

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.

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## Political Scientists and Moscow\*

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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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\*\*Arnold Beichman is a political scientist who most recently taught at the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

Literary Gazette, the Soviet weekly, that the KGB supports "in every way and will continue to support the fruitful creative efforts of writers, film-makers, workers in the mass information and propaganda media, artists, composers, actors, the whole creative intelligentsia, which are aimed at producing works of high ideological and artistic content about Chekists (secret police) and Border Guards, in keeping with our times."

What is IPSA doing meeting in a place like this where a secret police has the right and the power to tell artists what they must do?

Georgi Arbatov, the Soviet expert on the United States and Canada, wanders around this continent, moving in the highest intellectual and political circles, loftily discussing the anti-hegemonist Chinese and the warmongers like Sen. Henry Jackson.

What would happen if a dinner guest at a faculty club dinner—Arbatov loves academic dinners—were to ask him about the thousands of dissidents who are locked away in jails and lunatic asylums? What would his answer be?

Two years ago he was asked about the mistreatment of an imprisoned Soviet dissident. He lost his temper and snapped back: "Do you know what would have happened to him when Stalin was alive?"

I knew he meant for us to be grateful for this amelioration in Soviet humanism. Who knows

—in another 60 years, perhaps no psychiatric prison hospitals; perhaps Rostropovich's sister will be allowed out.

The IPSA leaders who decided that Moscow is the place to meet this summer like to argue that it is important to keep in touch because it helps decent social scientists in Russia in some magical way, that it's better to get to know one another, that we all know the USSR is a dictatorship but perhaps by cultural contacts we can help soften them up a bit and so on.

But the same arguments could be made for holding an IPSA conference in South Africa or in Chile or Nicaragua or Rhodesia. South Africa has its apartheid and Russia its anti-Semitism. South Africa bans people and, as Mihailo Mihailov, the Yugoslav dissident, pointed out, so does Yugoslavia and, let it be added, the Soviet Union, too.

Why the special treatment for the USSR? If I were IPSA I wouldn't hold a convention in Moscow or in Johannesburg.

What is so sad about this IPSA decision is that instead of helping dissidents, it hurts them because the Soviet party and government can boast that instead of being boycotted by Western intellectuals and academicians, these Westerners are flocking to Moscow to discuss political science—so, dear Citizen Dissident, forget the West and behave.

**National Political Science Associations**

PS is publishing the names, officers, publications and meeting dates of national political science associations around the world again this year. Further additions and/or corrections for this list will be welcome as well as news items on activities and programs of national associations.

Associations	Officers	Publications	Meetings
AFRICA P.O. Box 35036 Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania	President: M. Bouzidi Vice Presidents: D. W. Nabudare, East Africa; N. M. Shamuyarira, Southern Africa; Helmy Sharawi, North Africa; Wang Metuge, Central Africa; Emmanuel Hansen, West Africa General Secretary: S. S. Mushi, Dar-Es-Salaam Treasurer: S. S. Mushi, Dar-Es-Salaam	AAPS Bulletin The African Review. S. S. Mushi, Dar-Es-Salaam, Editor	April, 1979 4th Bi-Annual Conference Mozambique
ARGENTINA Solis 443, Buenos Aires, Argentina	President: Segundo V. Linares Quintana, Buenos Aires Vice President: Miguel S. Marienhoff, Buenos Aires Secretary: Juan R. Aguirre Lanari, Buenos Aires Treasurer: Hector R. Orlandi, Buenos Aires	Metodo de la Ciencia Politca, Georges Burdeau La Ciencia Política y la Lucha por el Poder	
AUSTRALIA Discipline of Polittics, Flinders University, Bedford Park, South Australia 5042	President: Geoffrey Hawker, Canberra C.A.E. Secretary-Treasurer: Richard De Angells, Flinders Business Manager: Joan Marshall	Polittics. Dean Jaensch, Flinders, Editor	Wrest Point Hotel Casino, Hobart, Tasmania August 27-29, 1979
AUSTRIA Institute for Advanced Studies, Stumpergasse 56, A-1060, Vienna, Austria	President: Raoul F. Kneucker, Fonds zue Forderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung, Garnisonsgasse 7 Austria Secretary: Werner Pleschberger, Austria Treasurer: Paul Luif, Salzburg	Osterreichische Zeitschrift fur Politikwissenschaft	