

A/CONF.6/C.2/L.16

FIRST UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON THE PREVENTION
OF CRIME AND THE TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS
GENEVA 1955

OPEN INSTITUTIONS

TWO OPEN INSTITUTIONS IN DENMARK

by H. Tetens,
Director-General of Prisons, Ministry
of Justice of Denmark, Copenhagen



UNITED NATIONS

Statements of fact in this report are the responsibility of the author, and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of organs or Members of the United Nations.

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.

A/CONF.6/C.2/L.16

23 January 1955

TWO OPEN INSTITUTIONS IN DENMARK

by H. Tetens,

Director-General of Prisons, Ministry
of Justice of Denmark, Copenhagen

In Denmark, detention of prisoners under conditions of relative freedom dates back to the turn of the century, when the convict settlement "Gedhus" was opened as a branch of the Horsens penitentiary. The settlement, which was established on a somewhat isolated site on the moors at a considerable distance from the main institution, was very primitive and accommodated only twenty prisoners, who had to be transferred to the penitentiary in the winter. As the experiment was considered successful, several similar settlements were subsequently established, but these were only of a temporary nature, while the original settlement has been in operation until a few years ago. The prisoners detained in these settlements were exclusively recidivists who had served the greater part of their often long-term sentences. Their work consisted chiefly of the afforestation of moors and of forestry work. No provision was made for any instruction or other educational activities.

Until the Criminal Code of 15 April 1930 came into force in 1933, the convict settlement was the only form under which detention of prisoners in open institutions existed, but under the Criminal Code, a system of special measures for individual treatment of different categories of offenders was introduced. In respect of some of these measures, the Criminal Code provided that employment in open-air work should be stressed as part of the treatment, *inter alia* in regard to the comparatively indeterminate sentences of commitment to juvenile prison or workhouse, and such institutions were accordingly arranged as open or semi-open institutions. The experience gained in this respect during the two years of operation of the Criminal Code has been drawn on during the last decade to introduce open institutions also for prisoners who are sentenced to a term of ordinary imprisonment, and to-day slight-

ly more than half of the State prisoners, i. e. prisoners under sentence to a term of imprisonment of five months or more, serve their sentences in open or semi-open institutions. (Sentences of imprisonment for less than five months are served in the local country gaols.)

This report describes a typical small open prison for young offenders under a determinate sentence of imprisonment, the *Nørre Snede Prison*, as well as a large semi-open and open prison, where the treatment presents certain peculiar features, the *Kragshovhede State Prison*.

NORRE SNEDE PRISON

1. Nature, Size and Location

The *Nørre Snede Prison*, which is situated in the middle of Jutland, three kilometres south of the small provincial town of *Nørre Snede*, was opened in 1943, when the Prison Service took over a former private home for young girls of subnormal intelligence. The reasons for the purchase were in part the serious overcrowding of the closed prisons, due to an increase of the crime rate coupled with the fact that the German Occupation Power had seized part of the prison accommodation, and in part the desire for providing a possibility for individual treatment of young, less hardened prisoners.

The grounds of the prison, which in the course of time has been expanded and modernized, cover approximately 200 acres, and it accommodates 80 prisoners.

The institution comprises four groups of buildings:

(1) Main Buildings

The main building which is surrounded by a beautiful park, is divided into two sections, A and B, as to permit an internal classification of the prisoners on the basis of the gravity of their criminal record and their general characteristics. Both sections have a dining-room, common room and hobby room, while classrooms and a library serving the whole institution, and the offices are in section A.

A gymnasium and a lecture and theatre hall are located in a separate building, and in 1952 a small chapel was built.

In the park there is an open-air theatre and sports-grounds with football and handball fields.

(2) Workshops

The institution has a modern carpenter's workshop provided with the necessary equipment which is used for purposes of production and for workshop training. There is a small but rather modern forge, which is capable of meeting the needs of the institution for repairs and minor new equipment.

(3) Horticultural Buildings

The institution has two large and one small greenhouses as well as a large number of frames, a store and packing house, and a mat and wreath-making workshop, which has a large production, in the winter season particularly. The gardening area covers approximately 13 acres.

