

A/CONF.6/C.2/L.23

PREMIER CONGRÈS DES NATIONS UNIES EN MATIÈRE DE
PRÉVENTION DU CRIME ET DE TRAITEMENT DES DÉLINQUANTS
GENÈVE 1955

ETABLISSEMENTS OUVERTS

LES ÉTABLISSEMENTS OUVERTS AU BRÉSIL

par Victorio CANEPPA,
Président perpétuel
de l'Association brésilienne des prisons



NATIONS UNIES

mi-
éni-
ent
e ni
or-
om-
rès
, et
t le
s à
nce

a et
ient
me
ons
late
ient
e".
u à
nce
en
les
ons

ion
es,
rté

ses
né-
is-
ans

res
me
'en
rts
ose

par des hommes qui n'ont que peu d'aptitudes professionnelles. Ils y acquièrent l'amour de la nature et l'attachement à la terre. Aussi peut-on considérer que les colonies et les établissements ouverts ont au fond le même but, qui est de récupérer les individus dévoyés de la société, avec cette différence que les colonies sont destinées à recevoir les paresseux qui y sont obligés de travailler par le moyen d'une discipline basée sur un régime plus dur, alors que les établissements ouverts sont faits pour les délinquants de toutes catégories ayant le sens de la responsabilité et étant conscients de leur situation, et qu'il faut donc traiter le plus possible comme des hommes libres.

Summary

There have been up to the present two types of penal institutions in Brazil, namely, closed prisons and agricultural colonies. Experiments have been made in recent years with open institutions. They will not replace existing institutions but they will help to lessen the overcrowding in the penitentiaries.

The essential difference between the agricultural colonies and the new open institutions is in the regime. Offenders are sent to the colonies without prior selection and, therefore, many of them must be placed under strict discipline while at work (e. g. idlers) and close supervision during the night. The colonies have, therefore, a special security service and permanent guards to prevent escape, although it is true that a certain number of inmates live in comparative freedom, especially those who have their family in the vicinity.

Offenders are sent to open institutions, properly so-called, only after due selection from other institutions. The methods vary from one state to another, but two conditions must always be complied with: prisoners must present no signs whatsoever of being dangerous and must show a due sense of responsibility. The index of « dangerousness » is determined by the criminal biotology service. The offence and the duration of the sentence are not taken into account when committing prisoners to open institutions.

The aim of these institutions is exclusively educational. The work consists mainly of agriculture and cattle-raising but some work-shops exist for those who have learned a trade. The inmates live and work exactly like free farmers. Many of them are housed with their families apart from the other inmates.

The characteristic feature of open institutions in Brazil is occupational therapy. Work in most of the open institutions is compulsory and inmates are paid for it. Agricultural work proved to be more suitable than industrial work for the inmates most of whom are unskilled labourers.

The competent authorities and the Brazilian Prison Association agree that the personnel in charge of open institutions should be specially selected and trained; no scheme for this purpose has yet been put into effect.

Several recent open institutions are described, in particular those at Santa Fé, in the State of Alagoas, and at Canasvieiras, in the State of Santa Catarina.

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.