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Prof. dr. Roger Jowell
Sharo Winterspoon
Lindsaybrook
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Great Britain

26.9.1988

Dear Prof. Jowell,

After discussions I have had in the last few months with my colleagues Prof. Scheuch, Prof. Haller and Dr. Braun from ZUMA and after reading the available methodological and research documentation I realized that the programme "International Social Survey Program" you are coordinating, is an extraordinary achievement and opportunity for the internationalization of social research. Let me mention that I am sorry that the whole concept of the programme was not presented properly on the Research Council Meeting ISA: Cross Cultural and International Research: Theories, Methods, Projects, Organization; Centralization vs. Decentralization. The meeting was held on September 1st-4th, 1988 in Ljubljana and was coorganized by our Research Institute. Your programme represents for us a challenge and we would like to join it. There are the following circumstances which speak for our cooperation in ISSP:

- the development of Slovene social science and especially the Slovene empirical sociology with a more than 30 years' tradition
- the development of sociological empirical research within the Research Institute of the Faculty of Sociology, Political Science and Journalism as well as the independent Institute for Sociology, both within the University of Ljubljana
- 20 years of continuity of Slovene National Social Science Survey which is being performed under the title "Slovene Public Opinion". SOP: representative model of 2100 units, annual continuity research, standardized questionnaire, developed methodology, publicity of the 20 years' results, research etc. The SOP programme represents the only and central institution in Yugoslavia (enclosed is the publication of summary of results SOP 1987, publication SOP 1988 is being printed);

- in the programme SOP we have in the last 20 years touched problems which are included in the ISSP programme (state power, party, election system, perception of inequity, social structure division of roles within the family, development values, quality of life etc.)
- at the Institute we dispose of the experience and a developed system for performing the empirical research, methodological knowledge and programmes, with a terminal unit of the University computer centre and 45 XT/AT compatible PCs for education and personal work of the research people.

There are also some other cultural-historical and political-systematical facts which speak for our cooperation in ISSP:

-The Slovenes are a nation with European cultural tradition and actual European direction, the result of which is the high evaluation of democracy, liberty and initiative of an individual, spontaneity, high evaluation of national autonomy, a developed national self-consciousness and rejection of all kinds of totalitarianism, one party system and militarism. Slovenia is highly developed, it has a well developed educational and health system as well as cultural life. Three fifths of Slovene population are of rimocatholic religion, a fourth being atheists.

-Slovenia has developed in the direction of a republic within the Yugoslav federation since 1945. In the system there is a relative high degree of republic autonomy and Slovenia tries to keep it within the actual changes of the constitution.

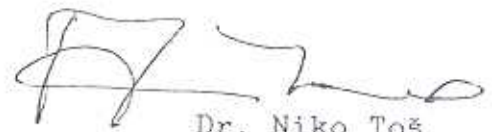
From the point of view of ISSP would Slovene national research mean the widening of analytical and interpretational possibilities, especially from the point of view of the affects of different social-political systems. At the same time it would also mean the possibility for research on entire Yugoslavia.

Dear Prof. Jowell, I ask you to study our proposal and enable us in the first phase methodological consulting and exchange. When we have our first results we can discuss further possibilities for cooperation. We dispose of the terms for the first research already in this autumn and would like to have:

1. Permission to take the forming methodology and operational results of your research from the programme ISSP
2. Your advise which of already performed research should first be done in Slovenia taking into consideration the possibility for including it in the analysis and interpretations
3. Your information on terms under which our cooperation is for you acceptable. Our opinion is of course that the exchange of data and international publicity are the basic term for such a cooperation.

At the end I would like to mention that at YUMA I received German examples of questionnaires on performed research as well as the questionnaire which was presented in Austria by Prof. Haller this year.

With best regards,



Dr. Niko Toš

Director of Research Institute

Co:

- Prof. Scheuch, Koln
- Prof. Haller, Graz
- Dr. Braum, Bonn
- V. Antončič, ISU Ljubljana



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Prof. dr. Roger Jowell
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Dear Professor Jowel,

After three years I am suggesting again our cooperation in the scope of ISSP programme. The circumstances mentioned in my letter three years ago (in the annex), speaking in favour of our inclusion in this prominent international project, have been confirmed also by the declaration of Slovenia's independence last June, by our war for independence, and finally by the conclusion of the three-month moratorium on October 7 since which date Slovenia is acting as an independent country in the world. I hope the changed circumstances will have some effect on the judgment of the ISSP coordination in favour of our inclusion. Of course, it is not our intention to aggravate the course of cooperation: our sole wish is to open the possibility and conditions to analyze the circumstances in Slovene society in a wider European context for our own and other European researchers.

I want to inform you that from the ISSP programme framework we have up till now carried out the selection of "Role of Government" variables. With the help of colleagues from Zentralarchiv in Koeln

we got the questionnaires for "Religion" and "Inequality II". We are ready to use both questionnaires on a representative sample of adult Slovene population (N=2100) during an autumn probing this year and during a spring probing in 1992. We are also prepared to take part in the designing of "Environment" and "National Identity" programmes. Particularly the latter research reflects directly the current Slovene situation.

In the case of our inclusion in the ISSP we are willing, of course, to accept any obligations agreed upon in the international team. Let me mention that at the ZA in Koeln we have launched the initiative to deposit research data of the "Slovene Social Survey" series which has been going on since 1968 on a representative sample.

For the sake of illustration of the current circumstances in Slovenia, I am enclosing a first draft issue of the Slovene part of the research report in the framework of the international research into "Political Culture in Central and Eastern Europe during the Transition to Democracy", coordinated by Samuel Barns, Georgetown University, and colleagues from the Institute for Political Studies, Hungarian Academy of Science.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Niko Toš', written over a horizontal line.

Niko Toš

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