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Psychology through Space

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The rapid advances the United States is making in the development of communications satellites is opening up entirely new advances for the exchange of ideas between nations. However, because of the language barrier between the different nationalities, it has been quite difficult to promote worldwide understanding.

It could then be said that the language barrier is a major reason for the misunderstandings which cause the world tensions of our day. We must overcome this language barrier by selecting a standard universal language.

The choice of English as a universal language has several inherent advantages. English is already the most widely used language in the world. It is uninflected and its basic words are more versatile than those of other languages.

The implementation of the use of this universal tongue would be greatly enhanced by the use of appropriate psychological motivations.

A single motivating force for a group as widely diverse as the nations of the world would have been an impossibility a year or so ago. However, today, utilizing space technology and electronics, we have the capability of producing such a motivating force through the media of global television. We can now transmit thousands of pictures which will be used to educate and entertain.
Global TV

The heart of a global television system could be three equally spaced synchronous equatorial orbiting satellites at approximately 22,300 statute miles above the equator. These satellites will occupy a fixed position in relation to a given point on the earth, rather than moving across the sky. The 22,300 mile point above the earth was chosen because the angular velocity required at this point to maintain orbit is equal to the earth's rotation. Thus, the satellites would occupy a fixed position over the same point on the earth, although they would actually be moving through space at about 6,900 miles per hour. To assure that the satellites maintained proper position and velocity, control equipment aboard the satellites would be activated periodically by command signals from ground stations.

With the present rate of development of two of our large thrust boosters, the Centaur and the Saturn, we should soon be able to place the satellites in their required orbit. The satellites' electronics systems must be capable of operating for long periods of time. The power to operate the satellite under the present state of the art must either be from solar cells, fuel cells, or from a small atomic device.

The three satellites, when properly positioned, will serve two main purposes. They will provide thousands of telephone circuits between the many distant points of the globe (this will tend to bring all the people on this earth closer together) and they will provide worldwide television coverage for transmitting special educational programs from a studio here in the United States to more than 85 percent of the world. The 15 percent of the world not covered would be at the two poles; therefore, coverage would include more than 98 percent of the earth's population.

Programming

Once the satellite system is operating and proper programming has been decided on, we could, through our mass production techniques and our foreign aid programs, saturate the entire world with portable American TV sets. Then our potential accomplishments would be unlimited. Our language could become a world standard because of the desire of the audience to understand the TV programs; thus, we have the motivating force needed for others to learn the English language. English could also be taught as part of our daily TV programming.

The broadcasting of educational and travel programs would provide a stimulating effect to the young and old of the underdeveloped nations. Once we have shown them how people in the developed nations live, we could then present educational programs to teach them how they, too, could improve their living conditions. Two examples of appropriate educational programs are “Construction Methods” and “Medical Care.” Both of these would motivate people toward improving living conditions and would be stimulating to foreign economies.

A program of farming methods would be of more benefit to some countries than others, but since the hunger drive is the third most intense biological drive, and since there are many people on this earth who are starving for food, it would be very important.

After the people of the other nations have developed trust and understanding in our programming, we could then produce programs which would show why we are interested in helping other people.

Proper programming can be expected to increase understanding beyond anyone's present conception. This could be expected to solve much of the misunderstanding that is causing a large portion of the world tension and peaceful international relations could become a reality.

The vast regions of outer space then, through communications and psychology, can make possible the accomplishments of useful objectives to solve many of the problems here on earth.