

News Digest

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NEW JOURNAL TO CAP RIGHTS YEAR ACTIVITY: The Center for Research and Documentation on the World Language Problem, located in London, has announced that it will launch a new multilingual scholarly journal as the culmination of its contribution to the International Year of Human Rights 1968, proclaimed by the United Nations. The journal will be entitled *La Monda Lingvo-Problemo* (The World Language Problem) and will publish articles on the social, legal, political, economic, psychological, and linguistic aspects of the language problem throughout the world. The first issue will be dated December 10, 1968, the 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and will constitute the beginning of Volume I (1969) of the journal, which will come out three times a year. *La Monda Lingvo-Problemo* will contain articles in many languages, with summaries in the international language Esperanto. It will be under the direction of an Editorial Committee of eminent scholars, including professors Mario Pei (United States), Gaston Waringhien (France), and E.A. Bokarev (U.S.S.R.).

EDITOR EXPLAINS AIMS: Dr. Victor Sadler, who will edit the new journal, writes about its purposes in an article in this month's issue of the magazine *Esperanto*. "The language problem", says Sadler, "is undoubtedly more severe and more widespread today than ever before in history. And yet the world's politicians, scientists, and other intellectuals mostly act as if the problem did not exist. Large sums of money go to support linguistic research on forgotten dialects or tombstone inscriptions, while the basic rights of linguistic minorities, language discrimination in international relations -- in short, the living problems of living people -- are almost totally ignored. Some simply resign themselves to the language problem as a natural pestilence that will never be overcome; others flee into the comfort of a limited unilingual environment and forget that in other situations and other countries conflict over language is leading to suffering, hostility, and even death."

INFORMATION CAMPAIGN PLANNED ON LANGUAGE DISCRIMINATION: In observance of the International Year of Human Rights, declared for 1968 by the United Nations, the Universal Esperanto Association is planning wide-ranging activities, including a campaign to make the world more conscious of language discrimination, which the second article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights specifically condemns. As the first step the Association has reissued the Declaration in Esperanto and is distributing it throughout the world. The Declaration has been printed in 61 languages since its original proclamation in 1948.

ESPERANTO ADDED TO CURRICULUM AT FINNISH UNIVERSITY: On October 2, 1967, two official courses, one elementary and one advanced, in the international language Esperanto were added to the curriculum of the University of Helsinki, the largest university in Finland. They are taught by Vilho Setala, a member of the Academy of Esperanto and the author of a popular Esperanto textbook used around the world. These courses are one more instance of the recent trend toward officialization of Esperanto in universities, where it is often given as an extra-curricular subject. The latest count (1965-66) of official university Esperanto courses showed them to be given in at least 16 universities, in countries ranging from Franco's Spain to Mao's China, and including the United States and Great Britain.

JEN LASHES LANGUAGE BIGOTRY ON COAST: A member of the Executive Board of JEN -- the organization of Esperanto-speaking young Americans -- has written a letter of criticism to Mrs. Cecilia Ross, editor of the *Northern California Foreign Language Newsletter*, after she called the international language a "gadget" with "no literature of its own" and alleged that "there are no mothers who speak it to their children". Editor Ross's anti-Esperanto views, together with excerpts from letters of William H. Schulze, member of the Executive Board of the Esperanto League for North America, appeared in the May and October issues of the newsletter, which is published by the Foreign Language Association of Northern California (FLANC) and is read widely by language teachers in that area. Among Mrs. Ross's arguments is the assertion "that throughout the globe English has become the language of communication", as evidenced, for example, by her discovery in Baghdad that "those Arab dealers squatting down on the warm stones all know the numbers in English."

JEN DECLARES: YOU HAVE GONE TOO FAR: Francis R. Lanzone, Jr., a member of the Executive Board of JEN, has written Editor Ross a letter of protest on behalf of the entire JEN Executive Board. Taking up the alleged cultural barrenness of Esperanto, the letter says, "when you say Esperanto has no soul, you have gone too far. It is precisely because Esperanto has a soul that it has survived eighty years of the kind of scorn you have seen fit to cast upon it." Lanzone goes on to cite the romances, the humor, the drama, and the poetry (written by everyone from California elementary school children to the late Julio Baghy of Hungary) which owe their existence -- and give a soul -- to Esperanto.



