**THE WORLD'S TOP TONGUE**

The English language is now the first language of about 350 million people, the native language of 12 nations and the official or semiofficial language of thirty-three more nations. That means one in every seven people in the world speaks English.

The English language has become the "new Latin", the lingua franca, of the century. In terms of scientific know-how and tech­nological development, one must know English to be a part of the twenty first century. In this context it's not difficult to see why in Italy, for example, English is a must for many technical jobs. In China, English is the chief foreign language learned at school.

At present no other language on earth is better suited to play the role of a world language. There are many reasons for its pop­ularity. First English is easier to learn than any other language. Second it easily borrows local words and phrases from the very countries into which it expands.

English is so widespread that it has become the standard lan­guage for all kinds of international communication. At present, 75% of the world's mail is in English, 60% of the world's tele­phone calls are made in English, 60% of the world's radio stations broadcast in English and more than half of the world's periodicals are printed in English.

English is also the international language of businesspeople, pilots and air traffic controllers, diplomats and politicians, sports-people, scientists, doctors and students. Beyond a doubt, English is now the world's top tongue.

**FOREIGHN LANGUAGE IN THE LIFE OF AN EDUCATED PERSON.**

Today it is quite evident that everyone should know at least one foreign language.

Knowing one or more foreign languages makes it possible to get acquainted with different ways of thinking, to understand a new civilization. Learning a foreign language stimulates mental abilities and gives you a chance to appreciate a new literature, a different culture and to broaden your horizons.

Besides, knowing foreign languages has a practical value. It makes it easier to choose a profession and provides job promotion. It helps to improve the quality of your work, because it reduces the time lost on obtaining the necessary information. At present many professions, such as a pilot, a doctor, an engineer, a cosmonaut and many others, require a working knowledge of at least one foreign language.