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

CONGRESS BEGINS ITS EXAMINATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS
ON THE PREVENTION OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

The First United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders met this afternoon under the chairmanship of Mr. E. de Steiger and examined the problem of the prevention of juvenile delinquency.

Mr. Paul TAPPAN (United States of America), Rapporteur of Section III, submitted the Section's recommendations (document A/CONF.6/L.11) and noted the fact that the United Nations had recognized the importance of this question. Juvenile delinquency, he said, was a problem which was becoming increasingly difficult as well as more and more widespread in the various parts of the world.

Mr. M. ANCEL (France) felt that the recommendations contained assertions which were too dogmatic, and that they covered too many points. He suggested that a solution could be reached provided the document was not regarded as final but was taken as the basis for further study under United Nations auspices, and submitted a draft resolution to that effect.

Mr. LOPEZ-REY, Chief of the Social Defence Section, representing the Secretary-General, explained that the document before the meeting must first be discussed in accordance with the normal procedure, and that resolutions could be moved once the recommendations had been discussed.

The meeting, after discussion, proceeded to examine the recommendations in accordance with the proposed procedure.

A point made in the document was that because of variations in custom, law and philosophy in different countries, it was not feasible to formulate a limited and universal definition of the term "juvenile delinquency".

The Section had primarily directed its attention to pre-delinquency, and had drawn up recommendations concerning preventive work in relation to the community, the family and school, the social services (including health services) and other agencies. It was agreed that a new section on labour should be included. The recommendations were adopted as amended.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.

The Congress is due to conclude its work at a meeting to be held at 10 a.m. tomorrow. It will complete its study of the recommendations on the prevention of juvenile delinquency by discussing research work relating to delinquency causation, prediction and prevention, finishing up by adopting the set of recommendations as a whole and any draft resolutions submitted.

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.