PENNSYLVANIA PROFESSOR OFFERS CORRECTIONS: Dr. Humphrey Tonkin, assistant professor of English at the University of Pennsylvania, also wrote Editor Ross, giving evidence and references in support of the contentions that Esperanto is a complete language, not a gadget; that Esperanto has an extensive and diverse literature; that many children do grow up in homes where Esperanto is one of the family languages; and that other assertions made by Mrs. Ross were based on a

lack of acquaintance with the relevant sources of information. Observing Mrs. Ross's examples of how English is supposedly conquering the world, Tonkin concluded, "Are not foreign language teachers dedicated to the belief that each language has qualities uniquely its own, which should if possible be preserved and defended against cultural domination from outside? A neutral second language seems the answer -- a kind of unity in diversity."

PUBLISHED ESPERANTO TRANSLATIONS JUMP 400% IN DECADE: The Center for Research and Documentation on the World Language Problem has reported a 400% increase in the number of published translations from other languages into Esperanto during the ten years ending in 1966, in a document issued in October for UNESCO's annual *Index Translationum*. Of the 344 listed translations (mostly books) published during the decade, 137 were literary, 92 were on social topics, and 45 were of works dealing with history, geography, or biography. The statistics also show that Esperanto translations discriminate less against the world's small languages than is commonly observed elsewhere: although more than 70% of all the translations in the world are from English, Russian, French, and German, less than half of the translations into Esperanto are from these major tongues. The document does not cover the large body of works written originally in the international language.

Esperanto has also proved itself useful as a translation "bridge", not only between East and West, but also between the languages of the Far East. A volume of short stories from Vietnam is now a big success in Japan, after being translated from Vietnamese into Esperanto and thence to Japanese. Called *In the Middle of the Flames*, the Japanese edition has already had several printings.

RECENT EVENTS

YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS FOUNDED IN TWO SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES: Colombian and Brazilian young speakers of the international language Esperanto have recently set up national organizations to further their interests. The international organization of young speakers of Esperanto -- TEJO -- aided the establishment of the group in Colombia. Introduction of Esperanto into the schools will be one of the main projects of the new organization in Brazil, where educational and other authorities have for long maintained a friendly and supporting attitude toward the international language.

ESPERANTO SHOWING NEW LIFE IN U.S.S.R.: Word coming from the Soviet Union indicates that an increasingly vigorous Esperanto movement, with youth playing an active part, exists in that country. 580 speakers of the international language, of whom 150 were students, met in Lithuania during the past summer, while to the south and east in Sochi and Uzbekistan Esperanto camps were held. These events and others give hope that Esperanto, frowned upon under Stalin, is once again being tolerated and even encouraged in the U.S.S.R.

PROFESSOR CALLS FOR SCIENTISTS' SUPPORT: Professor L.A. Ware, of the University of Iowa, has been communicating with scientists and engineers in a campaign to increase American support of *Scienca Revuo*, the journal of the International Society of Esperanto-Speaking Scientists. Ware has written that scientists "owe it to their professions to make some attempt to solve the growing problem of vast and expensive programs of translation among an increasing number of languages, and to their self respect to show that they are not defeated by a problem which actually has a comparatively simple solution." Information about the Society and its journal is available from Prof. L.A. Ware, Engineering Building, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa 52240.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ESPERANTO SPEAKERS MEET: The second Southern California Esperanto Conference was held October 27-29 at San Diego, with the theme, "Esperanto in Foreign Travel". Among the approximately 40 participants were guests from England, Denmark, and Japan. As a result of discussions at its business meeting, the Conference offered a 5-point plan to promote the use of Esperanto in facilitating travel, especially of foreigners to the United States. Part of the meeting on the second day of the Conference was covered by ABC Television and telecast that evening in San Diego.

PENINSULA SCHOOL PRINCIPAL ADDRESSES TEACHERS ON ESPERANTO: Dr. Edwin Feldman, principal of Meadow Heights School in San Mateo, California, gave a luncheon talk to a Foreign Languages in the Elementary Schools (FLES) conference, attended by about 250 teachers, in San Francisco on October 21. Feldman described the successful educational experiences that San Mateo school children have had with Esperanto, as well as the use he himself made of the international language during his sabbatical study tour of European schools during 1966-67. He stressed the broader horizons that Esperanto offers a school child, in giving him communication with the whole world rather than only one nation and culture.

