

From Pope to Hope: The First Twenty Years of ISSP

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Abstract

The aim of this ISSP-sponsored project was to document the first 20 years of the International Society of Sport Psychology (ISSP), from its creation in 1965, as seen by a number of early leaders of ISSP, who were intimately involved. We also consulted a range of documentary evidence. We interviewed five senior officers, three of whom had been Presidents, one who had been a Vice President, and one who was General Secretary, during a substantial part of the period in question. We also examined minutes of Managing Council meetings and General Assemblies, statutes, the International Journal of Sport Psychology, and several books and papers that provide commentaries on aspects of the early history of ISSP. We identified six aspects for discussion, namely, the creation of ISSP, the management of ISSP during the period, activities of ISSP from 1965 to 1985, publications produced by ISSP, relationships of ISSP with other organizations, and problems that confronted ISSP between 1965 and 1985. Interviews and documentary evidence frequently provided consistent information, but occasionally there were contradictions. Interviewees sometimes presented different memories of the same event. Some information was not accessible to us. The account that emerged also left unanswered explanations of why certain decisions were made. Overall, this paper does provide a range of insights into key aspects of the first 20 years of ISSP, including its failures, as well as its successes.

Introduction

In 1965, the farsighted Italian sport psychologist Ferruccio Antonelli mounted a conference in Rome. This event attracted an attendance of 450 people from all around the world, who were interested in the application of psychology to sport and physical activity. The conference was entitled the First World Congress of Sport Psychology. During the conference Antonelli and his close colleagues held a business meeting, proposed the creation of global body in the field, and the International Society of Sport Psychology (ISSP) was born. In his Editorial for the inaugural issue of the International Journal of Sport Psychology, five years later, Antonelli (1970) stated: "I shall never forget that first meeting... The encouraging approval of the Pope who granted us an audience... the wealth of the contributions,... the warm expression of friendship and esteem... regardless of all differences of politics, nation or race" (p. 3).

Antonelli became the first President, a position he held for eight years. For the next 12 years, Miroslav Vanek, from Czechoslovakia steered the course of the infant world body. In 1985, ISSP elected Robert Singer as its third President. In his presidential address, published in the Society's journal that year, Singer (1985) expressed his hope for the future of ISSP. "It is certainly...challenging and exciting to be associated with the growth of a young society. We are part of the evolving process. We can try out new ideas and make things happen." (p. 253). We may ask what did happen during the 20 years between Antonelli's visit to the Pope and Singer's statement of hope for the future of ISSP.

Thirty-three years after the inaugural meeting of ISSP, at its annual meeting in Bangalore, India, in July 1998, the Managing Council of ISSP recognized that it is

important to document the early history of ISSP. The Managing Council acknowledged that, although there are publications on certain aspects of ISSP during the period from its inception to 1984, there is no definitive history of the whole period. Of course there are contemporary documents, although exploration has proved that these are neither as plentiful nor as informative as we might wish. In any event, official documents rarely bring events alive with the richness that can be achieved from personal accounts. ISSP Managing Council agreed that the early history of ISSP should be based on the accounts of those who were intimately involved at the time, placed within the context of surviving documentary evidence. Managing Council established a project with this objective and selected the authors of this article to conduct it. In this paper, we aim to summarize the oral histories of the first 20 years of ISSP (1965 to 1984), according to individuals centrally involved, placing those personal reflections within the framework of the documentary record, including papers from committees, newsletters and journals, and official and unofficial communications.

Sources of Information

The data for this historical account came from a number of sources. Principal among these was the oral histories of sport psychologists centrally involved in the early development of ISSP. This information was gathered by the use of interview techniques. Further information was gleaned from contemporary documents.

Oral Histories

We decided to interview the first three Presidents of ISSP, Professor Ferruccio Antonelli (Italy), Professor Miroslav Vanek (Czech Republic), and Professor Robert

Singer (USA). We also agreed that we should interview Professor Hermann Rieder (Germany), General Secretary of ISSP for much of the period, Professor Ema Geron (Israel, formerly Bulgaria) and Professor Atsushi Fujita (Japan), who were influential members of the Managing Council during the early years. We also considered the geographical, political, and cultural diversity offered by these central figures. Sadly, Professor Antonelli passed away shortly before we could interview him, so the oral history component of this paper is based on interviews with Professors Vanek, Singer, Rieder, Geron, and Fujita. With due respect to these eminent colleagues, their family names will be used throughout this paper.

We decided on the allocation of interviews to researchers based on the ease with which each interviewee could be accessed, as well as language considerations. On this basis, Hackfort approached Rieder and Vanek, Lidor contacted Singer and Geron, and Morris communicated with Fujita. All those eminent colleagues who were invited did agree to participate. We developed an interview guide to stimulate the participants to discuss their experiences in ISSP during the early years. The topics we aimed to cover are presented in Appendix A. We used probes and follow-up questions to clarify points and encourage participants to elaborate on their initial responses. We conducted the interviews face-to-face or by telephone and recorded them on audio-tape. The interviews took place at the following times: Singer, February, 1999; Rieder, May, 1999; Vanek, July 1999; Fujita, May 2000; and Geron, August, 2000. We transcribed the tapes verbatim (and translated into English, if the interview was originally conducted in another language). Next, we content analyzed the transcripts for accounts of significant ISSP events or decisions. We

grouped material by event and then matched each incident reported to documentary evidence of the same occurrence. In the case of Fujita, we conducted the interview by email. We sent the interview questions to Fujita by this medium and he sent detailed responses by email. We read the responses and then sent probes and follow-up questions by email to which he responded using the same medium again. Once we had collated the material, we sent a draft of this paper to each interviewee, so they could check that the references to their interviews reflected what they intended to say. Finally, we thanked all the participants.

