

NEWS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Philippine Social Science Council

One of the most exciting and promising recent developments on the local social-science scene is the Philippine Social Science Council. Mention has been made of it in an earlier issue of the PSR (April 1969), in an Editor's Preface written May 30, 1971. The Council is an association of social-science associations, its current members being The Linguistic Society of the Philippines, The Philippine Association of Social Workers, the Philippine Economic Society, the Philippine National Historical Association, the Philippine Sociological Society, the Philippine Statistical Association, and the Psychological Association of the Philippines.

The president of each of these societies, or his delegate, represents the members of his organization in the Council. This Council in turn elects to the Executive Board a representative for each of 12 social-science disciplines. In early July 1971 the following members were elected: Oscar Alfonso (history), John J. Carroll, S. J. (sociology), Mercedes B. Concepcion (demography), Onofre D. Corpuz (political science), Armand Fabella (economics), Gloria Feliciano (communications), Abraham I. Felipe (psychology), Raul P. de Guzman (public administration), Frank Lynch, S. J. (anthropology), Cristina P. Parel (statistics), Emy M. Pascasio (linguistics), and Teresita L. Silva (social work). Subsequently, Dr. Concepcion was elected chairman, and Drs. Lynch and Parel, vice-chairman and secretary-treasurer, respectively.

During the period January through July

1971 the Executive Secretary of the PSSC was Carlo J. M. Blanco, a Ph. D. candidate in educational administration at the University of Toledo (Ohio), who was kind enough to come back to the Philippines to help us get started. We owe him a sizable debt of gratitude for the work he did in the seven months he was with us. As of November 15, 1971, the Executive Secretary is Dennis Teves, who recently returned from travel abroad. Mr. Teves was graduated from the Ateneo de Manila in 1967 with an A.B. degree in the behavioral sciences and went on to complete his M. B. M. at the Asian Institute of Management. Before leaving the Philippines for a trip to India and the West, he was instrumental in organizing the Social Development Office for the Economic Development Foundation. Mr. Teves' office is currently at Room 203, Luna Rosa Building, 1913 Taft Avenue, Manila (P.O. Box 479, Manila, D-406). His telephone is 59-49-04. Beginning January 1, 1972, Mr. Teves will hold office at the following address: Room 401 Penthouse, Doña Matilde Building, 876 G. Apacible (Oregon/Leon Guinto), Ermita, Manila. His telephone at the new address will be 59-08-39.

At the present time the PSSC's plans include a General Program and seven Special Programs. The General Program refers to the Executive Board's implementation, through the Executive Secretary, of the general purposes of the PSSC: (1) to stimulate research in the social sciences, especially projects of a cooperative, interdisciplinary nature; (2) to serve as a center for the exchange of information, documentation, and research activities in the social sciences; (3) to disseminate information on the social

sciences through abstracts, news bulletins, journals, and papers; (4) to encourage the granting of local as well as foreign scholarship awards, disseminate information about the availability of such grants, and, when requested, to furnish nominations for such scholarships and grants; and (5) to render assistance to persons engaged in the social sciences with respect to placement and employment information.

Special Programs (SP) each have a particular goal in mind which is related to the functions of the PSSC. Thus, SP 1-2 is a schedule of publications subsidies for 1971 and for 1972-76. The funds of this program are being sought from the National Development Board; when they are made available, they will underwrite the expenses of bringing up to date four needy social-science journals, namely, the PSR, the Philippine Journal of Linguistics, the Journal of History, and the Philippine Journal of Psychology. These funds will also provide a decreasing subsidy in succeeding years, during which time SP 5 (the Central Subscription Service) will be building up the subscriptions of all these journals as well as of those journals published by the other associations which belong to the Council. This Central Subscription Service (hopefully to be funded by the Asia Foundation), besides boosting the sales of Philippine social-science journals, will also take over the marketing, billing, receipting, and business-correspondence aspects of these publications. This arrangement is designed to regularize and simplify the placing of subscriptions and their mailing to subscribers. The subject of SP 3 and SP 4 is financial support for graduate students. Here the Council seeks the cooperation of the Fund for Assistance to Private Education, hoping to help FAPE in the management of thesis grants and graduate assistantships.

