
Toward the International Forum of Political Science*

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Cooperation among the scientists of all continents, their craving for the exchange of information and of research findings, and, as far as possible, the pooling of their endeavors—all this can quite validly be categorized as what Comrade L. I. Brezhnev called the "physical fabric" of peaceful coexistence. Under conditions of the ideological struggle in the world arena, the possibility for such links serves as one of the indications of clarity on the international political horizon. The World Congress of the International Political Science Association (IPSA) which will meet this year in Moscow will be an outstanding event on this plane.

For the first time since IPSA came into existence researchers into political processes will be meeting in a socialist country for their forum. This is a manifestation of the growing prestige of Marxist-Leninist social theory. The practice of building socialism and communism, and the course of events in the world constantly supply proof that this theory provides a correct picture of historical development and serves as a reliable instrument for knowing and transforming existing reality for the sake of a better future for mankind.

Many research institutes of the USSR Academy of Sciences, and VUZes, including those of the union republics, are participating in the preparations for the congress.

V. I. Lenin defined politics in the broad sense as "a struggle between classes," as the mechanism of state power and participation in the affairs of state. Proceeding from these indications offered by Lenin, the subject of political research could be outlined approximately as follows:

It comprises the political system of society, the role and correlation in this system, of the state, parties and public organizations; the content of political power and the methods of devising and implementing state policy.

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It comprises the participation of various social strata in politics, the political culture of people and its nurturing, the regulation of socio-political relations, the situation of the individual and questions of democracy.

It comprises the foreign policy of the state, the activity of various international movements and associations, international relations and the political and ideological struggle in the world arena.

As can be seen, the political theme covers some acute and important problems of social development. The inclusion of many of these in the Moscow Congress' agenda provides the opportunity for a broad exchange of information and for a constructive and creative discussion.

The first theme of the congress is "the policy of peace." This is one of the most vitally important issues in the solution of which virtually all social strata and political forces are involved. The duty of scientists is not just to explain the meaning of current events correctly but also to define the dominant development trends and to help people to meet the future fully prepared.

Of course, there are forces in the world who are interested in the distorted interpretation of international events. As for Marxist-Leninist theory, it regards as one of its most important tasks the revelation of the law-governed patterns which determine relations among states and which, in the final analysis, play a decisive role in questions of war and peace. And the foreign policy of the Soviet state and of the fraternal countries of the socialist community which are waging an indefatigable struggle for the deepening of the relaxation of international tension and for the firm establishments of the principles of peaceful coexistence, is built upon this scientific basis. Comrade L. I. Brezhnev's reports at party congresses and his other speeches expound a broad program for improving the international situation, a program of specific measures in the sphere of disarmament and the development of international cooperation.

On this plane a number of themes which are to be discussed at the congress are of great interest. Among them are the factors and strategy leading to peace and peaceful coexistence; arms and arms control; methods of preventing and resolving international conflict; peace and the changing world order. The discussion of various concepts regarding questions of international relations can be of practical significance. These concepts exert a direct or indirect influence upon shaping public awareness and the foreign policy doctrines and policy proper of various states.

The congress' theme relating to the revelation

of the action of the mechanism which links any particular sociopolitical transformations with social progress is extremely topical. This link is subject to general law-governed patterns which are, however, manifested in a specific form in societies which differ in terms of their class structure.

A law of life for a socialist society is the constant improvement of the economic and political system and the bringing of this system into conformity with the level of maturity achieved by the new system and with the tasks of the next stage of building communism. A vivid manifestation of this law-governed pattern was the adoption of the USSR Constitution which legislatively enshrines the building in our country of developed socialism and the transformation of the Soviet state into a political organization of the whole people.

As for capitalism, the demands of progress are leading everywhere to the need to overcome the social system based on private property and exploitation. Nowadays only out-and-out reactionaries defend the thesis about the perpetuity of capitalism. But polemics are conducted basically around such issues as how long the old social system will "linger on," and what path the process of the capitalist system will take—a revolutionary or a reformist path.

In the context of this topic many other topics can be discussed, such as: the participation of the population in sociopolitical development, economic development and political stability, the policy of unbalanced growth and so forth.

The congress' third theme, "the accumulation of political knowledge since 1950," is of a methodological nature. It is proposed to discuss, in particular, such questions as new knowledge about the correlation of economics and politics; the information system, the collection of data and their analysis and assessment; the significance of the classical tradition in the history of political thought; the methods of the application of systems theory, and the technology of forecasting.

Dialectical materialism is a scientific concept which serves as a reliable methodological basis for the social sciences. At the same time, Marxist scientists seek to keep abreast of the methodology used by researchers in other disciplines and which represents the result of the use of the achievements of the scientific and technical revolution (modeling, the various methods of forecasting, and the collection and processing of information). This interest stems from the very nature of Marxism which has developed into a universal teaching thanks to the generalization and reinterpretation of all the knowledge accumulated by mankind.

The congress will provide a large detachment of scientists from various countries of the world with an opportunity to acquire a fuller idea of the development of our social science and to familiarize themselves better with the achievements of the Soviet people.

Political Scientists and Moscow*

Arnold Beichman**

This summer will witness an extraordinary event in academic circles. Several hundred political scientists from the non-communist world will assemble in Moscow under the auspices of the International Political Science Association.

The question a dissenting political scientist asks is: Why, in the name of Aristotle, in Moscow of all places?

And perhaps one should also ask why the American Political Science Association rejected a resolution calling for an APSA boycott, on human rights grounds, of this Moscow congress. There is even greater point to the question when one realizes that the APSA Convention thereafter went right ahead with a vote to boycott that degenerate haunt of human rights violations—the city of Chicago—because Illinois hasn't yet gotten around to passing the Equal Rights Amendment.

Few political scientists on this continent or in Europe regard the Soviet Union with any admiration. On the contrary, most of them would agree that the USSR is an irremediable dictatorship.

Yet one may well ask how distinguished academicians can justify a decision to go ahead with a meeting in a country which, by its own definition, looks upon the concept of objective truth as anti-Marxist-Leninist; where the writing of history is controlled by the current Politburo line; where, day after day, some dissident social scientist or intellectual is subjected—if he's lucky—to a public scolding or exile, and sometimes worse.

A country where anti-Semitism is now official government policy and where in 1974 the government, displeased by an outdoor art show in Moscow, sent bulldozers into the square to smash the exhibits.

Mstislav Rostropovich, one of the world's great cellists, was stripped of his citizenship a year ago March while he was visiting in the West. Oh, well, thank God he's out and safe.

But then the party bureaucracy goes to work and decrees that his sister, Veronica, a regular violinist for 20 years with the Moscow Philharmonic, may not accompany the ensemble on its tour of Canada and the United States.

Events like these have become so common that nobody notices them anymore. Or in the informative pages of the Soviet Analyst, where we are told the first deputy chairman of the KGB, the Soviet secret police, wrote in the

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