Document Analysis

We aimed to examine minutes of all ISSP Managing Council meetings and General Assemblies for the period from 1965 to 1984, all issues of the International Journal of Sport Psychology (IJSP) and the ISSP Newsletter for the period, all official documents and unofficial letters between Managing Council members, and any definitive publications on aspects of the history of ISSP. All of these sources, except the last, are contemporary documents. Publications about aspects of the history of ISSP are typically retrospective. We found that we could not access minutes until they were published in the IJSP. The journal was first published in 1970, so its record runs from that time. Although there was talk of publishing a Newsletter in Managing Council minutes from the earliest recorded minutes, the then Treasurer of ISSP, Dorothy Harris, reported the publication of the first edition of the Society's Newsletter in the 1985 issue of IJSP (pp. 247-248), as its inaugural editor. Thus, the content of the Newsletter falls outside the parameters of the present study. We found it impossible to access any reliable source of letters about the Society during the

period of interest. We gathered material from a number of books and papers. There are several useful sources for different aspects of the history of ISSP, but there is no definitive publication that addresses all aspects of the history of the Society for its first 20 years.

We gathered all documents together and content analyzed them for significant ISSP events and decisions, following procedures outlined by Denzin and Lincoln (1998) and Miles and Huberman (1994). We grouped together reports of the same event in different documents. Based on the dating of these documents, we were able to establish a chronology of significant ISSP activity. We then linked the oral history material to this chronology. Where reports and accounts of a particular event or decision varied between the documentary report and the oral histories or between the oral histories of different participants, we have reported the different accounts, rather than artificially determining a “definitive” account, which amounts to reconstructing history. We also asked the participants in the oral history to examine the documentary material presented in the draft paper and to raise any concerns they had with those reports written about events around the time they happened.

Early History of ISSP

We consider that a chronological account of all that happened in ISSP during the 20 year period from 1965 to 1984 could prove to be difficult reading and of limited information value. Thus, we have identified a number of major themes from the interviews and documentary analysis. In this Results section, we have presented the historical information within these themes, allowing us to make some observations on the development of ISSP within each thematic area. The themes are: creation of ISSP,

management of ISSP, major scientific meetings sponsored by ISSP, relationships between ISSP and other organizations, publications of ISSP, and problems of ISSP. Before discussing ISSP history in terms of each of these themes, we briefly report on the time and manner in which the interviewees told us that they became involved with ISSP.

ISSP Involvement of Interviewees

Vanek and Geron attended the inaugural, so-called ISSP congress in Rome in 1965. Vanek was invited to join the Managing Council. Vanek told us that there was a substantial political process in his nomination that involved a more senior colleague from Czechoslovakia, a Soviet colleague, and a Soviet ambassador. By proposing Vanek to the others without objection, the senior Czech colleague was able to get “approval” for Vanek to be involved, although Vanek was not a member of the Communist Party at the time, normally a prerequisite for involvement in international organizations. Geron, then resident in Bulgaria, found out about the first congress through a letter sent to the Bulgarian Olympic Committee and managed to travel to Italy to be present. Then, although she was prevented from personally attending the second congress, in 1968, she was elected to Managing Council there. Singer informed us that his first contact with ISSP was at the second World Congress in Washington, D.C. in 1968. He heard about the Congress through his involvement in the fledgling US body, the North American Society for the Psychology of Sport and Physical Activity (NASPSPA). He admitted that until that time, he was not aware that sport psychology was an organized discipline. His involvement in NASPSPA was based on his motor learning work. Singer said that he then became a member of ISSP, seeing its potential to influence the development of sport psychology

around the world, and was elected to Managing Council in 1977. Singer reported to us that he was nominated to Managing Council from the floor at the 1977 General Assembly and he believes that this was the first time that such nominations were taken. Prior to 1977, the retiring group had proposed the membership of the next ISSP Managing Council. Rieder and Fujita first became involved in ISSP in 1973, but their activities were very different at the start. At that time, Rieder was invited by the new President, Vanek, to be the Secretary General. He told us that he thought that this was due, in large part, to his role in organizing a successful European Congress in Cologne in 1972. Fujita was a member of ISSP until 1981, when he was first elected to the Managing Council. He has been a member ever since.

Creation of ISSP

The International Society of Sports (sic) Psychology (ISSP) was formally established at the First World Congress which took place in Rome, Italy in April 1965, with 450 delegates (Antonelli, 1970; Salmela, 1997). The Congress was organized by Italian psychiatrist Ferruccio Antonelli. Salmela (1997) reported that much of the managerial preparation was done before the Congress by Antonelli and Jose Ferrer Hombravella, a Spanish psychiatrist. In fact, Salmela (1997) stated that the idea originated with Homravella, as early as 1960. Both men had been involved with the Federacion Internationale du Medecin en Sport (FIMS). The impetus to launch an independent, international, sport psychology group emerged primarily from scientists and practitioners involved in FIMS. Vanek corroborated this in his interview. Antonelli and Hombravella had identified key colleagues to form a Managing Council (MC), based on their knowledge

of scholars who were active in the field and their aim to achieve broad international representation. In a brief business meeting during the scientific congress, Hombravella proposed Antonelli as President, Antonelli nominated Hombravella as Secretary, and Slater-Hammel (USA), Perie (France), Recla (Austria), Kunath (German Democratic Republic), Olsen (Norway), and Johnston (USA) were proposed as MC members.

Vanek (1993) recalled events more critically. He argued that there were other forces involved in the formation of ISSP. These were largely European, including socialist sport psychologists from Eastern Europe and the long-established, Czechoslovakian group in which Vanek was a key member. He pointed out that there were three psychiatrists, one sport medicine doctor, one physical educator, two “documentalists” (p. 154), and two psychologists among this inaugural Managing Council. Thus, the inaugural Managing Council of ISSP was dominated by scientists from fields other than sport psychology. In accounting for the aristocratic Italian’s nomination as first president of ISSP, Vanek observed that “Antonelli’s professional reputation and social position were matched by his organizing and diplomatic abilities.” (p. 154), citing as examples the audience with the Pope and the achievement of bringing together scientists from East and West.

