

POLAND

Date of Elections: June 1, 1969

Characteristics of Parliament

The Parliament (*Sejm*) of the Polish People's Republic is a unicameral Assembly, composed of 460 deputies elected for 4 years in a ratio of one per 65,000 inhabitants.

In the general elections of June 1969, the entire *Sejm* was renewed upon the normal expiry of the IVth legislature.

Electoral System

All citizens of both sexes, including members of the armed forces, are entitled to vote provided they are at least 18 years old on polling day, have not been deprived of their civic rights by court decision and are not mentally deficient. There are no other requirements.

Any voter who has reached the age of 21 may stand for election to the Diet.

Candidatures for Parliament may be submitted by political, professional and co-operative organizations and other mass popular movements.

The 460 deputies are elected in 80 constituencies on a party-list system with preferential vote.

In each constituency, a single list — or several, in accordance with the electoral law — is submitted to the electorate. This list bears the names of candidates and may exceed the number of seats

to be filled in the constituency by up to 50 per cent. The voter can cross out certain names on the list he wishes to support, thereby showing his preference for the other candidates. However, if there are more names left than seats to be filled in the constituency, the vote is considered as going to the candidates which are placed highest on the list.

The candidates with most votes are then declared elected on condition they receive an absolute majority of the valid votes.

It should be mentioned that, should a seat fall vacant during a legislature, the *Sejm* may, on the proposal of the organization which put up the candidature of the previous holder of the seat, decide to fill it with the best placed candidate among those on the same list who were not elected, provided he too obtained an absolute majority of the votes cast.

If the *Sejm* does not take this decision, but at least a third of the seats attributed to the relevant constituency are vacant and the legislature has at least another six months to run, then a by-election is held.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

As usual in Poland, the United Workers' Party, the United Peasant Party and the Democratic Party — representing the political groups —, 3 Catholic groups — "Znak", "Pax" and the Christian-Social Association —, together with the other mass social organizations, agree amongst themselves to submit a common list in each constituency under the auspices of the National Unity Front. On June 1, 620 candidates contested the 460 seats to be filled in the Polish *Sejm* for the whole country.

Following the designation of the candidates, which in Poland is an important stage in the electoral process and the occasion for an extensive exchange of opinion within the organizations involved, the National Unity Front took steps to publicize and develop the programme of action which its candidates envisaged for the next legislature.

This was summed up in an election manifesto which stated that, when the new Five-Year Plan came up for adoption, the new deputies would endeavour to perfect the planning system, harmonize it with independent initiative and ensure the continuation of the Polish economy's dynamic development which, *inter alia*, had led to the creation of 1.3 million new jobs during the previous legislature. The Front also promised greater efforts in further developing education and in extending the social achievements of the workers; on this point, it noted that the next legislature would draft and adopt a new Labour Code designed to grant manual and intellectual workers the same rights.

As regards foreign policy, the candidates of the Front came out in favour of strengthening their alliance, friendship and co-operation with all Socialist countries and consolidating peace and security on the basis of the *status quo* in Europe. In support of Mr. Gomulka's appeal to the Federal Republic of Germany to sign an agreement recognizing the Oder-Neisse frontier, they further recommended the convening of a European Conference to analyse the problems of security and co-operation among nations of the European continent.

Finally, the candidates of the National Unity Front undertook to work towards increasing the *Sejm's* role in passing just laws and controlling their implementation.

Statistics

1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the Sejm

Number of registered electors	21,148,879
Voters	20,642,449 (97.2 %)
Blank or void ballot papers	7,766
Valid votes	20,634,683
<i>Number of votes obtained by the candidates elected.</i>	<i>20,437,114</i>

Political Group	Number of Seats in the <i>Sejm</i>
United Workers' Party.	255 (=)
United Peasant Party.	117 (=)
Democratic Party.	39 (=)
'Non-Party.	35 (—)
Catholic Groups.	14 (+ 1)
	460

2. *Distribution of Deputies according to Professional Category*

Agricultural workers.	70
Cadres, engineers and industrial technicians	24
Career officers.	7
Doctors.	8
Higher State officials, trade unionists, representa- tives of mass organizations, etc.	201
Industrial workers.	79
Journalists and literary figures.	27
Jurists.	6
Scientists.	18
Teachers.	20
	460

3. *Distribution of Deputies according to Sex*

Men.	398
Women.	62
	460

RUMANIA

Date of Elections: March 2, 1969

Characteristics of Parliament

According to Article 42 of the Constitution, the Grand National Assembly, the supreme body of State power, is the sole legislative body of the Socialist Republic of Rumania. The unicameral Parliament comprises 465 deputies elected for 4 years.

