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

CONGRESS UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTS
STANDARD MINIMUM RULES FOR THE
TREATMENT OF PRISONERS

The Congress met this afternoon in plenary session under the presidency of Mr. E. de STEIGER (Switzerland).

On opening the meeting the President asked participants to observe a one-minute silence in memory of Mr. Filippo Grisigni, Professor in the University of Rome and one of the founders of the Positivist School, who died recently.

The Congress then examined the recommendations submitted by Section I on the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Document A/CONF.6/L.4).

Mr. Jean DUPREEL (Belgium), Rapporteur of Section I, submitted the Section's recommendations, pointing out that the most important was the official proclamation from the platform of the United Nations of the Standard Minimum Rules, which would help public opinion to understand the nature and requirements of modern penitentiary methods.

The Congress then unanimously adopted the recommendations of Section I. The Rules, as adopted, follow very closely the Standard Minimum Rules prepared by the Secretariat (Document A/CONF.6/C.1/L.1).

Mr. Thorsten SELLIN (United States of America), General Rapporteur of the Congress, then submitted a draft resolution (document A/CONF.6/L.5) requesting the Secretary-General to submit the Rules to the Social Commission of the Economic and Social Council for approval. He said that the Congress had just taken the most important decision of the session, which crowned the work of many years and the discussions of regional assemblies throughout the whole world. The Congress adopted the draft resolution with acclamation.

The draft resolution expresses the hope that the Rules be adopted by the Economic and Social Council and, if deemed appropriate by the Council, by the General Assembly, and that they be transmitted to governments with the recommendation that (a) favourable consideration be given to their adoption and application in the administration of penal institutions, and (b) the Secretary-General be informed every three years of the progress made with regard to their application. It expresses the wish that, in order to allow governments to keep

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themselves informed of the progress made in this respect, the Secretary-General be requested to publish in the International Review of Criminal Policy the information sent by governments, and authorized to ask for supplementary information if necessary, and requested to arrange that the widest possible publicity be given to the Rules.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.

Tomorrow the Congress, meeting in plenary session, will hear a lecture on "Modern Trends in the American Penitentiary System" by Mr. Sanford Bates (United States of America), Public Administration Consultant.

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 or Emil Wandzilak at emil.wandzilak@unodc.org.