

THE PHILIPPINE SOCIAL SCIENCE COUNCIL

An Historical Overview

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This modest work is an “historical overview”, or “historical sketch,” perhaps, even a silhouette of the rise and development of the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC) as a unique institution. It is primarily an attempt to trace PSSC’s roots in the late 1960s and its steady growth in the seventies, up to its development as the full-blown social science organization that it is today, an organization with, among others, a moderately-sized Secretariat and a modest endowment or trust fund, desktop publishing and conference-support capabilities, and a growing social science library and bookshop. It has also become an income-generating enterprise through its Central Subscription Service and publications, and especially, as landlord to some associations and outfits whose activities as PSSC associate members naturally have something to do with the social sciences.

The Philippine Social Science Council

Before proceeding any farther, one is tempted to ask initially: what is PSSC? What is its nature, its purpose or mission and, just as important for an historical overview, how did it all begin?

We will start with the last question first, if only because it happens to be, in this author’s experience,¹ the most difficult to reconstruct with certitude in any institutional history beyond what one gets from the several well-written brochures, like those produced by PSSC through the years and which give greater emphasis, perhaps because of their promotional nature, on what PSSC is—its goals or objectives and how it proposes to accomplish its mission.

How It All Began

On 3 March 1967, just before the lecture by the world-renowned American anthropologist Dr. Margaret Mead,² heads of some social science associations or societies met at the Green Room of the Philamlife Auditorium on United Nations Avenue in Manila. They had been invited to the gathering by Dr. Estefania Aldaba-Lim,³ then Chairperson of the Social Sciences Committee of the UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines (UNCOP), who presided at the meeting. Among those present at what most likely was a hurriedly-convoked gathering were historian Dr. Eufronio M. Alip, economist and former Education, Culture and Sports Secretary Armand Fabella, social anthropologist Fr. Francis ("Frank") Lynch, S.J., Atty. Serafin Guingona of Araneta University, and Mr. Petronilo Buan of UNCOP.

Among the items in the agenda were "consideration of the proposal to reactivate the National Social Science Council of the Philippines"⁴ (NSSCP), adoption of a constitution and a set of by-laws, and "election of officers." The notice announced that it was a "Reorganizational Meeting of the Members of the National Social Science Council of the Philippines."⁵ Probably because only four disciplinal associations were represented out of a possible dozen (geography was not then considered as among the social sciences), those present did not rush to consider the items in the agenda. Instead, they decided to constitute themselves into an Ad Hoc or Working Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Alip.⁶ But, twenty-six years later (1993), Dr. Estefania Aldaba-Lim would give greater significance to that meeting: it marked, she wrote, the "formal launching of the PSSC" and that "right then and there, the PSSC was born."⁷

One must give credit to Dr. Aldaba-Lim for setting in motion the irreversible train of events that eventually led to the formation of PSSC in 1968, a fact which appears as one of UNCOP's accomplishments for that year.⁸ Dr. Aldaba-Lim deserves recognition for the numerous things she had earlier done for PSSC. One, for her earlier active involvement in some meetings of the Working Committee and of the first Council general meeting and the first two Executive Board meetings; two, her efforts to project the image of PSSC at UNESCO/Paris and other international fora; three, for "nurturing PSSC" through UNCOP; and four, for hosting the final session of the first Southeast Asian Workshop of Social Scientists in 1976, despite her heavy duties as Secretary of Social Work and Development and ex-officio Chairperson of the Population Commission.⁹

The Ad Hoc Committee went to work in earnest, meeting on March 9, just a few days after the "reorganizational meeting (more were to follow—at the Manila Lions Club, at UNCOP's offices, Ateneo de Manila, etc.). At this initial meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee members decided that NSSCP "be organized under a new set-up," that is, that it be

“independent of [the] UNESCO National Commission” of the Philippines. They also agreed, however, that the independent NSSCP “should cooperate” with the UNCOP in the development of the social sciences in the Philippines—but on a “consultative basis”. These views were reflected to a certain degree in a revised draft constitution and by-laws.¹⁰ Another meeting was scheduled for 17 April 1967,¹¹ the long break between the two meetings being due, perhaps, to the Holy Week recess. The organizing activity was resumed with a “general meeting” on May 12, to take up these two documents which had been prepared for the Ad Hoc Committee by Atty. Luis Baltazar in the office of Dr. Fabella. The meeting was now billed as that of the “Philippine Social Science Council.”¹² Invitations were subsequently sent for the “first election meeting of the Council” under the constitution, scheduled for 26 May 1967.¹³

There are gaps in the record, including the Fabella Files—he was abroad for six months—but apparently, the next full-dress meeting of the heads/representatives of the member associations was not until almost a year later, on 27 February 1968, at which time “the constitution and by-laws of the PSSC were finally approved”.¹⁴ Nominations, or designations, for membership in the Executive Board were also made. These included the heads of member-associations like Dr. Alip. The election of officers of the Executive Board was scheduled for the next meeting to be held on 7 March 1968.¹⁵ The latter meeting did take place, but Fr. Lynch questioned its being considered a formal meeting because “no notice of meeting was sent to the members”. Dr. Alip argued in vain that there was neither the time (the interval between the meetings was just a week) nor necessity for a written notice or reminder since they had all agreed at the previous meeting to meet after one week. In the end, it was agreed that what was taking place was not a meeting at all.¹⁶ However, in order to make profitable use of the time, a brainstorming or discussion on projects which the new organization should or would want to undertake was held. Dr. Estefania Aldaba-Lim, in particular, referred to the Social Science Research Project in New Delhi which had been funded solely by UNESCO/Paris for twenty years.

The election of officers of the Executive Board, who under the By-Laws adopted on 28 February 1968 were *ipso facto* the officers of the Council *as an organization* was set for 18 March 1968;¹⁷ it was finally held on that date at the Ateneo Blue Room, with Fr. Lynch as host. Dr. Mercedes B. Concepcion was elected Chairperson; Fr. Lynch, Vice-Chairperson; and Dr. Cristina P. Parel (who was absent), Secretary-Treasurer. They were to serve as such well into the first weeks of FY 1972-1973.

Curiously, although the meeting of March 7 was to have been a non-meeting, formally at least, it was now on 18 March 1968, baptized as the *first* meeting of the Executive Board, and the record of proceedings changed accordingly to reflect that decision.¹⁸ The meeting of March

18 was, consequently, placed on record as the *second*. By this action, 7 March 1968 may be regarded as the formal beginning of PSSC. However, since that was a *post-facto* decision of the 18 March 1968 meeting, it would be more accurate to consider the latter as the date PSSC was founded or launched because it was the first formal and active meeting of the Executive Board, complete with the panoply of officers and, of course, the member-associations' representatives. However, if adoption of the constitution and by-laws prior to incorporation was the criterion, then the founding date should be 27 February 1968; on that date, too, designations of members of the Executive Board by the member-associations (i.e., Council) were made. In any case, 13 December 1968, the date the Securities and Exchange Commission approved PSSC's Articles of Incorporation would be too late a date to be regarded as PSSC's foundation day; the SEC action merely formalized an existing reality.

Evolution of a Concept

"The Philippine Social Science Council is a non-stock, non-sectarian, non-profit, non-governmental organization of professional social science associations geared towards the consolidation of Philippine social science resources."¹⁹ This, in a nutshell, gives a clear idea of the nature of PSSC from sources, from the concept's inception and evolution—which is the subject of this section.

It will be recalled from the previous section, that the 3 March 1967 meeting had been called to "reactivate" the NSSCP; in fact, the gathering was called a "reorganizational meeting" of the NSSCP. There must have been such an organization, therefore, but it evidently had remained moribund or had not functioned at all. It will also be recalled that the meeting had been convened by Dr. Aldaba-Lim, then head of the Committee on Social Sciences of UNCOP. The constitution and by-laws of NSSCP, both distributed during the meeting, had likewise been prepared by UNCOP. These give clues as to how the concept of a social science council was born.

It can safely be assumed, in the absence of written and oral sources, other than Dr. Aldaba-Lim herself, that the original idea of a social science council in the Philippines originated from her or the Committee on Social Sciences of UNCOP, and that its structural reflection was the NSSCP. The precise date of NSSCP's birth cannot be established with certainty, given the scant sources available: it probably was not earlier than the formal launching of the International Social Science Council (ISSC) in 1953. ISSC had been a creation of UNESCO with the preparatory work starting in 1951.²⁰ It was at the beginning of that year (1953) that UNCOP, created by R.A. 621 (enacted 12 December 1951), had actually started to function when it acquired its own Secretariat.²¹ Conceivably, the idea of a social science council of the

Philippines as an arm of UNCOP could have germinated at that time and was subsequently embodied in NSSCP. Then, in 1966 UNESCO's XIVth General Conference adopted Resolution 301, "inviting Member States to encourage the formation of learned societies in the social sciences and facilitate their participation in the activities of appropriate international organizations." By that time, national social science councils—as distinguished from "international" disciplinary councils or associations, like the International Political Science Association—were finally being given greater recognition during the annual General Assembly of ISSC and even the General Conference of UNESCO.²² At any rate, just as UNESCO had ISSC, so must UNCOP have NSSCP. It is possible that someone besides Dr. Aldaba-Lim could have created NSSCP earlier, which she now proposed to reactivate in 1967.

A comparison of the proposed original terms of reference of ISSC and NSSCP strengthens this observation.²³ Thus, under the objectives ISSC was to have as its "primary purpose" the advancement "of social science throughout the world," and secondarily, "to bring to bear the knowledge, methods and skills of the social sciences upon the major problems of our times." NSSCP, on the other hand, "shall have for its object the advancement of the social sciences throughout the Philippines and their application to the maintenance of peace and the solution of major social problems" (Art. 1).

As regards their duties and indicative of their links with UNESCO and UNCOP, ISSC was, among others, to "advise the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies [among them UNESCO] on any questions on which its advice is asked for;" "whenever the Council deems it appropriate, to tender service to UNESCO on its own initiative;" and to "recommend specific projects of interdisciplinary research to competent international or national bodies." On the other hand, NSSCP was to "cooperate with the UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines in developing the application of the social sciences to foster the basic purpose of the United Nations in achieving peace and in promoting human welfare" [(Art. 2 (a)); to "advise [UNCOP] on any question which may be referred to it, and whenever the Council deems it appropriate, offer its services and advice to the UNESCO National Commission" [(Art. 2 (e)); and, to "recommend specific research projects for an interdisciplinary and national character to the appropriate national bodies" [(Art. 2 (f)).

What is being suggested, in effect, is that PSSC's precursor was envisioned and conceived for the primary purpose of promoting social sciences in the Philippines, just as ISSC had been—worldwide—and to serve as the "implementing arm of the [UNESCO National] Commission in carrying out its projects."²⁴

The conceptualizers of PSSC—initially the members of the Ad Hoc Committee—thought otherwise, however. At their very first meeting, they decided that the proposed council should be organized under a

set-up different from that of the NSSCP, that is to say “independent” of UNCOP. As noted in the previous section, the proposed “new set-up” was to have close links with UNCOP, but only on a “consultative basis.” That, by the way, had been the status of ISSC relative to UNESCO when it was finally launched or organized in 1953. Dr. Aldaba-Lim probably had no choice but to go along the emerging thinking, otherwise, there might not have been a council even remotely identified or associated with UNCOP at all. The concept of a *non-governmental* social science organization was thus born, and PSSC has remained as such to this day, despite the fact that one-half of its US\$400,000 original endowment or trust fund came from the Philippine Government. PSSC also received grants for publications from the National Science Development Board (presently the Department of Science and Technology) and funds for research from the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and its Philippine Institute of Development Studies (PIDS), and even from the Fund for Assistance to Private Education (FAPE), a semi-governmental entity. It has received larger sums for training programs of faculty from the private sector of higher education.²⁵

The Ad Hoc Committee’s decision to establish a Council without organic links to UNCOP or whose mission would not be determined by, or aligned to, the latter’s purposes was enshrined in the constitution of the proposed PSSC by the simple statement that PSSC “shall have for its objective the advancement of the social sciences in the Philippines” (Art. 1), without explicitly placing it in the service of the nation’s efforts to solve its major social problems, *per se*.²⁶

This was probably going to the extreme to underscore the proposed new council’s independence and neutrality because the solution of the nation’s problems—and even the world’s—would almost immediately become a primary concern of PSSC. Thus, eventually, the following categorical definition of what PSSC is—as readers were told in the first issue of PSSC’s newsletter *Social Science Information* in 1973:²⁷

“The Philippine Social Science Council is a non-stock, non-profit, private organization which intends above all to consolidate the resources of local social scientists by providing the leadership apt to enhance their impact on the development of the nation....”

A slightly modified version of the above which appeared in the first PSSC brochure was preceded by the emphatic affirmation that “the Philippine Social Science Council is not a governmental entity.”²⁸ A further refinement is given in the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws, as amended on 17 July 1988, thus:²⁹

“The Philippine Social Science Council, Inc. (PSSC) is a non-stock, non-profit, non-governmental, and non-sectarian organization for scientific, cultural and educational purposes” (Art. 1. Nature of Organization).

To turn now to the functions or duties of PSSC, the provisional constitution adopted in 1968 no longer included those which had been functions and duties dictated by, or directed towards, UNCOP's mission as embodied in the NSSCP constitution. Nevertheless, the latter contained provisions which the Ad Hoc Committee could not but consider as "neutral" and whose adoption would not in any way compromise the "non-governmental" character of the proposed independent set-up; these were either adopted in full, modified in part, combined, or amplified. During the later stages of PSSC's history, however, especially after the proclamation of martial law over the entire country in 1972 and the more dramatic "EDSA People Power Revolution" in 1986, PSSC felt that it could not remain an ivory tower oblivious to the social problems buffeting Philippine society and even those of the world at large. Thus, among the first amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on 27 March 1973 were several new purposes, among them being "*c) to offer to the government, business and other sectors assistance in social science research and education, policy formulation, and program development.*"

The original first purpose was amended to read:

"d) To develop, stimulate, support, or encourage social science research projects particularly those of a cooperative and multi-disciplinary nature, that tend to meet national problems."

An amendment on 10 December 1977 expanded the scope to the international level.³⁰ The agglutinating purposes of PSSC were reflected further in the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws as amended on 17 July 1988:

"The PSSC intends to consolidate the resources of local social scientists by providing the leadership likely to enhance their impact on the improvement of the quality of life of the nation and the development of a just and humane society" (Art. II. Purposes).

To the original functions and duties, as amended in 1973 and 1977, were finally added three new ones in 1988, further slanting PSSC's purposes towards national concerns. We quote two of these hereunder, which are the last two of the current eleven purposes of PSSC:

- "j) To advocate sound policies for good government that will sustain growth and develop a more egalitarian national community.*
- k) To render consultancy and training services in planning, policy making, surveys, feasibility studies, program and project development, evaluation, monitoring and management of socio-economic activities."*

We note in passing that (k) is but an expanded version of (c) above—added in 1973—which has been retained in the present By-Laws.

Before going into how PSSC operationalized this charter or statutory purposes, we should first look at the membership, organizational structure and funding of PSSC's operations.

Membership and Linkages

Membership. It should be obvious to the reader by now that PSSC is an umbrella organization, i.e., its members are disciplinary associations, six during the organizational stages and now fourteen, representing thirteen social science disciplines; this is so because History is represented by two associations.³¹ On account of this seeming "anomaly" and the failure of the two historical associations to either merge or federate, an amendment to the By-Laws was adopted on 14 December 1985, which reads: "It shall be the policy of the Council... not to encourage the organization of more than one national society or organization per discipline" (Art. IV, Sec. 3).

The fourteen members are the *regular* members of PSSC—defined in the current PSSC By-Laws as

"...those duly established, qualified, independent, private, non-profit, national societies, associations, or organizations, actively engaged in any of the various social science disciplines, which publish a journal or a similar learned publication at least once a year and whose membership is open to qualified social scientists..." (Art. III, Sec. 1.A).

