

## SAYING GOODBYE TO PROFESSOR MOJSIEWICZ

*by Tadeusz Wallas*

Although each of us is unique there is no one who could not be substituted. We can usually agree with this statement although sometimes we accept that there are exceptional individuals, though it is regretful that we do not encounter them frequently. There are people whose contribution to the life of a social group or an institution is difficult to replace. They integrate the group, motivate the group's members to work better, offer a good example, willingly advise and help others, represent the ambitions of the group well, and so on. In the Poznań circle of political scientists Professor Czesław Mojsiewicz was such a figure. He had a tremendous influence on the profile of this circle over the forty-two years of its active creation and shaping.

Professor Czesław Mojsiewicz was born in the end of 1924. He spent his childhood in the Nowogródek area, close to Lake Świtez – known mainly thanks to Adam Mickiewicz. His parents, Antoni Mojsiewicz and Bronisława from the Ratkiewicz family, had a small farm there which provided the modest existence of a family with three children, Czesław being the oldest.

The education of young Czesław started at a four-grade school in Walówka. Having graduated from this school the future professor attended

grades 5 and 6 in Horodyszcz. On every school day he had to travel 14 km (over 8.5 miles) each way. Next, he was admitted to the Adam Mickiewicz High School in Nowogródek.

The outbreak of World War II had an enormous influence on the future life of Czesław Mojsiewicz. On February 10, 1940, the Mojsiewicz family shared the fate of many other Polish families and was transported to taiga in the Archangielsk district where they worked hard at clearing the forest. The fate of the exiles slightly improved after the treaty signed by Sikorski and Majski on July 30, 1941. Yet the adventure with the BERIA-TOUR Travel Agency, as the Professor used to call it, started to come to an end in March 1943 when Czesław Mojsiewicz was able to set off to Sielce on Oka to join the emerging 1st Tadeusz Kościuszko Infantry Division. He walked the combat trail from May 26, 1943 to May 9, 1945, in the ranks of the Polish Army, serving in the 1st and 22nd regiment of the Light Artillery. The end of the war found him in the Czech town of Deczyn.

After the war, Professor Czesław Mojsiewicz remained in the army combining his service with science. In March 1949 he passed the high school final exams and started evening studies at the Social and Philosophical Faculty of the Warsaw University. He was awarded an M.A. in 1954. He soon commenced his doctoral dissertation devoted to the educational activity of the US army. His supervisor was Professor Wiktor Szczerba. On October 1, 1964, he was awarded a doctoral degree. His dissertation was reviewed by Professors Zygmunt Bauman and Jerzy Wiatr. On December 12, 1966, after 23 years in service, Professor Mojsiewicz was transferred 'at his request' to the reserve as a colonel.

On January 1, 1967, Czesław Mojsiewicz started working at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań where he was employed at the Interdepartmental Studies in Political Science, which was transformed into the Political Science Institute in the same year. Prof. Mojsiewicz walked the entire academic career path from assistant to professor. Although he was already a doctor he was employed as an assistant "to begin his life at a civil university at the lowest position" as he would write later on. In October 1967 he was appointed an assistant professor and an associate professor on April 1, 1971. As a result of intensive scientific work he received a post-

doctoral degree on May 12, 1971, followed by the title of professor on July 14, 1988.

Professor Mojsiewicz performed a range of organizational tasks at the Institute. He was the head of the Section for International Relations, head of Postgraduate Studies in Citizenship Education, head of Doctoral Studies, Deputy Director of the Institute for Science, Director of the Research Center on Peace and International Cooperation. From the point of view of the political science in Poznań the most significant post was his chairmanship of the Section for International Relations. He started on April 1, 1971, and continued until his retirement in 1995. In this period the Section headed by Prof. Mojsiewicz was among the busiest units at the Institute. Numerous valuable scientific papers, acknowledged by critics, originated at the Section. Its employees, established collaboration with nearly all Polish and numerous foreign scientific and research centers specializing in international issues.

Professor Mojsiewicz was an outstanding scholar. He was and remains a commonly known and recognized specialist in the realm of international relations amongst other fields. He presented the results of his research at numerous conferences and in many publications. He wrote over 300 books, papers and other scientific publications, which have made a significant contribution to the development of political science.