Reports also indicate that the establishment of ISSP and the election of the President, Officers, and Managing Council were somewhat unorthodox. According to Salmela (1997), only half an hour was allocated to the whole process. Vanek (1993), who was present, reported that the statutes were “proclamative” (p. 154), having been written by Antonelli and Hombravella, and there were no discussions. He also recalled that there were no elections and no voting. Salmela, working from documents that were not cited in his

paper, quoted verbatim the words of Venerado, presumably acting as chair of the meeting, because Antonelli was nominated, on the proposed list of Managing Council members, “If you agree with this list, raise your hand. Whoever does not agree with this list, raise your hand. One. The list is approved by the vast majority!” (Salmela, 1997, p. 596). In this way, ISSP was established and its first Managing Council was set in place. Vanek, on the other hand, informed us in his interview that various groups from East and West, realizing that there were likely to be elections, were organizing themselves during the run-up to the congress.

There were 450 delegates at the first Congress (Salmela, 1997; Vanek, 1993). Vanek and Geron both reported to us that many of them were not sport psychologists, but were primarily involved in sports medicine, physical education, or the sports management sciences. Also, Geron told us that there were large delegations from Italy and Spain, the home countries of Antonelli and Hombravella respectively. Thus, it appears that Antonelli had two advantages, namely the presence of many colleagues from his profession and the large contingent from Italy. The membership of ISSP quickly rose to around 1,500, but, again, many members were not psychologists by training. The popularity of the new organization was largely attributed to the fact that membership was free at this time. As ISSP Managing Council came to recognize that funds were necessary to develop the organization and fees were introduced, the membership plummeted dramatically.

Management of ISSP

Just as the manner in which ISSP was established and its Managing Council was “elected”, reports suggest that its early procedures were somewhat ad hoc. Geron stated

that "at the beginning, the ISSP did not have a clear structure. The people did not know each other...The beginning was not so organized." It was established from the start that the term of office of the Managing Council was from one ISSP General Assembly to the next, in effect, from one congress to another. The world congresses from 1965 to 1985 are listed in Table 1.

Insert Table 1 about here

Between the first world congress and the second, the management of ISSP was rather informal, according to Vanek (1993). He recalled that Antonelli's style of leadership had the "atmosphere of a 'private poker club'" (p. 155). Business meetings were organized at meetings of the Latin language group within the International Sports Medicine Federation (FIMS) in Barcelona and Lisbon. Most Managing Council members were not associated with that organization, because they did not speak one of these languages. Thus, those meetings were not representative of the whole Managing Council or sport psychology around the world. Vanek recounted that the original Managing Council never met together as a full "team". The meetings did not follow clear procedures, often being "improvisational" (Vanek, 1993, p. 155), with short agendas and restricted discussion of items. Decisions, according to Vanek, were made by the President. Vanek reported to us that there was no constitution at this time. Antonelli (1970) reported that there were also business meetings of the Managing Council in Prague and Rome, during this period. All Managing Council meetings from 1965 to 1985 are listed in Table 2. In his interview, Vanek told us that "the members of the Managing Council were recruited from Europe and North America. The meetings always took place in a very political atmosphere."

Insert Table 2 about here

In the late 1960's and early 1970's, it appears that ISSP somewhat lost its direction, that is, to develop a worldwide sport psychology organization, that would represent all those interested in the field. A decision was made to hold the second world congress in Washington, DC in 1968, despite the cold war tensions that Vanek (1993) reported had hampered the very formation of the Society, as well as its development. Salmela (1981) described how NASPSPA was hurriedly created in 1967 to manage this event. Not surprisingly, scholars from Eastern Bloc countries found it difficult to get permission to visit the USA. Geron told us that although Antonelli wrote to the Bulgarian sports authorities in support of her attendance, she was not permitted to leave Bulgaria.

In Washington, the ISSP Managing Council was reshaped, although it is not clear why or on whose initiative. Slater-Hammel and Olsen were elected as Vice Presidents and John Kane (England), Michel Bouet (France), Athayde da Silva (Brazil), and Peter Roudik (USSR) were elected as Managing Council Members. Ema Geron (Bulgaria), Jose Cagigal (Spain), and Arthur Sheedy (USA) were elected as "Members at Large". Antonelli was re-elected President and Hombravella continued as Secretary (Salmela, 1997). Singer noted in his interview that "it was not a free election...but I recall by 1968 the then existing Managing Council and Officers proposed the next Managing Council, as well as the Officers, at a business meeting. And people just approved it all. So, it was kind of autocratic."

According to Salmela, the political problems associated with the Cold War dogged Antonelli's Managing Council and forced changes to be made in mid-term, that is, between

world congresses. In 1969, following a meeting with Eastern Bloc scientists in Bucharest, Romania, Paul Kunath (GDR) was reinstated as a Member at Large (IJSP, 1970, p. 71). More significant, in the light of developments that followed (the 1973 ousting of Antonelli in favor of Vanek as President), at the end of 1970, Vanek was given the role of Secretary alongside Hombravella. The Spaniard, Hombravella, was assigned secretarial responsibility for Latin countries in Europe, as well as Central and South America and Vanek was allocated the role of Secretary for middle and Eastern Europe, North America, and "elsewhere" (Antonelli, 1970, p. 75). ISSP Managing Council increased in size from 10 members (nine Managing Council and one at large) in Rome to 13 (nine Managing Council and four at large) in Washington. Interviewees did not explain why Managing Council expanded, but a major factor appears to be the lack of East/West balance.

Despite all the changes, Vanek (1993) reported that the image of ISSP was very "low" after the Washington congress in 1968. He explained that the East/West political divide was at its most extreme, following the Soviet occupation of Czechoslovakia earlier that year. For this reason, many Eastern European scholars did not attend a congress located in the USA. Vanek interpreted this as a protest by the individual members, but, as reported earlier, Geron was not allowed, by the government, to leave Bulgaria and others might have experienced similar travel restrictions. Vanek stated that the image of ISSP was reduced substantially, because it did not appear to represent global perspectives in sport psychology. Singer told us that ISSP at this time "was for all intent and purposes European dominated...it seemed like a "closed shop."" The view of at least some Europeans was different, leading to the creation of the Federation Europeenne de Psychologie des Sports

et des Activites Corporelles (FEPSAC), which was founded on 4th June 1969. Vanek saw this as a “socialistic” reaction to the capitalist ethos of ISSP. Geron was the first president of FEPSAC, as well as being a member of ISSP Managing Council. The creation of FEPSAC appears to reflect the dissatisfaction with the management of ISSP, felt by many European sport psychologists. FEPSAC became a competitor for the allegiance of sport psychologists in one influential region of the world at least.

