

ESTI HIRLAP April 8, 1958.

# LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS IN THE FOREIGN TRADE.

In the various departments of foreign trade 3400 persons are working in jobs where the knowledge of a foreign language is absolutely necessary. But in reality 32% of them do not speak any foreign language.

The Minister for Foreign Trade decided now that after June 30 only people with foreign language knowledge can be employed.

There are also other problems in this matter: the majority, 52% of persons with foreign languages, come from the older age-groups, between 40 - 55 years. The other problem is that 81% of them speak German but not many speak French, Italian, Spanish or Russian.

To remedy this situation 237 language classes will be held at the foreign trade institutions for 1590 students. The majority of them selected German and English. The number of Russian-speaking employees is growing slowly but surely. In the last 1<sup>st</sup> months more people have registered for the Russian classes than ever before.