The 1968 provisional constitution provided for only one category of members—those which fit the above definition. *Associate membership* was added in the first amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws (the word Constitution having been dropped) in 1973; this applied to those social science research and instructional institutions or associations whose membership is confined to those employed by them, or are enrolled in them, and who meet the other requirements for regular membership. There are now 37 associate members.³² A third category—*Affiliate Members*, which are foreign social science organizations or societies, whether "locally or foreign based" but whose membership is restricted, like those of the Associate Members—was added in 1984.³³ These members now each pay annual dues of ₱500, ₱250, and US\$500, respectively.³⁴

Constituting part of the PSSC structure or family, which started as PSSC projects, are the Research Network and Research Consortia, which will be discussed in later sections of this overview.

External Linkages. PSSC has strengthened its relationship with UNCOP with the appointment of then Executive Director Trinidad as

one of 37 Commissioners and as Acting Chairperson of its Social Sciences Division in 1986.³⁵ PSSC also continues to maintain close working relationships with the Philippine chapter of Pi Gamma Mu Honor Society (in the Social Sciences), the College of Social Sciences and Philosophy of the University of the Philippines, and especially, the National Research Council of the Philippines (one time renamed the Philippine National Science Society [PNSS]) through its Division VIII (Social Sciences) and occasionally Division I (Educational, Governmental, and International Policies) in co-sponsoring such big gatherings as the National Social Science Congress I and II and, to a lesser extent, the NSSC III, which was held in December 1993.³⁶ At one time, when the PNSS (or NRCP) was being considered for “privatization” during the Aquino presidency, there was even thought of merging PSSC with NRCP’s Division VIII, an idea which did not prosper, however, because while membership in NRCP is individual that in PSSC is associational or disciplinary.

PSSC is also an active member of regional social science groups such as the Association of Asian Social Science Research Councils (AASSREC). PSSC hosted AASSREC’s second biennial conference in September 1979, and was elected vice-president of the organization in 1987.³⁷ The PSSC Secretariat also regularly attends the Regional Advisory Group Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Information Network in the Social Sciences (APINESS), founded in 1986 under UNESCO.³⁸ Also in 1986 the PSSC joined the Social Science Society of Thailand and the Yayasan Ilmu-Ilmu Sosial of Indonesia to make up the convening group for “The Consultative Forum on Southeast Asian Social Science Associations”, which was first held in 1989 under the sponsorship of the Ford Foundation and with the PSSC as Secretariat.³⁹

Through exchange visits,⁴⁰ PSSC also maintains direct linkages with other Asian national social science councils like the Korean Social Science Research Council (KOSSREC) and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

At the international level, the PSSC is a member of the International Federation of Social Science Organizations (IFSSO), on whose Executive Board it was elected member for CY 1992 and 1993, a signal honor.⁴¹ It sends a delegation to UNESCO’s Annual Conference and was invited to send an observer to the General Assembly of the ISSC, now a non-governmental organization, during its 40th Anniversary in December 1992. Last but not least, for some time now PSSC has been represented at the meetings of the ISSC’s Standing Committee for National Social Science Councils (SCCNC) which in 1978 became the Conference of National Social Science Councils and Analogous Bodies.⁴²

Paris-based, like UNESCO’s, the above-mentioned meetings and General Assemblies or General Conferences are always welcome opportunities to make known to the world PSSC’s existence, its accomplishments, current and future thrusts. Because of the impressive

academic credentials of most PSSC delegates to such gatherings, a new era started in which delegates from the Philippines no longer contented themselves to sterile participation by merely “seconding” motions or proposals from the floor put forward by more creative and assertive delegates from other countries.⁴² PSSC delegates have in fact headed some of these international organizations [such as the Association of Asian Social Science Research Councils (AASSREC) and the Inter-national Federation of Research Councils (IFSSO)] and served in others in various technical and administrative capacities.

PSSC Structure

The Executive Board

When PSSC was formally organized on 18 March 1968 it was a very simple and uncomplicated organization, and any discussion of PSSC’s structure should begin with the Executive Board since it is the *Board of Directors* of PSSC and originally the actual locus of power in the entire organization. Furthermore, PSSC was not constituted and did not actually start to function until its officers were elected on 18 March 1968—hence March 18th should henceforth be celebrated as PSSC’s Foundation Day—even as it was and still is a creation of the Council, i.e., the members of the PSSC as a corporation, the Council as an organ of PSSC not having been created until the amendments of 1977 were adopted.⁴⁴

The first Executive Board and, to repeat, Board of Directors of PSSC, consisted initially of eight members who were “nominated and elected” by the Presidents or duly appointed representatives of the member-associations. Looking at the disciplinary expertise or backgrounds of the original eight, it is clear that Dr. Concepcion, Fr. Carroll, and Fr. Lynch belonged to the same association—most certainly, the Philippine Sociological Society—since the associations for Anthropology and Demography were organized and admitted only much later as PSSC regular members. This is probably one practical reason behind the earlier practice that while membership in the Council is associational, that in the Executive Board is disciplinary. Under the current practice, this is still theoretically true, but since one may not be nominated and elected to the Executive Board unless he/she is a member in good standing of a regular member-association of the PSSC, in effect the members of the Executive Board are now also representatives of the fourteen associations as it is unthinkable for a regular member-association to nominate two from its roster of members to represent the discipline in the Executive Board.⁴⁵ The By-Laws now provide that the President of a regular member, who is automatically a member of the Council must not also be a member of, or elected to, the Executive Board, which now includes the Executive Director who serves as Board Secretary

and the Chairperson of the Governing Council—but both “with no voting rights.”⁴⁶

The Executive Board elects its own officers from among its members; in the first few years, these were the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, the Secretary and the Treasurer, although the last two positions maybe—and were actually—held by one individual.⁴⁷ In 1988, the Chairman sported the title of President and the Vice-Chairman, Vice-President. The Executive Director is now the Secretary of the Board and the Treasurer is chosen from the *bonafide* members of the Board from among themselves.

The Executive Board was, at least until 1984, the real locus of power and the dynamo of the organization, subject to no effective supervision, let alone control, except the limits imposed by the By-Laws and “general policy” as set by the members of PSSC (to repeat, the Council as a PSSC organ was not created until 1977). In a manner of speaking, however, the Executive Board was both a policy-making (or at least policy-recommending) and an executive body. The PSSC member-associations (whose representatives would in 1977 be constituted into a Council), on the other hand, having framed the PSSC Constitution and By-Laws (later simply By-Laws) merely confined itself to functions that were mainly ceremonial and ritualistic; the only moment that it exercised meaningful power—in a way also ritualistic—was during the election of members of the Executive Board, who could from 1971 until the 1980s be drawn from any disciplinary organization or university academic department, regardless of whether it was a PSSC regular/associate member or not. On occasion, the Council also gave imprimatur to policy-recommendations of the Executive Board and even decisions made in cases of urgency. In any case, the Council met only once a year—the annual meeting then held in September—to be of crucial consequence to the governance of the PSSC, and could be called for special meetings only by the Executive Board. Above all, the Chairman of the Executive Board was the “head of PSSC” as well as its chief executive officer.



As will be shown presently, this Executive Board omnipotence was diluted starting, probably in 1977, when the power to amend the By-Laws was now clearly reposed in the Council as a PSSC organic body, although actual assumption, or sharing, of powers did not take place until 1988.

The Council

The original set-up indeed, was “unique” in that there was not even mention of a “Council” as a PSSC organ in the 1968 Articles of Incorporation, Constitution and By-Laws and even in the 1973 Revised Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws (which amended and combined the earlier constitution and by-laws). Not that there was no earlier attempt to question the “unique” set up. As early as 1973, for instance, reacting to an observation by Mr. Cesar P. Macuja (Philippine Economic Society) that there was “some confusion” as to the powers of the Executive Board and Council [i.e., the member-associations], Dr. Lagmay said that “there was [indeed] some clamor on the part of the Council members for more active participation in the important affairs of the PSSC.”⁴⁸

*“He added that the provision placed in the By-Laws...that **Council members cannot be members of the Executive Board** was read as another step in the loss of active participation on the part of the Council members” (Underscoring in the original).*

At this point, Fr. Lynch, one of the original incorporators and founding Vice-Chairman (until 1973) of PSSC, informed the PSSC “young Turks” on the background of the existing Executive Board-Council powers and authority.⁴⁹

*“He mentioned that the Executive Board has always recognized that its source of authority came from the Council [i.e., the member-associations’ representatives]. During the early stages, [however,] PSSC’s emphasis was [on] “how to get things moving” rather than with the formalities of organizational structure. With this as the guiding policy, the Board was so busy in getting the programs going and securing funds that reporting back to the Council was the least of its worry [sic.]...[There] **was no deliberate attempt to curb the powers of the Council by the Executive Board**” (Underscoring added).*

As to the “provision disallowing Council members from being Executive Board members *at the same time*,” he explained that it was not for the purpose of checking the Council’s active participation in the affairs of PSSC, “but to put some check and balance between the two entities.” The Jesuit anthropologist also added that: “Principle of sound administration... would require the controlling and the one being controlled to be two separate bodies or individuals.”⁵⁰ Fr. Lynch simply

overlooked the simple fact that the member-associations (or Council) were clearly effectively checked by the Executive Board—their own creation—insofar as actual exercise of power was concerned; there was no balance at all, and one did not have to be a public administration expert, or a constitutionalist to see that. The truth was that the Executive Board *was* the PSSC *in action*: it headed and controlled the PSSC, until 1977, as the Executive Board officers were also the Executive Officers of PSSC as a corporation. Thus they received their instructions from the Executive Board (i.e., from themselves), not from the member-associations, except through the constitution which they had formulated.

If Fr. Lynch's lecture on the background of PSSC put an end to further discussions on the desire of the member-associations for "more active participation" in PSSC's affairs, this was only temporary. In 1977, amendments to the By-Laws were proposed during the PSSC annual meeting. A separate article on the Council as an organ of PSSC was now added, identifying it for the first time as the "*governing body of PSSC*". As such, it exercised powers earlier vested in the member-associations but in addition was now empowered "to ratify the proposed program of major activities submitted by the Executive Board." However, nowhere in the amended By-Laws was the Executive Board obligated to submit its "proposed program" to the Council. The Officers of the Executive Board remained the Executive Officers of PSSC; however, the Executive Board **alone** no longer decided when to call the Council into a special meeting since it was now compelled to do so upon the "request of at least one-third (1/3) of the authorized representatives of regular member-associations of the Council in good standing."⁵¹ So long as the Council did not intend to operationalize its being the "governing council" of PSSC, things were almost the same, or axiomatic, as before—for a decade after 1977. Probably, no one thought that the amendments were a harbinger of "trouble" for the Executive Board, if not also for the PSSC in general.

But, in 1984 another set of amendments, some affecting the PSSC structure, was adopted. The amendments now proposed to give flesh to the powers of the Council as "the governing council" of PSSC—it wanted to "govern". And to insure that it did, it was now going to meet six times a year—regularly. However, the officers of the Executive Board remained the Executive Officers of PSSC and, by implication, also of the Council as a PSSC organic body.

A new configuration of power in PSSC came into being in 1988. Under the amendments to the By-Laws which were adopted just before 1977 ended, this time with openly known vigorous opposition to the erosion of the powers of the Executive Board, the Council would have its own officers, *viz.*: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary (the Executive Director), with the Council Chairperson superseding the President (heretofore Chairman) of the Executive Board as the "head of PSSC." Also, Art. IV, Sec. 4 (1) of the 1977 By-Laws was further amended such that the Council now "shall approve, and/or modify

the proposed program of major activities submitted by the Executive Board." To insure that this power was exercised meaningfully, the Executive Board was now enjoined to "submit reports every quarter to the Council summarizing its accomplishments, projects and programs being undertaken and the problems being created thereto" (Art. V, Sec. 2[11]).

The effect of these changes over a ten-year period starting in 1977 was a relocation of power in the PSSC. It was certainly not a case of check and balance, as originally posited by Fr. Lynch and his PSSC co-founders: it was an undeniable subordination of the once powerful Executive Board to the Council, its halcyon days now a thing of the past. The new set-up was the outcome of a view that the policy-making body should also be the most powerful organ of the PSSC—not only in theory but in practice—and that this should be reflected not only in the By-Laws but operationalized in the day-to-day dynamics of the organization. Certainly, this is the view of those who had always looked, with envy, upon the Executive Board as the most powerful organ of the PSSC.⁵²

Those who conceived the incremental clipping of the powers of the Executive Board and relocating power in the Council, now known as the Governing Council probably planned to stay in the PSSC's most powerful organ for as long as possible, through the simple device of getting themselves elected year in and year out as presidents of their respective organizations. This carried membership in the Council and they may have hoped that by long association with it, they would be elected to one of its two elective posts.⁵³

Whatever its merits, it was not long before the new arrangement was put to a test. The occasion was the choice of a new Executive Director (or reappointment of the incumbent) in 1991. Invoking the By-Laws which provided for the "joint" election of the Executive Director by the Council and the Executive Board, the latter, through its lady-President, asked for the creation of a Search Committee to screen the nominees or applications for the position, with the incumbent Executive Director being eligible to apply. The Executive Director, however, asked for a prior performance evaluation of his six-year stint and he wrote, that if the PSSC top officers should wish that he be given another term because of good performance, then he should be reappointed without having to go through the humiliating modality of choosing his successor. If otherwise, then he should first be asked to resign. But then and only then, would a Search Committee be created to choose his successor. The Council accepted the Executive Director's view, but the Executive Board insisted on the modality explicitly enshrined in the By-Laws. There now was a testing of wills, a tug of war, as it were, between the Executive Board and the Governing Council, almost leading to a collapse of the new dispensation of the organization's operations. Those who wanted the Council as a PSSC organ to be more actively involved in PSSC's affair, and had thus clipped the undeniably broad, perhaps

even excessive, powers of the Executive Board, must have had second thoughts when this unforeseen and unwanted development took place; the issue soon degenerated into an ugly PSSC domestic affair which alienated good crop of idealistic younger social scientists. It just so happened that there was then a headstrong President of the Executive Board and a somewhat recalcitrant, if not also ungracious, and unyielding Chair of the Governing Council, backed up by no less than the putative “initiator” of the Council’s successful assertion and assumption of preponderant statutory powers, who happened to be also a lawyer. Happily, the former gave way—or blinked—despite her evidently legally unassailable position before greater harm could be inflicted upon, or irreparably tarnish, PSSC’s image.⁵⁴ So much for this little color in PSSC’s career or history.

The Executive Board and the Governing Council, especially the former, undertake or discharge the major portion of their respective missions and tasks through standing and ad hoc or special committees, their separate monthly or bi-monthly meetings as the case may be and, when the need arises, their joint meetings. Some committees are joint Council-Board Committees, like the Social Issues Committee.

Lastly, it should also be pointed out that the Governing Council’s meetings on the third Saturday of February and August of each year are the annual and semi-annual meetings, respectively, which the heads or representatives of regular and associate members are required to attend.

The Secretariat

The Secretariat is the third principal organ of PSSC. It backstops the Executive Board and Governing Council. It is headed by an Executive Director who is the chief executive officer of PSSC and serves as the Secretary of both the Executive Board and the Governing Council. He is, under the 1988 amended By-Laws, elected “jointly” by the Executive Board and the Council for a period of three years, but is eligible for re-appointment.

Until 4 January 1971, when Mr. Carlo Magno Blanco was named Executive Secretary,⁵⁵ there was no Secretariat to speak of, as the clerical work for the Ad Hoc Committee’s meetings was done in the office of its Chairman, Dr. Alip, or of Fr. Lynch, or whoever was designated to host the next meeting. When the Executive Board finally came into being in 1968, and until the appointment of an Executive Secretary, work shifted mainly to Ateneo de Manila University, in all likelihood at the Institute of Philippine Culture (IPC), thanks to Fr. Lynch, and probably UNCOP, courtesy of Dr. Aldaba-Lim.

