

Foreign Language Center

As part of an ambitious, and much needed, Program of International Studies, Southwestern at Memphis is making ready to offer courses in languages of the world to help Americans qualify for competition in business, diplomacy and science.

The Modern Language Center, set up as part of the International Studies program, will make available at first tape and disk recorded lessons in idioms such as Hindustani, Malay, Danish, Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Thai, Korean, Portuguese, Finnish and Norwegian. Eventually courses in these and other languages may be presented by qualified instructors on the campus.

Already Russian is included in the Southwestern curriculum, and the university hopes to offer personalized instruction in the Cyrillic tongue next fall. Likewise, there will be courses in Modern Hebrew.

These intentions were announced Sunday by Dr. PEYTON N. RHODES, and the project comes as a timely one.

It has been observed many times within recent years that other people of the world use English readily in speech and writing for business, science, diplomacy and social intercourse, while few Americans have any knowledge of a language beside our own.

"For us to be handicapped with only our own, while other people use both ours and theirs, is like a one-legged man trying to compete in a race with two-legged opponents," is the analogy presented by a diplomat. "They bypass the interpreters; we are at the mercy of translators."

Southwestern has undertaken a far-reaching program in this effort to stimulate interest in languages; it is worthy of note that at least one high ranking business man of the city already has enrolled to study Russian when it becomes available here.

President RHODES and those he has named to direct this venture, Dr. J. O. EMBRY, Dr. ROSS J. PRITCHARD, Prof. DAVID M. AMACKER and Dean JAMESON M. JONES, are facing up to a real challenge, and we commend them for the undertaking. Likewise, we recommend participation in this program by men and women of vision, for it could be a factor in the ultimate survival of these things which so proudly we hail.