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OPEN INSTITUTIONS

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In accordance with the tradition of past Congresses, it has been possible to secure the co-operation of certain national prison administrations for the printing of documentation for the First United Nations Congress on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, which is from an historical point of view the Thirteenth International Penal and Penitentiary Congress. Thus the present report has been generously printed by the Federal Bureau of Prisons of the United States of America, in the prison printing plant at Leavenworth, Kansas.

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1. In Japan some of the prisons for juveniles and women offenders have special open institutions for inmates receiving higher grade treatment under the progressive treatment system. The labour camp outside the prison, belonging to the prison for adults and juveniles had its origin in the requirements of the prison industry; nevertheless, in substance it is in the nature of an open institution since it has minimum security.

2. Akagi Farm, which was set up in September 1947, is typical of such labour camps. The Farm presents to a large extent the general characteristics of the open correctional institution in Japan.

a) Akagi Farm is located in beautiful surroundings and is suitable for training. It covers an area of 536 acres including forest; 116 acres are set aside for cultivation. The prison industries include farming, stock farming (cattle, horses, hogs, goats and poultry), and rice straw handicrafts. The main products of the farm are barley, wheat, maize, potatoes, rice, sweet potatoes, and excellent butter.

b) The number of inmates varies between 400 and 500 (in other open institutions the numbers are usually smaller, the average being 73). The prisoners are selected from young men between the ages of 23 and 30 who belong to the "A" class of offenders (first and accidental offenders), and whose prison ratings are excellent.

The inmates finish their primary training at Maebashi Prison, to which the Farm belongs, and receive one month's education and training, after which they join a training group; in order to be rehabilitated, they must conduct themselves properly.

c) Considerably advanced intermediate treatment is given in order to prepare the inmates for their return to normal

society, i. e. they are employed in prison industries in which security supervision cannot be easily maintained and autonomous groups under a leader are formed.

Vocational training is given through actual practice in industry and leisure hours are devoted to reading and other kinds of recreation. The inmates of this open institution are released on parole with extremely few exceptions. Incidents such as escapes, etc., have rarely occurred. The attitude of the residents of the locality is very co-operative.

3. In July 1954, there were 70 open institutions such as Akagi Farm; the number of inmates is 5,113 or approximately eight per cent of the whole prison population. The number of personnel employed in such institutions is 780, each officer having charge of an average of seven prisoners, a slightly higher ratio than that existing in the ordinary correctional institutions.

4. The selection of inmates to be committed to such open institutions is based on their physical, mental and social examination and is made in accordance with the rules of classification. During the early stages, two weeks are spent in the examination of the inmates' health, domestic affairs, educational background, vocational career, facts of the offence, criminal record, etc. They are subjected to a scientific examination which includes a psychological and psychiatric investigation according to the results, they are classified and, as a rule, have to serve in the prison for a certain period. When they have served one-third of the sentence, they are again classified according to the results observed and those eligible for open institutions are selected in accordance with this re-classification. The standards of the selection are determined by each institution.

Prisoners with a good record in a closed institution who can expect an early release on parole are transferred to an open institution which is attached to the prison.

5. Prison industries include farming, live-stock, tree-cutting and charcoal burning, dam construction, fishing, etc. Farming and live-stock are predominant.

6. The treatment of the inmates in these institutions is in accordance with the prison laws and orders; holidays and the like are not provided. On account of the autonomous organization of daily life and the fact that there is very little super-

vision, the labour camp outside the prison functions as an intermediate correctional institution.

7. Few incidents have occurred in open institutions but seen as a whole, so far as escapes are concerned, they are a little more frequent in such institutions than in ordinary prisons.

8. The results of this treatment are excellent. It is difficult to give statistics but it can be said that they are generally better than in other prisons.

9. The attitude of the public to the open correctional institutions was full of mistrust in the early stage of their establishment; it has improved since escapes have been fewer than expected and the inmates are assiduous workers.

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.