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

CONGRESS ADOPTS RECOMMENDATIONS ON OPEN INSTITUTIONS

The First United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders decided unanimously this afternoon to request the Secretary-General to submit its recommendations on open institutions to the Social Commission of the Economic and Social Council.

This afternoon the plenary meeting of the Congress opened at 2.30 p.m. with Mr. Edouard de STEIGER in the chair.

Mr. Torsten ERIKSSON (Sweden), Rapporteur of Section II, presented to the Congress the recommendations on open institutions adopted by his Section (A/CONF.6/L.2). Except for a few details these recommendations are the same as those put forward by the United Nations Secretariat in its report on open institutions (A/CONF.6/C.2/L.1).

On a motion by Mr. Jean PINATEL (France) some delegates wished to amend paragraph IX(d) of the recommendations which deals with the compilation of statistics so as to supplement this work by research in co-operation with independent scientific authorities.

As some delegates preferred the Secretariat's original text, Mr. LOPEZ-REY, Chief of the Social Defence Section and the Secretary-General's representative, suggested as a compromise solution that the Congress should recommend "the compilation of statistics supplemented by follow-up studies conducted, in so far as possible with the help of independent scientific authorities".

The Congress adopted this text by 31 votes to 7.

The Congress then adopted the recommendations put forward by Section II.

Mr. Thorsten SELLIN (United States of America), General Rapporteur, then moved a draft resolution (A/CONF.6/L.3) requesting the Secretary-General to submit the recommendations annexed to the resolution 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 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; and finally expressing the wish that the Economic and Social Council request the Secretary-General to give the widest publicity to these recommendations and authorise him to collect periodically information on the matter from the various countries, and to publish such information.

Shri Paripurnanand VERMA (India) appealed to the Congress to adopt the draft resolution, saying that it would be the first stage in carrying out a great enterprise started twenty years before. He thanked the United Nations for convening the Congress and thus enabling it to adopt recommendations which would revolutionize the penal system and permit the reclamation of offenders.

The Congress adopted the draft resolution unanimously.

The meeting rose at 4 p.m.

The Congress will meet tomorrow morning in plenary session to hear a report by Mr. Mostafa EL SAID (Egypt), and in the afternoon to study the "Minimum rules".

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.