

CHINA

Dates of Elections: mid-March to late April 1983.

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the seats in the National People's Congress on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of the People's Republic of China, the National People's Congress, comprises 3419 Deputies indirectly elected for 5 years.

Electoral System

Deputies are chosen by the people's congresses of the country's 21 provinces, five autonomous regions, three municipalities directly under the Central Government, and the People's Liberation Army, each college of delegates being proportionate to the number of electors in the constituency. Congress members must be citizens at least 18 years of age.

Candidates are chosen by the Communist Party of China. Their names are then communicated to the electors.

Deputies are subject to supervision by the units which elect them. These electoral units have the power to replace at any time the Deputies they elect, as prescribed by law.

General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

Following the adoption of the 1982 Constitution*, the Sixth Congress was chosen from mid-March through April 1983. This newly-elected body held its first session from 6 to 23 June 1983, at which time it elected a new Head of State.

Under the Chinese system of government, the National People's Congress is the highest organ of State power under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, which selects the Congress candidates.

The Congress was characterized by many new faces (only some 700 incumbents were re-elected). The average age of the Deputies was 53 years; 13.5% represented national minorities, 21% were women and 23.5% belonged to the intellectual class. On the average, one Deputy represented 1,040,000 people living in rural areas, as opposed to 130,000 residing in urban regions.

* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 9.