

### The Gallup Poll

# Public Favors World Language As Aid to Permanent Peace

By George Gallup

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Princeton, N. J., Nov. 30.—A substantial majority of American voters are in favor of adopting an international language that would be understood in all countries.

This language would be taught to school children, in addition to their own native tongue. Americans who are in favor of the idea think the United Nations should appoint a committee to study various languages and select one to use as an international medium of expression—in order to promote better understanding among nations and further the success of a world organization for peace.

An Institute poll on a world language was prompted partly by views expressed recently by President Truman. In an interview reported in early October, the President declared that one of the chief obstacles in the way of international agreement is a difference in language, that conversations through interpreters are unsatisfactory, and that if the Americans and Russians spoke the same language things would run smoother.

The general view of the country were sounded on the question:

*Should the school children in all countries be required to learn, in addition to their own language, some one language which would be understood in all countries so that people of every nation could understand each other better?"*

Yes .....	71%
No .....	17
No opinion .....	12

Those in favor of the idea were should take some concrete step toward this goal, as follows:

*Do you think the United Nations should appoint a group to study various languages and select one to use?*

Yes .....	57%
No .....	8
No opinion .....	6

71%

French and Spanish are the two languages which the voters seem to think best suited as international tongues if English is not used.

This was shown when all voters who favor the idea of a common language were asked:

*If some language other than ours were selected, which one would you choose?*

The vote:

French .....	19%
Spanish .....	19
German .....	5
Russian .....	3
Latin .....	2
Esperanto .....	2
Miscellaneous .....	6
No choice or no opinion ..	19

Voters expressed general agreement that a common world language would enhance the likelihood of permanent peace.

*If the people of all nations could speak the same language, do you think this would increase the chances of maintaining world peace?*

The vote:

Yes .....	60%
No .....	23
No opinion .....	17

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