The changes to ISSP Managing Council appeared to provide an improved range of international representatives, with greater political balance and it also included more members who were primarily involved in sport psychology. Nonetheless, it appears that little was done by this group, between 1968 and 1973, when the third world congress was held in Madrid, organized by Managing Council member, Cagigal. The three-year period from the first to the second congress was followed by a five-year gap to Madrid. This decision was made largely to avoid a clash with the Olympics in Munich in 1972 and its associated scientific congress (Salmela, 1997). Vanek (1993) suggested that the capitalist-socialist tensions, as well as the parallel rivalry between ISSP and FEPSAC, affected this period between congresses, as the European group moved forward in different directions to ISSP and international cohesion was lost. Antonelli’s “autocratic and situational” (p. 156) style was also perceived by Vanek to be of concern to the active membership. In his view, this was the main reason that the General Assembly in Madrid elected Vanek as President.

Vanek (1993) noted that although some Western European and US delegates considered the ousting of Antonelli to be a “communist putsch” (p. 156), relatively few delegates from the Eastern Bloc were present at the 1973 Congress. Vanek attributed the

vote largely to Antonelli's style. Antonelli's reliance on improvisation was even reflected in the manner of the decision to replace him as President. Vanek reported that the only formal statute, which had been established for ISSP, did not provide rules for a competition for the position of President. Thus, in Vanek's view, the election was improvised, based on "common sense". Along with the new President, the Managing Council elected in Madrid consisted of 14 members, which included the two Secretary positions, created to allow Hombravera to work with only the Latin countries. At its first meeting, which occurred during the congress, Vanek proposed that Herman Rieder be appointed Secretary General. Rieder told us "I was very surprised by my election. Probably this choice was founded on the successful carrying through of the third European Congress of Sport Psychology 1972 in Cologne." Geron, by this time based in Israel, and Slater-Hammel were Vice Presidents. Iwao Matsuda of Japan joined Managing Council. Antonelli pressed for and was appointed to a new position, "Honorary President", a title he still retains. Nonetheless, "the Antonelli years" (Salmela, 1997, p. 596) were over. Antonelli's drive and diplomacy had established ISSP in Rome; his autocratic and improvisational style seemed to restrict its development over the next eight years, leading to his growing unpopularity as President and the election of a new President in 1973. In her interview, Geron said that "The third congress in Madrid was well organized. In fact, the actual development of the ISSP initiated in this congress." Singer also saw Madrid as a turning point. He noted that "it wasn't probably till the next meeting in 1973 in Madrid that...a more complete and much more democratic way of electing Officers and Managing Council" emerged.

Following Madrid, the main efforts of Vanek's ISSP Managing Council focussed on resolving the difficulties that had plagued the young organization. Singer told us that "as Vanek came in he had good political idea - I mean he really understood how to bring together people from every part of the world." The mission of ISSP, to develop sport psychology around the world, remained unchanged. According to Vanek, in his interview, he planned to develop continental societies, with ISSP as the "parent organization". Vanek (1993) indicated that removing the problems had to be done through "hard work and modesty" (p. 156). He noted that the relatively short distance between Prague (Vanek's home) and Heidelberg (where Rieder lived) meant that he and Rieder could meet regularly. Vanek told us that "Herman Rieder became Secretary General of the ISSP and a close partner of Vanek. They then endeavoured to establish statutes for the ISSP, in order to push ahead the mentioned continental strategy." Singer reported that "Herman was a tireless worker, incredible, very organized. Of course Vanek had the ideas...the team altogether worked very, very well. They did a real good job and helped to elevate the status of ISSP." Fujita also noted the significance of this time for the future of ISSP. He said that "ISSP was in the so-called critical period of its development...to be regarded as a world organization of sport psychologists willing to cooperate both with individual and state members, as well as continental sport psychology societies." Annual meetings of the full Managing Council were instituted, the first being in Prague in 1974. This was followed, in 1975, by a meeting in Loughborough, England, organized by Kane (IJSP, 1975, p. 57), and then in 1976, Managing Council met in Pennsylvania. The meeting there was arranged by

Dorothy Harris (IJSP, 1977, p. 72), a new member of Managing Council, appointed in 1974, when Ann Jewett resigned (IJSP, 1974, p. 75).

The fourth world congress was held in Prague in October 1977. Vanek (1993) recalled that the communist government restricted its content and organization. Vanek's main recollection of this conference referred to the arrival on the ISSP scene of many young, highly motivated sport psychologists, who worked from this time to enhance the quality of sport psychology through the Society. The 1973-77 Managing Council had developed a new constitution. Epuran and Kane worked on this and major discussions of drafts occurred at the 1976 and 1977 Managing Council meetings. This much more substantial constitution consisted of 11 articles. The new constitution was approved by Managing Council and the 1977 General Assembly and was presented in full in the ISSP journal (IJSP, 1977, pp. 74-76). Curiously, however, it was not mentioned in the formal report of the General Assembly later in the same issue of the journal (IJSP, 1977, pp. 234-235). The new Managing Council was announced in this report. Vanek was reelected as President, Kane was Vice President, Rieder was Secretary General, and Harris was appointed the first Treasurer of ISSP, because the financial management of the Society had grown substantially since the introduction of fees in the early 1970s. Based on the encouragement of the leaders and cognizant of the mission of ISSP, Managing Council members reflected a broad geographical and political range: Chudadov (USSR), Salmela (Canada), Matsuda (Japan), Rokusfalvy (Hungary), Singer (USA), Schellenberger (East Germany), Allawy (Egypt), Martinez (Cuba), Harris (USA), Lopez (Venezuela), Jones

(Australia), and Olszewska (Poland). The full complement of Managing Council was, thus, 15 members.

