

LOTZ, John

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LANGUAGE STUDIES TO SPAN VAST AREA

Hungary to Siberia Range Set
for New Columbia Division
of Uralic and Altaic

The creation of a new department at Columbia for the study of a language area extending from Hungary in Central Europe to the easternmost reaches of Siberia was announced yesterday by Dr. Grayson Kirk, president of the university.

The study of this area, encompassing an estimated 120,000,000 people, will be undertaken in the fall by the Department of Uralic and Altaic Languages. These two language groups cover most of the Soviet Union, parts of Central Europe, Finland, Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Outer Mongolia, Western China and Korea.

In making the announcement, Dr. Kirk said:

"The fact that the areas in which the Uralic and Altaic languages are spoken are largely under Soviet domination makes it even more imperative that we develop the maximum understanding of the various languages and cultures throughout the area as soon as possible."

Seven Experts in Linguistics

Prof. John Lotz, a member of Columbia's Department of General and Comparative Linguistics and a specialist in general linguistics and the Hungarian lan-

guage, has been appointed executive officer of the new department. Its staff will include three professors and four lecturers in Finnish, Hungarian, Turkish and Korean. Dr. Lotz, Prof. Tibor Halasi-Kun and Dr. Karl Menges will comprise the professorial staff.

Dr. Lotz explained that the Altaic language group, which includes the Turkic, Mongol, Tungus and Korean subgroups, is next to Russian itself the most important in the Soviet Union. Hungarian and Finnish are the most important of the Uralic languages, he said.

His department will use and expand the university studies available through the Department of Slavic Languages of the Graduate Faculty of Philosophy and the School of General Studies.

The expanded language program will also supplement work carried on at Columbia at the Russian and East Asian Institutes and in the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Studies. In addition, a program of East European Studies will begin in the fall.

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