

Polish Political Science Association: The 8th National Convention

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The 8th National Convention of the Association was held in Lublin from November 17 to 19, 1988. It reviewed the organization's past activities, elected a new President and new National Board, and laid down the outlines of its future program. Professor Henryk Groszyk of Lublin University was elected new President of the PPSA for a three-year term from 1988 to 1991. The other Members of the Board are: Krzysztof Palecki, First Vice President; Artur Bodnar, Vice President; Wiesław Dudek, Vice President; Krzysztof Iwanczuk, Treasurer; Karol Janowski, Secretary; plus eleven Members of the Board. Longin Pastusiak as Past President is a member of the National Board.

The main theme of the 8th Congress was "Polish Political Science: The Present State and the Future." Keynote report to the Congress was delivered by Professor Jerzy J. Wiatr. He told the Congress that Polish political science is now a strong and solid discipline. It has a solid organizational structure which will be further strengthened by the establishment since January 1989 of the Political Science Institute at the Polish Academy of Sciences. According to Professor Wiatr, the future development of political science in Poland should be directed at enhancing their instrumental function, elevating their scientific standard, eliminating "blank spots," and contributing more amply to world science.

A total of seven panel debates were held as part of the 8th Congress, including one—of a plenary character—devoted to

"Political Practice versus Political Science." It brought together politicians and scholars, people with personal background as scientific advisers as well as those relying on scientific advice in decision making. The debaters included Professor Paweł Bożyk, former head of Edward Gierek's team of advisers; Professor Marian Dobrosielski, former Deputy Foreign Minister; Colonel Wiesław Gornicki, advisor to Wojciech Jaruzelski; Professor Waldysław Markiewicz, Deputy President of the Polish Academy of Sciences and former chairman of the group of the Polish Parliament's advisers; Professor Zygmunt Rybicki, a legal adviser at the Cabinet Office; and Professor Zdzisław Sadowski, a former Deputy Prime Minister. The discussion, chaired by Professor Longin Pastusiak, analyzed the possibilities of political scientist's advising, the model of relationship between decision-makers and scholars. They reviewed Poland's record of cooperation between policy-makers and political scientists and pondered what needs to be done to enable scientific advising to make policies more effective.

Professor Stanisław Ehrlich chaired a panel discussing "Pluralism and Socialism," which debated the issues of elitism and corporatism versus pluralism in the capitalist countries and the interpretations of pluralism in the socialist countries. They pondered over the elements of pluralism in Marxism and the practice of reconstruction of socialist society. Pluralism was also discussed as one of the paradigms in social sciences.

Professor Tomasz Goban-Klas chaired a panel on "Information Policy in People's Poland," debating the political dimension of the process of information dissemination, the state of studies of the information process, the role of the diction of political communication, "newspeak" and its social implications, and information barriers in

the process of political communication.

The panel on "Methodological and Theoretical Problems of the Study of International Relations" was chaired by Professor Ziemowit J. Pietras. It discussed the condition of studies over the methodology and theory of international relations in Poland, the main theoretical accomplishments and weaknesses of the Polish science of international relations, and exchanged views on the directions of further studies.

The panel, "Polish Science of Politics and World Political Science," chaired by Professor Jerzy J. Wiatr, took up the substantive contribution which Polish science is making to the world scientific records. It sought answers to the following questions: in what areas do we keep abreast and in what areas do we stay behind world science? Is it possible to speak of a "Polish school" of political science or a distinctive Polish characteristic of the pursuit of that discipline. Can we expect our standing in the world to go up, stay unchanged, or perhaps decline?

The panel on the "Teaching of the Science of Politics at Universities" was

devoted to the analysis of the origins of the teaching of the science of politics at Polish universities and the successive phases of its evolution, the present standard of that teaching, the role of teaching the science of politics within the system of national education, the conditions and prospects of the didactic progress of science of politics. Professor Henryk Przybylski chaired the panel.

Finally, the panel on "The Condition of the Study of Political Culture and Public Opinion in Poland" analyzed the directions of these kinds of studies in Poland to-date, as well as their main accomplishments and the importance of the studies for the creation of the theory of development of Polish society. It also tried to find out what is distinctive of Polish society in terms of its attitudes, aspirations, value systems, preferred behavior, and what in the same categories the Poles share with other societies.

The new address of the Polish Political Science Association is: Polish Political Science Association, ul. Bednarska 2/4, 00-310 Warsaw, Poland.