(4) Agricultural Buildings

Farming is carried out on two farms, the larger of which was built in 1951, thus being fully modern. The cultivated area covers approximately 133 acres, and the institution has modern agricultural machines, including a tractor and milking machines.

None of the buildings is equipped with bars or the like, nor are there any physical hindrances in the form of walls or fences for the prevention of escapes.

For the higher personnel there are eight good dwellings within the grounds, while the rest of the staff are living in the nearby town of *Nørre Snede*.

Due to the expansion and alterations carried out in recent years the buildings now form a fairly satisfactory framework for the social re-adjustment efforts of the institution; however, the institution suffers from the serious disadvantage that only a small proportion of the prisoners have their own rooms, the number of single rooms being but 15, so that 65 of the prisoners are housed in rooms accommodating three to six persons. Recognizing that such a lack of privacy may in many cases, be a serious mental strain on the prisoners and impede the efforts of social re-adjustment, the Prison Service is drawing up a new construction project which, if carried out, will admit allotment of single rooms to all of the prisoners and provide ideal accommodation also in other fields.

2. SELECTION AND CATEGORY OF PRISONERS

Selection for the various penal institutions of the Prison Service of persons who are to serve their sentences in State prison is undertaken by the central administration of the Prison Service, which is notified of all sentences of imprisonment for a term of five months or more. The determination of the institution in which the sentence is to be served is made on the basis of all available police reports and court documents relating to the present and previous criminal cases of the person concerned, including information on his social conditions and on any mental examinations, as well as information on his conduct during the period of detention pending trial of his case. If he has previously served a sentence in a State prison, there will also be a report submitted by the management of the institution concerned, dealing expressly with his suitability for serving his sentence in an open institution.

The prisoner does not pass through any institution of classification and where the term does not exceed 2 to 2½ years, his commitment to an open institution takes place from the very beginning of the execution of sentence. The basis for classification of prisoners referred to above has proved adequate.

Commitment to *Nørre Snede Prison*, which receives young adults only, is subject to the following conditions.

(1) *Age*. The prisoner must be between 18 and 25 years of age. This age limit has been prescribed because of the strong emphasis on education in the treatment and because of the high degree of communal life, which makes a more or less uniform development level desirable. There exist similar open institutions for persons of the same type, but of other age groups.

(2) *Previous Sentences*. Persons who have served a sentence of imprisonment to State prison, and persons who have served a sentence imposed for any serious crime of violence, for a sexual offence or for arson, are not committed to this institution. As a consequence of this condition offenders with a previous criminal record for grave offences are segregated from first offenders.

Out of regard for the general public and for reasons of public safety, persons convicted of serious crimes of violence, sexual offences or arson are committed to closed institutions, but

persons convicted of more harmless offences of the above-mentioned category resulting from the circumstances have to a certain extent been allowed to serve their term in the institution, and these experiments have in general been successful.

(3) *Homosexuality*. The prisoner must not be a homosexual. The high degree of communal life and the shortage of single rooms make commitment of homosexual persons to the institution undesirable.

(4) *Term of penalty*. The term of the penalty must not exceed approximately two years. The very free conditions and the consequential easy opportunity for escape may be an extremely severe strain on the prisoners. This strain and the test of character and possible strengthening of particular qualities which may result from it are important elements in the evaluation and treatment of the prisoners, but experience shows that even for persons with a very positive approach to the treatment the strain will be too severe where the term of imprisonment very much exceeds two to two and one half years. Besides, the high degree of communal life may be rather trying for the less robust types. However, in order to allow to long term prisoners to benefit to some extent from the numerous advantages the open institutions present in other respects such prisoners are in several cases transferred from closed to open institution on the expiration of one-third or one-half of their term. The transfer takes place on individual recommendation of the governor of the institution concerned after consideration by the Classification Board.

(5) *Suitability*. The prisoner must not, according to the available information on his character and mental conditions, be considered unsuited for serving his sentence in an open institution. In accordance with this requirement, efforts are made to keep the highly domineering and undisciplined types away from this institution.

By virtue of the rules of classification outlined above, the clientele is rather homogeneous in regard to age as well as to criminality, including criminal record.

