

News Digest

4 Central Street

Millers Falls, Massachusetts 01349

No. 8

January, 1968

30 INTERNATIONAL YOUTH MEETINGS SLATED FOR 1968: The Travel Service of TEJO (the world organization of young Esperanto speakers) has issued a list of 30 international youth meetings planned for 1968 in which the international language will be officially used. Included are winter sports events (Switzerland, Austria, Poland), seminars and courses (Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, Poland), cultural festivals (Germany, Hungary, France), special group meetings (France, Bulgaria), outdoor and camping events (Poland, Hungary, U.S.S.R.), conventions of young Esperanto speakers (Spain, Italy), and workcamps (France, Poland). These 30 events in 11 countries represent a significant growth over 1967, when 22 international youth meetings in 10 countries used Esperanto, according to a year-end report of the Travel Service. It is expected that still other events will be announced during 1968. *News Digest* readers who are interested in any of these meetings may write to JEN for more information.

DOCUMENTS ON LANGUAGE DISCRIMINATION SOUGHT: The Center for Research and Documentation on the World Language Problem, located in London, is seeking documentary evidence of language discrimination on the national and international level, for use in studies which the Center will publish during 1968, the International Year of Human Rights. Among the subjects to be covered are the denial of linguistic rights, discrimination against particular languages and linguistic minorities, handicaps caused by official languages of parliaments and international organizations, language biases in education, and persecution based on language. Readers able to provide information about documentary evidence of such discrimination against Esperanto or other languages are asked to contact the Center, at 77, Grasmere Avenue, Wembley, Middlesex, England.

PROGRESS CONTINUES IN U.S. SCHOOLS: A newly released report listing the schools, colleges, and universities where Esperanto is taught shows that the United States has climbed to fifth place in the number of schools where the international language is a subject of instruction. Issued by the Center for Research and Documentation on the World Language Problem, in London, the report is based on the incomplete returns of a recent survey, according to which Esperanto was taught to a minimum of 16,300 students in 427 schools of 37 countries during the 1965-66 academic year. There is also evidence that the upward trend has continued during the two years *since* the period covered by the report. Esperanto has made a spectacular advance in adult education in Northern California, for example, where the number of adult schools offering the international language has jumped from one to seven in the last two academic years.

TEJO OFFICIAL ISSUES PLEA FOR SUPPORT: Prize-winning young poet and translator Wouter Pilger, speaking in his capacity as treasurer of TEJO, has issued a worldwide call for more individual memberships in TEJO and subscriptions to its popular magazine, *Kontakto*. Every member of a national section (such as JEN) is automatically an associate member of TEJO. However, writes Pilger, "of the approximately 10,000 'members' of TEJO, only about 350 are real members of the international TEJO as far as the Treasury is concerned. Those 350 alone make financially possible the truly far-reaching activity of TEJO." To help Pilger overcome what he calls this "impossible situation", *News Digest* readers of all ages may write to JEN for free information about how to become a member or patron of TEJO or a subscriber to *Kontakto*.

HELP WANTED, MALE OR FEMALE: A person under 30 years of age is needed for part-time work as the administrative director of the office of the External Relations Committee of TEJO in Amsterdam, Netherlands. Knowledge of Esperanto is required. The fascinating work includes travel to international meetings and participation in the decision-making process in a fast-growing and successful new operation of the world youth movement for Esperanto. Benefits include lodging with a family in Amsterdam. Interested persons may write (in Esperanto) for full particulars to: NEJO-Komisiono, Kastelenstraat 231, Amsterdam Z, Netherlands.

COMING UP

ESPERANTO LEAGUE TO MEET IN CALIFORNIA: The 1968 national convention of the Esperanto League will take place in Covina, California, near Los Angeles, July 11-14. The program will emphasize Esperanto in education and newly developed methods of teaching the international language, and will be supplemented by group tours to Disneyland and other sights. Information for those interested in attending is available from "Esperanto", Box 4162, Covina, California 91722.