He also made considerable achievements in the education of scientific personnel. He supervised 30 doctors, eight of whom have been awarded postdoctoral degrees, and five of whom have received the title of professor. Several work at the faculty of Political Science and Journalism at the Adam Mickiewicz University. It is thanks to Professor Mojsiewicz that the Faculty has a Section with a circle interested in international relations, which is really powerful in terms of faculty and research results, reflected in the number of publications, and is renowned in Poland and abroad.

The deceased also actively took part in international scientific life, attending the world Congresses of Political Scientists in Moscow (1979), Paris (1985), Washington (1988), Buenos Aires (1991) and Berlin (1992). For twelve years he was also a member of the IPSA Board (International Political Science Association), and a member of the EuPRA Board (European Peace Research Association) for six years. He attended numerous

international conferences, among others those in Rome, Belgrade, Florence, Sarajevo, Ljubljana, Zagreb, Vienna, Budapest, Helsinki, Cologne, Bonn, Otzenhausen, Sofia, Moscow, Rostov, Prague, Berlin, Montevideo, and Riga.

Professor Mojsiewicz had another passion though: the students. They always liked and respected him. He enjoyed talking to them. He was a demanding teacher and instructor, but he always had a partnership relationship with his students. The main subject he taught was “International Political Relations” and Master’s seminars, as well as the Bachelor’s seminars he started teaching in recent years, after he had retired. He came to class on time, was duly prepared and ran his classes in an exceptionally interesting manner. He would always enrich his lectures with information absent from official publications, which was particularly valuable in Communist times. After his classes he would always find time for conversations, discussions and listening about students’ problems. How much students liked him was evidenced by the number of students signing up for his seminars. It would always exceed the initial limits.

Professor Mojsiewicz should be particularly appreciated for his active attitude which did not change after he had retired, despite the fact that he had already achieved all scientific degrees. He wrote and published in abundance, which served science, students and all those interested in the issues of international politics. The year of his retirement (February 10, 1995) was the 55th anniversary of his professional work. For twenty-eight out of these fifty-five years he worked at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań.

The scientific renown of Czesław Mojsiewicz made numerous scientific boards and editorial houses entrust him with the role of a reviewer. His position in scientific circles resulted in their electing the Professor to the Political Science Committee at the Polish Academy of Science. He was the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and recently an Honorary Chairman of the Committee. It was a great distinction for Professor Mojsiewicz to have been repeatedly elected by scholars to the Central Commission for Academic Titles and Degrees. He also chaired the Polish Political Science Association as its president and vice president. He was also a member of

the PPSA Board for many terms. Professor Mojsiewicz was also a member of the Peace Research Council.

Czesław Mojsiewicz was decorated with the Officer's and Knight's Cross of the Order of the Restitution of Poland, numerous military distinctions, including the Cross of Valor and a triple Silver Medal for Merit on the Field of Glory.

Concluding on his life he wrote: "We are Poles. Sometimes you pay a high price for this. This has happened to me. I have always endeavoured to be faithful to Poland. She is our Homeland. I served her the best I could. I have always believed that it will be better than it is, that there will be less evil, that the number of poor people will diminish and justice will prevail. (...) My life was complicated since I lived at the time of the war and great political turmoil. Improvements made one joyous. But there was a lot to sadden one. There is too much private interest in life and incompetence at various levels. There is too much strife that has already brought Poland to ruin once before. There is too much short-lived and flash in the pan enthusiasm. Too much Polish blood has been spilt. Lack of prudence, consistency and diligent work has cost Poland a lot and it continues to do so. Only systematic work and behavior is decisive to the prosperity of individuals and nations."

It is with profound regret that I am saying goodbye to this Professor Emeritus of the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Faculty of Political Science and Journalism, an outstanding scholar, political scientist, a specialist in the realm of international political relations and methodology of political science, the author of several hundreds books and other studies, long time supervisor and reviewer, an exceptionally respected academic teacher and educator, who passed away on May 4, 2009. He shall remain in our memory as a reliable friend, a virtuous, diligent and benevolent man.