3. PERSONNEL

A. *Administration, Education, Welfare, etc.* The staff respon-

sible for the management of the institution and for the direction of the treatment of the prisoners comprise:

(1) A prison governor who has the general responsibility for the treatment of the prisoners and for the management of the institution.

(2) A prison teacher who plans and directs the educational and recreational activities and who acts as deputy for the governor.

(3) A psychologist.

For the staff listed above, university education is required.

(4) A welfare officer.

(5) A clergyman from outside the institution who visits once a week.

B. Medical Care. The medical service is entrusted to a physician residing at Nørre Snede, who visits the institution once a week, and at other times, as required. All prisoners are examined at the time of commitment and at the time of release, and their condition of health is subject to close supervision. The physician is assisted by a nurse, who attends one hour a day.

A dental clinic has been set up in the medical room of the institution, and dental care is provided by a dentist who is likewise residing in the town.

Psychiatric assistance, as necessary, may be required from the Central Psychiatric Observation Department of the Prison Service.

C. Clerical Staff. The clerical staff consists of:

(1) A head clerk, who is responsible for accountancy and purchases.

(2) A clerk.

(3) A woman typist who is secretary to the governor.

D. Work Management. The direction of the work done by the prisoners is exercised by:

(1) Two work managers in agriculture.

(2) One work manager in horticulture.

(3) Two work managers at the joinery.

(4) One manager (brick-layer) for the maintenance of buildings.

(5) One work manager for house-painting.

E. Supervisory Staff. There are six chief guards and fifteen prison guards under the direction of a warder. In addition to discharging the supervisory functions proper, a large proportion of this personnel take part in the education of the prisoners and in the direction of their recreational activities.

4. HOURS OF WORK AND WORK CATEGORIES

The working day is eight and one half hours which includes one hour's compulsory education during the school year, amounting to six hours a week.

In addition to domestic work (kitchen, depot, and cleaning), the prisoners are employed in the following trades:

(1) *Farming.* The farming requires approximately twenty men, two of whom work in the forge.

(2) *Gardening.* The gardening also requires approximately twenty men, a large proportion being occupied with wreath-making and weaving of straw mats.

(3) *Carpenter's shop.* Carpentry employs approximately fifteen men at actual production.

(4) *Construction work and housepainting.* A total of six to ten men are employed in the upkeep and alteration of buildings and in house-painting, the number being dependent on the season and on the amount of work required. All new constructions as well as repair work are carried out by the prisoners.

Because of the comparatively short term of imprisonment it is not possible to provide full vocational training, so the institution must confine itself to developing the physique of the prisoners and to giving them a practical training coupled with an instruction in working techniques. In several cases, it has, however, been possible to complete a vocational training commenced prior to the commitment to prison, in particular in the trades of joinery and carpentry.

5. EDUCATION AND RECREATION

Efforts are made in the organization of the educational activities to promote as far as possible the initiative of the

students, and account is taken of the fact that a certain school fatigue will often be present in this young clientele.

The education may be divided into four categories:

(1) compulsory elementary subjects such as Danish, arithmetic, etc.;

(2) compulsory instruction in working technique; such instruction is provided by the respective work managers and aims at giving the students a theoretical background for the work in which they are employed;

(3) voluntary education based on individual interests, where the students may choose between a large number of subjects, such as foreign languages, general information on domestic and foreign politics, knowledge of literature, painting and drawing, handicrafts, and other hobby activities, etc.;

(4) instruction in athletics, football, and handball, in which participation is voluntary, while participation in gymnastics for two to three hours a week is compulsory. Extensive use is made of study groups and independent written and oral exercises in order to promote the active contribution of the students and stress the difference from the traditional forms of education in the elementary school. As part of this policy, the majority of the leisure-time activities are organised on a club basis, so that within the individual branches of these activities the prisoners elect from among themselves their own management which takes the initiative in the arrangement of the club and discusses the details of their organisation with the administration of the institution. The individual club is frequently a member of the national organisation concerned, on terms of equality with the ordinary Danish associations of the same category, and the diplomas and certificates issued by the clubs of the institution have normal validity. The purpose of this arrangement is among other things to encourage the prisoners to proceed, after their release, with wholesome forms of leisure-time activity with which they may have become acquainted while serving their sentence, thus contributing to a change of environment.