In the period to the next congress, scheduled for Ottawa in 1981, the Managing Council met in Munich in 1978, Tokyo in 1979, and had a meeting in 1980 that started in Rome and concluded in Tblisi a week later, for reasons that are not reported. The 5th ISSP World Congress took place in Ottawa, in 1981. Reports by ISSP MC after the event suggest that it was a well-organized and successful event. The same five officers were reelected by the General Assembly. Allaway, Jones, Chudakov, Salmela, Schellenberger, and Singer were retained as members and the new members were Balague (Spain), Fujita (Japan), Guenov (Bulgaria), Geron (Israel), and Unestahl (Sweden). IJSP does not include reports of Managing Council meetings in 1982 or 1983, although minutes of all the previous meetings are published in the journal. “Minutes” were reported of a meeting between Vanek, the President, and Rieder, the Secretary General, in Prague from the 11th-13th February, 1983 (IJSP, 1983, pp. 74-77). On page 73 of the same issue of IJSP, there was a draft Preamble for ISSP, prepared by Singer. The next Managing Council meeting that is recorded in IJSP took place in Eugene, Oregon in July, 1984. This was when the Pre-Olympic Congress was held in that city, so many Managing Council members were able to attend. There were, however, suggestive references in the “minutes” of Vanek’s meeting with Rieder that a meeting was held in Brisbane, Australia in 1982 and one in Magglingen, Switzerland in 1983. In the IJSP report on the Vanek-Rieder meeting, there is discussion of a proposed affiliation between ISSP and NASPSPA. In that report by Rieder, reference is made to this affiliation having “been effected in Brisbane” (IJSP, 1983, p. 77).

Rieder went on to say that the issue would be discussed at “the MC session in Magglingen” (IJSP, 1983, p. 77). Thus, it appears that Managing Council met in Brisbane in 1982 and in Magglingen in 1983, but no minutes for these meetings were published in the IJSP, thus, breaking a 12-year tradition. Fujita elaborated on these inferences. In his interview, he stated that, in 1982, the Managing Council met in Perth, linked to a coaching conference, and Brisbane, alongside the Commonwealth Games. He reported that the meeting in Magglingen in 1983 was associated with the FEPSAC Congress. This is a significant event, signaling closer ties between the world body and the strong continental federation. Throughout the reports from 1982 to 1984, the main issue seems to have been the next ISSP congress. ISSP Managing Council had an “on-off” discussion with representatives from Denmark, which resulted in agreement to hold the congress in Copenhagen in 1985. An interesting section in the “minutes” of the Vanek/Rieder meeting indicated that ISSP, along with NASPSPA, organized the sport psychology disciplinary section at the 1984 Pre-Olympic Congress. This appears to be the first time that ISSP was involved in the organization of this major international meeting, in which sports science played a significant role and there was a separate stream in sport psychology. Another new idea discussed by Managing Council, during the lead-up to the 6th Congress, was the award of medals to those who had made significant contributions to the development of ISSP. This was considered to be a suitable form of recognition of the 20th anniversary of the foundation of ISSP. The period between 1981 and 1985 seems to have been one in which there was probably more than the usual international activity. At the same time, reporting of Managing Council business in IJSP appears to be incomplete.

After 20 years, ISSP had firmly established itself. Singer described ISSP at the start as "a loose federation of individuals, of physical educators, of psychologists and others who were interested in the psychology of sport. It was a loose federation of people around the world." By 1985, Rieder told us that the ISSP developed over the years into a solid organization." Managing Council met annually and its membership was on a more stable foundation. Six international congresses (the sixth actually held just after the period under consideration in this paper) had been organized and the regular 4-year cycle was, by this time, customary. ISSP was sufficiently confident to present awards in recognition of service to the Society and the profession. Additionally, ISSP had sufficient status to become involved in organizing the Pre-Olympic Scientific Congress.

Major ISSP Activities

During the first 20 years of its existence, ISSP appears to have focused on two primary activities, through which it aimed to attract membership and promote the development of sport psychology around the world. These activities were organization of a "World" congress and publication of an "International" journal. The creation, content, and significance of the journal will be discussed in the next section. Here, a brief description of the congresses is presented.

In his interview, Rieder stated that "the main development of ISSP was internationalization and great improvements in means of information...which were due to several events and congresses of ISSP." A picture of the congresses has emerged in the previous sections, as it relates to the establishment of ISSP and the development of its formal structure. ISSP was established by Antonelli and Hombravella at the first congress

in Rome in 1965. For its time, this was a very large gathering of people with an interest in sport psychology, many of them from cognate fields. The second congress almost saw the death of the new Society, according to Vanek, in both his interview and his written account (Vanek, 1993). Its timing, three years after the first congress, and its location, in Washington, the capital of the leading nation in the Western world, were unfortunate. The date was settled well before the dramatic events unfolded in Czechoslovakia earlier in 1968, but the impact was crippling for a society, whose membership came principally from the leading countries in the West and the Eastern Bloc. It seems likely that many sport psychologists from the East, like Geron, were not permitted to attend by their governments. Vanek acknowledged the scientific strength of the Western presentations at this congress, but the weakness of the membership permitted another five years of Antonelli presidency. The decision to wait five years for the next congress is interesting, given that a main reason for this is suggested to be the Olympics in Munich in 1972. This explanation begs the question: why didn't the Managing Council stick with the 3-year frequency just established? Vanek, in his interview, told us that "After the disastrous congress in Washington, Antonelli had a hard time finding a person willing to organize the third congress of the ISSP." Madrid in 1973 seems to have been a relatively neutral choice, but it turned out to be the location of the ousting of Antonelli and the establishment of a more effective Managing Council. Prague was the venue for the next congress, which now moved to the 4-year cycle that has been retained since. According to the prime architect of the Prague congress, Vanek himself, there were restrictions to both content and organization. No signs were permitted and the flag of Israel was banned (Vanek, 1993).

Nonetheless, mounting the congress in Prague was a bold move, if it did have more political than scientific significance.

