

EDITOR'S NOTE

In our first issue (spring 1983) we wrote :

Research and dialogue in the social sciences as such have never been in the forefront of the mainstream Greek society. A variety of reasons have been offered for this seeming lack of interest in the social research field, the primary being some kind of "socio-political conspiracy" on the part of the conservative elites that have governed Greece almost exclusively since Independence. As a matter of fact, it is not accidental that neither sociology, psychology nor education faculties exist in Greek universities, where systematic research on political and historical issues has been minimal. Numerous scholars have pointed out that in-depth research and analyses of the different socio-political issues prevailing in Greek society have been repeatedly avoided or even stifled altogether. Only very few instances exist where individual efforts have challenged this traditional indifference towards unraveling the mechanisms and processes underlying the very structures and functioning of the entire Greek social apparatus. In addition, the mere fact that Greece spends the least money in terms of percentage of GNP of all European and developing nations for research is one more indication of the low priority placed on social sciences investigation.

*On the other hand, as has been documented throughout the existing literature, almost "another Greece" exists outside Greece proper. The so-called **Apodimoi Hellenes** or the Greek diaspora may be found all over the globe, and more so in the large industrialized countries of the Western world, such as the USA, Canada, Australia, West Germany, and Sweden, to name a few. Research and social interest about the millions of Greek immigrants on the part of "metropolitan Greece" has been virtually non-existent, with the exception of a few unsystematic descriptive accounts for mainly administrative purposes. Whatever studies do exist about Greek immigrants around the world are the exclusive work of scholars of the Greek diaspora and organizations of Greek immigrants themselves, or even, in some instances, of non Greek scholars working within the overall field of ethnic relations. This trend, towards investigating different ethnic parameters, has intensified over the last twenty years or so among the immigrant-receiving societies.*

*By acknowledging and sharing the positive contribution of all efforts of Greek and non-Greek scholars who have somehow been, involved in the studying of Greek issues around the globe, **HELLENIC STUDIES** aims to offer one more concrete challenge within the social sciences field. **HELLENIC STUDIES** begins its publication with the sincere and ambitious goal of becoming the international academic forum of dialogue and exchange of ideas among all scholars dealing with the multifaceted issues prevailing among the **Hellenes** of the entire world. Furthermore, this latest journal including articles and analy-*

ses in English and French, at both the theoretical and empirical level, will pursue the cooperation and contributions of the best experts on Greek issues inside and outside Greece proper - future issues of the HELLENIC STUDIES journal will most probably include a limited number of articles in Greek as well.

It is our aim and belief that such an effort will fill an existing gap in the academic community and that HELLENIC STUDIES will be welcomed by Greeks and non-Greeks alike. We are convinced that this periodical will make a positive contribution towards a better understanding of general Greek issues and the larger societal issues as well.

For several reasons we interrupted the publication of this journal in 1985. What has since been changed? I believe that we can repeat what we published in 1983 with slight modifications. As a matter of fact, in Greece progress has been made in numerous fields of studies and research in the social sciences, especially in the fields of sociology, psychology, education and political science. There is now an openness in the Greek universities. Research institutions have also appeared since 1983. Nevertheless, the situation is precarious and in comparison with other Western countries, Greece remains behind in all these fields.

Lastly, the overall objectives of HELLENIC STUDIES remain the same as stated in our first edition in 1983.

THE EDITOR