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

Kyoto, Japan, 17-26 August 1970

(This is the third information note on the Congress. It is kindly requested that this note, prepared by the Secretariat of the United Nations, be given wide publicity by reproduction in part or in full in any language.)

I. BACKGROUND

By resolution 415 (V) of 1 December 1950, the General Assembly of the United Nations provided for the convening every five years of an International Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. The First Congress was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, in 1955; the Second Congress, with the Government of the United Kingdom acting as host, at Church House and Carlton House, London, in 1960; and the Third Congress, with the Government of Sweden acting as host, at Folkets Hus, Stockholm, in 1965.

In preparation for the 1970 Congress, a special secretariat was established under an Executive Secretary; the secretariat arranged preparatory regional meetings at Addis Ababa (at ECA), 3-7 November 1969; at Bangkok (at ECAFE), 24-28 November 1969; and at Buenos Aires, 1-6 December 1969, for which the Government of Argentina acted as host. In addition, the United Nations, in co-operation with the League of Arab States and the Government of Kuwait, arranged a preparatory meeting of Arab States from 4-10 April 1970, for which the Government of Kuwait acted as host.

There have also been specialized meetings organized by different bodies in America and Europe. The Council of Europe provided facilities for a meeting of European experts on 5 December 1969; the Secretaries-General of the International

Penal and Penitentiary Foundation, the International Association for Penal Law, the International Society for Social Defence and the International Society of Criminology met with the United Nations Executive Secretary for the Congress in Paris on 9 December 1969.

The Executive Secretary has also completed consultations with a number of Governments where it was not possible for more general meetings to be held.

II. DATE AND PLACE

As previously announced, the Fourth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders will be held at the International Conference Hall, Kyoto, Japan, from 17-26 August 1970; the Government of Japan will act as host. The United Nations will be responsible for the organization of the Congress and the Government of Japan will be responsible for conference facilities, hotel arrangements, limited local transportation and other customary host services.

Kyoto is an ancient capital of Japan situated about thirty minutes by train from Osaka. The International Conference Hall is located some three miles from the centre of Kyoto and basic transport facilities between the Hall and the hotels will be provided by the Japanese Organizing Committee. Details of this and other services will be announced by the Japanese Organizing Committee.

III. MEMBERSHIP

Under established practice, the Congress will group three categories of participants, namely:

(1) Members officially appointed by their Governments who are experts in the field of social defence or are directly concerned with policies and programmes affecting the prevention and control of crime and delinquency (e.g. social planners; educational, social welfare, youth development and employment experts and policy-makers) and who have a special knowledge of and experience in the topics on the agenda;

(2) Representatives of the specialized agencies of the United Nations, of intergovernmental organizations and of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council interested in or concerned with social defence matters;

(3) Individual participants having a direct interest in the field of social defence (such as members of the teaching staffs of universities, of criminological or social research institutes and of national non-governmental organizations concerned with social defence matters; staff of correctional establishments and institutions for juvenile delinquents; members of courts and bar associations; social workers; youth workers, education specialists, police officials).

The United Nations will not bear the expenses of participants.

IV. PROGRAMME

In the organization of the Congress, the secretariat has been guided by the Advisory Committee of Experts on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. The programme will be centred around the over-all theme of crime and development. The aim will be to focus attention on crime and delinquency, not merely as a problem of behaviour or law enforcement, but as a phenomenon closely associated with social changes sometimes deliberately planned and instigated by authorities in their attempts to achieve economic and social improvement. The attempt will be made to understand the process and find ways to accelerate the advance of economic and social growth with less of the deleterious concomitants.

The agenda items, as finalized in the light of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee at its third session and of the Ad Hoc Meeting of Experts on Social Defence Policies in Relation to Development Planning, both of which met in June 1969, are as follows:

- (1) Social defence policies in relation to development planning;
- (2) Participation of the public in the prevention and control of crime and delinquency;
- (3) The Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners in the light of recent developments in the correctional field;
- (4) Organization of research for policy development in social defence.