In FY 1973-1974, when project implementation was well underway, there were nine members of the Secretariat, including the Executive

Secretary. As of 1993, this number has burgeoned to more than 20 employees, to sustain the momentum of PSSC's on-going activities, even as labor-saving equipment such as computers have been acquired in the meantime. A recent reorganization, with a view to streamlining operations and upgrading salaries—hopefully, at the same time to generate higher morale and greater efficiency—took place at the time this overview was written.⁵⁶

The title of Executive Secretary was changed to Executive Director in 1977. Dr. Loretta Makasiar Sicat, who had previously served as immediate past Executive Board Chairperson (1975-1976), was the first to hold that title. No better choice could have been made at that critical juncture in PSSC's history: she had impressive academic credentials, a fund of experience as former vice-chairperson and later chairperson of the Executive Board, and had a very relevant asset which no other individual immersed in PSSC activities then possessed—a husband who was an authentic friend of the PSSC, and happened to be the Director-General of the National Economic and Development Authority at the time. It is doubtful whether the US\$200,000 governments' matching fund to the Ford Foundation's grant towards a permanent endowment fund to underwrite the PSSC Secretariat's annual expenses, principally, and the Japanese Government Grant for the construction of the PSSCenter would have been possible without Dr. Gerardo Sicat's assistance, to say nothing of U.P.'s donating a portion of its Diliman campus for the site of the PSSCenter: he was not a member of the U.P. Board of Regents for nothing. This is not to detract from Dr. Loretta Makasiar Sicat's own accomplishments as a very capable executive and a most charming, indefatigable and successful fund raiser for PSSC's programs and projects. Additionally, she had the knack for drawing the best from her colleagues, especially in working committees of the Council: she eventually became the permanent chairperson of the PSSC Center Committee until the twin problems of location and funding were finally solved.⁵⁷



PSSC's former Executive Director, Prof. Ruben F. Trinidad who is a leading statistician, was the Council's treasurer prior to his appointment. He brought to PSSC the sense of order which people good at figures can do better than most—especially with record keeping and management.⁵⁸ He is probably the kind of Executive Director appropriate to the changing work environment at PSSC; the association needed a low-key, but dedicated and hard-working executive, since the Executive Board had taken over some of the director's powers, perhaps to compensate for the loss of some of its own powers to the newly-assertive Council.



PSSC in Search of a Home

Twenty-five years ago, indeed for some three years after its incorporation in December 1968, PSSC did not have a home that it could call its own. There probably was not much need even for a small apartment, let alone a building, then. After all, PSSC had only at most two or three persons who passed for a Secretariat. It could do with an office space at the penthouse of UNCOP's headquarters in Manila—which the latter was kind enough, or obligated, to offer informally in December 1968; this was formally tendered to PSSC in March 1969, after renovations had been completed.⁵⁹ This was PSSC's nook until it moved over temporarily to Ateneo de Manila's IPC and later to Matilde Bldg. on Adriatico (formerly Oregon) St. in Ermita;⁶⁰ thence to 53-A Roces Avenue in Quezon City, almost diagonally from the Amoranto Velodrome. As PSSC's work program expanded at an almost dizzying pace, figuratively, with the corresponding increase in personnel and office equipment, the Roces apartment soon became too cramped a work place. Fortunately, the U.P. School of Economics had vacated the cottage it was renting from U.P. at Purok Aguinaldo in Diliman and, with the late U.P. President Salvador P. Lopez's consent, PSSC was allowed to rent it in 1976—one of the more spacious and *the most expensive* bungalows on campus, rent-wise, which the University had built with Rockefeller Foundation money mainly for Rockefeller Visiting Professors or scholars.⁶¹ This was a far cry from the office space at UNCOP or even on Roces Avenue, but it was not intended to be PSSC's permanent home, as it was obvious that PSSC would eventually need more space for its burgeoning programs and secretariat, even before it moved to U.P. Diliman. It was assured of stable financing for its housekeeping and administrative operations, as distinguished from programs, with the creation of a trust or endowment fund of US\$400,000. PSSC would need to have a much larger building, complete with an auditorium and rooms for a library, training and seminar functions, a sit-in cafeteria, adequate parking space, etc.

The PSSCenter Concept

The need for such a complex had been suggested, apparently initially by Fr. Lynch, at an Executive Board meeting on 28 January 1974.⁶² He amplified his idea at a subsequent joint Council/Executive Board meeting, to which Dr. O.D. Corpuz, founding-president of the Development Academy of the Philippines, was invited, thus:⁶³

"Fr. Lynch explained that his concept of the establishment of a social science center building would be very functional[,] considering that it could provide offices for the PSSC, space for consortia, and offices for the different social science organizations, space for seminars, lectures and conferences."

Ever alert to possibilities also for Ateneo, especially the IPC of which he was the founder, Fr. Lynch at the same time

"... suggested that a piece of land which will not be identified with Ateneo as it faces the Katipunan Road could probably be leased from the Ateneo University for about 50 years...and that perhaps, the Council, together with some other interested groups, can organize themselves to obtain funds for the construction of the building" (Underscoring added).

Evidently against the possible mistaken identification of PSSC with a sectarian institution, Dr. Lagmay "stressed the need to have a site that would keep the *independent* image of the Council" by suggesting "that there is another possible site in the building complex of the National Science Development Board in Bicutan. He also mentioned that there might be land available in the area around the Philippine Science High School in Quezon City,"⁶⁴ to which Dr. Corpuz expressed his doubt. In fact, he bluntly informed the Council/Executive Board that they would have difficulty acquiring "any land outside of the offers of the universities unless they present a good statement of objectives and an attractive program to go with it so that some benefactors would be willing to finance it."⁶⁵ No one, except probably Dr. Corpuz himself, knew then that they were talking to the next U.P. president, who would some day be approached for U.P. as an alternative and probable site of the future PSSCenter.⁶⁶

Choosing a Site for the Center

As a consequence of this exchange of views, a Special Social Science Center Committee headed by Dr. Lagmay, with Dr. Raul P. de Guzman, Fr. Lynch, Dr. Fabella, and Dr. Rodolfo Bulatao (the last at Dr. Corpuz's suggestion) was created. The Special Committee's first task was to recommend a suitable location for the proposed Center.

The Ateneo de Manila University campus on Loyola Heights, Quezon City was identified as the ideal, despite its being a sectarian institution and the home of IPC.⁶⁷

U.P. was not ruled out, however, and Dr. Corpuz, then U.P. President, was approached by members of the Social Science Center Committee exactly five years and one day after his attendance at a joint meeting of the Council/Executive Board in 1974 on the same subject. They "presented the possibilities of constructing the Social Science Center in the U.P. Campus." Dr. Corpuz told his callers that he "did not see any difficulty as long as it was clear that UP was considered only as an alternative site if negotiations with Ateneo do not push through, rather than as a competing candidate. The PSSC could then write a letter to the Board of Regents and explain the rationale for such a center in the Diliman campus [which] could be allotted to PSSC."⁶⁸

By mid-1979, it had become clear that the Ateneo option may have to be given up. Executive Director Sicat, who had earlier been appointed permanent chairman of the Committee to assure continuity of its work, informed the Executive Board in June, 1979 "that the U.P. is now an alternative [site] for the Social Science Center following unexpected difficulties in the negotiation with Ateneo." She said that the Center Committee of the Ateneo Board of Trustees had raised some questions "about the possibility that some PSSC activities might violate the doctrines of the Catholic Church." However, Executive Board Member Vicente Jayme, who was then with the Ateneo Board of Trustees, said that the latter had yet to meet, hence a final decision on the matter should not be made until then. Some time later, Mr. Jayme "encouraged the PSSC to explore the possibility of locating the [PSSC] building at the UP Diliman Campus instead of the Ateneo. He said there were so many questions raised that it may take a long time" to resolve.⁶⁹

It was necessary for the Center Committee to approach U.P. again, especially since it now had a new president, Dr. Corpuz having moved over, once more, to the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports. Fortunately, U.P. President Dr. Emanuel V. Soriano "was very open to the idea and he pointed out possible sites" for the Center, from which the Center Committee chose "the one along Commonwealth Avenue, in front of the AIT [Asian Institute of Tourism]."⁷⁰ This was in early 1980. More than a year later, Dr. Loretta Makasiar Sicat formally requested U.P. for the Center site.

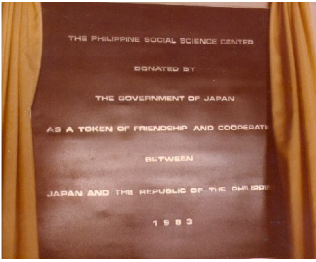


On 30 April 1981, the U.P. Board of Regents approved the request "in principle... subject to future approval of the Board on the basis of a Memorandum of Agreement which is still being formulated." Submitted to the Board of Regents and its meeting the following September, the draft Memorandum of Agreement was readily

approved. The PSSC could build on the lot close to what it had chosen—for free—although it was stipulated that should PSSC no longer exist, its properties were to be transferred to the University "at no cost" to itself.⁷¹

Financing for the Construction of the Center

The question of site finally settled, the next problem was to build the Center, which involved no small sum of money—and which PSSC did not have. Again, to make a long story short, the Japanese Government was approached for funds. It turned out that two other institutions, one of them the SEAMEO Innotech, were also shopping around for funds for their structures. During his visit to the Philippines



in early January 1981, Japanese Prime Minister Zenku Suzuki “announced the intention of the Japanese Government to extend grant aid for the construction of the facilities of these agencies and the Philippine Social Science Center.”⁷² The Philippine and Japanese Governments eventually reached agreement for the funding of these in three exchanges of diplomatic notes on 16 July 1981 between Japanese Ambassador

Hideho Tanaka and Acting Foreign Minister Manuel Collantes. In the case of PSSC the Japanese Government granted ¥1,300,000.00 (US\$5.6 million) to build its Center and for some equipment.⁷³

President Marcos next issued Letter of Instruction No. 1187 on 13 January 1982, designating the University of the Philippines “as the government entity to take charge of the execution of the above-mentioned project in accordance with the guidelines and instructions” in the agreement. U.P. President Edgardo Angara, through the PSSC, sought a Ministry of Justice opinion concerning the legality of having Japanese contractors or supervising architects, and was met with a favorable opinion by the Ministry of Justice on 11 March 1982.⁷⁴ Construction of the Center began in May and was completed in record time under the rigid supervision of the Japanese contractor. The three-story gray building, with a basement in which is found a commodious auditorium, was occupied by beaming PSSC officers and staff in March 1983, although formal turnover ceremonies to U.P. and PSSC did not take place until 16 May 1983.⁷⁵

PSSC’s peregrinations were over—at long last—some 15 years from its inception and a dozen years from the onset of full operations.⁷⁶

PSSC Operations and Programs

Looking back at PSSC twenty-five years ago when it was but a tiny speck on the institutional landscape of the Philippines, one is struck by its phenomenal luck and its progressive evolution and development as one of the country’s conspicuous and, literally, visible landmark social science institutions, with the expertise and capability, readiness and alacrity to undertake research and render advice on matters of social concern which are referred to it by both government and private sectors, or those it wishes to embark on its own initiative. Considering that PSSC did not have initial capital, save for the brains and dedication of its conceptualizers and organizational pioneers, this is indeed remarkable. A donor representative foresaw PSSC’s potential not long after the first three years of frenetic activity, when he offered the observation in 1974 that “no similar organization has yet contributed as much as what PSSC had accomplished within the same period.”⁷⁷

In a way, PSSC is like FAPE, its contemporary, except that PSSC's experience has been more remarkable and more trying, as it had to go through the arduous process of formulating and refining a "doable" blueprint, to borrow from the vocabulary of contemporary social planners, with which to convince would-be benefactors, while FAPE did not have to because it had an over P24 million endowment or trust fund to begin with—thanks to the U.S. War Damage Special Fund for Education.⁷⁸ It is against this background that we take a brief look at the financing of PSSC's programs and operations.

Up to probably the end of 1970, PSSC's organizational activities, such as brainstorming sessions on its structure and mechanisms, potential projects and sources of funding, entailed minimal expenses which were personally shouldered through a rotation system of hosting meetings. Documentation was in all likelihood undertaken by the staffs of such officers and members of the Executive Board who had an institutional base (i.e., the Population Institute in the case of Dr. Concepcion, Jose Rizal College in the case of Dr. Fabella, etc.), or by UNCOP which also offered office space beginning in 1969. Starting in January 1971, however, the Ford Foundation began providing financial support, which enabled PSSC to hire an Executive Secretary and a small staff to backstop the Executive Board's efforts to frame a plan of action and probably acquire office equipment and supplies—through the expedient of "affiliating" PSSC to itself as a "consultant, represented by Mr. Blanco, for a specified amount for a period of one year with the objective of upgrading training and research in the social sciences"⁷⁹—the core of PSSC's mission! This made sense because there was as yet no PSSC program to underwrite; at the same time, the Ford Foundation must have had the chance to help frame the PSSC program or blueprint for action which it was going to finance for the most part.

Once the tentative workplan was adopted, calling for twelve "Special Projects/Programs" (SPs) to be undertaken, PSSC now had a "shopping list" with which to approach several funding agencies some of whom were only too willing to give PSSC the benefit of the doubt as to its commitment, among them being The Asia Foundation which supported SP 1, SP 2 and SP 5—which became the beginnings of the income-generating Central Subscription Service—with an initial grant of ₱19,000; FAPE, which showed interest in supporting the scholarship program and thesis assistance grants; the National Science Development Board (NSDB), which had to be literally nudged into helping out; and, most generous of all, of course, the Ford Foundation, which "verbally committed ... US\$154,000 of financial support for May 1972 to April 1974."⁸⁰ The NSDB eventually agreed to support the publication of journals of four member-associations in FY 1973, adding two more in FY 1974, and releasing ₱23,710 and ₱34,216, respectively.⁸¹

A summary of the financial magnitude of PSSC's developmental activities and operations during its first two years of full operations

(1971-1973) shows that it then had cash receipts amounting to P1,105,547.67, broken down as follows:⁸²

Grants received from

Ford Foundation	P 1,019,014.15*
The Asia Foundation	56,000.00
National Science Development Board	18,644.00
Interest on Savings	11,889.52

*This included funds earmarked for FY 1974.

During the same inclusive period, cash disbursements amounted to P540,827.97, "released to" the various programs, including the Secretariat ("General Program").

In Search of Independent Funding

Meanwhile, PSSC would make a request to the Ford Foundation for funding its programs for FY 1975 and FY 1976 which amounted to over US\$180,000. The Ford Foundation was sympathetic, but reduced the amount to US\$172,000. However, it hinted that this could be the last major grant, and that "it would like to see efforts taken so that PSSC could at least support its own Secretariat." It further suggested in May, 1974,⁸³ "that perhaps PSSC could build up through donations from the NSDB and other sectors one million pesos [of] endowment and live off on the interest of the endowment."

Dr. L.M. Sicat, then a member of the Executive Board, must have had an inkling earlier about the Ford Foundation's plans because at the Executive Board Meeting of 23 January 1974, she would stun the members with the news that PSSC faced a problem of financial resources for its programs after 1976, "since [the Ford Foundation] cannot fund the Council's programs year after year." She had prepared a paper on the basis of such an assumption, entitled "PSSC Three Years Hence" wherein she proposed almost all programs being "phased out by FYs 1976-1979," except the Secretariat, "which is the permanent and continuing program of PSSC." The following August, Mr. Eugene Staples, Ford Foundation Regional Representative for Southeast Asia, after confirming the Foundation's two-year commitment, likewise said that this would be the final grant for PSSC's "developmental activities." The Foundation, however, would continue to support the Secretariat "until such time that the Council is already in a position to fund it by means of some income-generating activities or through funding from some other local sources." Mr. Staples mentioned the Ford Foundation's "facing a financial crisis brought about by the current conditions in the world market," and a "more important reason than the first," which is "that it would be better if after two years from now, PSSC would

become an independent body and not remain as one that is continually dependent on Ford Foundation grants” as the reasons for its action.⁸⁴

Although the explicitly announced termination of major program support did not turn out to be the case, as we shall see later, Mr. Staples’ remarks no longer jolted the members of the Executive Board from their financial composure, because they had since January been apprised of such a possibility. They seemed still somewhat ruffled, though, if their suggestions for alternative sources of funding are an indication. These ranged from tapping NSDB and FAPE, somewhat sparing on their funding support (Dr. Lagmay’s); to charging for research services or “a five percent service charge to every program passing through PSSC;” (Dr. Sicat’s); or imposing a “one to two percent overhead charge for quality control services on researches conducted by other independent groups” (Fr. Lynch’s); to PSSC’s becoming “a clearing house not only for local publications but also could undertake importation of foreign scholarly publications,” an activity which would, however, “require a seed grant of around P80,000” (also Fr. Lynch’s); and reconsidering PSSC membership fees “as other institutions charge six times more than what PSSC charges” (Dr. Gloria Feliciano’s).⁸⁵

The fact of the matter was that PSSC faced a bleak, uncertain and grim future after 1976, something which the Ford Foundation was equally concerned about, unless something creative could be done. I can now only vaguely recall my having presided (as Executive Board Vice-Chairman, the Chairperson being out of the country) a hurriedly-called informal meeting in 1975 between some members of the Executive Board and some high officials of the Ford Foundation from Manila, Bangkok and even New York at Vinzon’s Hall, U.P. Diliman, wherein the latter were confronted with the grim prospect of PSSC’s suffering financial starvation and, with it, an atrophy of its organs and programs and PSSC’s full potential only partially realized. If my memory does not fail me—I did not keep a record of this meeting nor did PSSC, as far as I know—this was probably the occasion when the Ford Foundation indicated that it might consider donating a final US\$150,000 for an endowment, the earnings of which would support the Secretariat, if PSSC could raise a similar amount to match it.

