

## SWEDEN

**Date of Elections:** September 20, 1970

### **Reason for Elections**

Citizens were called to the polls to elect members of the Parliament which had become unicameral as a result of the constitutional reforms of 1969 \*.

The mandates of the former *Riksdag* members in the Lower House had reached their end; they were to expire in December 1972 for members of the Upper House.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The Swedish Parliament, the *Riksdag*, henceforth unicameral, comprises 350 members elected for 3 years.

### **Electoral System**

All Swedish citizens, of either sex, aged at least 19 during the year preceding the election, in possession of their civil rights and registered on electoral rolls, are entitled to vote. The rolls are drawn up in each district by an electoral committee and are revised annually. Voting is not compulsory.

Voters of either sex, at least 20 years old, are eligible to stand for election. The parliamentary mandate is not incompatible with other public or private offices.

Of the 350 members of the *Riksdag*, 310 are elected in 28 constituencies under the party-list system without preferential vote or vote-splitting and with proportional distribution according to the revised St. Lagije method (divisors: 1, 4, 3, 4, 5, 7).

The 40 remaining seats, called compensatory seats, are allocated on a national scale.

To do this, those parties are first eliminated who received less than 4 % of the sum total of votes cast throughout the country. However, if a candidate of one of these parties received 12 % of the votes in a constituency, the party has the right to a seat. A calculation is then made to ascertain how many seats each party would have received if Sweden as a whole had formed only one electoral constituency and if the revised St. Lagije method had been applied.

\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections III* (1968-1969), pp. 20 and 21.

The number of compensation seats due to each party is equal to the difference between the result of that operation and the number of seats it has already won in the constituencies. All parties thus acquiring additional seats allocate their first compensatory mandate to their unelected candidate who heads the list in the constituency where the party has the greatest surplus of votes after the first distribution of seats and so on.

If a seat should become vacant during the legislature, it is filled by the "next in line" of the list from which the holder had been elected.

### General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The various political parties agreed to open the electoral campaign on August 22.

The Liberals, the Centre and the Conservatives were opposing the Social Democratic Party that had been in power for 38 years. Two Marxist groups, the Communist Party and the Marxist-Leninists, also took part in the elections. The Social Democratic Party had 626 candidates, the Centre Party 606, the Liberals 843 and the Communists 340.

The principal subjects dealt with during the campaign were, as far as home affairs were concerned, about economic and social matters: improvement of working conditions, rise in prices, the position of foreign trade, the role of the State in the development of national industries, with the nomination as an experiment for five years, of State representatives to the Boards of Directors of large companies. As regards problems relating to foreign policy, these were scarcely touched on by the parties, even the question of Swedish application to join the Common Market was envisaged only in so far as it questioned the future of Sweden's traditional neutrality.

As a whole, the campaign was conducted in an atmosphere of calm, even though a certain tension was evident between the moderate opposition parties, which failed to present a common front. Only the Liberals and the Centre published a joint manifesto, in which they declared themselves in favour of increased family allowances, a liberal economy and broad autonomous power for the communes.

At the extreme left, there was no great unity between pro-Soviet Communists and Marxist-Leninists. However, contrary to the forecasts of certain observers, the Communist Party succeeded in polling 4 % of votes, the level below which it would have had no representation, and received 17 seats in the *Riksdag*, instead of the 3 which it held previously.

With 45.3 % of the votes and 163 Deputies, the Social Democrats lost their absolute majority. The non-Socialist opposition, represented by 170 Deputies, came close to winning it from them.

The Social Democratic Prime Minister, Mr. Olof Palme, kept his cabinet in operation by declaring that his Party would make concessions neither to the bourgeois parties nor to the Communists in putting into effect his electoral programme. In fact, the Social Democrats will have to receive the support of some other votes — perhaps those of Communist Deputies — in order not to be put in a minority.

## Statistics

### 1 Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the Riksdag

Number of registered voters. . . . .	5,645,804
Voters. . . . .	4,984,207 (88.3 %)
Blank or void ballot papers. . . . .	8,011
Valid votes. . . . .	4,976,196

Political Group	Votes obtained	%	Number of Constituency Seats	Compensatory Seats	Seats in Riksdag
Social Democratic Party . . . . .	2,256,369	45.3	149	U	163
Centre Party . . . . .	991,208	19.9	67	4	71
Liberal Party . . . . .	806,667	16.2	31	7	58
Conservative Party . . . . .	573,812	11.5	36	5	41
Communist Party . . . . .	236,659	4.8	7	10	17
Christian Democratic Union . . . . .	88,770	1.8	—	—	—
KFML . . . . .	21,238	0.4	—	—	—
Others . . . . .	1,473	0.01			
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### 2. Distribution of Deputies according to Professional Category

#### *Employers and Directors of Companies*

Agriculture and fishing . . . . .	.54
Industry. . . . .	.12
Commerce and transportation. . . . .	.10
Others. . . . .	.12

#### *Administrative staff*

Industry. . . . .	.6
Commerce and transportation. . . . .	.16
Journalists. . . . .	.15

<i>Workers</i>	23
<i>Civil Servants</i>	
Executives of public services. . . . .	51
Employees. . . . .	3
Teachers. . . . .	31
<i>Permanent Members — Representatives of associations in the public interest</i>	
Political organizations. . . . .	18
Trade union organizations. . . . .	24
Interested groups. . . . .	^
Representatives of the Free Church . . . . .	2
<i>Housewives.</i> . . . .	14
<i>Members of the Government.</i> . . . .	15
<i>Others.</i> . . . .	33
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### 3. Distribution of Deputies according to Sex

	Men	Women	Total
Social Democratic Party	135	28	163
Centre Party. . . . .	62	9	71
Liberal Party. . . . .	63	5	58
Conservative Party . . .	37	4	41
Communist Party . . . .	14	3	17
	301	49	350

### 4. Average Age: 50 years