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It will be seen that whilst items (1), (2) and (4) are linked and have direct relevance to the main theme, item (3) is not so obviously connected. This item is on the agenda on the recommendation of the meeting of the United Nations Consultative Group on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, which was held at Geneva from 6 to 16 August 1968. In fact, this subject, with its implications for the human rights of prisoners and developments in correctional practice, fits into the general theme since it provides an opportunity to examine the effects of development on correctional practice and to consider the most appropriate form and content of such Rules for a rapidly developing society.

Participants will be provided with a more detailed programme giving the time of the meetings and the arrangements when they register at the International Conference Hall. However, the following may be of interest to those who wish to make advance arrangements:

The meetings at the International Conference Hall will normally run from 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. with a two-hour break for lunch. There will be several receptions to be held for delegates and all participants. Friday and Saturday will be devoted to visits and Sunday will be free. The four Sections of the Congress will be arranged so that two will be meeting simultaneously. Each Section will have a Chairman, and a small panel of experts, and efforts will be made to allow for wide participation by members of the Sections.

Plenary meetings will be held only at the beginning and at the end of the Congress and, as customary, the reports of the Sections will constitute the report of the Congress without formal resolutions.

V. LANGUAGES

The official languages of the Congress will be English, French, Russian and Spanish, and simultaneous interpretation will be provided for all plenary and section meetings. Official reports and documents will be translated into all four languages. As is customary, the host Government will provide for similar language facilities in Japanese.

VI. DOCUMENTATION

Documentation for the Congress has already been dispatched to all participants who are formally registered with the Executive Secretary. Members are asked to note, in particular, that the preparation of the documentation and the limited funds available to the Congress make it impossible for the United Nations to supply duplicate copies of the documentation to participants who may forget to bring their copies with them.

Should members not have received their documentation by 15 July, they should cable the Executive Secretary, who will make an effort to deal with the problem.

The documentation will consist basically of the four working papers covering the four items of the agenda. An attempt will be made to provide issues Nos. 26, 27 and 28 of the International Review of Criminal Policy. The time factor has precluded, however, the possibility of having these issues of the Review available in all languages. Deficiencies will be made up by English copies, where possible. In addition, there will be documents contributed by specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and other official bodies, which, if received in time for mailing, will be sent to participants as and when received. It should be noted that these documents are distributed only in the languages in which the organization has submitted them; translation cannot be provided by the United Nations.

Documents which have not been approved by the secretariat will not be distributed at the Congress. Participants and organizations wishing to clear documents for distribution should submit copies in good time to the office of the Executive Secretary for the requisite authorization.

VIII. REGISTRATION

Registration for the Congress will take place on 15 and 16 August, and members of the Congress are requested to arrange for their arrival by 16 August, at the latest. Facilities for registration will be available from 9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both registration days so as to enable those arriving to register and collect their folders giving the programme, the schedule of meetings and other information. Limited registration facilities for late arrivals will be available

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on 17 and 18 August also, but participants are asked to register early to enable a list of participants to be made available for general distribution as soon as possible. All members are asked to ensure that they bring with them their registration slip showing their registration number. This slip will not only expedite the formalities on arrival in Japan by identifying them as Congress members, but will also facilitate any arrangements they need to make with officials of the Congress, and will accelerate the completion of formalities at the Conference Hall. The individual folders will be handed over to participants in exchange for the registration slip showing the registration number. It will also be recalled that accommodation has been arranged on the basis of this same registration number.

Further details on registration procedures will be made available to participants upon their arrival in Japan.

VIII. SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

It has frequently been held that previous United Nations Congresses on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders allowed inadequate time and facilities for the small group discussions which are a popular feature of many other large conferences of this type.

The prospect of remedying this deficiency has been carefully explored in the preparations for the Fourth United Nations Congress, but the problems are great with such a complex array of diverse interests. Apart from the interpretation, translation and servicing costs of even relatively simple international meetings of this type, there is the complication posed by the fact that this Congress comprises both official delegations and non-governmental organizations of all kinds. On the one hand, the meetings, even though small, would need to be few, carefully organized and serviced; on the other hand, they could be left open entirely to the requirements of participants - but, in this case, a delicate problem would arise of choosing equitably between the wide range of professional, disciplinary and geographical interests that would compete for accommodation and recognition.

