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

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

1. This is the fourth circular on the subject of the Fifth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. The first circular (A/CONF.56/INF.1) was issued on 5 June 1972, the second (A/CONF.56/INF.2) on 28 September 1973 and the third (A/CONF.56/INF.3) on 10 July 1974. This circular is intended to bring the information on Congress preparations up to date. It is hoped that this account of the progress made to date and on the state of planning for the Congress will prove useful to Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and others.

I. BACKGROUND

2. The General Assembly, in its resolution 415 (V), 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 Geneva in 1955; the second at London in 1960; the third at Stockholm, in 1965; and the fourth, at Kyoto, in 1970.

II. DATE AND PLACE

3. The Fifth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders will be held at Toronto, Canada, from 1 to 12 September 1975. The Government of Canada will act as host and has appointed a Co-ordinator for the Congress. The Co-ordinator, who now maintains a permanent office and staff in Ottawa and a branch office in Toronto, implements the work of the Canadian Organizing Committee. The Solicitor-General of Canada convened a National Advisory Committee in January 1973, and that meeting was attended by United Nations Secretariat officials who had detailed discussions with the Solicitor-General. A further meeting of federal, provincial and city officials to be concerned with the Congress took place at Toronto from 29 to 31 January 1974. A Policy-Committee,

composed of Canadian and United Nations officials has been meeting periodically in preparation of the Congress. The Congress is being organized subject to an understanding which follows the pattern of the agreement between the Government of Japan and the United Nations on the Fourth United Nations Congress.

### III. MEMBERSHIP

4. Congress participants may be registered in one of four categories, namely:

(a) Members officially designated by their Governments as delegates to the Congress;

(b) Individual members having a direct interest in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, including representatives of criminological institutes and of national organizations concerned with crime prevention and criminal justice;

(c) Observers from the Palestine Liberation Organization and from interested liberation movements in Africa recognized by the Organization of African Unity;

(d) Observers from specialized agencies of the United Nations, or from other intergovernmental or non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and interested in the matters before the Congress.

The remaining category is comprised of officials of the United Nations Secretariat.

5. In consultation with the Government of Canada, it was agreed that it would not be possible or desirable to admit more than 2,000 participants, and this decision has been confirmed by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control. This decision does not affect the size of Government delegations or of official representations of the specialized agencies, non-governmental or intergovernmental or other organizations. Together these usually constitute no more than 50 per cent of total participation. It will, however, greatly affect the number of individual applications in category (b) which can be accepted for registration. Since the Congress requires adequate geographic representation, it has been decided to ensure that qualified registrants in category (b) from abroad are given priority and that registrants from the North American continent be limited if necessary. The selection will be made according to the following criteria: activities and responsibilities in the crime prevention and criminal justice field and application date.

### IV. REGIONAL MEETINGS

6. The Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fifth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders was held at Tokyo, Japan from 16 to 21 July 1973. The Government of Brazil hosted the Latin American

Regional Preparatory Meeting at Brasilia from 5 to 10 November 1973. A regional preparatory meeting for Arab States was held at Cairo, Egypt, from 23 to 27 November 1974. The regional meeting for African countries will be held at Lusaka, Zambia, from 17 to 22 March 1975. At all regional meetings the Canadian Government is represented by observers. An interregional seminar on the use of research as a basis for social defence policy and planning (Copenhagen, