

# News Digest

4 Central Street

Millers Falls, Massachusetts 01349

No. 11

July, 1968

## TRAVEL & CONVENTION SEASON BRINGS EXPANDED USE OF WORLD LANGUAGE:

Speakers of the international language Esperanto are finding more practical uses for this linguistic resource in the summer of 1968 than ever before. Forty international youth meetings, workcamps, and festivals in which Esperanto is used as an official language have been held or are planned for 1968--an increase of 100% from the previous year. The events, most of which take place during the summer months, range from a sociology seminar in Sweden to a Scout jamboree in England to a road-building workcamp in Yugoslavia. In addition to these youth events, a number of conventions, tours, and academic meetings, open to the public of all age groups, will use the international language. As of mid-May, a total of 1422 persons from 37 countries (including 32 Americans) had registered for the world Esperanto congress, including the *Internacia Somera Universitato* held under its auspices, which will take place in Madrid during the first week of August.

MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE U.N., ....: The Secretary General and the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations cannot converse without using an interpreter, according to a report in a Dutch newspaper. Secretary General U Thant has learned English, but not French, and President Manescu, of Rumania, can speak French but not English.

EVEN LINGUISTS HAVE LINGUISTIC PROBLEMS: The periodical *Lingua*, in its February issue, reported on the 10th International Congress of Linguists as follows: "The presence of a large number of Russian scientists was gratifying. But because many of them lectured in Russian they lost a unique opportunity to better acquaint Western linguists with their ideas."

ARMY DUMPS AGGRESSOR LANGUAGE: An investigation by the *News Digest* has disclosed that the U.S. Army has apparently abandoned the use of Esperanto as its "Aggressor Language." A spokesman at Army training headquarters in Fort Monroe, Virginia, said, "The Esperanto field manual was rescinded by Circular 310-42 on Sept. 8, 1967, and we have no knowledge of any current use of Esperanto in field maneuvers." Pressed for comment, Pentagon sources suggested that the elimination of Esperanto was simply part of the phasing out of AGGRESSOR, the Army's war game program in which the most realistic possible enemy was created. Esperanto was chosen as the enemy's language to avoid offending any foreign country. AGGRESSOR began in 1945 and gained importance after the Korean War. "We don't need a make-believe enemy any more," mused one high-ranking Pentagon officer. "We're getting all our training in Vietnam."

COVINA MEETING HEARS REPORTS, MAKES PLANS: 174 Speakers and supporters of Esperanto, among them representatives of 14 local and 3 specialized organizations, attended the 1968 meeting of the Esperanto League for North America, held July 11-14 in Covina, California. The role of the international language in education was the chief topic discussed, but plans for the recently announced world Esperanto congress in Portland, Oregon, in 1972 were also a subject of attention. San Francisco was announced as the most likely site for the traditional *post-kongreso* which will follow the main congress in August. Official activities included business meetings and the tabulation of votes for League Directors. The chief organizer of the meeting, Leslie Green, received the most votes. An optimistic report from the League's New York information center, a talk by the Mayor of Covina, a lecture on Africa's language problems, and excursions were other highlights of what was agreed to be the League's best-run meeting so far.

SPECIAL SUMMER SCHOOL TEACHING ESPERANTO: A "Creative Processes" summer program in San Mateo, Calif., in which 110 children in grades 1-3 use self-directed group consultation with "inquiry centers" to learn about their genetic and geographical origins is employing the international language Esperanto. Mrs. Doris Vallon, a member of the teaching team in the program at Parkside School, reports that the children use books in Esperanto about Asia, Africa, and Europe, and send postcards to various African countries as well as San Mateo's sister city of Toyonaka, Japan. In October, Mrs. Vallon will present a workshop on the program under the title, "Esperanto: Enhancement Tool for Language," at the California Teachers Association Curriculum Conference.

## COMING UP

MAJOR CONFERENCE OF TEACHERS TO BE HELD IN EUROPE: Sonnenberg, Germany, will be the site of an International Teachers' Conference, conducted entirely in Esperanto, during the last 10 days of September. Papers and round-table discussions will focus on human rights, international communication, education, and development. Experts in various fields from West and East Europe will take part.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING SEMINAR BEING ORGANIZED: The Union of International Associations is to sponsor a training seminar for present and future leaders of international youth organizations and their national affiliates, according to a recent report. The seminar, to be held in UIA's headquarters city, Brussels, in August, will be organized by TEJO, the world organization of young Esperanto speakers. Problems of administration, finance, and public relations are among the topics on which experienced leaders will brief the seminar participants. Any individual or organization interested in attending the seminar may write to JEN for further details.

WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL TO HAVE SESSION ON ESPERANTO: The leftist-run World Youth Festival, to be held this year in Sofia, Bulgaria, from July 28 to August 6, has decided to hold one of its sessions on the subject of Esperanto, in cooperation with the organization of Esperanto-speaking young Bulgarians. Cultural events are also being arranged for Esperanto-speaking participants.

## RECENT EVENTS

BRITISH AND JAPANESE SCHOOLCHILDREN COMMUNICATE VIA ESPERANTO: An article in the June, 1968, issue of *Esperanto* describes how British and Japanese classes recently began exchanging letters without knowing each other's languages. The teachers of the two classes both knew the international language Esperanto, and translated their children's letters into, then out of, this language.

SEMINAR EXAMINES ESPERANTO-SPEAKING FAMILIES: Questions relating to the growing number of families in which Esperanto is the home language were discussed, and several such families were observed, at the fourth International Seminar of Esperanto-Speaking Students, held in April in Torun, Poland. An education specialist from the University of Torun, after observing the seminar, remarked, "The phenomenon of Esperanto-speaking families has hardly been studied at all by specialists up to now."

YOUTH LEADER DIES: Polish youth leader Marek Pietrzak, a member of the Executive Board of the Polish Student Association and also an accomplished figure in the national and international youth movements for Esperanto, died suddenly on May 29, of a heart ailment. He was only 30 years old. His death deals a severe blow to the rapidly expanding activities of PEJ, the organization of young Polish Esperanto speakers. The Polish Esperanto movement is one of the world's largest.

COAST CHILDREN AID EYE DISEASE VICTIMS: SFERIDO, the youth division of the San Francisco Esperanto Regional Organization, has undertaken the project of selling postcards illustrated with african art to raise money for the benefit of "E3", the worldwide campaign to send a mobile eye clinic to East Africa, where cataract operations and other care could give sight to thousands who are now blind. The clinic will bear the name of the originator of Esperanto, L.L. Zamenhof, himself an oculist who chose to practice among the disadvantaged.

## PUBLICATIONS

**JOURNAL ON LANGUAGE PROBLEMS TO BEGIN PUBLICATION IN DECEMBER:** The first issue of *La Monda Lingvo-Problemo*, an international, multilingual scholarly journal on all aspects of the problems arising from language diversity, will be published in December by Mouton and Co., of the Hague and Paris. The journal will appear every 4 months and will contain articles of special interest to those concerned with the study and solution of the world's language problems. Each article will carry an extensive summary in Esperanto. Mouton is among the foremost publishing houses in the field of linguistics. Its lists include works by such eminent American figures as Chomsky, Sebeok, and Greenberg, and it also publishes the periodical *Linguistics*. Subscriptions to *La Monda Lingvo-Problemo*, at \$7 per year, are now being accepted, and may be made through JEN.

**ESPERANTO LITERATURE SURVEYED IN JEN MEMBER'S ARTICLE:** The spring, 1968, issue of *Era*, a literary review published at the University of Pennsylvania, carries an article by Prof. Humphrey Tonkin entitled "Code or Culture: The Case of Esperanto." Tonkin, who is a member of the English Department at the same university and also a member of JEN, surveys the history of Esperanto literature and illustrates its development with selections of poetry. He devotes part of the article as well to an examination of some statements about Esperanto by noted Americans whose opinions, according to Tonkin, contradict evident facts and serve the cause of English-speaking supremacism.

## NEWS FROM JEN

**JEN MEMBERSHIP RATES REDUCED:** The Executive Board of JEN, at its June meeting in Philadelphia, made several important decisions and reforms. Among them is a drastic lowering, on a trial basis, of the dues for new members and for those who join with a group. Effective immediately, the introductory dues for those under 30 who have not been members before are \$1 for membership until the end of the current calendar year, or \$2 for membership through the current *and the following* year. Group membership dues have also been cut--from the regular \$5 per group plus \$1 per member down to only \$3 per group and \$.50 per member. Group membership is designed especially for school Esperanto classes and youth Esperanto clubs. The new special group membership rate should enable every young member of such a class or club to join JEN--America's *only* organization of young Esperanto speakers. Membership under these introductory and group special offers includes *all* the privileges of regular membership: the *News Digest*, the right to vote and hold office in JEN, special rates on JEN publications, and--best of all--the resurrected, no-holds-barred, world-notorious *JEN-BULTENO*. If ever there was a time to join JEN--or to give a gift membership--it is right *now*, before the Executive Board comes to its senses and withdraws this experimental extra-special offer.

**JEN-BULTENO COMES BACK TO LIFE:** The long-lost *JEN-Bulteno*, published by JEN as a forum for the Esperanto-speaking youth of the United States from the founding of the organization in 1962 until 1966, is reappearing this summer, to the delight of all its friends and the horror of its perhaps more numerous enemies. To get your copy of this first post-lull issue, become a member or supporter of JEN immediately, before the limited supply runs out or is confiscated.

**JEN GETS NEW ADDRESS:** The June meeting of the JEN Executive Board resulted in several personnel changes, some of which are shown on p. 4 of this issue of the *News Digest*. Most important, you should now direct general correspondence and correspondence about membership to the new Corresponding Secretary, unless using the special reply envelope furnished by JEN.

**UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO GROUP TAKES OVER COURSE:** The International Language Society of the University of Chicago has taken over administration of the International Correspondence Course in Esperanto, according to a recent agreement between the Society and JEN. The new arrangement is expected to guarantee high standards in the selection of materials and instructors for the one-semester, direct-method course. Inquiries about the course should be sent to the Society (address on p. 4).

## TO INFORM YOU . . .

- '72 CONGRESS DATES FIXED: July 29 - Aug. 5 are UEA Portland congress dates.
- SFERO ELECTS: JEN Board member Frank Lanzone chosen new SFERO prexy.
- VALLEY FORGE MILITARY ACADEMY: Penna. School will teach Esperanto in fall.
- ESPERANTO TEACHER SHORTAGE: In San Mateo, Millbrae, & Woodside, Calif., where Esperanto teaching already officially approved.
- FIRST ESPERANTO BE-IN: Happened May 31 - June 3 in Graz, Austria, with hippies from Austria & Yugoslavia; was wild.
- 50 CAMPERS LEARNING ESPERANTO: Calvin Cope teaching them at Camp Kennolyn, Cal.
- SCHOLARLY JOURNAL REAPPEARS: *Biblia Revuo* being published again, now by Italian Bible Society; includes articles on oriental studies.
- YOUR CONGRESSMAN: He isn't getting *News Digest*; why not?
- "COVINA INVITAS VIN": Leaflet in Esperanto about this town available free from Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 4215, Covina, Cal. 91722.
- LATIN AMERICA: KolombeJO now has 4 Esperanto courses running in Bogota.
- MAYOR USES ESPERANTO: San Mateo, Calif., mayor using world tongue for contacts with Japanese sister city and international Scout jamboree.
- E. GERMANY: Publishing materials now in Esperanto after long ban on the language relaxed.

## IMPORTANT ADDRESSES

INFORMATION	Esperanto Information Center 156 5th Avenue, Room 821 New York, N.Y. 10010	Esperanto Information Center 410 Darrell Road Hillsborough, Calif. 94010
BOOKS	Esperanto Book Center 156 5th Avenue, Room 822 New York, N.Y. 10010	West Coast Esp. Book Service 2129 Elizabeth Street San Carlos, Calif. 94070
JEN: GENERAL INFORMATION, MEMBERSHIP, SUBSCRIPTIONS	Mrs. Julie Tonkin (Corresponding Secretary) 2131 Tryon Street; Philadelphia, Pa. 19146	
CORRESPONDENCE COURSE	University of Chicago International Language Soc. 1212 East 59th Street; Chicago, Ill. 60637	
NEWS DIGEST	Jonathan Pool (Editor) 5238 South Kenwood, Apt. 1; Chicago, Ill. 60615	
PEN PALS	Miss Ellen Lewis (Correspondence Service Director) 15 Salisbury Road; Brookline, Mass. 02146	

JEN  
4 Central Street  
Millers Falls, Massachusetts 01349

Return Requested  
New Address Requested

DATED MATERIAL

Non-Profit Organization U. S. POSTAGE <b>PAID</b> PERMIT NO. 5 MILLERS FALLS, MASS. 01349
--

[REDACTED]