The background for the intensive efforts in regard to the leisure-time of the prisoners is the conviction that harmful leisure-time pursuits or the absence of any interests is a very

important crimogenic factor in the majority of these young prisoners. Besides, as regards prisoners who are living in community, the leisure-time is the time when interchange of bad influence is most likely to prevail.

The following examples of activities organised in clubs, can be mentioned: (1) amateur theatricals, (2) football and athletics, (3) chess, (4) model-plane building, (5) philately, and (6) table-tennis.

In addition, lectures and entertainment by outside lecturers and artists fall within the scope of the school. These arrangements, in which participation is compulsory, and which aim at giving general information and at raising the level of taste and interests, are of a high quality and are in several cases rendered possible only through a co-operation with other nearby institutions. Some of the lectures are voluntary, and are held especially for the members of a special lecture and discussion club, which decides itself what topics will be taken up for discussion.

Library

The library of the institution comprises 4,000 to 5,000 volumes, more or less equally divided between fiction and non-fiction. The prisoners have free access to the bookcases, and the loans which take place under the same rules as in public libraries, average some 45 volumes per prisoner a year, which is slightly more than the average loan at the public libraries.

The library is run by one of the prisoners, subject to supervision by the prison teacher who is always present during the hours for loans in order to give advice and guidance.

6. TREATMENT AND REGIME

Efforts are made to approximate the daily life of the institution as much as possible to the conditions of the outside world, and the whole work of resocialisation has a pronounced educational character, with equal emphasis on work and instruction. As the average term of imprisonment in this institution, which is about six to eight months, is too short for any vocational training of the large majority of the prisoners, the efforts are concentrated on providing a thorough work training, developing the physique of the prisoners, filling the worst

gaps in their school knowledge, and opening up new fields of interest to them.

During the first four to five days of his term the prisoner is placed in solitary confinement, where he is informed of the conditions of the institution and, escorted by a prison officer, has the opportunity of becoming familiar with workshops and surroundings. The teacher and the psychologist undertake various tests with a view to his placement in school and at work, and the welfare officer tries to find out what should be done in the field of welfare. Immediately before the prisoner is admitted to the general community, the governor has a long interview with him, during which he tries to form a picture of his personality and social background, and impresses upon him the demands which will be made on him by the high degree of communal life and the free conditions, and his chances for deriving a positive benefit from his term of imprisonment. On the basis of the picture thus formed of the training needs and the stage of development of the prisoner, he will then be assigned to the appropriate work and school group and placed in section A or B, according to an evaluation of the gravity of his criminality.

The work is remunerated in the form of a reward, which according to diligence and the nature of the work may amount to kr. 2.25 a day or, where possible, according to a piece rate, which may permit of slightly higher earnings. One-half of the earnings are saved for the time of release, while the other half, which is paid in special institution money may be spent on purchases of tobacco and similar minor necessities in a shop set up in the institution.

Under the regulations of the institution the prisoners are allowed to write and receive one letter a week. They may correspond with relatives such as parents, brothers and sisters, wife or fiancée and, with persons with whom, in the opinion of the management, it is important for the prisoner to keep in touch. The same group of persons are allowed to visit the prisoners, who may wear ordinary clothes during such visits. In certain cases visits may take place without direct supervision of a prison officer; in summer-time the visits often take place in the park; at other times in a special visiting room.

The prisoners may be allowed to go outside the grounds of the institution, individually or in a camp, under escort of one

or several prison officers and in ordinary clothes. Permission for leave of absence without escort may be granted only in case of death or serious illness among close relatives, for a period of up to four days.

All major decisions concerning the treatment of the prisoner are made by the Classification Board, which meets every or every second week and is composed of the following Prison officers under the chairmanship of the governor; the prison chaplain, the prison teacher, the psychologist, the head clerk, the warder, and chief guard. Other prison officers will be summoned as required. The conduct of each prisoner is examined at least every month, and the result is formulated in writing by the governor following a preceding discussion at the meeting.

The important question as to whether the prisoner shall be recommended for remission of sentence or conditional release also falls within the terms of reference of the Classification Board. Under the Criminal Code a recommendation is submitted to the Minister of Justice as to whether a prisoner should be granted a conditional release when he has served two-thirds of his term, provided that this period is at least nine months. Slightly more than one-third of the prisoners at Nørre Snede satisfy this requirement for conditional release, and practically all of these prisoners are generally released, subject to two years' non-criminal conduct and orderly way of living and subject to supervision during the period of conditional release.

The discipline among the prisoners is primarily maintained through educational guidance; in this respect, particular importance is attached to making the prisoner understand that a certain amount of discipline is necessary both in a prison and in the outside world. Where such general guidance does not meet the purpose, the existing rules provide, in addition to a warning for deprivation of privileges, exclusion from work for up to 14 days, withdrawal of remuneration, imposition of fines (out of part of the earnings which is not subject to saving), restriction of diet for up to 15 days (for physically fit prisoners over 18 years of age only) and confinement to a special cell for from one day to three months. Confinement to a special cell is merely solitary confinement with the effect that the term of the prisoner is prolonged by the number of days he is subject to such disciplinary punishment. The dis-

ciplinary measures may be made conditional and may be combined. In the case of most disciplinary offences which are not quite trivial, the offenders are confined to a special cell for a few days with labour, in some cases subject to suspended execution of the disciplinary punishment. More rigorous disciplinary penalties are normally inflicted only in the case of escape. Experience seems to have shown that good results may be achieved in commitment of young offenders to an institution of the category described here. The condition of freedom, which make great demands on the self-discipline of the individual offender, constitute a favorable background for a closer observation and evaluation of the character defects and potentialities of the offenders, and the form of treatment with the main emphasis on education permits consideration for the individuality of the offenders without prejudice to the general institutional regime.

Moreover, it has proved possible to establish such relations of confidence between the institution and the prisoners that, despite the total absence of precautionary measures, escapes have presented no problem. Of the approximately 200 prisoners who pass through the institution in the course of a year, an average of five to seven escape. A disciplinary punishment of confinement to a special cell for from one to three months is generally imposed on apprehension, and the offender concerned is as a rule transferred to a closed institution, although the question of transfer to closed institution after escape is decided individually. Transfer to closed institution may take place also if, for other reasons, a prisoner proves unsuited for treatment in the open institution. The number of prisoners per year who are transferred to closed institutions is very small.

It would be desirable to have better facilities for the internal classification in the institution. A project for new construction is being prepared with this in view providing for the erection of two to three pavilions, each accomodating 20 to 30 single rooms, in addition to separate common rooms, etc. Such an alteration of the institution, which permits a variation of the form of imprisonment within the institution from a more controlled to a very free existence based on confidence in the individual offender, will make it possible to combine the best conditions of the traditional cell prison with the great

advantages provided by the free form of treatment permitted by the introduction of open institutions.

II KRAGSKOVHEDE STATE PRISON

1. NATURE, SIZE AND LOCATION

The institution, which is situated on a formerly quite uncultivated moorland area in the north of Jutland, was erected during the years 1945-48, and was originally intended for the detention of traitors, but, when it was opened in January 1948, the prosecution of traitors after the occupation was so far advanced that it was no longer needed for that purpose, and from the very beginning, it was used for ordinary criminal offenders. The grounds of the institution cover an area of approximately 2,700 acres.

The institution is arranged on the pavilion system. The main section, "Kragkovhede", which is surrounded by a wire fence, comprises the administration building, workshops, a store, kitchen and dining-room-buildings, a reception block with 26 single rooms, an isolation block with five prison-like single cells, an infirmary with 22 beds, and four blocks each accomodating 22 four-men rooms. In addition, there is a block for the school, including classrooms, a library (16,000 volumes), a cinema hall, hobby rooms, and a gymnasium.

An open section of the institution. "Rabjerg", to which persons may be promoted is situated some seven kilometres north of the main section. It accomodates 72 persons, twelve of whom have single rooms in a separate building which is run without personnel.

The total capacity of the institution is 420.

2. SELECTION AND CATEGORY OF PRISONERS

The selection of the prisoners is, as in the case of all other State prisoners, undertaken by the central administration of Prison Service on the basis of the documents of the criminal case. Under the existing rules the institution receives convicted persons who have previously served a sentence of imprisonment in State prison at least once, and who have not committed serious sexual offences, crimes of violence, or arson. The term of imprisonment may not exceed four years.