Some individuals have better memories than others, and this certainly is so with then NEDA Director-General Dr. Gerardo Sicat. Here is what he said almost a decade after the event, after making the perceptive observation that in addition to financial difficulties, there was “the usual excuse when funding for a project had continued for sometime [for] the [Ford] foundation [people] ... to explore new program thrusts.” But they wanted to make a “final grant for the secretariat support for the PSSC” provided there was “some matching support from other Philippine sources.” For this Ford Foundation had a “budget of US\$150,000.” Dr. Sicat continues:⁸⁶

"Ozzie Simmons suggested that the government could possibly be of some assistance. In one moment of weakness I said that US\$150,000 was not enough. I assured him that if Ford Foundation could raise US\$200,000, the [Philippine] government was willing to match their contribution, peso for peso.

... This proposal took the Ford Foundation by surprise, I think. Not having the full authority for this sum, they had to ask their New York headquarters to raise the budgetary levels designed for PSSC."

That, very likely, was how the US\$150,000 initial offer became US\$200,000. Dr. Gerardo Sicat continues:⁸⁷

"To obtain the support for the government's matching funds, I had to secure [written] authority from Pres. Ferdinand Marcos [who] finally approved the governmental grant to the PSSC, wisely writing on a marginal notation that the PSSC's functions be of a public character— or something to that effect. Under the Presidential authority, I was able to negotiate with the USAID to release some PL 480 local funds equivalent to the peso amount of US\$200,000 in time."

Things moved briskly soon after President Marcos gave his consent to the counterpart, conveyed to Budget Commissioner Jaime Laya on 7 December 1976. NEDA drafted a Presidential decree in March of the following year, but in the end that was not necessary for the government to support PSSC, especially since the PD would have transformed PSSC into a government entity and, worse, President Marcos would be on record as having created PSSC, against which there was understandably strong sentiment, especially from Director Loretta M. Sicat no less!⁸⁸

Earlier, on 1 February 1977, in response to the PSSC Executive Board Chairman's letter of 16 November 1976, the Ford Foundation had informed PSSC it "has approved a grant of US\$200,000" to be released "over a period of three years beginning 1 December 1976."⁸⁹ Then, on 17 August 1977, PSSC Executive Board Chairman Vicente Valdepeñas, Jr. and NEDA Director Gerardo Sicat signed the Memorandum of Agreement on the US\$200,000 government counterpart, provision two of which stipulated that it would be effective "upon payment by Ford Foundation of their grant to PSSC." This was promptly relayed to the Ford Foundation.⁹⁰ Finally, on 29 November 1977 and on 2 December 1977, PSSC deposited with Bancom Development Corporation, Investment Managers, ₱1,466,000 and ₱1,500,000; they were the respective checks from the Ford Foundation and the Philippine Government.⁹¹

The PSSC Secretariat now had a trust fund which "shall not be diminished in principal but should be made to grow over time to strengthen PSSC in carrying out its public-oriented functions."⁹²

As intimated earlier, the US\$200,000 was to have been Ford Foundation's "final funding support" of PSSC. However, funding support was still necessary for PSSC's programs and even for the Secretariat, since the endowment fund just constituted still had to earn interest. The Ford Foundation therefore agreed to make another grant of US\$100,000 "effective 1 December 1976."⁹³ With this grant, total Ford Foundation program support for the Council would amount to US\$437,000 from 1972 to 1977.⁹⁴ Of course, even after 1977, the Ford Foundation would make occasional grants, sometimes directly, sometimes indirectly, for PSSC's programs. It provided funding for PSSC's hosting the Second AASSREC Conference in 1979 and the PSSC-Chinese Academy of Social Sciences Exchange Program in 1987.⁹⁵ In 1981, it awarded a huge grant to PSSC "to support the organization and start-up" phase of the "PSSC Consortia Program."⁹⁶ In 1993, it underwrote 75 percent, more or less, of the expenses for the National Social Science Congress III.⁹⁷

NSDB and FAPE likewise continued to make grants to PSSC in the post-endowment period, the former releasing P173,000 for the Council's Publications Subsidy Program while FAPE provided a "grant of P34,700 to the first Summer Institute for College Teachers and released P17,291 of the P51,873 grant to the PSSC-PCF Teacher Training in the Social Sciences for faculty members from private schools."⁹⁸ For 1983-1984, FAPE granted P120,000 for PSSC's Discretionary Research Awards Program in three equal installments. FAPE has also shown interest in the proposed summer (1994) training program for college mentors in four disciplines—but will only underwrite the expenses of those faculty members from private higher educational institutions.⁹⁹

PSSC received two big grants in 1980 and 1982, from NEDA's PIDS and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada, respectively. IDRC gave \$119,000 (Canadian) "to enable PSSC to strengthen the capability of provincial research centres through the consortia mechanism,"¹⁰⁰ while PIDS awarded of P100,000, initially, for regional studies on poverty.¹⁰¹

In the Service of the Social Sciences, The Nation, and Humanity

Writing about the achievements of organizations or institutions ought to be a comparatively easy task. They are given the widest publicity—in promotional brochures, press releases—and occupy almost 90 percent, if not more, of the annual reports of such entities. In the case of PSSC, this would be axiomatic, especially for the period since 1981, when the annual reports became heftier. This easy task would hold true if one were writing a book where even not so spectacular successes could at least be mentioned and most, if not all, of the more outstanding ones discussed. However, for the moment at least, I am confined to

preparing an overview which at this stage has already become longer than I had planned. Hence, my task has been made more difficult—and certainly open to exception and perhaps harsh criticism because of omissions or unbalanced treatment—on account of the fact that while there is so much to write about, there is precious little space for them in this overview. In effect, I have to be very selective in my presentation, otherwise this section will be nothing but a taxonomy of accomplishments. Anyway, for those who may want to get more information about PSSC’s twenty-five year performance (1968-1993)—actually twenty-two if reckoned from the first calendar year of full operations, 1971-1972—they could always consult the annual reports at the PSSC Library, except the first, which PSSC does not have and which I have, unfortunately, not been able to obtain from any of the individuals who are/were most probable to have a copy of.

PSSC In Action—The Formative Years (1968-1972)

The officers having been finally elected on 18 March 1968, the Executive Board immediately buckled down to work, to demonstrate its worth and prove that it was not an organization for “social register” purposes only. At first it moved cautiously, devoting its first years following PSSC’s incorporation towards taking steps to strengthen its constitutional scaffolding by suggesting revisions of the original Articles of Incorporation and Constitution and By-Laws, even as it undertook such discrete projects as preparation of bibliographies for Psychology and Social Work,¹⁰² compilation of researches relevant to Population Programs, and the formation of a local social science chapter of Asia.¹⁰³

Simultaneous with Executive Board Chairman Concepcion’s introduction of Mr. Carlo Blanco as the first Executive Secretary of the Board starting 4 January 1971, however, was the announcement that the Council had secured “affiliation” with the Ford Foundation, earlier mentioned, as a “consultant, represented by Mr. Blanco, for a specified amount for a period of one year with the objective of upgrading training and research in the social sciences.”¹⁰⁴ This was actually a euphemism for a Ford Foundation grant underwriting PSSC: it was being hired to prepare its own program, a major portion of the financial requirements to implement which would eventually be coming from the Foundation itself. At any rate, the outcome of this “consultancy” was the preparation and adoption of an agenda or plan of action, consisting, initially, of ten, later a dozen, “Special Programs” or “Projects” (SPs), namely:¹⁰⁵

- SP2 – Graduated Publications Subsidy for 1972-1976
- SP3 – Thesis (and Dissertation) Assistance Grants
- SP4 – Graduate Assistantship Grants
- SP5 – Central Subscription Service

- SP6 – Research Training Project
- SP7 – National Survey Project
- SP8 – Research Integration Project
- SP9 – Modern Philippine History Project
- SP10– Social Science Research Fund
- SP11– Travel and Seminars Program
- SP12– Books and Equipment Program

All this was probably necessary for the edification of prospective funding agencies and for convincing social scientists who had not yet organized in order that they may be considered for membership and assistance in, say, the publication of their journals, and the realization of their goals toward self-improvement and excellence and thus be of greater relevance to the country—which are the very goals of PSSC.

Thirteen months later, at a Special Executive Board Meeting held on 16 February 1972,¹⁰⁶ which was attended by Dr. David Szanton of Ford Foundation-Philippines,¹⁰⁷ Executive Board Chairperson Dr. Concepcion could happily report on the substantial progress in the preparatory work of the task forces in the ten areas of concern. Thus, for example, for “SP5-Central Subscription Service” (CSS), it was announced that the Asia Foundation had made a grant of ₱19,000 to support the publication of the *Philippine Sociological Review* and the *Philippine Journal of Linguistics* (both for 1970); this “experimental phase” was undertaken from the Institute of Philippine Culture of Ateneo but would be turned over to PSSC when the latter had acquired more office space. The CSS was envisioned to be



“self-sufficient in five years,”¹⁰⁸ as more member-associations would make use of it for the publication, mailing, marketing and sales of their journals for a fee. For “SP3-Thesis Assistance Grants and SP4-Graduate Assistantship Grants,” PSSC was able to convince FAPE to increase grants for thesis assistance in the social sciences and to “accept any PSSC faculty or student recommendee for the [graduate assistantship] program even before the standards have been set for the academic year 1972.” These random samples of accomplishments or progress were, with others, enough to warrant the creation and later formal constitution of more permanent working Committees for project implementation, e.g., the Modern Philippine History Program Committee (the first to be formally constituted), the Institutional Development Committee (IDC), and the Research Committee (RC). The Executive Board assumed the task of overall coordinator.

The tasks of the IDC probably need to be elaborated upon, those of the other two being only too obvious.¹⁰⁹ The Committee's functions were to: "1) decide on the sites for the social science training centers; 2) set up criteria for the granting of theses and graduate assistantships; [and] 3) set up standards for research training in the social science disciplines."¹¹⁰

Earlier during the meeting, Chairman Concepcion announced that the Ford Foundation had "verbally committed a total of US\$154,000 worth of financial support for May 1972 to April 1974,"¹¹¹ for the various programs and the Secretariat.¹¹² This led Dr. Szanton, whose superior had evidently made the oral commitment but was not privy to it, to question "seriously" PSSC's "commitment and capability" to operationalize its plans, "that is, to absorb so much funding in just two years' time." Economist Fabella, who had been with PSSC since 1968, was quick to "re-assure" Dr. Szanton of PSSC's commitment and capability. To underscore PSSC's commitment, Dr. Concepcion then asked Dr. Szanton for an "advance of US\$1,900 to cover [the] summer research workshop pre-organizational expenses."¹¹³

The foregoing constituted the first concrete actions PSSC took in its efforts to carry out its mandate or mission. More was in store during the last quarter of PSSC's first year of "full operations" (until 1977, PSSC's FY or CY started July 1 and ended June 30 of the following year). The NSDB was finally convinced to support the CSS, the Modern Philippine History Program (MPHP) and Research Committees constituted, and the agreement for the holding of the first Summer Research Training Workshop Program (already scheduled for Summer 1972) was signed—all by 26 April 1972.¹¹⁴ Lastly, in her annual report for FY 1971-1972, Executive Board Chairperson Concepcion mentioned that "the year was highlighted by the approval of funding for all of the Council's twelve programs from The Asia Foundation, Ford Foundation, National Science Development Board, and Fund for Assistance to Private Education."¹¹⁵

It was thus with an exhilarating feeling of achievement and buoyant optimism for the future that the formative phase of PSSC's activities in the pursuit of its goals or objectives came to pass in FY 1971-1972.

Program Expansion and the Rise and Fall of a Program (1972-1973)

If one goes over the latest annual report available for CY 1992—seven of the "SPs" are still ongoing, namely, SPs 1, 2, 3, 5, 8 (or 11) 10 and 12. The continuation of these seven or eight SPs are irrefutable testaments to PSSC's eminently successful pursuit of its initial programs. SP 4, 7, and 8 were phased out because they had been accomplished: e.g., a more or less "critical mass" of capable social scientists from research and academic institutions outside Metro Manila had benefitted from the Research Training and Graduate Assistantship Program and

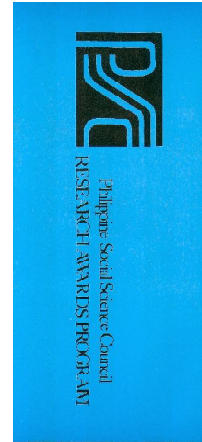
the thesis and dissertation awards program. Hence the urgent need for these projects no longer existed. The establishment of the PSSC Research Network has been a direct result of the Research Training Program: and the more recent creation of Research Consortia would not have been possible without the PSSC Research Centers.¹¹⁶

With regard to the research grants (SP10 and SP3) which later merged into the Discretionary Research Awards Program (DRAP) and later renamed the Research Awards Program (RAP), a total of 408 grantees have benefitted including the 10 grantees in 1993. Of these, 252 were awarded grants in the MA/MS level; 140 in the PhD/EdD/DPA level; and the remaining 16 were awarded to already established social scientists needing assistance for their individual research projects.

Six more research awards were made as of mid-1993.¹¹⁷ In the latter half of 1993 however, the Research Awards Program was suspended when the PSSC underwent an internal review and evaluation of its major policies and an active publicity campaign. Four grants in the M.A. level were awarded and three for the Ph.D. level.

A Program is Phased Out. As mentioned earlier, it has not been totally a case of linear development for PSSC's programs. A classic example was the Modern Philippine History Program. Since history is my disciplinary interest, and having been a former Chairman (1975-1977) and a long-time member of the quondam MPHP Committee, I hope I will be spared the charge of disciplinary bias and unwarranted display of masochism (with due apologies to the former chairmen and members of the MPHP) if I devote a little more space on the rise and fall of a program which, according to one source, had originally been suggested by the Ford Foundation. Although Dr. Szanton subsequently disclaimed the Foundation's attachment or partiality towards the project,¹¹⁸ the Ford Foundation's interest in it could not be concealed. The MPHP received the largest share of the US\$154,000 grant—US\$40,000 or slightly less than 30 percent of the total amount for the period May 1972-April 1974.