JEN LEADERS TO WED: Esperanto speaking Annetta Cory will become the bride of Richard P. Kollin, founding father and first secretary of JEN, on January 20 in New York City. Kollin, who is now the president of Pandex, a revolutionary new information retrieval company, asks the *News Digest* to relay his new address (214 E. 85th St., N.Y.C. 10028) to our readers and hopes to see at the coming World Congress of Esperanto in Madrid some of the friends with whom he has not had time to correspond. Kollin is not the only JEN secretary to be soon married. Julie Crandall, secretary of JEN in 1966-67 and now a member of the Executive Board, and Humphrey Tonkin, general secretary of TEJO and until 1967 a JEN Executive Board member, have recently announced their engagement. The wedding will take place on March 9. JEN adds its congratulations and is proud of such harmony among its leadership.

PHOTO CONTEST ANNOUNCED: In honor of the International Year of Human Rights, 1968, a committee in Madrid has announced an international photography contest with three prizes. Organized by the committee preparing next August's World Congress of Esperanto in the Spanish capital, the contest is open to all, including those who do not attend the congress. Each entry must be based on a quotation out of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. For further details, see the December, 1967, issue of *Esperanto* or write to JEN.

RECENT EVENTS

RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY, ESPERANTO DISCUSSED IN GERMAN SEMINAR: Eighty young men and women from 15 countries spent a stimulating New Year's week in Wurzburg, Germany, at the eleventh International Seminar of the organization of Esperanto-speaking young Germans. Professors, journalists, clergymen, and students gathered to discuss--using the international language--"Religion and Philosophy in the Twentieth Century". In addition to the eight papers delivered at the seminar, a panel discussion about Esperanto was organized at the University of Wurzburg, including professors from the university as well as seminar participants. The discussion covered such topics as the characteristics of an ideal international language, the problem of phonological stability in a world language, and the quality of language instruction in post-colonial schools.

ONE THOUSAND GEOLOGISTS PETITION FOR ESPERANTO: More than 1000 geologists have signed a petition asking that Esperanto be made one of the official languages of the 23rd International Geological Congress, to take place in Prague, Czechoslovakia, during August, 1968. The Geological Congresses currently have six official languages, and the costs of translation and interpretation exceeded 10 percent of the entire Congress budget at the last meeting.

HUNGARIAN WRITER DIES: Ferenc Szilagy, versatile Hungarian author residing in Sweden, died on December 1, at the age of 72. Szilagy was associate editor of *Literatura Mondo* from 1931 until its demise after World War II, and founder and editor of *Norda Prismo*, a literary review published in Sweden since 1955. He was also the author of numerous short stories, poems, and textbooks in the international language.

SCIENTIST PREDICTS LANGUAGE OBSTACLES: Prof. J. Kistemaker, director of the Institute for Atomic and Molecular Physics, Amsterdam, has predicted that the future development of Europe will be significantly hampered by the diversity of its languages, according to a report in the November 24, 1967, issue of *Algemeen Dagblad*. Europe, he said, "cannot work efficiently, because the many languages prevent adequate communication and people do not fully accept each other linguistically."

JAPANESE ESPERANTIST BURNS SELF ALIVE IN PROTEST: Aged Japanese Esperanto speaker and leader Chunoshin Yui committed suicide by pouring gasoline over himself and igniting it in front of the official residence of Prime Minister Sato on November 11 in protest over government policies. Among his activities for the international language, Yui had compiled the brochure, "Japanujo Hierau kaj Hodiau" (Japan Yesterday and Today), in 1965, as a guide to foreigners attending the World Congress of Esperanto in Tokyo in August of that year.

PUBLICATIONS

NEW BOOK COMPANY FOUNDED: Mrs. Margot Gerson, director of the Information Center of the Esperanto League, in New York, has recently taken over direction of the Esperanto Education Center, and combined the bookselling activities of the two organizations. The new book service, established as a separate commercial enterprise, will sell Esperanto books, records, and other materials, primarily in the eastern half of the United States. Called the Esperanto Book Center, it is located at 156 5th Avenue (Room 822), New York, New York 10010.