3. PERSONNEL

The staff of the institution comprises the following groups:

A. *Higher Personnel.* The higher personnel of the institution, which also constitutes the Classification Board, consists of:

A prison governor; two assistant governors; one prison chaplain and one ordained assistant; one senior teacher, four teachers, one welfare officer and two welfare assistants (at present all of this staff mentioned, except the two welfare assistants have university training); one prison manager, one prison accountant, one chief warder, one medical officer (four days a week) and one psychologist.

B. *Supervisory Personnel.* The supervisory staff of the institution consists of seven warders, 22 chief guards and 70 prison guards.

C. *Work Management.* The direction of the work done by the prisoners is carried out by 22 work managers.

D. *Clerical Staff.* The clerical staff of the institution comprises 2 head clerks, 1 clerk and 13 typists and other clerical employees.

4. HOURS OF WORK AND WORK CATEGORIES

As a large proportion of the prisoners are working at a considerable distance from the institution, the working week includes only five working days, while the sixth weekday, the so-called home-day, is reserved for compulsory education, baths, loan of books, personal talks between the staff and the individual prisoner, etc. The home-day of the various pavilions (prison sections) falls on different days, so that the activities of home-day are spread over the whole week and may take place at an appropriate hour of the day. On working days a prisoner is not called home from work unless absolutely necessary.

The schedule is as follows:

Hour	Home-day and working-day	
	Home-day	Working-day
6	roll call	
6-8	toilet, cleaning, breakfast, etc.	
8-9		
9-10	school	
10-11	exchange of books	work
11-12		
12-13	dinner-hour	
13-14	payment of wages bath	
14-15	change of clothes hair-cuts	work
15-16	interviews disciplinary cases	
16-17	shopping	
17-18.30	toilet, cleaning, supper, etc.	
18.30-21.30	leisure time	
21.30	roll call	

In addition to kitchen, depot and cleaning work, the prisoners are employed in the following occupations: clearing moorland, gardening, farming, weaving, manufacture and printing of envelopes, joinery, engineering shop (forging), laundry work, maintenance of buildings, house-painting and tailoring.

The moorland areas consist of sands and bogs, which may be cleared for cultivation by digging out the bog-earth, filling the hole with sand, and leveling the area by means of the peat soil dug out. A suitable draining and marling will turn the area into fertile plough land, which not only yields good agricultural crops, but may even be used for cultivation of horticultural produce when a sheltering hedgerow has been planted. In this connexion it should be mentioned that the area for gardening covers approximately 35 acres.

The work is remunerated in the same way as in Nørre Snede Prison. Rewards are paid also on home-day.

5. EDUCATION AND RECREATION

In this respect reference is made to the above description relating to Nørre Snede Prison; it should be noted, however, that at Kragshovede all inmates attend compulsory education classes, which take place in the morning of home-day. The inmates have the choice among a large number of subjects. In addition to the compulsory education, arrangements have been made for voluntary education in subjects having a technical character and in hobbies, in the evening and on Sundays.

6. TREATMENT AND REGIME

Prior to the opening of the institution the governor was given a free hand to organize the treatment in the most appropriate way within the scope of the general provisions on execution of sentences of imprisonment in State prisons.

Under this authorization and inspired by the "Handbook on Classification in Correctional Institution" published by the American Prison Association in 1947, the organization of a rational treatment of the prisoners was undertaken through the following steps:

A list was prepared of the possible treatment facilities in regard to the prisoners, such as reception techniques: assignment of the inmates to the different pavilions, supervision, order and discipline, work management, education, welfare services, recreation, promotion, policies of conditional release, release techniques, etc. After consultation with the staff organization of the institution, a number of committees, on which all of the personnel groups of the institutions were represented, were set up, one committee for each treatment facility. A total of 21 committees were established with a membership ranging from 5 to 21 persons. Each committee considers treatment within the framework of the premises and with the given clientele. The work of the committees concluded with reports which were discussed at plenary meetings attended by the whole staff. Following discussion by the plenary meeting, the conclusions of the reports were put into practice in the institution. Upon completion of this work which took three years,

the reports of the committees were collected in a preliminary programme of treatment, describing the organization and co-ordination of the facilities and resources which after various experiments had been found appropriate for application. When the plan of treatment had been in operation for two years, the preliminary programme was critically reviewed at staff meetings and a final programme was prepared to serve as a guide for the officers of the institution. This procedure has stimulated the prison officers' interest in, and appreciation of, the efforts of the institution for social re-adjustment of the inmates.