The MPHP Committee was among the first three PSSC Working Committees created to implement the 12-point program, and the first to be fully constituted with Dr. Oscar M. Alfonso, then the history discipline's representative in the Executive Board, as Chairman. It was a situation which was later questioned by the late Dr. Alip.¹¹⁹ For the benefit and edification of the Committee and its members and especially the applicants for grants, "Modern Philippine History" was "defined as starting at mid-nineteenth century when the Philippines was opened to rapid social change." The proponents of the program, based on consultations by representatives of the Ford Foundation with some



Filipino historians (the present writer was not among them), especially by Mr. Bloom with the late distinguished Jesuit historian Fr. Horacio de la Costa, expressed the hope “that the researches done in this area would help fill serious gaps in existing historical knowledge, contribute to an understanding of the present-day Philippine situation and assist the cultural, social and economic development of the country”—a laudable, if overly ambitious project, indeed, and as such was probably meant to be of a long duration.¹²⁰

With characteristic efficiency, Dr. Alfonso immediately mobilized his committee. By May 1973, eight research projects had been approved, and another two before the end of the fiscal year, with amounts ranging from ₱20,580 to ₱33,000 (the ceiling and, therefore, the largest which was awarded to Dr. Marcelino A. Foronda’s project, entitled “Kailukuan: A Social, Cultural and Political History of the Ilocos, 1890-1946”). By then, almost ₱300,000 had been allocated, with some five percent set aside for “administrative and secretarial expenses and contingencies.” It was then observed by Dr. Szanton that the Program could apparently use more funds—judging from the “kind of response the... Committee was receiving.” It eventually was granted another US\$15,000 in FY 1975-1976—even as there still remained a US\$10,000 supplementary grant—but this time to be matched on one-to-one basis.¹²¹

The Program, indeed, appeared successful—if prompt screening of the many applications and completion of most of the projects on time, taking into account a four-month closure of the National Archives, were the criteria for measurement. **[As a matter of fact, at least three of the projects were published: John Schumacher’s *Revolutionary Clergy: The Filipino Clergy and the Nationalist Movement, 1880-1895*, (Quezon City: Ateneo de Manila University Press, 1981) which received a citation and a cash award as the best MPHP-funded published book; and Ma. Fe Romero’s *Negros Occidental Between Two Powers, 1898-1909*, (Bacolod City: Negros Occidental Historical Commission, 1974).]**

But, there were also glaring failures, meaning non-completion of projects, for which the Committee and especially its Chairmen could not in any way be blamed because constant reminders and efforts to help were extended to the project proponents, one of whom had been an original member of the Committee and another a former Executive Board Chairman and his association’s representative in the Council no less. Both were even granted supplementary funding, the latter being allowed to use the monetary value of his access to office space and facilities of his academic department at his university as his matching fund. This made the MPHP Committee a bit more careful in awarding the remaining balance of its allotment, to say nothing of the problem of many proponents’ inability to present proof of matching funds, except two.¹²²

In the meantime, with the consent of the Ford Foundation, the remaining funds of more than US\$11,000 were rechanneled—presumably to be reimbursed later—to the project on the 1976 plebiscite

(or “participatory democracy” under martial law, as the major proponent has put it). With prospects of recovering at least one-half of the amount, the MPHP Committee mapped out several big areas of research, but nothing came out of this—during the Chairmanship of Dr. Gregorio Borlaza in the late seventies. For all practical purposes it was *envoi* to the program—an irony, as it had been suggested by the Ford Foundation.¹²³

Today, while Philippine historiography is doubtless richer to a certain extent because of the MPHP, there remain major areas of research on modern Philippine history, as defined by the Committee, awaiting fresh research, what with the country preparing since 1988 for the centennials of the Katipunan and the outbreak of the Philippine Revolution (1996), together with the proclamation of Philippine Independence (1998) and, just as important for an understanding of contemporary Philippine history, of the first decade of American colonial rule. A sustained program of research, well-thought out in advance, could have enabled PSSC, within its first thirty years, to play a more meaningful role—nay perhaps, be at the vanguard of these research endeavors. And to think that two of PSSC’s regular members represent associations of Clio’s devotees; fortunately, they have somehow duly acknowledged PSSC’s assistance to, or co-sponsorship of, their seminars on the stirring and epochal events of the decade of the 1890s.¹²⁴

Expansion of Programs. To return now to the more visible and enduring achievements of PSSC during the twenty-three years, mention may be made, or repeated, among others, of the imposing PSSCenter, the CSS which also runs a Bookshop; the Research Network (RN) and three Research Consortia (RC) for Visayas, Eastern Mindanao and Bikol;¹²⁵ the Research and Training Programs; the continuingly useful *Social Science Information*, and the ongoing PSSC Encyclopedia Project.¹²⁶

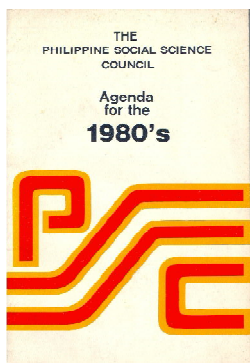
In Search of a New Role

PSSC in the 1980s

As PSSC cruised towards the end of its first decade of full operations, it assessed its performance and prepared a framework for its programs for the next decade. The seventies had been a decade of purposive efforts at institution-building and strengthening, as shown in the creation of the PSSC Research Network and the Central Subscription Service, the encouragement of the growth of more social science associations and for them to join PSSC either as regular or associate members. It had also been one of human resource development: there were definitely more, and possibly equally competent, social scientists not only in Metro Manila but in strategic centers throughout the archipelago

as well. But, while some major research undertakings had been practical and socially relevant, PSSC's contributions in this field had been for the most part academic exercises—especially those by aspirants for master's and doctoral degrees. There must be more that PSSC should and could do, but not from its preponderantly ivory tower perch; it should venture more into the less arcane world—the pulsating, real world—of Philippine society and its manifold problems.

Imaginative leadership now stepped forward and provided the window of opportunity by coming out with the *PSSC Agenda for the 1980s*, a draft of which I had, modesty aside, the pleasure of helping prepare.¹²⁸ Finalized during the stewardship of



three authentic activists—Dr. Wilfrido V. Villacorta (Executive Board Chairman and a firebrand), Dr. Mahar K. Mangahas (the soft-spoken reformist-minded Executive Board Vice-Chairman who was the agenda committee's chairman), and Ms. Corazon Alma de Leon (Secretary-Treasurer, street parliamentarian, former Secretary of Social Work and Development and now, Chairman, Civil Service Commission)—PSSC, in the predicted turbulent decade of the 1980s was envisioned, *inter alia*, "to take an advocacy role" and to encourage, perhaps even insist on the government that there should be greater "participation of social scientists in policy-making and program planning," if PSSC seriously meant to realize the *raison d'être* of the social sciences [which was and still is] the improvement of the human condition in a changing environment."¹²⁸

The planned re-direction of some of PSSC's functions towards these objectives, towards its involvement in social engineering, helped prepare its members intellectually to meet the challenges which the *Agenda's* framers knew the country was confronted with, even while they were still putting the final touches on the *PSSC Agenda*. These challenges involved such problems as economic stagnation and stalled national development, high incidence of poverty not only in the countryside but in urban areas as well, the ever-widening chasm between the rich and the poor, geographical imbalances in development, the continuing Communist insurgency and Muslim secessionism, etc. Thus, during an Executive Board Meeting held at a luxurious function room of the Central Bank building in Manila on 23 January 1981—courtesy of Dr. Manuel S. Alba—almost exactly ten years to the dot after PSSC framed its initial plan of action consisting of twelve special programs and projects, it was decided to form a PSSC Liaison Committee with Government Agencies.¹²⁹

This probably was a sort of dress rehearsal—at least on paper—for what was to follow and occupy the nation's and especially the social scientists' attention and energies for almost the entire decade of the

eighties, and which the framers of the *Agenda* had foreseen with remarkable clairvoyance. It was a challenge posed by a much graver national crisis precipitated by the cynical assassination of Ninoy Aquino in 1983, the People Power Revolution at EDSA in 1986, as an unexpected conclusion of the “snap elections”; the dramatic if now unlamented fall of the Marcos dictatorship; the crippled economy on account of the plundering of the national wealth by the dictatorship, coupled with a staggering external debt; the Corazon Aquino presidency’s efforts to pick up the pieces of a shattered if flawed democratic tradition; the framing and adoption of a new constitution; the coup attempts by a politicized sector of the military; and a host of other problems. All these galvanized PSSC, because they were agonizing, to immerse itself and its members into action.

But, first, it took stock of its own capabilities, its structure’s strengths and weaknesses, articulated its newfound mission, before it would recommend or prescribe certain actions as the collective voice of the social science community. PSSC was now on the threshold of a new role— as social advocate.

The convening of the First and Second National Social Science Congresses¹³⁰—the first in November 1983, just three months after Ninoy Aquino’s murder, with Dr. Gelia Castillo and the next U.P. Pres. Jose V. Abueva among the lead speakers; the second, five years later, had Sen. Jovito Salonga as Keynote Speaker, and such distinguished and perceptive minds as O.D. Corpuz and Sixto Roxas as paper presentors on the first day.¹³² These gatherings of social scientists in collaboration with and/or supported by other agencies, both public and private, constituted part of PSSC’s response to these challenges and crises. Arising out of the first were the expansion of the Research Consortia; the creation of the Social Issues Committee (SICom) as a joint special committee of the Council and the Executive Board; and the holding of “Kapihan sa PSSC” which was later more appropriately renamed “Ugnayan sa PSSC”, both in 1984.¹³²



In the same year, the Institutional Development Committee, “in line with the advocacy function” of PSSC, “spearheaded the PSSC Forum Series—a regular venue for dialogues between the government, academic and private sectors.” For CY 1984, three such sessions were held revolving “around the theme ‘Social Science and Government.’” These were high-powered lectures and open forums, featuring such leading social scientists as Dr. Mangahas, Dr. Sylvia Guerrero, Dr. Burton Oñate, the late Dr. Gabriel Iglesias, on the one hand, and such respected

names in their respective fields as Fr. Joaquin Bernas (Education), Raul Goco (Law), the late Mr. David Sycip (Management Consultant), Members of Parliament Aquilino Pimentel, Homobono Adaza and Wilson Gamboa, Dr. Luisita T. Engracia (NCSO), and Mr. Rigoberto D. Tiglao (Press).¹³³

[A courageous project launched in 1985 by the PSSC was the conduct of a National Opinion Survey funded by the PSSC itself and implemented by its Research Committee. Undertaken at a dangerous time, this nationwide survey of over 8,000 respondents aimed to analyze the people's thinking on then current national issues like the conduct of elections in the last five years; possible support for KBL or UNIDO candidates in an election; and on sensitive questions like the continuing presence of U.S. Military Bases in the Philippines. Likewise, it aimed to assess "the effectiveness of the survey as a tool for gauging public opinion using sound social science methodology." The project served as prelude for the establishment of Social Weather Stations, now an associate member of the PSSC.]¹³⁴

On the occasion of the campaign for the national plebiscite on the new constitution in 1987, among whose framers were well-known social scientists Prof. Ponciano L. Bennagen, Dr. Wilfrido Villacorta and Dr. Florangel Rosario-Braid, PSSC provided resource persons or "facilitators" during the provincial sorties of members of the Constitutional Commission to explain or "sell" their handiwork to the people—in the newly-found spirit of "transparency".¹³⁵ PSSC was, indeed, in the thick of things on this one, its members, especially those based in Manila, volunteering or being recruited for those hazardous trips despite meager honoraria.

Soon, almost any event/issue which it thought was of national importance would be scrutinized by PSSC, including a San Miguel Beer TV Ad, featuring action star Fernando Poe which seemed to impart "exploitation" of a cultural community and insinuated greater effectiveness and, *ergo*, "superiority" of "western" over indigenous methods—a premise which Filipino anthropologists found unacceptable. When the "Mendiola Massacre" of January 1987 took place, PSSC issued a condemnatory statement of concern. On the occasion of the coup attempts, it did the same, with all the rhetoric which could be conveyed. When the U.P. Presidency became vacant because Pres. Angara had now turned politician, PSSC prepared a "position paper on the manner of choosing the new U.P. President," which "was that... candidates should come from the choices made by the faculty, students, academic and non-academic personnel of the university."¹³⁶ One wishes the position paper had also included what the qualities of the next U.P. head should be—given the temper of the times but perhaps more in light of the pressing concerns of the U.P., in particular, such as the reward system, academic excellence, graduate education and the over-aged, obsolete, if not decrepit, equipment and facilities. As it were, U.P. got one who soon displeased many an alumnus for an initial left of

center posture. He also had a penchant for instant assessment of the Cory Presidency, in spite of U.P.'s problems demanding immediate attention. Worse, he left U.P. after alienating one of its constituencies which had strongly welcomed his elevation to the U.P. Presidency and supported him for the next five years or so.

"Dial a Social Scientist List" was started in 1987 but it seems that it never caught on. Neither did the planned study on the future of U.S. military facilities in the Philippines.¹³⁷

Success begets success; so goes a familiar saying. Since NSSC I had succeeded with many of its recommendations, NSSC II was held in 1988, on the theme "Social Science and the Economic Recovery."

In anticipation of the end of the decade, Dr. Braid of the Philippine Communications Society proposed "National Visioning Exercises"—a sort of "consciousness-raising effort among the representatives of all sectors of our society," with the hope "that the project will provide the venue for the people to formulate and articulate their vision for the country [in] the 21st Century."¹³⁸

Towards the Silver Jubilee and the Year 2000

Like what it did for the decade of the 1980s, PSSC also crafted an *Agenda Toward the Year 2000*, the title of which may have later inspired President Fidel V. Ramos' highly touted "Vision: The Philippines 2000."¹³⁹ Brain-storming and planning sessions on the agenda started some time in 1988, and these were framed against a background of accomplishments prefigured in the *Agenda for the 1980s*. The yield of almost ten years of program implementation had, indeed, been impressively bountiful: the highly visible, spanky PSSCenter, which became the natural venue for at least two national and another two international congresses/conferences;¹⁴⁰ revitalization of the PSSC Research Network and creation of the first three research consortia; expansion of membership, thereby institutionalizing the involvement in PSSC of more social scientists; reallocation of power and responsibility within PSSC, no doubt in hopes of investing its decisions with greater and more credibility; adoption of a "Code of Ethics for Social Scientists;" and, in keeping with the temper of the 1980s, PSSC's assumption of an "advocacy role"—all these alongside some of its programs dating from the seventies, such as Training and Research, the CSS, expansion and reenforcement of international linkages. Just as important, PSSC had managed to almost double its endowment fund.

The *Agenda Towards the Year 2000*, while noting the foregoing solid achievements of the previous decade, was anchored on the premise that PSSC "could have had a greater impact on nation-building," and its framers reached a consensus "that PSSC must effectively mobilize its resources and its members to actively participate in building a just

and humane society." In short, given the presence of "more complex social problems" rooted in "national conditions and world events," the moment had arrived for PSSC to assume a more "pro-active role", better still a "leadership role" by, among others, "orienting itself to anticipatory research in order to reverse trends inimical to socio-economic development." PSSC was going to be a more dedicated social engineer. There were, of course, certain essential or even necessary preconditions, such as closer collaboration among its members and "sharing their resources and capabilities," the better to meet the challenges more decisively.¹⁴¹

Only six years of implementing the *Agenda Towards the Year 2000* have gone by. But there have been accomplishments, undeniably, such as the successful hosting of the 9th Biennial AASSREC Conference in



1991, the holding of NSSC III in 1993, and the coordination and support of a year-round of activities to commemorate the 25th anniversary of PSSC's birth. Two research consortia were added: in the City of Manila and in the Cagayan Valley. In the domain of "profession-alization", PSSC embarked on the "National Social Scientist Awards", the most recent batch receiving their plaques of distinction as one of the highlights of the culmination of the Silver Jubilee celebrations. "State of the Art" inquiries for each discipline were inaugurated by the publication and launching, also during the last day of the Silver Anniversary program, of the first of a projected four or five volumes of the *Philippine Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*. The present writer is insufferably proud to have been a member of a wonderful team assembled by the Philippine Historical Association which was among the first two to submit their studies—on "state of the art"—in time for the maiden volume of the encyclopedia to come out, a feat which it shared with the team for Statistics.¹⁴²

A "Visiting Fellows Program" was initiated in 1992, and PSSC has also continued its participation in regional and international gatherings, e.g., Mrs. Lorna P. Makil's attendance in a four-day Asia-Pacific Regional Seminar on Social Science Information held on 1-4 June 1993, in Seoul,

Korea; Executive Director Trinidad's presentation of a Country Paper on the Social Sciences in the Philippines at the 10th Biennial AASSREC Conference. Last but not least, PSSC has acquired computers which now enable it to do desktop publishing work.¹⁴³

This narration would not be complete if we do not mention a couple of dramatic events at the onset of the 1990s—the first being the controversy between the Executive Board and an assertive Governing Council over the selection of the PSSC Executive Director, which we have already noted; and the second, a controversial study on the elections of 1987 by Prof. Luzviminda Tancangco of the U.P. College of Public Administration, which stirred a hornet's nest in the otherwise serene world of the academe and even of a more socially-oriented PSSC. Should PSSC review such a study or not, which top U.P. social scientists had branded as terribly flawed in methodology and which the Commission on Elections, to say nothing of the National Movement for Free Elections (NAM-FREL), the alleged culprit in 1987, had excoriated?¹⁴⁴ **[A joint meeting of the Council and the Executive Board was held on March 22, 1990 after the Executive Board in an earlier meeting (March 20) passed a resolution (4 in favor, 3 against) creating a formal review committee in response to a letter from Dr. Mangahas on the subject.**

The joint meeting heard the explanation of the then Dean of Public Administration that the Tancangco study was part of a larger study on elections, that it was not a completed study, and that the findings were preliminary in nature. The body then discussed the pros and cons of creating a Review Committee. Among the arguments in support of the issue was that the PSSC could help influence public policy by reviewing what could be its basis, while one of the opposing views held that a review of this sort had never been done, that it may become an intimidating review of a colleague.

