

# International Political Science

## Report on 12th World Congress of Political Science, Rio de Janeiro, August 9-14, 1982

**Seymour Martin Lipset\***  
Stanford University

The first World Congress of Political Science to be held in a Third World country took place in Rio de Janeiro during the week of August 8, 1982. The meeting which was organized by Candido Mendes, the 1979-1982 President of the International Political Science Association (IPSA), was designed to involve more political scientists from the less developed countries than in previous ones. The plans worked out. Over 1600 people were registered from 57 countries. Among these were 500 from Brazil, 350 from the United States, 30 from Africa, 55 from the Soviet Union, 30 from Eastern Europe, and many others from Western Europe, Asia and other Latin American countries.

The program committee, which was chaired by Guillermo O'Donnell of Argentina and Brazil and David Apter of the United States, formulated a number of major themes, under which the various panels were organized. These included: (1) Search for a New International Order; (2) Society and the Political Community; and (3) Political Discourse: Past, Present and Future. Papers were delivered in close to 200 sessions on a vast variety of topics, too numerous and disparate to report on and evaluate here. Corridor scuttlebutt indicate that, as usual at such

meetings, the quality ranged from excellent to terrible.

Much of the activity of the Congress, and of the work of IPSA between Congresses, has been in the hands of the 21 research committees and the 16 study groups. These are organized around substantive topics; some of them hold separate small conferences and roundtables in between the large triannual Congresses.

In addition to the intellectual fare, those in attendance were provided with a vast variety of food and entertainment at lunches and dinners. The entertainment ranged from bands to samba dancers. The local arrangements committee also took pains to enable the participants to see a great deal of Rio, and to take part in tours around the country, both before and after the conference.

Although the larger political scene was less in evidence than at the 1979 Moscow Congress, the meeting was used to win support for Brazilian political science from the local authorities. The opening session included speeches from the President of Brazil and other eminent personalities as well as from the Vice-President of the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

East-West politics also entered into the activities of IPSA, both before and during the Congress. Jerzy Wiatr, the Director of the Institute of Marxism-Leninism of Poland, long active in IPSA, had been informally slated to be the next President. But given the reaction to the military repression in Poland, Wiatr withdrew as a candidate before the Congress, and Klaus von Beyme of the University of Heidelberg was elected to serve from 1982-1985. Other officers for this period include as vice-presidents Georgii Shakhnazarov of the USSR, Kinhide Mushakoji of Japan, Guillermo O'Donnell

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\*Seymour Martin Lipset is vice-president of the International Political Science Association and was 1981-82 president of APSA.

of Argentina, Serge Hurtig of France, and S. M. Lipset of the United States. The other members of the Executive Committee come from a variety of countries, Brazil, Mexico, Zimbabwe, India, Yugoslavia, Britain, West Germany, Turkey, Spain, Italy, and Sweden. Richard Merritt of the United States was reappointed as editor of the IPSA book series, while John Meisel of Canada continues as editor of the *International Journal of Political Science*.

The 13th World Congress will be held in Paris the week of July 14th, 1985. The Program Committee for the meeting is chaired by Francesco Kjellberg of the University of Oslo. Philip Converse of the University of Michigan is the American member. Anyone interested in arranging

a panel or giving a paper at the Paris meeting should get in touch with Kjellberg or Converse.

The next meeting of the IPSA Executive, which will meet in West Berlin the second week in January, will decide the site of the 1988 meeting. Thus far, IPSA has two invitations from national associations to sponsor the session, from South Korea, for Seoul and from the APSA, for Washington, D.C.

The IPSA Executive plans to hold a meeting, together with the Program Committee, in Urbana, Illinois, immediately following the APSA meeting in Chicago, in September 1983. The governing boards of the IPSA and the APSA plan to meet together in Chicago.

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