In terms of political astuteness, or perhaps opportunism, given the recent involvement of Salmela on Managing Council, the selection of Ottawa as the host for the fifth congress in 1981 was a shrewd move. Although in an English-speaking country, which was the closest neighbor to the United States, Ottawa had a strong affinity with the oft-excluded French. Simultaneous translation into French must have done much to appease those so disgruntled by their last trip across the Atlantic, to the Washington congress nine years earlier (Salmela, 1997). Ottawa could well be considered to be a turning point. Finally, the political wrangling appears to have taken a back seat and the scientific content was considered to be the best yet. Vanek (1993) reported on the presence of many young scholars, who were highly committed to taking sport psychology forward as a profession and scientific discipline. Singer told us "that establishing that every four years there would be an international congress of great magnitude...has been quite successful...So that is a great development. Every congress seems to have improved...as far as the quality of presentation, the format and how the presentations are made."

Publications of ISSP

In 1970, ISSP published the first edition of the first scientific journal that was dedicated to sport psychology, the International Journal of Sport Psychology (IJSP). Once again, Antonelli was the driving force behind this significant event. Salmela (1997b) provided an interesting discussion of the early development of the IJSP. He reported that Olsen, a Managing Council member from Norway, was intended to be the editor, leading

an Editorial Board. The journal was to be published in Norway, but a contract with the publisher “was not honored”. (p. 599). Antonelli then arranged for the journal to be published in Italy by Luigi Pozzi, a publisher who was also a personal friend and bridge partner of Antonelli, according to Salmela. The ISSP President became the foundation editor.

Perhaps surprisingly, ISSP was able to publish a journal before it published a newsletter for its members. In fact the ISSP Newsletter, although discussed right from the inception of ISSP in 1965, was not introduced until 1985. It is possible that such early publication of a journal actually delayed development of the Newsletter, because Antonelli used the journal to communicate the activities of the Society to its membership. Antonelli made comments supporting this proposition in his editorial in the first edition of IJSP. He stated that he was sending the first issue to all 1,500 members of ISSP. These individuals still paid nothing for membership, but Antonelli expressed concern that only 10% of them had sent a fee of US\$10 to cover the costs of producing and mailing the journal. Antonelli vowed to keep IJSP going “if need be, at my own expense” (1970, p. 4).

The management structure of the IJSP was quite elaborate from the start, although Salmela (1997b) questioned the extent to which those named were actively involved. Supposedly supporting Antonelli, there were eight Associated Editors, seven of whom were members of the ISSP Managing Council, which was not meeting either. The exception was Bryant Cratty, an influential American physical educator, who was not associated with the management of ISSP. The rest of the Editorial Board included four more ISSP and FEPSAC Managing Council members. Another component of the journal’s

infrastructure that supports the perception that IJSP was a mechanism for communication with and between members is that there were 40 individuals who Antonelli called “National Correspondents”. Salmela surmised that these were people who had engaged in correspondence with Antonelli or who Antonelli had met at conferences. Their role seems to have been to provide information about activities in their region. Salmela was a member of the Editorial Board (EB) from 1986 and co-editor from 1987. He reported that, in his experience, Editorial Board members never reviewed submissions. In fact, by then a number of people who were still listed on the Editorial Board of IJSP had been dead for some time. Salmela observed that “the composition of the EB was but a Potemkin village created by Antonelli to assuage the egos of these international figureheads...” (1997b, p. 600).

The content of the early issues of IJSP was not reflective of a primarily scientific journal. In the first issue there were three empirical papers, one review and one opinion article. A section entitled “Abstracts” was also established, perhaps because of the limited amount of scientific content (Salmela, 1997b). Important to the development of sport psychology was the 37% of the 1970 journal that was devoted to professional issues, including meetings, news, forthcoming events, and book reviews. This provides further evidence that Antonelli used the journal as the business and professional organ of ISSP. Salmela presented statistics showing that there was little substantive change in the composition of the journal during the early years of publication. Fujita told us that after he entered ISSP a main topic in the managing Council was "how to upgrade the quality of the International Journal of Sport Psychology, since it had been continually criticized for low

professional level and lack of information. Managing Council...gave advice to the publisher in Rome, but it (the advice) was not successful enough." Over time the scientific content increased. This included a substantial increase in overview and review articles, as well as a larger proportion of research reports. Latterly, the quality of the scientific content has also improved. The news and related sections have been retained over the years.

Despite the typically impromptu manner of Antonelli's early management of IJSP, this journal, which pre-dated the next sport psychology specific journal, the Journal of Sport Psychology, by nine years, played an important role in the development of the discipline and the profession. It provided a forum in which theory and research in sport psychology could be submitted to scrutiny by the field and professional matters could be communicated and discussed. Most importantly, perhaps it provided the focus on sport psychology that the young discipline needed and it was an international focus, an effort to include people from all around the world in the new sport psychology family, of which Antonelli was undoubtedly the patriarch. Singer summarized this in his interview, stating that "another important, very important matter was...the first publication of the International Journal of Sport Psychology...That was a tremendous way to provide for the the building (of sport psychology) because it provided an opportunity, the first opportunity really...for sport psychologists and researchers to publish their stuff, and to make it internationally known...I think that that was a very, very major contribution by the ISSP to the world of sport psychology."

Relationships between ISSP and Other Organizations

Over the first 20 years of its existence, ISSP had interactions with a large number of organizations in psychology, sport, and physical education. It is only possible to mention here some of the major relationships that have affected the creation and development of ISSP.

The origins of ISSP seem to lay in the International Sports Medicine Federation (FIMS). It was through FIMS that Antonelli and Hombravella met and discussed the idea of establishing a group that was specific to the study of sport psychology. Much of the initial networking with international colleagues was also conducted through that organization. Further, it was at meetings of a Latin-speaking sub-group of FIMS that the rump of the Managing Council convened the early, so-called Managing Council meetings. As the influence of psychiatrists and medical practitioners waned in ISSP and the psychologists took over, the association with FIMS diminished.