NEW ESPERANTO TEST: The External Relations Committee of TEJO has announced the availability of a revised version of its Esperanto proficiency test. Those teaching Esperanto, as well as leaders of Esperanto societies, are invited to write for more information to Hans Bakker, NEJO-Komisiono, Kastelenstraat 231, Amsterdam Z, Netherlands. Please note that this is a different test from the ones announced in the December issue of the Esperanto League *Newsletter*.

COLOSSAL JAPANESE BIOGRAPHY OF ZAMENHOF BEING PUBLISHED: The first volume of a 2-volume, 1200-page biographical novel about L.L. Zamenhof, creator of the international language Esperanto, has been published in Japan, and Kanzi Itoo, the author, has announced completion of the manuscript of Volume 2. In addition to its release in bound form by the publishing house Nagasue Shoten, the novel is also being serialized in the Japanese literary magazine *Viking*, and people are jokingly asking, "Which will last longer, the novel or the magazine?" Zamenhof, who was declared one of the "great personalities of mankind" by UNESCO in 1960, has been the subject of numerous studies, but none as extensive as Itoo's Japanese-language biography.

FIRST STEREO L.P. IN ESPERANTO SOLD OUT IN MONTHS: *Jen Nia Mondo*, the first stereo LP record ever released in Esperanto, with songs of Pete Seeger and Bob Dylan sung by the Dutch "Duo Espera", was completely sold out only a few months after its release last August, according to Iramac, the issuing firm in the Netherlands. The hit record, which can be played on monaural equipment as well as stereo, has been reissued and is again available, at \$5.75, from the Esperanto Book Center or the West Coast Esperanto Book Service (addresses on p. 4).

ESPERANTO TRAVEL INFORMATION MULTIPLIES: Travel literature or railway timetables in Esperanto have been published or announced in the last few months in Scotland, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Austria, Norway, and Italy. One of the most beautiful is a 24-page brochure, in color, picturing Lake Balaton in Hungary, and available from: Dél-balatoni Idegenforgalmi Hivatal, Siófok, Szabadság tér 6, Hungary. Various travel folders are also available from Conrad Fisher, R.F.D. 1, Meadville, Pennsylvania 16335.

PORTLAND, OREGON, GROUP PUBLISHES LIVELY NEWSLETTER: *Espilo* is the name of a news- and idea-filled bulletin issued by ESPO, the Esperanto Society of Portland, Oregon. The contents are of more than local interest, and a one-year subscription (10 issues) is only \$1. Subscriptions can be entered with Mrs. Dorothy Jones, 1663 S.E. Sherrett Street, Portland, Oregon 97202.

NEWS FROM JEN

REMINDER TO OUR READERS: Now is the time to send your dues for 1968 if you have not yet done so. Membership, at \$2 and \$5 per year, is open to those under 30 years old. Others are invited to become supporters, at \$2, \$5, or \$10 per year. Every member or supporter receives the *News Digest* and other occasional publications of JEN. With your support JEN will help Esperanto maintain its encouraging growth during the coming year. Send your check (or write for an application blank) to JEN, at the address on p. 1 of this *News Digest*.

MAGAZINE-A-MONTH STILL OPEN: JEN's popular Magazine-a-Month plan, which offers a fresh issue of a different Esperanto magazine 12 times a year, is still accepting subscriptions for 1968. The fee of \$6 per year (made payable to JEN) should be sent to the address on p. 1 before February 10, 1968. Enrollments cannot be accepted after that date.

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
 ESPERANTO BOOK CENTER
 Room 822, 156 5th Avenue, New York, New York 10010
 WEST COAST ESPERANTO BOOK SERVICE
 2129 Elizabeth Street, San Carlos, California 94070

HOW TO WRITE TO JEN

Send general inquiries, and correspondence concerning membership, supprotership, and subscriptions to
 JEN, c/o Arthur Morse, Secretary
 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

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