Under SP 6 (the Research Training Program), the Council hopes to spread to colleges and universities throughout the Philippines research expertise of sufficiently uniform quality to enable the participating institutions to become subcontractors in national surveys, as well as to do regional research on their own. As with

most of the Council's plans, the object is not only to raise the standards of performance, but also to make the assisted units financially independent. The Ford Foundation has expressed interest in this and the General program.

The PSSC, though it was incorporated in December 1968, and has been active in a variety of ways since that time, especially since January of this year, deliberately maintains a low profile. That is, until it is financed in such a way that it can offer at least some of the services included in its plans, it prefers to lie low, as it were, avoiding undue publicity at this time. Nonetheless, in the opinion of many observers, it bids fair to become an extremely significant inter-institutional arrangement for the improvement of social sciences, not only in the Philippines, but throughout Southeast Asia.

New Consortium

The Ateneo de Manila and the Philippine Normal College (PNC), principal institutions in a consortium organized by the Linguistic Society of the Philippines, initiated in July a doctoral program in linguistics. Dr. Emy M. Pascasio of the Ateneo and Dr. Fe T. Otones of PNC serve as co-directors of the program which presently lists 15 students. The Ateneo and PNC provide the core of full-time professors, while members of the Linguistic Society of the Philippines who are also faculty members of De la Salle College, the University of the Philippines, and Silliman University, as well as other professors from allied disciplines, will be invited to participate as lecturers. For the first year of operation, the program received financial support from the Asia Foundation and from the Fund for Assistance to Private Education (FAPE).

The consortium, first of its kind in the country, aims to make better use of the facilities and personnel of both the Ateneo and PNC. It further seeks to fill the need for more linguists to study the problems stemming from the Philippine multilingual situation, to formulate a cohesive policy on language, and to plan and implement strategies called for by such a policy.

Current research in Cotabato

Despite the unrest that has plagued Cotabato Province in 1971, social-science research continues to go on there. Among those that the PSR has heard about are *Dr. Jeremy Beckett* (University of Sydney), *Dr. Juan R. Francisco* (University of the Philippines), *Luis Lacar* (Ph.D. cand., University of Pittsburgh), *Dr. Stuart A. Schlegel* (University of California at Santa Clara), and *James Stewart* (Ph.D. cand., University of Hawaii). *Stewart* is in Davao at this writing (November 1971), teaching a course at the Ateneo there while analyzing data he collected in two barrios of Midsayap. His interest is in economic and social organization and decision making among Muslims and Christians in these communities, and he expects to be in Mindanao till June 1972. *Beckett* arrived in August 1971 and will be with us for about six-eight months. He is studying the relationship between political behavior and Islam, with special attention to the observable return to orthodoxy in parts of Cotabato. His site is Sultan Kudarat (Nuling), near Cotabato City. *Schlegel*, an "old Philippine hand" (see Mary Hollnsteiner's review of his *Tiruray Justice* elsewhere in this issue), was here for the Stateside summer months this year, and will be back again next May or June (1972). He will probably study a traditional coastal community near the Tiruray territory he knows so well, and perhaps also Sultan Kudarat. His interest is in the part played by politics and religion in the transition to modernity. *Lacar*, who is from Midsayap, should be returning soon from Pittsburgh for research in Cotabato.

Francisco is studying Sanskrit elements in Magindanao language and literature. In particular, he is interested in the Magindanao epic entitled *Si Indarapatra ago si Sulayman* (Indarapatra and Sulayman), of which he has already recorded about 30,000 lines found in five-six cantos. There may be as many as 10 additional cantos. Dr. Francisco is concentrating on the communities of Datu Piang, Buluan, Pikit, Pagalungan, and Kabakan, but is checking the findings in North Cotabato as well. The research, which involves content analysis relative to modern Magindanao culture and society, is funded

by the National Research Council of the Philippines. His work on the *Darangan* epic of Lanao (72,000 lines) is funded by the UP-SSRC Ford Foundation fund.