Due to the division of the group on the appropriateness of making a review, a consensus was reached to, among others, allow the academic process of review being undertaken by the College of Public Administration, and the April 3 symposium called by then President Abueva, to be completed.

The meeting noted that while no definitive action was taken, the PSSC, by meeting to clarify the issues in a spirit of free debate, could not be charged "for not doing anything".]

The Governing Council met in April 10, but did nothing of the kind that the U.P. symposium of April 3 did, limiting itself to approving a suggestion for PSSC to create a "committee which will formulate the guidelines on how PSSC should react to controversial studies which have national implications," and, additionally, to "review the Code of Ethics for the [sic] Filipino Social Scientists in the light of recent developments."¹⁴⁵

Trends

We conclude this study with an indication of PSSC's emerging thrusts, or trends, and plans for at least 1994 and five years hence. Through its Institutional Development Committee, PSSC has lined up a "Training Program in the Teaching of the Social Sciences" in the disciplines, to begin with, of Sociology, Statistics and, possibly, History and Political Science. This will involve the preparation of course syllabi, textbooks and even reference materials. During the next five years, it is hoped that the program will have involved all the social sciences.¹⁴⁶

As regards research, there is an on-going rethinking of the Research Awards Program, which could lead to its replacement by a PSSC-research program, whereby seasoned social scientists will be undertaking a major research project or projects, which would be more in keeping with PSSC's orientation of active involvement in nation-building, rather than confining itself to funding discrete research projects, a still laudable program to be sure, since it had certainly assisted in producing more social scientists.

There will be "regional roundtable discussions to follow" the recently concluded NSSC III. The Desktop Publishing Unit will be strengthened. Perhaps, the most important of PSSC's proposed programs within the next three years is the development of the "hardware and skills to operate a data base system in the PSSCenter." PSSC also plans to "support efforts to popularize some of the information contained in the databank at the national, regional and local levels through media and communication strategies."¹⁴⁷

[Major reorganizational changes were effected in 1994-1995 as a result of recommendations made by a Special Committee tasked to review the then existing PSSC By-Laws. The Special Committee, composed of representatives of the Governing Council, Executive Board and Associate Members proposed the creation of a single Board of Trustees (BOT). In addition, the Committee recommended that Associate Members be represented in the BOT to allow them greater participation in PSSC affairs and activities. Other provisions were also revised and replaced outright, almost totally changing the organizational set-up of PSSC that it was finally agreed that the new document be referred to as the "New PSSC By-Laws".

The recommendations were approved by the Executive Board and the Governing Council on 21 September 1994 and 28 September 1994 respectively. The new structure was implemented in 1995 with the election of a new set of Board Members, Officers and Associate Member representatives (Annex 2). A proposed Program of Action is also being discussed that will redirect the program thrusts of the PSSC as well as form the basis for staff realignments.]

Should all of these come to pass, Rip Van Winkle social scientists who forgot to wake up from a slumber in 1967 or 1968, waking up only more than thirty years hence at the end of this decade or in the year 2000, will marvel at the bountiful transformation that the fledgling PSSC of the sixties had undergone, in a setting which, hopefully, will be equally bountiful. Filipino social scientists could then look back with satisfaction to that day in early March 1967, when Dr. Margaret Mead came here, partly under the auspices of the Philippine Mental Health Association.

ENDNOTES

¹See, for instance, my *FAPE: The First Decade* (Makati, Metro Manila: Fund for Assistance to Private Education, 1981); "The Origins and Trusteeship of the Fund for Agrarian Reform Education," *Lipunan*, Series II, Vol. III (1981), 51-70; "Whatever Happened to the Cultural Development Fund?" *Sunday Times Magazine*, 13/20 July 1986; and lastly, *The INNOTECH Story* (Quezon City, Metro Manila: Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Center for Educational Innovation and Technology, Quezon City: Metro Manila, 1989).

²Dr. Mead and Dr. Aldaba-Lim, were "long-time professional colleagues, both having served in the Executive Board and [been] past presidents of the World Federation for Mental Health (1959 onwards)." Dr. Mead's coming to Manila in March 1967 was upon the invitation by Dr. Aldaba-Lim for her to be the guest speaker "at the Philippine Mental Health Association" symposium at the Philamlife Auditorium on 3 March 1967. See Dr. Estefania Aldaba-Lim to Mr. Allen Tan, PSSC President, September 21, 1990 (copy with the author). See also the maiden issue of *PSSC Social Science Information*, 1:1 (May 1973), p. 2, (heretofore cited as *SSI*).

³The notice of the meeting, presumably prepared on the day of the lecture itself (3 March 1967), is among the documents loaned to the PSSC by Secretary Armand Fabella [hereinafter cited as Fabella PSSC Folder 1].

⁴I have been unable to gather concrete information about the creation of NSSCP, which was proposed for reactivation at that meeting; certainly, it must have existed but when it was founded I could not say for sure. Inquiries from the Securities and Exchange Commission yielded negative results.

⁵See the minutes of the meeting as prepared by Mr. Buan (note 3 above). Copies of the constitution and the separate by-laws are attached to the minutes as found in the Fabella PSSC Folder I.

⁶As Ad Hoc Committee Chairman, Dr. Alip played a crucial role in the activities subsequent to the "reorganizational meeting", hosting (which included preparing the agenda and documents for meetings, sending out notices of the meetings and, most important of all, footing the bills for the luncheons or meriendas); fortunately, he was a man of means and President of the Manila Lions Club at the time and, as such, had easy access to the latter's clubhouse for the several organizational meetings. The Ad Hoc Committee is also referred to as the Working Committee. Data on the Ad Hoc Committee's meetings were culled from the Fabella PSSC Folder I and informal interviews with Dr. Parel and Dr. Concepcion. See, also the first issue *PSSC SSI*, already cited, p. 2.

⁷For the “formal launching”, see Aldaba-Lim to Tan, 21 September 1990. The reiteration of the March 3 meeting’s significance was made to the author during a formal interview with Dr. Aldaba-Lim on 13 July 1993.

⁸See *UNESCO In the Philippines*, Compiled and Edited by Dr. Apolinario Y. Tating and Ms. Jeannette D. Tuason (Manila: Unesco National Commission of the Philippines, 1988), p. 110, a significant portion of which reads: “In line with Resolution 301 adopted by the 14th General Conference of UNESCO inviting Member States to encourage the formation of learned societies in the field of social sciences, and facilitate their participation in the activities of appropriate inter-national organizations, the Unesco National Commission of the Philippines succeeded in organizing in 1968 the Philippine Social Science Council.”

⁹In all fairness to Dr. Aldaba-Lim, she was unaware of any intent on my part to underscore her role in the birth of PSSC. Maybe, she should at least be considered the catalyst with Dr. Mead, although after 1968 she no longer played an active role in PSSC because by then her duties as Secretary of Social Work and Development were much too heavy for her to pay attention to PSSC matters, except on special occasions such as the First Southeast Asian Workshop of Social Scientists in 1976.

¹⁰See Minutes of meeting in Fabella PSSC Folder 1.

¹¹Alip to Fabella, 3 April 1967, *loc. cit.*

¹²Alip to Fabella, 3 May 1967, Fabella PSSC Folder 1. There are no minutes in the PSSC Fabella Folder I of the Ad Hoc committee meetings on April 17 and May 12, 1967, but there is no doubt that these and even some which were scheduled later took place, as may be inferred from Alip’s letters and those of Dr. Sicat to Secretary Fabella (see below).

¹³Alip to Fabella, 17 May 1967, Fabella PSSC Folder 1.

¹⁴Gerardo Sicat to Armand Fabella, 1 March 1968; Alip to Fabella, 1 March 1968—both in the Fabella Folder 1. For the suggestion that 27 February 1968—the date the original PSSC Constitution and By-Laws were adopted—be the official founding date of PSSC, see Dr. Domingo C. Salita’s comments on the first draft of the “Historical Overview” contained in his letter to PSSC Executive Director Ruben F. Trinidad, dated 16 February 1994, a copy of which was furnished the author.

¹⁵See “Record of Proceedings of the Meeting held on 7 March 1968, held at the UNESCO Conference Room, Taft Avenue Manila,” Fabella PSSC Folder 1.

¹⁶See the Minutes of the Second Meeting of the Executive Board of the Philippine Social Science Council, Held at the Ateneo Blue Room, Padre Faura St., Manila, 18 March 1968. Fabella PSSC Folder 1. With representatives of but two associations absent, one wonders why Fr. Lynch had to invoke a technicality as to postpone the election of officers of the Executive Board.

¹⁷Alip to Fabella, 8 March 1968, Fabella PSSC Folder 1.

¹⁸Minutes of the Second Meeting of the Executive Board of the Philippine Social Science Council, held at the Ateneo Blue Room, Padre Faura St., Manila, 8 March 1968, in Fabella PSSC Folder I.

¹⁹This is from the PSSC *Agenda for the 1980s* (Quezon City: PSSC, 1980). A dose of egoism dictated my choice of source: I was a member of a sub-committee, chaired by Dr. Mangahas, which drafted the *Agenda* and I must have helped compose, or even personally composed, the excerpt.

²⁰See F.W.G. Baker, *Forty Years History of the International Social Science Council: The Evolution of the Social Sciences* (Paris: ISSC Secretariat, November 1992), p. 4-5, quoting the recommendation of a Second UNESCO Consultative Meeting on the Social Sciences of 18-21 December 1951).

²¹*UNESCO in the Philippines*, p. 23.

²²*Ibid.*, p. 110.

²³For the ISSC proposed terms of reference, see Baker, *op. cit.*, pp. 3-4; NSSCP's are enumerated in its Constitution and By-Laws.

²⁴*UNESCO in the Philippines*, p. 110.

²⁵See section on "Financing PSSC's Operations" below. PSSC almost became a governmental entity at the time the government agreed to match the Ford Foundation's grant of US\$200,000 in 1977. Sec. 1 of a draft Presidential Decree (for Pres. Marcos' signature) read as follows: "There is hereby created a non-stock, non-profit *government corporation* to be known as the Social Science Research Center of the Philippines...." Perhaps, because of representations by, among others, Dr. Loretta Makasiar-Sicat, then Executive Director, the proposed decree was not issued. See PSSC Files for the draft PD, and Dr. Sicat's Memorandum to Dr. Vicente Valdepeñas, Jr. (then Chairman of the Executive Board), dated 19 April 1977.

²⁶*SSI*, p. 19.

²⁷*Ibid.*, p. 2.

²⁸"First PSSC Introductory Brochure," adopted by the Executive Board Meeting of 27 March 1974. Emphasis added. See the Minutes of the EB Meeting, held on 24 March 1974, PSSC Files.

²⁹The Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws as amended in 1973, 1977, 1984, 1985, 1987 and on 27 July 1988—the last during the period under review—are printed in the *PSSC Annual Report, CY 1988*, Appendix D, and in *idem, CY 1992*, Appendix I (By-Laws only). I corrected what are obviously errors in copying the original document.

³⁰See the preceding note. A previous set of amendments had been adopted on 10 December 1977 and another one on 18/21 July 1984.

³¹There were only six original members, namely: Philippine Association of Social Workers, Philippine Economic Society, Philippine National Historical Society, Philippine Sociological Society, Philippine Statistical Association, and Psychological Association of the Philippines. They became the “Magnificent Seven” when the Linguistic Society of the Philippines was admitted sometime in FY 1971-1972. The latter’s membership is inferred from the “Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Council, held on Friday, 28 July 1972, at the Philippine Columbian, Manila,” PSSC Files.

The PHA joined the PNHS as a PSSC regular member in 1982. That has a history by itself, in which I was among *dramatis personae*, but it need not be treated here on account of space limitations. See, however, the Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting, held on 10 February 1982, pp. 2-5, for part of the story, in PSSC Files. For reasons that escape me, the PHA was not listed as among the regular members of PSSC in the handsomely printed *SSI* Special Issue of 16 May 1983, on the formal inauguration of the PSSC Center in 1983. Could it be due to the fact that the Executive Board Chairman then was from the other history group? I wonder.

³²The list of Associate Members is in *PSSC Annual Report, CY 1992*, Appendix F.

³³See Art. III, Sec. 4. of the Amended By-Laws (as of 18/21 July 1984 and further amended on 27 July 1988) in *PSSC Annual Report, CY 1992*, Appendix F.

³⁴*Ibid.* The original membership fee (regular members only) was ₱25, which in 1968 had a dollar equivalent of eight. The present membership fee (regular members) of ₱500 is equivalent to US\$18, more or less.

³⁵*PSSC Annual Report, CY 1987*, p. 63.

³⁶See the respective opening remarks by Dean Ofelia R. Angangco at *The First National Social Science Congress: Papers and Proceedings*, ed. Laura L. Samson and Ma. Carmen Jimenez (Quezon City: Ofelia R. Angangco, 1984), pp. 1-3 and Dr. Sylvia A. Guerrero at the Second National Social Science Congress in Allen L. Tan & Others (Editors), *Papers and Proceedings of the NSSC II, November 24-26, 1988* (Quezon City: PSSC, 1989).

³⁷*PSSC Annual Report, CY 1979*, p. 8; for election as Vice-President, see *PSSC Annual Report, CY 1987*, pp. 62-63.

³⁸*PSSC Annual Report, CY 1992*, p. 25.

³⁹*PSSC Annual Report, CY 1987*, pp. 61-62 and *idem. CY 1990*, p. Earlier in 1971, PSSC became a member of the Kuala Lumpur-based Southeast Asian Social Science Association (SEASSA), whose members may be individual "social scientists and social science institutions and organizations in Southeast Asia." See *PSSC Annual Report, Fiscal Year 1977-1978*, pp. 13-14. Curiously, this report was "Submitted to the Ford Foundation, August 1978," probably as an expression of PSSC's gratitude for the Foundation's US\$200,000 share of its endowment and for having taken the initiative in organizing SEASSA.

⁴⁰For the PSSC-CASS Exchange Program which was initiated in 1987, see *PSSC Annual Report, CY 1988*, p. 3. It was funded by the Ford Foundation. Prof. Edgardo B. Maranan of the U.P. Asian Center and Mr. Zhou Xiao Bing of the Institute of World Economics and Politics, CASS, were the first participants. In 1993, Dr. Clemen C. Aquino, Chairperson of the Department of Sociology, College of Social Sciences and Philosophy, U.P. Diliman, went to the People's Republic of China under the program.

⁴¹*PSSC Annual Report, CY 1992*, p. 15.

⁴²For PSSC as an observer at the ISSC's 40th Anniversary General Assembly, see *Ibid.*; for representations in the SCCNC, see *PSSC Annual Report, Fiscal Year 1977-1978*, p. 15.

⁴³This was told to the author not long ago by former Acting Foreign Minister Pacifico Castro, who was based in Paris for quite some time and had therefore the opportunity to observe the performance of all Philippine delegations to Paris-based meetings and conferences.

