEND YOUR TRADING STAMPS TO HELP PAY THE FARE OF A YOUNG ESSAY CONTEST WINNER TO TEL AVIV IN 1967. Send to Bonnie Helmuth, 801 LA JOLLA RANCHO ROAD, LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA, 92037.

HUGE U.E.A. CONGRESS AT BUDAPEST

At Budapest the 51st Esperanto Congress (July 30--August 6) was almost too successful. Owing to last-minute registrations which sent the total up to 4010, most of the meeting halls and lecture rooms were too crowded for comfort. The Hungarian Esperantists' Congress Committee were overwhelmed by the immensity of their task but they labored nobly.

President Lapenna, as usual, directed the business sessions of the Universala Esperanto Asocio with masterly skill. He emphasized and maintained political neutrality. The press service was outstanding in its many comprehensive releases. (These unfortunately were not used in the United States.) The lectures, plays, and particularly the puppet shows went off in fine style.

A good strong delegation of more than 50 Esperantists from the United States was in evidence in all the meetings and on the excursions. Section meetings were scheduled for such diverse groups as architects, artists, autoists, the blind, chess players, doctors, farmers, lawyers, railwaymen, puppeteers, scientists and statesmen.

Budapest stands upon the Danube, a big and mighty river at that point. One went up on the hills of Buda to look down upon the river and the industrial areas of Pest. There is a unique blend of ancient and modern buildings and monuments. The Hungarian Parliament, where we were officially received by the Vice President, is bigger and more imposing than the House of Commons in London. Street flags and shop posters called attention to the Congress. Delegates were given free streetcar passes.

Julio Baghy was kept busy autographing the joint collection of poems which he and K.Kalocsay had offered and which had been printed as "Ora Duopo."

The official accounts of the Congress in Esperanto, Heroldo, and Pratiko will give all the details, but Budapest stands out as one of the big milestones in the development of the Esperanto movement. On to Tel Aviv!

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From a guidebook, "We Danes and You," issued by the National Travel Association of Denmark:

"Just after midnight it is general for the Danes to break into English whether they can or not.

"Every Dane speaks at least one foreign language. It may not always be easy to be sure which it is.

"It staggers the Danes to think visitors can speak languages like English, French, Swedish, Norwegian, not to mention Spanish and Portuguese, even better than we can."

-- Quoted in The Atlantic, June, 1966

156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10010
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First Class

VIVI KAJ PROSPERU LA MOVADO! - President Lapenna

En la revuo Esperanto aperos iom ampleksaj artikoloj pri la transdono de La Propono al UNO kaj pri via lando, kiu ĉiurilate impresis min. Ĉe la nuna momento, antaŭ ol veturi al London, mi nur deziras esprimi, ankaŭ en la nomo de mia edzino, tutkoran dankon al ĉiuj, kiujn ni renkontis, pro la afablega akcepto kaj plej amika kunlaboro!

Estas certe, ke ELNA kaj la Esperanta Movado en Usono faris tre ĝojigan progreson kompare kun kelkaj jaroj antaŭe. La Centro en Kvina Avenuo estas granda atingo kiu prezentas solidan bazon por konsiderinda vastigo por la internacia lingvo en Usono. Sed por ke via laboro donu kiel eble plej pozitivan rezulton necesas, tamen, solvi kelkajn problemojn. Tri punktoj ŝajnas al mi la tre gravaj kaj urgaj: 1)-Plibonigi la lingvan nivelon. 2) Agi laŭ la Dua Baza Laborplano, UEA, kaj la Principaro de Frostavalen (p.38-42, Jarlibro, 1965.) 3)-Establi multe pli oftajn, fortajn ligojn inter la organoj de ELNA kaj centraj organoj de UEA kaj kun la lokaj societoj.

Tute aparte mi petas ĉiun Esperantiston en Usono, kiu ankoraŭ ne estas, fariĝu membro de UEA. Ĝis fino de j.1966 la individua ĉiujara kotizo por membro-abonanto estas \$6.00; kaj por Dumviva Membro, \$120.00. Ĉefdelegito D.E. Parrish, 328 W. 46 St., Los Angeles, California, 90037 ricevos. * Ĝis Revido! -- Ivo Lapenna.