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UN CONGRESS APPROVES RECOMMENDATIONS ON SELECTION
AND TRAINING OF PENAL PERSONNEL

(The following has been received from the UN Information Center, Geneva.)

The United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Prisoners unanimously adopted this afternoon recommendations on the selection and training of personnel for penal and correctional institutions. Thus, the Congress, which has already adopted recommendations on open establishments and standard minimum rules for treatment of prisoners, completed the first part of its task.

Carlo Erra of Italy, rapporteur of section I, stated that the UN Secretariat was to be congratulated on its draft which, he said, constituted an harmonious and admirable synthesis. In pressing for adoption of the recommendations concerning prison personnel, Mr. Erra stated that the best laws would fail if no such qualified personnel were available. In his view, mediocre establishments with good personnel were better than model establishments with incompetent personnel.

The Congress adopted by acclamation a resolution presented by Thorsten Sellin of the United States, General Rapporteur of the Congress. The resolution requested the Secretary-General to submit the recommendations to the Social Commission of the Economic and Social Council; expressed the hope that the Council would endorse the recommendations and draw 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; expressed also the wish that the Economic and Social Council request the Secretary-General to give the widest publicity to these recommendations and authorize him to collect periodically information on the matter from various countries and to publish such information.

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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.