⁴⁴Cf. "Implications of the 1988 Amendment to the By-Laws," in *PSSC Annual Report, CY 1988*, pp. 76-80. The reference to the "Governing Council as one of PSSC's "organic bodies" is inaccurate since there was no such body in 1968 until 1988. "Council" in the earlier documents referred to the organization, not to an "organ" of PSSC. Indeed, even in the 1988 amended PSSC By-Laws, the article on the Council merely identifies the Council as the Governing Body of PSSC—it is not called "The Governing Council".

⁴⁵This was among the "forecasts" or recommendations in the *PSSC Agenda for the 1980s*, to ensure that the member-associations are constantly informed about the workings of the Executive Board, thus meeting the complaint of some member-associations in case their disciplinary representatives should not be one of their members. See note 18, above.

⁴⁶Amended By-Laws (July 12, 1987), Art. V, Sec. 1.

⁴⁷As mentioned earlier, Dr. Concepcion (Demography) was Executive Board Chairman; Fr. Lynch (Anthropology), Vice-Chairman; and Dr. Parel (Statistics), Secretary-Treasurer—were the first officers of the Executive Board. The other five Executive Board members were Dr. Fabella (Economics), Dr. Alip (History), Fr. Jaime Bulatao (Psychology), Miss Silva (Social Work), Fr. John Carroll (Sociology). Except for Dr. Alip (replaced by Dr. Oscar M. Alfonso) and Fr. Bulatao (replaced by Dr. Abraham I. Felipe), these served until 1972. Fabella PSSC Folder I and PSSC Files on the Executive Board. The list of “Executive Board Membership (1968-1970)” in the PSSC Annual Report CY 1990, Appendix I, needs to be corrected on this point and others, such as Fr. Lynch’s being Vice-Chairman and Dr. Parel as Secretary-Treasurer—both until 1973.

⁴⁸See Minutes of the General Council Meeting, held 19 January 1973, p.2. Emphasis added. PSSC Files. Apparently, during the previous year’s meeting of the association representatives (“Business arising from the Minutes”), Dr. Alip had questioned Dr. Oscar M. Alfonso’s being the representative for History in the Executive Board, despite his not being the PNHS’s nominee and, worse from his viewpoint, was from the PHA, although he had not been nominated by the latter. Dr. Alip was duly told by the Chair that representation in the Executive Board was disciplinary, not associational, so long as the nominee was well-respected in his field—which Dr. Alfonso, then a U.P. Professor and now a Regent, definitely was. Besides, Dr. Fabella then reminded Dr. Alip that the PHA might someday become a member of PSSC. Since Dr. Alip was subsequently elected to the Executive Board, apparently it was also possible at the time for association heads to be members of the Executive Board—they simply nominated themselves.

⁴⁹*Ibid.* Underscoring added.

⁵⁰*Ibid.* Underscoring added

⁵¹See the provisional constitution under “Organization”, the 1973 By-Laws under Art. V, and Amended By-Laws (1977) under Art. IV. The Council was mentioned for the first time in 1977 as the “governing body” of the PSSC—but it never asserted that prerogative, nor was it operationalized in the By-Laws, until the 1988 amendments.

[According to Dr. Salita “there was really no vigorous objection in the gradual amendments from 1977, 1984 and 1988 which gave more active participation to the Governing Council in the management of the affairs of PSSC”. He cites Father Bulatao’s claim “that the owners of PSSC are the regular members who are represented by their Presidents or authorized representatives in the Governing Council. Being the owners they are entitled to set the policies and directions where the PSSC should go.]

⁵²For justifications, see citation on note 44, above.

⁵³There is at least one member-association whose presidents have served PSSC for as long as they were/are alive or desire to serve as such. Since PSSC's creation, I believe only three have so far served in succession. By contrast, the Philippine Historical Association has had six different presidents—and therefore six different members of the Council—for the only dozen years that it has been a regular member of PSSC. The seventh, a new one, will serve in 1994-1996.

⁵⁴The documents on the controversy are in PSSC Files Folder on "Search Committee 1991." See, also, Prof. Ruben Trinidad's Letter to the Members of the Governing Council and the Executive Board, 13 May 1991, a copy of which was provided the author.

[Dr. Salita disputes the near collapse of the organization, and claims that "the treatment on the differences of opinion between the Board and the Council was a bit exaggerated". He argues that "the relation between the Council and the Board should be looked in the proper perspective as provided in the By-Laws." The Council was the policy-making body while the Executive Board was its implementing arm. This, to him, was the proper interpretation since the members of the Executive Board got their power from the Governing Council that elected them.]

⁵⁵Mr. Blanco served for less than a year, returning to the University of Toledo (Ohio) to complete his Ed.D. in Educational Administration after he had framed PSSC's five-year program. On 15 November 1971, Mr. Dennis Teves became Executive Secretary. See Minutes of Executive Board Meeting, 15 January 1971; PSSC *SSI*, I:1 (1973), pp. 2, 19.

⁵⁶See the PSSC *Management Audit Committee Report* (1993), hereinafter *MAC Report*.

⁵⁷I had the pleasure of working with Dr. L.M. Sicat in various PSSC Committees in the early seventies, and especially in the Executive Board in 1975-1977.

⁵⁸Starting with CY 1981, writing the history of PSSC no longer involves long, tedious hours of the member-associations (i.e., Council). Reading the annual reports will more or less suffice, thanks to Prof. Trinidad.

⁵⁹See the agenda of the 20 December 1968 Executive Board meeting and the minutes of the same of 6 March 1969—both in the Fabella PSSC Folder 1.

⁶⁰Prof. Buenaventura, who usually sat for Dr. Parel in the Executive Board, is certain that PSSC stayed briefly at the Ateneo before moving over to Doña Matilde Bldg. on Adriatico St. in Ermita, thence to Roces Avenue in Quezon City. "Ambush" interviews at PSSC, where she holds office occasionally, in the course of writing this overview.

⁶¹I was Vice-Chairman of the Executive Board, I believe, when PSSC started occupying, or renting, one of the cottages at Purok Aguinaldo at U.P. Diliman.

⁶²Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting, held on 28 January 1974. PSSC Files, Folder on PSSC Center.

⁶³Minutes of the Joint Council (member-association representatives) and Executive Board Meeting, held on 22 February 1974, at the Sulo Hotel, Quezon City. PSSC Files, Folder on PSSC Center.

⁶⁴*Ibid.*

⁶⁵*Ibid.*

During the first half of December 1974, I was part of the Philippine Country Delegation to the ASEAN Seminar on "The Social and Cultural Aspects of Development in ASEAN Countries," held at Bukittinggi, West Sumatra, Indonesia. Then Labor Secretary, now Senator Blas F. Ople, later joined the Philippine Delegation, headed by currently Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Rodolfo Severino. After a Philippine party for the Country Delegations, which he tendered, now Senator Ople invited the members of the Philippine delegation to our hotel bar for a round of drinks, which lasted until almost dawn of the next day. Somewhat tipsy, Secretary Ople told the Philippine Delegation, which also included a U.P. female faculty member, that "O.D. [Corpuz, then DAP President] was going to be the next U.P. President; you had better take my word for it, because S.P. [Lopez] is out"—or something to that effect. Well, I suppose he was then privy to such matters as the presidency of U.P., which under the late President S.P. Lopez had continued to be vocally critical of the martial law regime of Mr. Marcos, since to him one facet of U.P.'s mission was as social critic, like himself, rather than be entirely in support of the proposed New Society of Pres. Marcos, which Pres. O.D. Corpuz made very plain in his inaugural address.

⁶⁶*Ibid.*

⁶⁷The reports of the Special Committee on PSSC Center, together with the records of its discussions with Ateneo de Manila priest-officers, are in the PSSC Files, Folder on PSSC Center.

⁶⁸ See the Report of the Executive Director, also then the PSSC Center Committee Chairperson, at the Executive Board Meeting of February 23, 1979, in Minutes... (PSSC Files).

⁶⁹Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting, 19 June 1979, on the grim prospects of Ateneo's being the site of the PSSC Center and *idem.*, 22 January 1980 (both in PSSC Files), for Mr. Jayme's "go signal" for PSSC to take the U.P. option as the Center site.

⁷⁰See the Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting, held on 27 February 1980.

⁷¹Loretta M. Sicat to Emmanuel V. Soriano, 20 April 1981; Armando D. Alvarez (Office of the U.P. Secretary) to the PSSC Executive Director, transmitting excerpt from the Minutes of the 940th Meeting of the Board of Regents (30 April 1981); and Board of Regents Secretary Gemino H. Abad to Loretta Makasiar Sicat, 19 October 1981, transmitting excerpt from the Minutes of the 944th Meeting of the Board of Regents (3 September 1981), with the Memorandum of Agreement signed only on 14 December 1981, as enclosure. The latter did not say anything on rental for the use of the land. However, in 1986 during the presidency of Dr. Jose V. Abueva and the chancellorship of Dr. Ernesto Tabujara (U.P. Diliman), PSSC would be served notice that under a proposed revised memorandum of agreement it would have to pay "a rental fee for the use of the land of about ₱6,000 per hectare per month" (which would amount to ₱5,000 since the lot size is less than a hectare) and allow U.P. "to occupy at least 20 percent of usable building space and that no constraint will be imposed on U.P. as to the use of that space." The matter was brought to the attention of the Executive Board, complete with figures and with the conclusion that if the U.P.'s proposal were approved, almost the entire income of PSSC would be handed over to U.P. with the net result that "the PSSC will have to be back to 'square one'." As expected, the Board balked at the U.P. plan and approved the dispatch of Executive Director Trinidad's (co-signed by EB President Patricia B. Licuanan) long reply (seven pages single-spaced) dated 4 February 1987, to Chancellor Tabujara's letter. Copies of Chancellor Tabujara's letter, the PSSC reply thereto, and Executive Director's Memorandum to the Executive Board (October 22, 1986) are with the PSSC Files. Prof. Trinidad informed the writer on 2 August 1993, when the subject was brought up during a long interview, that PSSC heard nothing more about the "rental fee" after the long reply to Chancellor Tabujara. By the way, at about the same time, U.P. sent a similar "notice" to SEAMEO Innotech, but since the latter is a "regional" not a "national" agency, nothing also came out of the U.P. scheme. See my *The Innotech Story*, p. 69, and note 40.

⁷²"Philippine-Japan Joint Press Statement Issued on the Occasion of the Visit to the Philippines [8-10 January 1981] of H.E. Zenko Suzuki, Prime Minister of Japan," p. 15, in PSSC Files, Folder on PSSC Center. The Japanese Government's decision to fund the construction of the PSSC Center has a much longer history, and was possible because of the intercession of Japanese friends of PSSC, among them Dr. Harry Oshima of the U.P. School of Economics, but constraints of space compel us to not to discuss these here. See, however, the write up in Special Issue of the *PSSC Social Science Information* for April-June, 1983.

⁷³Collantes to Tanaka and Tanaka to Collantes, both dated 16 July 1981, in *loc. cit.* See, also Gerardo Sicat, "The Social Sciences and the Philippines," in *PSSC SSI*, 10:4 (January-March 1983), pp. 11-15.

⁷⁴See "Minister of Justice Ricardo C. Puno to the President [Edgardo Angara], University of the Philippines, 11 March 1982," in PSSC Files, Folder on PSSC Center. Pres. Marcos' Letter of Instruction No. 15 of 13 January 1982, is quoted by Minister Puno.

⁷⁵See *PSSC SSI*, special issue, April-June 1983.

⁷⁶ From page one of the *PSSC Annual Report, FY 1973 (1 July 1972-30 June 1973)*, we read: "With FY 1973, the PSSC has completed its second year of full-scale operations." Hence, the first year of full-scale operations must have started 1 July 1971.

⁷⁷Mr. Eugene Staples, Ford Foundation Regional Representative for Southeast Asia, in Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting, 16 August 1977, p. 5. PSSC Files.

⁷⁸See my *FAPE: The First Decade*, Chap. 2, FAPE was formally constituted by Executive Order 156, issued on 5 November 1968. According to a recent article in a popular weekly, FAPE "has generated P250 million worth of revenue over the years" and its equity currently stands at US\$121 million, six times its original trust. See Roderick Salazar, SVD, "FAPE: The First Twenty-Five Years," *Philippine Panorama* for 28 November 1993, p. 8-9. However, based on the current peso-dollar exchange rate, the original US\$6.5 million trust—which is not supposed to be impaired and with a percentage of income therefrom recapitalized as a hedge against inflation—should now be more than P121 million.

⁷⁹Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting, 15 January 1971. *Cf.* *PSSC SSI*, May 1973, p. 2. PSSC Files.

⁸⁰Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Executive Board, held on 16 February 1972. PSSC Files.

⁸¹*PSSC Annual Report for FY 1974*, p. 21.

⁸²See the financial statement in *PSSC Annual Report for FY 1973*, released in September 1973. PSSC Files.

⁸³See Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting, held on 9 May 1974, p. 9. PSSC Files.

⁸⁴For L.M. Sicat's "PSSC Three Years Hence," see Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting held 23 January 1974. Staples' remarks are reported in *idem*, 16 August 1974, p. 1. PSSC Files. Twenty-five local foundations were reported to have turned down PSSC's request for funds.

⁸⁵These suggestions have been culled at random from *Ibid.*, pp. 2-4.

⁸⁶Gerardo Sicat, "The Social Sciences in the Philippines," *loc. cit.*, pp. 10-11.

⁸⁷*Ibid.*, p. 13.

⁸⁸Roque A. Serioso (NEDA Legal Staff) to NEDA Director-General Sicat, March 4, 1977, adverting to Pres. Marcos' instructions to Budget Commissioner Laya, of 7 December 1976. The draft PD was attached thereto. For Dr. Loretta M. Sicat's comment thereto, see her 1 April 1977, Memo to EB Chairman Vicente Valdepeñas, Jr., in which she wrote: "... to give credit where credit is due... it was the original incorporators who first thought of setting up [PSSC],... *not* pardon me for saying so, the President [i.e. Marcos]!" (Emphasis in the original). PSSC Files.

⁸⁹Howard Dressner, Secretary of the Ford Foundation-New York, to Vicente Valdepeñas, Jr., 1 February 1977. PSSC Files.

⁹⁰Memorandum of Agreement 17 April 1977, signed for NEDA by Dr. G. Sicat and for PSSC by Dr. Valdepeñas, with Manuel S. Alba and Bayani S. Aguirre as witnesses. A copy of the Memorandum of Agreement is at the PSSC files.

⁹¹Valdepeñas to Peter W. Gaither, Ford Foundation-Manila, 17 August 1977, PSSC Files.

⁹²This is also stipulated in the Memorandum of Agreement.

⁹³*PSSC Annual Report, Fiscal Year 1976-1977*, p. 14.

⁹⁴*Ibid.*

⁹⁵See above, p. 15.

⁹⁶Williard Wart to Bro. Andrew Gonzalez, EB Chairman, 22 July 1981, PSSC Files. The grant amounted to US\$110,000.

⁹⁷Ruben Trinidad to the Author, December 1993.

⁹⁸*PSSC Annual Report FY 1978*, p. 26.

⁹⁹Dr. Faustino P. Quioco, FAPE's Assistant, Vice-President, to Dr. Loretta M. Sicat, 4 September 1983, with PSSC's copy of the Memorandum of Agreement for the ₱120,000. FAPE's receptivity to the 1994 summer training course for college mentors was expressed during the call on FAPE Vice-President Bartolome by the IDC Sub-Committee.

¹⁰⁰"Memorandum of Grant Condition" attached to Director Jingjai Hanchanlash, Asia Regional Office, International Development Research Centre, to Executive Director L.M. Sicat, 29 January 1982. PSSC Files.

¹⁰¹See Memorandum of Agreement, dated 21 May 1980, between PIDS and PSSC, signed respectively by PIDS President Filologo Pante and Executive Director Loretta Makasiar Sicat. PSSC Files. See, also Bro. Andrew Gonzalez, FSC, "Financial Resources for Social Science Research in the Philippines," *PSSC SSI* for October-December 1982,

p. 8, wherein he says that PIDS's grant totalled ₱450,000 over a three-year period and was for poverty studies by the Consortia.