The creation and development of FEPSAC as a separate continental body, but one that was in competition for members with ISSP, in the active European countries, presented a situation that threatened the existence of ISSP. Vanek, in his interview, told us that, after a poor reception at the Washington congress, the French physical educationist, De Winter "allied himself with Emma Geron (at that time of Bulgaria) and initiated...a European association (FEPSAC)." FEPSAC began to attract members from the second most populous area for sport psychology in the world, Eastern and Western Europe. These sport psychologists perceived ISSP to be capitalistic, particularly after their experience in Washington in 1968 (Vanek, 1993). It was, perhaps, Vanek's distinction that FEPSAC was created to support sport psychology in Europe, whereas ISSP was "for the other

continents” (1994, p. 156) that resolved this sensitive issue. The fact that ISSP President, Vanek, came from Czechoslovakia, then identified with the Eastern Bloc, but viewed with great sympathy by many Western countries probably facilitated the stabilization of relationships between ISSP and FEPSAC. Vanek reported to us how the real breakthrough came in 1973. "At that time, Schilling was President of the European Society of Sport Psychology (FEPSAC) and Vanek discussed with him that two international European societies would actually be too much. The idea was then in accordance with a continental strategy, to initiate continental societies. The ISSP was to be the parent organization of these continental societies and be able to accept individual members as well."

Another organizational relationship that was perceived to be important by ISSP is that with the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Rieder stated that 'attempts to anchor sport psychology within the IOC...were successful to different degrees.' In fact, they led nowhere. As the peak world body in sport, the IOC has tremendous power in that domain. Vanek (1993) reported that Antonelli had tried to create a link between ISSP and IOC in the early years, without success. Vanek, too, made efforts to gain recognition for the fledgling discipline, but encountered substantial resistance from the IOC medical section. The outcome of Vanek's last attempt as President "in the second half of the 1970's was the unfortunate request by the IOC to remove the Olympic rings from the ISSP logo." (Vanek, 1993, p. 154). With its usual alacrity, ISSP removed the rings in 1990 (Salmela, 1997b).

An important set of relationships are those between ISSP and the national and continental organizations in sport psychology. Surprise has been expressed that the

creation of ISSP pre-dates that of many national societies. Rieder said that "it is quite interesting that the world association was founded earlier than many national organizations." Since a major aspect of the ISSP mission has been to promote the development of the sport psychology profession throughout the world, it should not seem so surprising that ISSP has encouraged the formation of many national organizations. Salmela (1997b) noted that at least 18 national societies of sport psychology were created directly as a result of ISSP. Notable here is the explanation of the development of NASPSPA, that leading US sport psychologists decided that a national organization was needed when they won the 1968 ISSP World Congress. NASPSPA became a continental organization, representing North America, although more recently the Association for the Advancement of Applied Sport Psychology (AAASP) has possibly usurped that role. Geron told us that "we created the national sport psychology organization in Bulgaria... a few years before the initiation of the ISSP." Yet "The ISSP contributed a lot to the development of sport psychology in Bulgaria because the country was isolated." Similarly when Geron moved to Israel "we initiated the activity of the Israeli organization of sport psychology... the ISSP also contributed a lot to the development of sport psychology in Israel." Singer summarized that "ISSP helped to sponsor many different countries in different parts of the world. So I think it was a major function and has always been a major stimulus for the development and advancement of sport psychology." At the continental level, of course, FEPSAC has represented Europe for many years. NASPSPA had become the continental representative of North America during the 1970's. Fujita told us that, by the mid 1970's, a "good relationship was established between ISSP and the two continental

societies FEPSAC and NASPSA, as the group members and the individual members from around the world increased in number." A South American organization has waxed and waned ever since the time when ISSP was founded. ISSP Managing Council had discussed the creation of an Asian body for a decade or so, starting well within Vanek's reign as President. Fujita told us that "In 1985 when Robert Singer was elected ISSP President, I was asked to establish an Asiatic society of sport psychology." Finally, the Asian South Pacific Association of Sport Psychology (ASPASP) was established in 1989, leading Vanek to state that "My old dream was fulfilled." (p. 157). Although ASPASP covers a vast area from the Middle East to the South Pacific, one continent still remains without a regional organization: Africa is currently being sponsored by ISSP to develop a continental body. Still, the network of national and regional groups within the ISSP family represents perhaps the most important sign that ISSP is for the continents...and for the world.

Problems of ISSP

A theme that emerged clearly and without prompting from the comments made by the interviewees is that the early years of ISSP were fraught with a range of problems that hampered the development of the new organization. The documentary evidence supported comments made by the past presidents and secretaries general with whom we talked. Fujita referred to "the problems ISSP encountered at the time" that he joined (1973). The effects of these issues on the progress of ISSP were not always independent; sometimes they interacted.

Two of the prominent concerns during the formative years of ISSP were the informal and autocratic approach of the first President and the ideological confrontation between

East and West. It was Antonelli's almost aristocratic manner that allowed him to carry off the first World Congress, the formation of ISSP, and his own election as President. Yet it was also his style that alienated many, not only those from the East. Certainly the socialists were vociferous among those who objected to the lack of a proper constitution, the presidential decision-making without consultation, and the non-occurrence of Managing Council meetings, which all members of Managing Council had equal opportunity to attend. Matters were made worse by the 1968 Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, which really divided East and West, although it should be noted that Antonelli took a strong stance against the invasion in his Presidential Address at the Washington congress. Fujita, in his interview, also pointed to economic difficulties. "The main problem ISSP encountered was the discrepancy of economic conditions between the European countries of East and West. There were no individual members from the Eastern countries... Sport psychologists from the Eastern countries were affiliated to ISSP as group members, whose membership fees were paid by the organizations, such as national sport psychology societies or sport organizations."

The feeling we get from our data is that ISSP was almost in limbo between the disaster that was the Second World Congress of Sport Psychology in Washington, DC, in 1968 and the Third World Congress in Madrid in 1973. It is interesting to note that it was during this period that Antonelli established the International Journal of Sport Psychology. Quite possibly, the impact of the information about ISSP and the papers published in this journal, which Antonelli almost had to fund himself, played a major role in keeping international attention focused on the organization at this crucial time.

From those experienced in ISSP management in 1973, Vanek was perhaps the only leader who could have emerged, a figure who was trusted by, or at least had the sympathy of, both sides (East and West). Vanek's first term was by no means easy. The advent of FEPSAC in Europe threatened to attract the bulk of the Europeans away from ISSP, while the highly professional approach of the Americans had the potential to marginalize ISSP in the New World. Vanek might have believed that ISSP was for the continents other than Europe (Vanek, 1993), but he could not do without Europe and America. A noteworthy aspect of Vanek's presidency from this time on was the way he gathered a balanced and representative Managing Council together, one that consisted of influential sport psychologists from all around the world.