Conference in Sulu

The Coordinated Investigation of Sulu Culture (CISC) hosted an informal conference on current research on the peoples of the southern Philippines at Notre Dame of Jolo College, Sulu, August 15–18, 1971. Twenty-four anthropologists, linguists, and sociologists who were engaged in research in the area attended the meetings organized by Gerard M. Rixhon, O.M.I., director of the CISC, and sponsored by Notre Dame and the Asia Foundation.

A single morning discussion meeting was held each day of the conference. The first day's meeting, chaired by Charles O. Frake (Stanford University), was about the Samalan-speaking peoples of the Philippines and its vicinity. The second, chaired by David Baradas (Mindanao State University), was on concepts of law and justice among selected peoples of Sulu, Mindanao, and Palawan. Frank Lynch, S. J., (Ateneo de Manila) chaired the final session which featured a review of anthropological research under way in Philippine institutions and a discussion of ways in which visiting social scientists could participate in the development of these institutions.

The session on Samalan languages, held August 15, provided an opportunity to reassess problems of the origin, distribution, and unity of Samalan-speaking peoples by bringing together a number of investigators who have made recent independent studies of these languages. The reports of this session make it clear that Samalan is a closely related group of languages and dialects with a uniquely widespread and scattered distribution in the southern Philippines, North Borneo, eastern Celebes, and northern Moluccas. None of the participants had reliable information on the existence of Samal languages in Malaya or western Indonesia, but what is known so far points to a Sulu origin for the Samalan group. It is in Sulu that

the greatest linguistic differentiation and the largest contiguous block of speakers are found. There is no support for local traditions that have the Samal coming *en masse* from Johore in relatively recent times. Certainly it is clear that the Tausug represent an intrusion from the Bisayas into a Samalan-speaking area.

Stuart Schlegel summarized some of the main points discussed during the second morning. These were: the symbolic character of fines, the coexistence of dual theories of justice among peoples of the southern Philippines, and the absence of institutionalized power in several groups.

The final session, held August 17, began with a report on current research and teaching at each of the Philippine institutions represented at the conference. The picture which emerged from the nine local institutions reported on was one of small staffs working on large numbers of relatively practical projects. With the exception of those of the Institute of Philippine Culture (Ateneo de Manila), which is nationally involved as well, the projects tend to be regional or local — part of the institution's contribution to its community.

After these presentations, comments were solicited from the participants on the first 12 recommendations found in Richard N. Adams' "Responsibility of the foreign scholar to the local scholarly community" (*Current Anthropology* 12[3]:335-39). There seemed to be agreement that Adam's first 12 recommendations and commentaries, though prepared for the Latin American context, were relevant and useful for the Philippines. The possible role of the newly incorporated (1968) Philippine Social Science Council and the PSR (since 1953

the quarterly review of Philippine sociology and anthropology) was discussed, particularly in regard to the visiting scholar's responsibility to report *locally* on his research progress and conclusions. If the visiting scholars cooperate regularly in this manner, and in other ways recommended by Adams, it was foreseen that the Philippine Social Science Council would resist with vigor any attempt of government entities to impose the kind of mandatory registration and reporting found in other countries of Southeast Asia.

Summer institute for behavioral science teachers

Last summer (May-June 1971) the Ateneo de Manila Graduate School conducted a Summer Institute on the Teaching of the Behavioral Sciences. The course was intensive, eight academic units being allowed for those who completed it successfully. The staff included the following: Mary R. Hollnsteiner (sociology; academic director of the Institute), Wilfredo F. Arce (anthropology), Sr. Donald Decaesstecker (sociology), Patricia B. Licuanan (psychology), Frank Lynch (anthropology), and Virginia A. Miralao (sociology).

The same kind of Institute will be offered in May-June 1972, with the staff augmented by the addition of Dr. Sylvia H. Guerrero (sociology). It is expected that, as in 1971, FAPE fellowships will be available for qualified students. For further information on the program or grants consult Dr. W. F. Arce, chairman, department of sociology and anthropology, Ateneo de Manila (P. O. Box 154, Manila D-406).