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FIRST U.N. CONGRESS ON THE PREVENTION  
OF CRIME AND TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS

CLOSURE OF THE FIRST U.N. CONGRESS  
ON THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS

The first United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders concluded its work today after unanimously adopting a series of resolutions.

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The first United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders met this morning in plenary session with the President, Mr. E. de STEIGER (Switzerland), in the chair. It completed its examination of the recommendations of its Section III on the prevention of juvenile delinquency, and first adopted the recommendations on research relating to delinquency causation, prediction and prevention.

It then adopted the recommendations as a whole by 37 votes, with 4 abstentions.

Mr. Thorsten SELLIN (United States of America), General Rapporteur, then submitted various draft resolutions to the Congress. The first, dealing with technical assistance in the field of the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, submitted by the delegations of Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Pakistan and Syria (document A/CONF.6/L.10), was adopted unanimously. It expressed the hope that to facilitate the implementation of the standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners and the recommendations concerning open institutions and the selection and training of personnel, the United Nations would provide technical assistance to governments requesting it.

The Congress went on to adopt, by 41 votes with 1 abstention, a draft resolution submitted by the delegations of Argentina, Australia, Chile, Ecuador, India, Israel, Pakistan, Philippines, Syria, United States of America and Venezuela (document A/CONF.6/L.15) on a programme of studies in the field of juvenile delinquency.

A third draft resolution submitted by the delegations of Argentina, Austria, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Federal Republic of Germany, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Mexico, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Philippines, Syria, United States of America and Venezuela (document A/CONF.6/L.13) was adopted unanimously. It expressed the Congress's pleasure that the United Nations Secretary-General had organized the Congress, thereby preserving the historical continuity of the congresses held in the past by the International Penal and Penitentiary Commission.

The General Rapporteur next submitted a draft resolution on the prevention of juvenile delinquency, together with an addendum proposed by the delegations of Belgium, Denmark, France, the Holy See, the Netherlands and Switzerland (documents A/CONF.6/L.12 and Add.1).

The resolution, with the addendum, pointed out the need to maintain the priority of juvenile delinquency in the programme of work of the Social Commission of the Economic and Social Council, and recommended that the Secretary-General should forward to the Social Commission the following suggestions for inclusion in the social defence work programme:

- (a) that a study be made of the methods used for the prevention of juvenile delinquency for the purpose of assessing the practical results of these methods, both direct and indirect;
- (b) that the help of the non-governmental organizations with special knowledge in this field be sought in this connexion in accordance with resolution 155 C (VII) of the Economic and Social Council;
- (c) that the United Nations Regional Consultative Groups and seminars continue to devote attention to the various aspects of juvenile delinquency; and
- (d) that, when organizing forthcoming congresses, conferences or seminars, the organizations concerned should select clearly-defined topics allowing for a thorough study and a useful comparison of the experience acquired in the various countries.

This text was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Paul CORNIL (Belgium) and Mr. M. ANCEL (France) announced that they were prepared, in view of its adoption, to withdraw their abstention on the vote on the recommendations as a whole. The other representatives who had abstained said that they would follow suit.

Mr. LOPEZ-REY, Chief of the Section of Social Defence, representing the Secretary-General, said that the recommendations could thus be regarded as adopted unanimously.

Mr. W.P. ROGERS (United States of America) then submitted a draft resolution (document A/CONF.6/L.16) expressing the opinion of the representatives that Congress had been a significant success and that its results held great promise for the years ahead, commending the officials of the Secretariat, and noting the general atmosphere of co-operation which had prevailed during the Congress.

The draft resolution was adopted by acclamation.

After a suspension of the proceedings, the Congress held its closing meeting.

Mr. E. de STEIGER (Switzerland), President, said that the Congress could be proud of its work and the results. It had adopted standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners, and recommendations on open institutions, the selection and training of personnel, prison labour and the prevention of juvenile delinquency. These were outstanding achievements and the resolutions testified to the fine spirit of harmony that had prevailed. That the Congress had been able to achieve these results was due to the co-operation and understanding of all who had participated.

Messrs. R. PETTINATO (Argentina), GANDASOEBRATO (Indonesia), K.F. RUSTAMJI (India), and ANCEL (France), Mgr. A. TEOBALDI (Holy See) and Mr. P. NAUJAIM (Lebanon) paid tribute in turn to the excellent spirit of understanding that had prevailed, and expressed their gratification at the results.

Mr. LOPEZ-REY, Chief of the Section on Social Defence, representing the Secretary-General, said in conclusion that the participants at the Congress had totalled 560, and had represented 66 countries. He praised the work of the United Nations national correspondents on social defence questions, saying that it had largely contributed towards the outcome of the Congress. The success of the Congress was however due above all to the participants themselves, and it was now for Governments to give effect to the conclusions based on the co-operative effort that had distinguished the Congress.

The Congress terminated at 1.10 p.m.

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This archiving project is a collaborative effort between United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and American Society of Criminology, Division of International Criminology. Any comments or questions should be directed to Cindy J. Smith at [CJSmithphd@comcast.net](mailto:CJSmithphd@comcast.net) or Emil Wandzilak at [emil.wandzilak@unodc.org](mailto:emil.wandzilak@unodc.org).