

INFORMATION CENTRE
European Office of the United Nations
Geneva

Press Release No. SOC/127
1 September 1955

(For use of information media; not an official record)

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

CONGRESS UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTS RECOMMENDATIONS ON SELECTION AND
TRAINING OF STAFF FOR PENAL AND CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

The United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders this afternoon adopted the recommendations of its Section I on the selection and training of personnel for penal and correctional institutions. With that decision the Congress, which had previously adopted recommendations on open institutions and on standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners, concluded the first part of its work.

* * *

The Congress met in plenary session at 2.30 p.m. with Mr. Edouard de STEIGER (Switzerland) in the chair.

Mr. Carlo ERRA (Italy), Rapporteur of Section I, submitted to the Congress his section's recommendations on the selection and training of personnel (document A/CONF.6/L.6). He congratulated the Secretariat on its excellent and balanced draft. Urging the Congress to endorse the Section's views, he pointed out that even the best legislation would fail unless administrations had well-qualified staffs. A second-rate institution with a good staff is preferable to a model one with a staff unequal to its task.

The Congress thereupon unanimously adopted the recommendations by its Section I, which very closely follow the Secretariat's draft recommendations (document A/CONF.6/C.I/L.2) with certain amendments on points of detail.

Mr. Thorsten SELLIN (United States of America) General Rapporteur of the Congress, then submitted a draft resolution (document A/CONF.6/L.7) requesting the Secretary-General to submit the recommendations adopted to the Social Commission of the Economic and Social Council for approval, expressing the hope that the Economic and Social Council would endorse these recommendations and bring them to the attention of governments, recommending that governments take them as fully as possible into account in their practice and when considering legislative and administrative reforms, and expressing also the wish that the Economic and Social Council request the Secretary-General to give the widest publicity to the recommendations and authorize him to collect periodically and publish information on the matter from the various countries.

The resolution was adopted by acclamation.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.

The Congress is to hold two plenary meetings tomorrow. In the morning, it will discuss prison labour and in the afternoon the prevention of juvenile delinquency.

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.