JEN MEMBER STARTS ESPERANTO BROADCAST: Beginning this fall, JEN member Scott Aleshire is conducting a Wednesday-evening broadcast partly in and partly about Esperanto, on KSPC (FM), a college station in California. Individuals or groups with news items of general interest about Esperanto are invited to send them to Scott Aleshire, Oldenborg Center, Pomona College, Claremont, Calif. 91711.

PUBLICATIONS

EDUCATION AIDS OFFERED BY INFORMATION CENTER: A complete line of educational resource kits for teaching Esperanto is now being offered by the Esperanto Information Center of Hillsborough, California. The kits, many of which include sets of language laboratory tapes, are useful at all school levels, from elementary to college, and including adult education. Write for a free catalog of these kits to the Center (address on page 4).

NEW DICTIONARY CALLED BEST YET: The *Esperanto-English Dictionary*, by Montagu C. Butler, which was published this year in London, has been called "absolutely the best Esperanto dictionary in English that has thus far appeared" by J.C. Wells in a lengthy critical review in the October issue of *Esperanto*, the official journal of the world movement for the international language. The need for an up-to-date Esperanto-to-English dictionary has been acute, since the dictionary of Edward A. Millidge, which has been the standard work until this year, has not been fully revised since 1924 and more recent dictionaries have been of pocket size. The new dictionary by Butler is available from the West Coast Esperanto Book Service (address below). Price: \$3.50.

/IMPORTANT ADDRESSES/

INFORMATION CENTER, ESPERANTO LEAGUE (E.I.C.)
 Room 821, 156 5th Avenue, New York, New York 10010
 ESPERANTO INFORMATION CENTER (WEST COAST E.I.C.)
 410 Darrell Road, Hillsborough, California 94010
 WEST COAST ESPERANTO BOOK SERVICE
 2129 Elizabeth Street, San Carlos, California 94070

/HOW TO WRITE TO JEN/

Send general inquiries to Arthur Morse, Secretary of JEN
 4 Central Street, Millers Falls, Massachusetts 01349
 Send inquiries about membership, supportership, and subscriptions to
 Robert Rothenmeyer, Membership Secretary of JEN
 4 Central Street, Millers Falls, Massachusetts 01349
 Send orders for the Research Bibliography (25¢ for JEN members, 50¢ for others) to
 Francis R. Lanzone, Jr., Treasurer of JEN
 2129 Elizabeth Street, San Carlos, California 94070
 Send inquiries about international correspondence with Esperanto to
 Miss Ellen A. Lewis, Director of JEN Correspondence Service
 15 Salisbury Road, Brookline, Massachusetts 02146
 Send material for the *News Digest*, and inquiries about the International Correspondence Course, to Jonathan Pool, Editor and Course Director of JEN
 377 International House, 1414 East 59th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637

MEMBERSHIP -- SUPPORTERSHIP -- SUBSCRIPTION

It is time to renew memberships, supporterships, and subscriptions for 1968. Please use the enclosed blank, and renew promptly so that your *News Digest* will keep arriving without interruption. If you are under 30 years old, we invite you to be a member; if 30 or over, we hope you will be a supporter. Any person, group, or institution may also simply subscribe to one or more copies of the *News Digest*. (Members of the Esperanto League receive the *News Digest* automatically. They will receive another copy -- handy to give to friends who ask about Esperanto -- plus additional JEN publications and privileges if they become members or supporters of JEN.)

In addition, JEN is again offering its highly popular Magazine-a-Month Plan, which gives you a *fresh* issue of a *different* Esperanto magazine each month (12 in all) throughout the year. JEN picks from the most interesting and attractive magazines published around the world. A perfect way to introduce yourself to the periodical literature in Esperanto or to collect items for a display about the international language -- and a great gift!

If you know of young persons who would like to join JEN, why not start them out with a gift membership? In addition, a gift subscription to the *News Digest* is an excellent way to keep your older friends and your newspaper, library, school, and civic leaders informed of the progress of Esperanto in the United States and around the world.

Simply fill out the enclosed blank and send with your remittance (made payable to JEN) to Robert Rothenmeyer, Membership Secretary of JEN
 4 Central Street
 Millers Falls, Massachusetts 01349