On March 2, upon the regular termination of the previous legislature (Vth), general elections were held for the total number of seats in the Grand National Assembly.

Electoral System

The 465 deputies are elected by uninominal majority ballot in as many constituencies comprising an equal number of inhabitants (about 41,000).

Under Electoral Law No. 28/1966, electoral constituencies must be fixed and given numbers and names within 5 days of the establishment of the date of elections.

All Rumanian citizens of both sexes, at least 18 years of age, with the exception of the mentally deficient and persons who have been deprived of their civic rights by court decision, are entitled to vote. Electoral lists are closed at least 30 days prior to the elections; however, citizens who acquire the right to vote between the day they are closed and polling day, inclusive, are also allowed to register.

All voters at least 23 years of age are eligible for election and no incompatibility is stipulated by law.

All workers' organizations are entitled to submit candidatures for election to the Grand National Assembly: the Rumanian Communist Party, trade unions, co-operatives, young peoples' associations, youth and cultural organizations, etc., all of which may propose one or more candidates for each electoral constituency. These candidatures must be submitted no later than 30 days before the election and are fixed definitively a week later, after the time-limit for the presentation and settlement of any disputes has expired.

No provision is made for substitute deputies and, should a seat fall vacant during a legislature, elections are organized within 3 months in the relevant constituency.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The United Socialist Front, the permanent political organ constituted on November 19, 1968, and combining the Rumanian Communist Party along with all professional and social organizations in the country, put up 465 candidates for the election.

During the electoral campaign, the Front published a manifesto containing the principal points of its programme. After analysing achievements since the previous elections, the manifesto listed the objectives of the VIth legislature: improvement of the material and spiritual living conditions of the people — in the economic sphere, by means of a better adaptation of the structure of the various branches of industry, intensive development of agriculture through increased mechanization and extension of irrigated land, and, in the cultural sphere, by developing the educational system.

The programme further stressed the importance, with regard to domestic affairs, of extending the exercise of the Grand National Assembly's powers * and strengthening Socialist democracy. Finally, as regards foreign policy, it underlined the need to broaden the country's ties of friendship and co-operation with all Socialist States

* See *Parliamentary Developments in the World*, p. 20.

on the basis of Marxist-Leninist principles and internationalism, respect for sovereignty and independence, and non-interference in the domestic affairs of each partner. In this programme, the United Socialist Front expressed its desire to contribute to the development of good-neighbourly relations and collaboration with all European countries, and recommended the parallel suppression of the North Atlantic Treaty and the Warsaw Pact.

Following the publication of this manifesto, the electoral campaign was marked by numerous meetings which enabled citizens to hold a wide confrontation of their points of view on the various aspects of the country's political and socio-economic life and to debate problems involved with the candidates.

Statistics

1. Results of the Elections

Number of registered voters	13,582,249
Voters	13,577,143 (99.9 %)
Void or blank ballot papers	2,896
Valid votes	13,574,247
<i>Votes obtained by the United Socialist</i>	
<i>Front</i>	13,543,499
Votes against	30,748

2. Distribution of Deputies according to Professional Category

Agricultural workers, employees and leaders of agricultural sectors	7(1
Cadres belonging to Party and State bodies or to mass and public organizations	187
Intellectuals	88
Workers, technicians, and leaders of industrial and transport sectors	< >
Others	22
	465
	59

3. *Distribution of Deputies according to Original Nationality*

Rumanian.	403
Hungarian.	41
German.	12
Other nationalities.	9
	465

4. *Distribution of Deputies according to Age Group*

23-35 years.	73
36-50 years.	270
Over 50 years.	122
	465

5. *Distribution of Deputies according to Sex*

Men.	398
Women.	67
	465

It should also be mentioned that, of the 465 deputies, 238 had held seats in the previous legislature and 227 were new members.