After careful consideration, the United Nations has, unfortunately, had to conclude once again that it cannot accept responsibility for side meetings of this type which, however valuable informally, could only be held adequately and

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with full facilities at a considerable extra cost which has not been budgeted for by either the United Nations or the host Government. Such meetings can have no official status in the Congress proceedings.

On the other hand, both the United Nations and the host Government understand the need for such diversity and are sympathetic to the wishes of organizations and persons with divergent interests who may wish to arrange informal meetings with colleagues from other countries since this opportunity for international meeting and exchanging of views arises so rarely. The United Nations has therefore welcomed an indication from the host Government that two rooms could be available for such meetings each day, to be held (a) during the lunch hour (boxed lunches would be available, if required), and (b) on certain evenings or free days. Each room would accommodate up to fifty persons and it seems likely that a total of ten or twelve such small group meetings could be arranged. No interpretation or translation facilities would be available. Language problems, however, might be overcome by participants who wish to organize such meetings if bilingual volunteers could be found amongst the participants themselves.

In view of the limited accommodation and the difficulty of providing servicing, the host Government is able to make the rooms available only on condition that the subjects for discussion fall within the following categories:

(a) Meetings of specialists to discuss more profoundly certain aspects of the items on the Congress agenda;

(b) Meetings of certain professions, e.g. jurists, psychiatrists and social workers, to consider subjects such as those of (a) above or to promote future international collaboration in the field of social defence;

(c) Meetings of officials and non-officials to discuss technical assistance in the field of social defence;

(d) Meetings called by the United Nations specialized agencies or non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to discuss their special interests in social defence.

Applications for accommodation for such meetings should be addressed by registered mail to:

The Chairman
Japanese Organizing Committee for the Fourth United Nations Congress
Ministry of Justice
1-1-1 Kasumigaseki
Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo, Japan

Applications should reach the Chairman not later than 1 August 1970. Allocation of accommodation will be made as fairly as possible, and the list of rooms available and the meetings accepted will be made known at the International Conference Hall on 18 August. It is acknowledged that the applicant will not be able to organize the meeting until after his arrival, but, under the circumstances, this is the only way these arrangements can be made at this Congress. It will also be understood that it may not be possible to meet all requests because of the limited accommodation available. The host Government reserves the right to withdraw facilities from a meeting which it regards as political, non-technical, or designed for ends not stated in the application. It should be clearly understood that no assistance can be provided by the host Government or the United Nations in the organization of such meetings; but in so far as resources and circumstances permit, the knowledge and experience of the secretariat and expert staff will be made available to the meetings on request.

IX. TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

By this time, most of the hotel accommodations will have been arranged and travel plans made. The following, however, may be useful to those still engaged in such preparations.

Where possible, participants should fly direct to Osaka since there is a great shortage of hotel accommodation in Tokyo, and overnight stops may prove difficult to arrange. At Osaka, there will be representatives of the Japanese Organizing Committee to assist participants and guide them to available transport to Kyoto. Similar assistance will be available at Kyoto railroad station for participants arriving by rail. At the hotels, guides will also be available to assist participants to find their way to the International Conference Hall in order to complete registration formalities. Hotels have had to be allocated in accordance with the guidance given to the Japanese Travel Bureau by the participants in their applications. Participants are advised to confirm their onward travel arrangements on arrival. Facilities will be available at the International Conference Hall or at the hotels for this to be done. Further details on travel and accommodation will be provided by the Japanese Organizing Committee.

Any inquiries arising from this circular should be addressed to:

Executive Secretary,
Fourth United Nations Congress
c/o Social Defence Section
CH-2808
United Nations
New York, N.Y. 10017
USA

X. ADDRESSES

The postal address of the Congress is:

Fourth United Nations Congress
Kyoto International Conference Hall
Takaraike, Sakyo-ku
Kyoto, Japan

The cable address is:

CABLE INTHALL (Telex 5422-353)

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.