

## Report on the 1973 World Congress of the International Political Science Association

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The IXth World Congress of the International Political Science Association was held in Montreal at Sir George Williams University from August 20th to 25th, 1973. Despite being one of the largest world congresses held to date, it managed very well to fulfill the twin mandates of the International Association: stimulating cross-cultural communication and debate. The Congress was preceded by the three-day annual meeting of the Canadian political science associations. The following is a report on the Congress by the Canadian Organizing Committee.

The content of the Congress was divided into five sections: the two major themes of the Congress, the meetings of Research Committees and Groups of Specialists and a special section on Canadian politics. The first major theme, directed by Stein Rokkan of the University of Bergen and President of the IPSA, was entitled, "Politics between Economy and Culture". In

economy, politics: sessions on centre-periphery contrast, sessions on economic class and cultural identity, on the role of the church, the mass media and of the institution of violence in this triangle of relationships.

During the opening plenary session, Professor Rokkan stated, "If political science is to become truly a world-wide discipline, it must not flinch from facing the great issues: the proliferation of multinational economic networks, the stubbornness of local and national cultures. And, our discipline must not flinch from constant two-way exchanges with the other sciences of life, man and society. We have our unique responsibility: it is our job to study the development, the structuring and the performance of systems of government. But we cannot hope to move forward towards higher levels of systematization and understanding without close interaction with the disciplines which can tell us about the objects of political control and communication: individual families, cultural communities, economic organizations and networks."

He went on to say, "I have discussed similar schemes of analysis with scholars active in the study of a wide variety of societies across the world and the conclu-



Stein Rokkan, the Christian Michelson Institute, Norway, and President of the International Political Science Association at the opening Plenary Session of the IX World Congress.

formulating the theme, the objective was to tie up the culture-economy dialectic into a triangle of interdependencies with political analysis. The theme was broken down into twelve commissions on specific sub-topics, which focused on politics and culture from the vantage point of the economic theory of public goods, the cultural analysis of political action, and the politics and the economics of linguistic conflict, nation building, and super-national regional communities. There were also commissions on particular components in this interplay between culture,

sion is very much the same: to understand variations in the internal structuring of territorial politics we have to develop tools for the analysis of the inter-action, the inter-penetration of economic processes and cultural reactions."

The second major theme, "Key Issues in International Conflict in Peace Research," was prompted partially by criticisms of a lack of concern for major world issues at the previous congress. It was directed by Karl Deutsch of Harvard University and Vice-President of IPSA. He established eight specific commissions dealing with the nature and dimensions of international conflict and current research and proposals for the establishment of a more stable international com-

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munity. The commissions on conflict dealt with the analysis of conflict between the social systems, information on imperialism and international inequality, linkages between internal and international politics and the role of domestic interest in national decision systems. The sessions on "Pathways to Peace" looked at the concepts of sovereignty and integration, the prospects of arms control and disarmament, the relevance of international law and the analysis of other possibilities for world order.

The IPSA recognizes seven Research Committees and twelve Groups of Spe-

date political analysis on the country hosting the meetings. There were three sections dealing with Canadian federalism, political cleavage in Canada, and political science in Canada.<sup>2</sup>

Some 1,200 political scientists from 46 countries attended the Congress. These figures are not quite complete as a number of political scientists, unaccustomed to the high registration fee (\$30.00 to \$40.00, \$15.00 for students) refused to register. They did not seem to realize that the IPSA operates on a very slim financial base and the Congresses must be budget-

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cialists. These are groups of researchers working on common problems and capable of indicating genuine cross-national representation and the prospect of continuous cooperation. The Groups of Specialists act as a sort of trial run for possible future Research Committees. Each holds two or three public meetings during the Congress and continues its contacts and communications during the period between congresses. Areas currently included are: "Conceptual and Terminological Analysis; Political Elites; European Unification; Latin American Political Studies; Local Government and Politics; Political Sociology; Quantitative and Mathematical Approach; Decision-making Processes in Churches; Experimentation in Political Science; Political Impact of Constitutional Courts; The Politicization of the Administration; Science Policy; Workers and Politics; Biology and Politics; Comparative Legislative Studies; Finance and Politics; Environmental Policy; Political Modernization; and Problems of Information in Political Science."<sup>1</sup>

The special section on Canadian politics was a new departure for the World Congress, fulfilling a demand for up-to-

<sup>1</sup> Persons desiring to participate in these groups can write for further information to André Philippart, Secretary-General, International Political Science Association, 43 rue des Champs Elysées, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium.

ed in a way that will ensure that all costs for arranging the Congress during three years will be covered. Broken down by regions, the attendance at the Congress was: Africa (10), Australia (1), Europe (275), Latin America (15), Middle East (19), North America (841), Caribbean (2).<sup>3</sup> Approximately 211 papers were

<sup>2</sup> Copies of the papers presented at the Congress can be obtained, at a cost of \$1.00 apiece by writing to the Canadian Political Science Association, Tabaret Hall, c/o University of Ottawa, Ottawa K1N 6N5, Canada. For libraries, complete sets of papers for the two themes will be available for \$71.00 and sets of papers from the Research Committees and Groups of Specialists for \$71.00. Sets of papers for any of the Commissions or Groups cost \$7.00. Copies of the Congress programme cost \$3.00.