The scientific quality of ISSP congresses was also brought into question. Geron stated that "at the beginning... the scientific level was not good enough. From congress to congress the organizers have improved the scientific level of the lectures and the keynote presentations." One reason for the variable quality of the keynotes was pointed out by Singer. He told us that "a major difficulty for ISSP to deal with was political...like the worldwide problem of balancing contributions...representing different political persuasions...that was exemplified very well, when, during the congresses...there always was an attempt...to balance...keynote speakers...that was really difficult, because when we invited an American, we should invite a Soviet, if we invited a West German, there should be an East German...so many times we found our situations compromised for political interests, to make sure all political powers were happy and less concerned for the

best people to be making the key presentations." Nonetheless, the scientific standard did improve. Rieder told us that "the scientific character of all pieces of work rose steadily."

Another problem was the decision to locate the Fourth World Congress in Prague in 1977. If ISSP had almost come back from the dead in Madrid in 1973, the difficulties of hosting the next World Congress in an occupied country was near suicidal! Vanek (1993) himself has described the limitations on what could be said and even on what could be displayed. Somehow ISSP survived this death wish, emerging with a still stronger Managing Council. Fortunately, the site for the Fifth World Congress was much more wisely chosen. Ottawa was where ISSP came of age. The focus was on science, rather than politics. The location did not have the capitalist ring of a meeting in the United States, yet it was ideally located to attract many of the promising scientists emerging from North America by this time.

All was not yet plain sailing. Following the euphoria of Ottawa, there was the on/off discussion with the Danish about Copenhagen as the venue for the Sixth World Congress in 1985. ISSP Managing Council was stronger and more experienced, however. Thus, the issues were resolved and ISSP celebrated its first 20 years with its only Scandinavian Congress to date.

ISSP had largely grown out of its birth and extended weaning problems by 1985. The election process that had evolved made for a democratically elected President and Managing Council, the scientific community shunned the East/West political divide some time before the formal structure collapsed, the procedure for selecting a congress site was clearly formalized, and the IJSP was taking shape as a scientific publication. Singer stated

that "ISSP has been very good in establishing an international identity in the field and creating an avenue whereby scholars and educators...can be much more aware of what others do in different parts of the world." ISSP had resolved many of its major internal problems and was in a good position to look outward in the last 15 years of the 20th century.

Concluding Remarks

In this paper, we have described the main elements of the creation and early development of ISSP, as far as we could piece it together from the interviews with five leading lights from those early years married with the limited contemporary documents and a small number of reflections that have been published recently. Our report depicts the struggles to sustain a worldwide organization that was originally developed by individuals who were not specialists in the field and whose style was unorthodox. We have also tried to represent the way in which the political and social context influenced the development of ISSP. Looking back now, from the perspective of a mature discipline, it would be easy to conclude that it was the growth of sport psychology as a scholarly and applied field during the 1970's and 1980's that provided a stable foundation for ISSP. An alternative perspective is that the creation of ISSP, its scientific congresses and academic journal, played a major role in creating the environment that encouraged able young scholars from around the world to perceive sport psychology as a genuinely independent field in which they were prepared to invest their talent.

We tried to choose our sources to reflect as wide a constituency as possible. Nevertheless, the present paper represents only a few snapshots of the early years of ISSP.

There are undoubtedly other scholars who can clarify, contradict, extend, or even confirm what we have written. We encourage those people to write to us. The ISSP will publish their experiences in a future issue of the IJSP, so that the most comprehensive picture of the development of ISSP is offered to future generations.

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Table 1

World Congresses Organized by ISSP

Congress	Date	Location
1st	1965	Rome, Italy
2nd	1968	Washington, DC
3rd	1973	Madrid, Spain
4th	1977	Prague, Czechoslovakia
5th	1981	Ottawa, Canada
6th	1985	Copenhagen, Denmark

Table 2

ISSP Managing Council Meetings

Year	Location	Link
No date*	Barcelona, Spain	Hombravella
No date*	Lisbon, Portugal	Not identified
1974	Prague, Czechoslovakia	Vanek new President
1975	Loughborough, UK	Kane, Managing Council member
1976	Pennsylvania, USA	Harris, Managing Council member
1978	Munich, Germany	Not identified
1979	Tokyo, Japan	Matsuda/Fujita International Symposium
1980	Rome/Tblisi	Not identified
1982	Perth/Brisbane, Australia	Coaching Conference/Commonwealth Games Scientific Congress
1983	Maggingen, Switzerland	FEPSAC Congress
1984	Eugene, Oregon, USA	Pre-Olympic Scientific Congress

Note. * These business meetings of ISSP were noted by Vanek (1993), who stated that they were linked to meetings of FIMS Latin group, but no dates are given.

Appendix A: Topics in the Interview Guide.

HISTORY OF ISSP PROJECT

Interview Guide

The general topics outlined below are each to be followed-up by probes or more specific inquiries as appropriate. The main topics are:

- 1) a) When did you become involved in ISSP?
b) How did you become involved?
- 2) When you entered ISSP:
 - a) What was the situation of ISSP at that time?
 - b) What was the structure of ISSP?
 - c) Who were the other people involved?
 - d) What roles did they play?
 - e) What was the scientific background?
 - f) What was the socio-political context?
- 3) When you entered ISSP:
 - a) What was the state of the development of sport psychology in your country?
 - b) What was your personal interest in sport psychology?
 - c) What was your interest in ISSP?
 - d) What was the significance of your ISSP involvement for your country?
 - e) What was the significance of your ISSP involvement for you?
- 4) During the period from your entry until 1985:
 - a) What were the main developments in ISSP?
 - b) What were the main topics discussed?
 - c) What were the main problems encountered?
 - d) What were the main events for ISSP?
 - e) What were the main outcomes for ISSP?
 - f) What were the major developments in your own country that related to your ISSP involvement?
 - g) What were the principal personal developments related to ISSP involvement?
- 5) What other aspects of ISSP do you recall from that period, which have not been discussed so far?