¹⁰²Minutes of 20 December 1968 and 4 March 1969 Executive Board meetings, Fabella PSSC Folder 1.

¹⁰³Minutes of Executive Board Meeting, 14 April 1970, Fabella PSSC Folder 1.

¹⁰⁴Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting, 15 January 1971; *PSSC SS*, 1973, p. 2. PSSC Files. Much earlier, there was an item on the agenda of the 19 July 1968 meeting of the Executive Board re: requests to the "Ford Foundation for salary assistance for the period 1 September 1968 to 31 August 1969" and a "grant-in-aid of ₱10,000, for the period 15 August 1968 to 14 August 1969" from UNESCO National Commission. However, since there are no minutes available on that meeting, I am uncertain as to whether the requests were granted.

¹⁰⁵There being no available (to me) Minutes of PSSC's Executive Board Meetings between 15 January 1971 and the Special Meeting of the Executive Board on 16 February 1972, thirteen months later, when Board Chairman Concepcion made a progress report on the twelve "special projects"—nor the PSSC Annual Report for FY 1972 covering the first full year of PSSC operations (1 July 1971-30 June 1972)—it may be safely assumed that the task forces on the "special projects" must have been created sometime after 15 January 1971, in all likelihood at the Executive Board Meeting immediately after it. I first came across the special projects in the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Executive Board, held on 16 February 1972, at Doña Matilde Building, Adriatico St., Manila. PSSC Files.

¹⁰⁶*Ibid.* See also the Minutes of Executive Board Special Meeting, held at the NSDB Offices, Bicutan, Taguig, Rizal, on 26 April 1972, also with PSSC Files.

¹⁰⁷Dave Szanton is just about the most likeable and helpful American Filipino scholar I am lucky to meet. After service with Ford/Philippines he joined, among others, the New York-based Social Science Research Council and was available to any Filipino scholar, especially in the social sciences whom he knew personally or merely heard about. I was his dinner guest at his home in the Bronx sometime in 1988 and had lunch together on at least one occasion at the University of Hawaii at Manoa in 1990, when he was winding up his stint as an East-West Center Research Fellow and I was starting my Visiting Professorship in Philippine Studies and History. The latest news about him is that he is now the head of the Southeast Asian Studies Program at the University of California, Berkeley.

¹⁰⁸Minutes of EBM Special Meeting, 16 February 1972.

¹⁰⁹The MPHP set its own guidelines and the members screened the applications themselves, while the Research Committee routinely

requested a disciplinary representative to go over a project proposal, including the funding aspect, before the Committee would take action. It was the policy, as much as possible, that PSSC would not be limited to funding only the “mechanical” or “reproduction” phase of thesis or dissertation work (Dr. Fabella’s remarks at one of the Research Committee or Executive Board meetings).

¹¹⁰Under the MAC “Report,” which was fully implemented in 1994, IDC and the Research Committee are scheduled for merger. The MPHPC was dissolved a decade ago.

¹¹¹Minutes of the Executive Board Special Meeting, 16 February 1972, p. 5.

¹¹²The breakdown appears in the minutes of a later meeting of the Executive Board in September 1972.

¹¹³See note 112, p. 4.

¹¹⁴This, according to the editors of the first issue of *PSSC SSI* (p. 2).

¹¹⁵See Minutes of the Executive Board Special Meeting, on 26 April 1972. PSSC Files. This gives an idea of the contents of the forthcoming annual report for PSSC’s first year of full operations which I had no access to.

¹¹⁶See the “Brochure on the Origin and Development of the PSSC Research Network: 1974,” with a supplement for 1975. PSSC Files.

¹¹⁷*PSSC 1993 MidYear Report* of the President of the Executive Board, p. 5.

¹¹⁸See Minutes of Special Meeting, held at the PSSC Office, Doña Matilde Building, Manila, 16 February 1972, wherein Chairperson Concepcion said that the Modern Philippine History Program had been “suggested” by the Ford Foundation. For Dr. Szanton’s disclaimer, see *idem.*, held at the NSDB Offices, Bicutan, Taguig, Rizal, on 26 April 1972. Both are with PSSC Files.

¹¹⁹See Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting, 15 September 1972, U.P. Alumni Center, wherein Dr. Alip questioned why MPHPC committee members—presumably all and especially the Chairman?—did not come from the PNHS. Dr. Concepcion, then ex-Governing Board Chairperson, explained that when the Board was forming the working committees, she had “appropriately contacted Dr. Alip [but] despite having agreed to attend the meeting called for the organization of the Committee, Dr. Alip did not show up...” By the way, it was—and still is—the practice to appoint disciplinary representatives in the Executive Board to chair its committees.

¹²⁰*PSSC Annual Report FY 1972-1973*, p. 16.

¹²¹For the first awards, see *idem.*, May 28, 1973, ratified at the 8 June 1973 meeting, there being no quorum; the Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting, 5 May 1974, for Dr. Szanton's statement and the supplementary and new program grants of US\$10,000 and US\$15,000, respectively, the latter on a matching basis of one to one.

¹²²I have personal knowledge about the two non-completed research projects. The two proponents who submitted proofs of matching funds were now Lt. Col. Reynaldo Silvestre (his from the Philippine Army Historical Office) and Prof. Celedonio O. Resurreccion (his from the City Government of Baguio). See Minutes of the Governing Board Meeting, held on 28 November 1977, PSSC Files. This was during my last year as Chairman of the MPHP Committee.

¹²³The re-channelling, or loan of more than US\$11,000 MPHP funds to the referendum project was based on the understanding that eventually the MPHP Committee be refunded, especially since only over US\$6,000 had been spent for Dr. de Guzman's project, the rest going to the Secretariat. But my successors as Chairman of the Committee were not successful in recovering even the one used by the Secretariat, despite efforts to do so. See Minutes of Executive Board Meeting, 27 March 1979. I was a member, again, of the Committee when Dr. Borlaza made grandiose plans for research on the assumption that fresh funding might be available later.

¹²⁴I remember having been asked only a year ago by the Social Issues Committee, I believe, to give a brief background of the activities—up to that time—to commemorate the “Decade of Centennials of Nationalism, Reform and Revolution.” I know, as a member of its Board of Governors, that the PHA had at least devoted seven of its seminars since 1988 (regional and annual) on the centennials.

¹²⁵See the *PSSC Annual Reports* for CY 1983 and 1984.

¹²⁶The moving spirit behind the PSSC Encyclopedia Project is former U.P. Dean Dr. Domingo C. Salita, who logically became the Chairman of the Editorial Board. The project has had a longer history which many may not be aware of. At PSSC, it probably was conceptualized not later than 24 years ago, but taking into consideration a similar project of NRCP's Division VIII (Social Sciences) it goes farther back. Dr. Salita was for many years head of that Division and during some of those years he was NRCP Governing Board Chairman as well. As a matter of fact, such an encyclopedia was published, but perhaps it was not very satisfactory even for Dr. Salita; it certainly was not for me, despite my meriting entry, because it was so full of factual and printing errors.

¹²⁷I recall my having worked with Dr. Villacorta, Dr. Mangahas, Dr. Pilar Jimenez (then PSSC Program Director) and, I think, also Dr. Ernesto Pernia on a draft agenda one morning in 1979 at the PSSC bungalow at Purok Aguinaldo. Although all of us had inputs in each section, page, paragraph, or even sentence, I distinctly remember that my primary

contributions were on the sections on "Goals for the 1980s", "Present Capability of the PSSC," and at least the first paragraph, or maybe sentence of "Directions for Philippine Social Sciences: A PSSC Agenda for the 80s."

¹²⁸*Agenda for the 1980s*, p. 8.

¹²⁹See Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting, 21 January 1981. The Committee was chaired by Executive Director Sicat, with Dr. Burton Oñate, Dr. Mangahas, Prof. Raul R. Ingles, and Dean Ofelia R. Angangco as members.

¹³⁰At the risk of sounding overly presumptions, one morning Dr. Romeo V. Cruz, a colleague now in Australia, and I were asked to attend a meeting with a few other faculty members in the social sciences at Dean Angangco's office sometime in 1982. The first topic we tackled was what to call the forthcoming assembly that the Dean had in mind: the thinking of most was a "conference". I suggested, instead, "Congress" and when asked to explain my preference, I drew from my knowledge of European diplomatic history where there had been such historic gatherings of the old diplomacy as the Congresses of Vienna (1814-1815) and Berlin (1878), among others, and the Hague Conferences on the Pacific Settlement of Disputes and on Disarmament in the 1890s. The Congresses, I emphasized, were essentially summit meetings and, as such, their decisions were authoritative and expected to be complied with, whereas the conferences were contented with approving noble and big-sounding resolutions and expressing pious hopes of compliance by their signatories. Whether it was because of my arguments, strongly supported by Dr. Cruz, which carried the day for a congress, it should, however, be said that "Congress" had become part of the vocabulary of gatherings of scholars and scientists in the past, such as the Pacific Science Congress.

¹³¹See 1st NSSC: Towards Excellence in Social Science in the Philippines: Papers and Proceedings, and The Social Sciences and Economic Recovery: Papers and Proceedings of the [2nd] National Social Science Congress...

¹³²Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting, 20 January 1984 and PSSC, *Annual Report CY 1984*, p. 2. Anthropology Prof. Bennagen, who later (1986) became a member of the Constitutional Commission, was the first SICom Chairperson. The change to "Ugnayan sa PSSC" was proposed in 1987 but the Executive Board did not approve it. It was not until 1990 that the change was effected. See Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Executive Board, held on 27 January 1987, and *PSSC Annual Report CY 1990*, p. 4.

¹³³*PSSC Annual Report CY 1984*, pp. 5-7. Together with the "Kapihans", the forums and discussions, if institutionalized, could hopefully lead to the building of what Dr. Lagmay had called a "community of social scientists," even as he defended "differences of

opinions” among themselves. See Minutes of the Governing Council Meeting, 18 August 1990, held at PSSC. PSSC Files.

¹³⁴See *Report on the PSSC National Opinion Survey of September 1985* (The Philippine Social Science Council, Quezon City, Philippines, 14 December 1985).

¹³⁵Again, I must advert to my humble participation in this endeavor: I was with a team headed by ConCom members Florenz Regalado (now a Supreme Court Justice) and Jose E. Suarez (a BAYAN stalwart) which went to Cabanatuan City. I remember explaining to a vocal anti-U.S. bases partisan that there could not possibly be, as he had asserted, “20 Soviet missiles aimed at Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base.” That, I said may be 19 too many. What he probably meant, I politely suggested, was that Russia had, among others, the SS20 Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM); with its multiple warhead, one would probably suffice to incinerate the U.S. military (air force) and naval facilities at Clark and Subic and nearby communities.

¹³⁶For the “Statement of Concern” on the “Mendiola Massacre,” see the Minutes of the Executive Board Special Meeting, held on 27 January 1987; and on the U.P. Presidency, the Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting, 26 May 1987—both in PSSC Files. The position paper on the U.P. Presidency was prepared by a committee chaired by the charming and brainy Dr. Cynthia B. Bautista, now Director of U.P.’s Center for Integrative and Development Studies and Chairperson of the IDC Sub-Committee on Teacher Training.

¹³⁷See the Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting, held, 26 May 1987, PSSC Sicat Room. PSSC Files. As far as could be ascertained, PSSC’s involvement on the bases issue was limited to clarifying what a PSSC Task Force was supposed to do. See Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting of July 28, August 25, and September 29—both in 1987. PSSC Files. There was also some passing of the buck from the Research Committee to the SICom, as well as on the funding for the study, once there was agreement as to what kind of study was to be undertaken.

¹³⁸See Minutes of the Meeting of the Governing Council, 13 December 1989, PSSC Files.

¹³⁹See President Fidel V. Ramos’s “State of the Nation Address, 26 July 1993.” Published by National Printing Office, Manila.

¹⁴⁰*PSSC Agenda Toward the year 2000*, p. 3. With respect to congresses, there were NSSC I and II, while the 8th Conference of the International Association of Historians of Asia (November 1983) and the Third International Philippine Studies Conference (1989) were international, not only in name: there were many foreign participants, especially from the United States and Europe. There was even a delegation from the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

¹⁴¹*Agenda Towards the Year 2000*, p. 3 *et passim*.

¹⁴²*Philippine Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences* (Quezon City: Philippine Social Science Council, 1993), Vol. I. The section dealing with History, which was prepared solely by the team assembled by the Philippine Historical Association and not in collaboration with the Philippine National Historical Society as was originally envisaged, occupies over 430 pages, or two-thirds of the volume.

¹⁴³See *PSSC 1993 Midyear Report: "Report of the President, Executive Board..."* p. 8, 10.

¹⁴⁴This was at a symposium on the study on April 3, 1991, which no less than U.P. Pres. Abueva had convened. COMELEC was represented by the colorful Commissioner Haydee Yorac.

¹⁴⁵See the Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Council and the Governing Board, 22 March 1991 and of the Governing Council Meeting of 10 April 1991. The resolutions were adopted at the latter meeting.

¹⁴⁶See "Working Paper... for a Follow-up Consultation with Regional Delegates to the Third National Social Science Congress," 11 December 1993. A copy is with the author.

¹⁴⁷*1993 Midyear Report*. p. 7.

THE AUTHOR

IN MEMORIAM

DR. BONIFACIO S. SALAMANCA (1930-1995)

Dr. Salamanca first served the Philippine Social Science Council as a member of the Research Committee, and later as Vice-Chairman of the Executive Board in 1975. His active involvement in PSSC activities was fanned by his membership in ad hoc and working committees like the Seminar, Teaching and Training Committee and as chair of the then Modern Philippine History Program.

From 1991 to 1993, Dr. Salamanca worked closely and zealously with the Secretariat in the completion of Volume 1 of the *Philippine Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*. In 15 December 1993, on the occasion of the launching of said volume, Dr. Rosario Mendoza-Cortes said of Dr. Salamanca's contribution: "Dr. Salamanca's thorough review of the historiographical literature, whether by Filipinos or American scholars, that all the historians who have ever done research on any aspect of Philippine History are mentioned herein. The wealth of Philippine historiography as revealed by Dr. Salamanca indicates the vigor of, and bodes well of the discipline."

Then, in 1994, Dr. Salamanca helped the Secretariat a lot in soliciting and editing articles for publication in the *PSSC Social Science Information*. (In fact, he went to the point of "acting as PHA messenger [his own words]" in collecting write-ups from the authors and delivering them to us.) A special issue in honor of Manuel L. Quezon was thus published through the editorial assistance of Dr. Salamanca.

Perhaps, Dr. Salamanca's greatest contribution to the PSSC is the writing of an "Historical Overview of the Philippine Social Science Council, 1968-1993" which he completed in time for the Silver Jubilee celebrations in 1994.

THE MANHOOD THAT WAS BONI by Oscar M. Alfonso

(For Dr. Bonifacio S. Salamanca
on his 65th birthday, 14 May 1995)

Boni was manhood, and manhood became Boni.

Above the din, behind the clapping, backing praise or bucking blame, suffusing everything was this unvirtual reality of Boni's manhood.

Take any dimension of manhood's definition, and that was Boni: "being a man, a human being"; "manly character"; "virility"; "courage, resolution."

Where there was passion unmeasured, compassion was backstopping. If he proved himself a man, he showed himself a human.

If he was subject to the ills the flesh is heir to, as we all are, so did he also scale the higher reaches of scholarship and academic exercise, as not all of us do.

Not to the manor born, he knew the touch of dignitaries, himself becoming one at the University of the Philippines, in the Philippine Social Science Council and the Philippine Historical Association.

Boni remained human, for all his triumphs, humility ever his hallmark as a human being. He kept resolute as a man, for all his failures, achievement ultimately his deserved recompense for yeoman service in the academe.

This was the measure of Boni: by his own striving he was the top, and seeing it he pulled himself up to it anew, nothing daunted and not allowing himself be pulled down by any kind of setback.

The human stands redeemed and esteemed in human calculation. Redemption beyond calculation, this only GOD sees and knows how to do.