<sup>3</sup> Attendance at the Congress broken down by countries: Africa: Nigeria (1), Tanzania (1), Uganda (1), Zaire (2); Australasia: Australia (1); Asia: Bangladesh (1), Fiji Islands (1), Hong Kong (1), India (7), Japan (13), Korea (2); Caribbean: Bahamas (1), Trinidad (1); Europe: Austria (2), Belgium (25), Bulgaria (1), Denmark (3), Finland (4), France (50), Great Britain (55), Hungary (2), Italy (6), Luxemburg (3), Norway (27), Poland (16), Romania (2), Spain (1), Sweden (20), Switzerland (16), The Netherlands (6), Turkey (6), West Germany (26), Yugoslavia (4); Latin America: Argentina (5), Brazil (3), Chile (2), Costa Rica (1), Mexico (3), Venezuela (1); Middle East: Algeria (3), United Arab Republic (1), Israel (12), Tunisia (3); North America: Canada (441), United States (400).

presented in the two Themes and a further 285 papers were presented in the framework of the Research Committees and Groups of Specialists for a total of 496 papers. Again, by region, the figures for paper givers were: Africa (10), Australasia (3), Europe (180), Latin America (15), Middle East (25), North America (240), Asia (23). More than 585 political scientists were listed in the programme index as participants.

During the Congress, Jean LaPonce (Canada) was elected President of the IPSA for the period 1973-1976 and Vice-Presidents elected included Karl Deutsch (United States), Candido Mendes (Brazil), Vladimir Toumanov (U.S.S.R.), and Klaus von Beyme (Federal Republic of Germany). The newly elected executive committee accepted the invitation of the British Political Science Association to hold the next Congress in Edinburgh in 1976.<sup>4</sup>

One of the outstanding features of the Congress was the participation of political scientists from Third World countries. Through the financial aid of the government of Canada, UNESCO and their own universities and countries, some 50 delegates attended from Asia, Africa and Latin America. Former Vice-President of the IPSA, Ali Mazrui (Kampala and Michigan) writes, "The IXth World Congress of the International Political Science Association was clearly a landmark in the slow evolution of IPSA as a global organization. There were more sessions on issues relevant to Third World concerns than at any previous congress. IPSA itself, under the leadership of Stein Rokkan and his team, had already taken decisive steps towards globalizing the concerns of IPSA . . . There were indeed some very lively and occasionally acrimonious sessions at the Congress but the price of globalizing IPSA is inevitably a decrease of normative homogeneity. There were more fundamental debates at this last Congress than I have heard at any other previous ones I have attended. I believe that itself was a measure of success. . . . But, discussing issues of Third World concern is not enough, if those who are engaged in such discussions are not themselves from the Third

World. . . . Such a visible Third World presence at the Congress was an impressive development."

Informal cross-cultural contacts were not ignored at the World Congress either. The IPSA tradition of taking one half day off from the meetings to take part in an excursion was continued with special organized trips to Quebec City and Ottawa where the delegates were received at banquets by ministers of the two governments. Many receptions, luncheons and dinners were sponsored by various Canadian research institutes, departments of political science and government departments. In addition, a new initiative was taken in getting the organizers of various commissions and research committees, etc., to sponsor dutch-treat cocktail parties for persons interested in their particular subject matter. These common concerns for particular subjects helped to span the gap between persons of different cultures, countries and universities.

Long-term planning and strategy for the Congress was developed by a Committee of Canadian political scientists in Montreal and Ottawa. Both the Canadian Political Science Association and the Société canadienne de Science politique acted as hosts to the Congress. Detailed organization and arrangements were provided through the office of the Canadian Political Science Association and a first class group of political science students.

The Congress itself is likely to have several long-term impacts on political science in Canada. First, delegates from other countries were afforded the first large scale opportunity to come into contact with the work of Canadian political scientists by attending the Canadian annual meeting, prior to the Congress, and by observing the participation of Canadians in the World Congress and attending the special section on Canadian politics. Many delegates commented that this was their first opportunity to understand at first hand the very different nature of the political problems in the two countries in North America and the quite different political sciences resulting from the differences in the two political communities. Secondly, the Canadian political science community was itself confronted with first hand contacts with political scientists from many countries and hence an opportunity to shift its horizons from a fairly North American centered set of concerns to a more global inquiry focusing on similarities between Canada's position and that of other small and medium-sized multi-ethnic states.

<sup>4</sup> Persons interested in participating in the 1976 Congress, or interested in proposing topics for the Congress should contact Professor Jean LaPonce, Department of Political Science, University of British Columbia, Vancouver 8, British Columbia, Canada.