At the time of commitment the prisoner is placed in solitary confinement in the reception block for about three weeks in order that he may become familiar with the arrangement and in order that the institution may have a suitable time for studying his case and situation. During his detention in the reception block, the inmate is given a course of instruction comprising an introduction by the governor of the institution informing the inmates of the purpose of the detention, instructions on educational and recreational activities by the senior teacher, instructions on the welfare services provided by the prison chaplain, who at the present time is responsible for the welfare work, instructions on rules of discipline and their justification as well as on the occupational facilities of the institution, and a tour of the buildings and grounds of the institution.

After this initial course the interviews of the Planning Boards with the inmates of the reception block begin with a view to guaranteeing a co-ordinated and rational programme of treatment.

Three such Planning Boards have been set up; each deals with approximately 125 prisoners from the time of commitment till after release. The Planning Boards are composed of a chairman, representing the administration, one representative for work training, one representative for education and recreation (the school), and one representative for welfare services.

During the prisoner's detention in the reception block, each of the members of the Planning Board concerned has an interview with him, and the Board is responsible for examining his situation and coming to an agreement with him about

the plan for his term in the institution. The working basis for the Boards is provided by the psychologist of the institution, who draws up the previous history of the inmate on the basis of a detailed interview with him, after he has gone through the documents of the criminal case and collected such social data as may not already be available concerning his previous history. This previous history which covers an account of the prisoner's childhood and later development, his criminal record, etc., is distributed to members of the Planning Boards, before they have interviews with him. When the interviews have taken place, the prisoner's data are discussed at a meeting of the Board, and a preliminary plan is outlined. The inmate is then summoned and placed at a table together with the members of the Board for the final agreement on the plan, which as a rule includes: assignment to a section, work assignment, education, recreational activities, welfare measures, visit to relatives by an officer, correspondence, and visits to the inmate.

The plan may also include treatment for alcoholism, psychiatric examination and possibly transfer to some other institution. Efforts are made to draw up the plan in a spirit of co-operation, so that the institution makes its resources available for the plans of the future which the inmate wishes to carry out.

When the plan has been established, and the inmate has been transferred from the reception block to one of the sections, the Planning Board is responsible for control of the implementation of the plan and the development of the inmate. Such control is exercised through interviews with the inmates, as well as by the periodical collection of written statements from the personnel of the section and the place of work, from the school, and from the welfare officer. Use is also made of the censorship of letters, which is undertaken by the members of the Board. If warranted by the circumstances, the Board may at any time change the plan after consultation with the inmate.

The chairman of the Planning Board prepares a draft statement for the Classification Board as to conditional release and the Board submits such statements relating to the prisoner as may be requested by other treatment groups of the institution or by outside authorities. Certain aspects of treatment fall out-

side the scope of activities of the Planning Boards and are assigned to the following other groups set up for specific purposes:

(a) *The Classification Board*, which is composed of the higher personnel referred to under paragraph 3.A above and is concerned with the following matters relating to the individual prisoners: recommendations for conditional release; promotion to the Råbjerg Section, or other transfer, and exemptions from the provisions governing the use to be made of earnings. Besides, the classification Board discusses questions of principle relating to the treatment and the work of the institution. It meets once a week.

(b) *The Board of Remission of Sentence* which is composed of the governor, the chairman of the Planning Boards, and the prison chaplain. This board decides whether, in the individual case, the institution shall try to obtain remission of sentence for the prisoner. It meets once a week.

(c) *The Welfare Board* which is composed of the governor, the chairman of the Planning Boards, the welfare officers of the Planning Board, and the person in charge of the welfare section. This Board is responsible for supervising that adequate arrangements have been made in connection with the release of the prisoners and for making decisions concerning the exercise of supervision over persons who have obtained a conditional release or a remission of sentence concerning financial assistance.

(d) *Disciplinary Court*. The disciplinary authority is vested in the governor or his deputy. The court sits on the home-day whenever required, and the inmates from the section of the accused are entitled to attend the trial of the case which, as far as possible, follows the principle of Danish administration of Justice. Evidence is first given by the reporting officer, next by the inmate. The chief warden is the regular court witness. In principle the inmates are not called as witnesses. The disciplinary measures are the same as in Nørre Snede Prison.

7. RELEASE

The following special plan relating to release has been drawn up and is likely to be put into practice in the near future:

When the time for release is approaching, the institution carries out a programme for release adapted to the individual prisoner, initiated by an interview during which the prisoner is informed of the evaluation on the part of the institution of the results of the institutional treatment he has undergone.

In order to facilitate the inmate's transition from institutional life to the outside world, he is transferred to a special discharge section, which as far as possible offers him the conditions of the outside world and precludes him from participation in the institutional life. During his stay in the discharge section the inmate is given instructions concerning his home journey and any duties he may be required to fulfil immediately upon return to his residence. Besides he is informed of any conditions presented in connection with his release and the consequences of their non-observance. When necessary, information is given on sexual matters and the problem of alcoholism. In addition, information may be given of the recreational facilities (leisure-time clubs) existing at his place of residence.

During the last few days before release, the inmate is allowed to move outside the grounds of the institution and, in some cases, to go to a nearby provincial town without escort for purposes of shopping.

The difference between Nørre Snede Prison and Kragshovede State Prison is not so much to be found in the nature of the detention or treatment which, subject to differences resulting from the different categories of prisoners, is more or less the same. However, owing to the number of prisoners and staff, the latter institution has carried out an extensive coordination and rationalization of the available facilities in order to achieve the profound influence on, and the close contact with, the persons which are the purposes of any imprisonment.

Résumé

Le rapport décrit deux établissements danois, à savoir la prison de *Nørre Snede* et la prison d'Etat de *Kragshovede*. La prison de *Nørre Snede*, qui fonctionne depuis 1943, est un établissement ouvert pour jeunes adultes délinquants situé dans le Jutland central et couvrant une surface d'environ 200 acres. Il reçoit 80 prisonniers. L'établissement, qui est divisé en deux sections pour la classification interne des détenus, comprend plusieurs bâtiments entourés d'un grand parc. On y trouve un atelier de charpenterie, une forge, une section maraîchère et agricole avec des serres et un atelier, ainsi que deux fermes. Quinze prisonniers disposent de chambres individuelles; les autres logent dans des locaux pour trois à six personnes. Il n'y a pas de barreaux, de murs ou de barrières.

Le personnel consiste en un directeur, un instituteur, un psychologue, un assistant social, 21 surveillants placés sous la direction d'un surveillant-chef, et trois employés de bureau. Un médecin de l'extérieur, un infirmier et un dentiste assurent les soins médicaux et dentaires. Un aumônier visite l'établissement une fois par semaine.

Les détenus sont choisis par l'Administration pénitentiaire centrale parmi les délinquants condamnés à la prison d'Etat (peine de cinq mois ou plus), sur la base des renseignements dont on dispose au sujet de leur passé et de leur condition sociale et mentale, et sans détention antérieure en vue de classification. On n'admet à l'établissement que des délinquants entre 18 et 25 ans qui n'ont pas subi antérieurement de peine dans une prison d'Etat ni n'ont été condamnés pour une infraction violente sérieuse, pour un délit sexuel ou pour incendie, qui ne sont pas homosexuels et dont la peine ne dépasse pas deux ans à deux ans et demie. Il doit en outre être considéré comme probable que le détenu en question bénéficiera du traitement dans un établissement ouvert. La durée moyenne de la détention dans l'établissement est de six à huit mois.

Les détenus sont employés essentiellement à des travaux agricoles, de jardinage, de charpenterie et de maintien des bâtiments, et ils reçoivent à la fois une formation pratique et un enseignement théorique dans ces divers métiers. Ils suivent des classes obligatoires sur des sujets élémentaires et d'édu-

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.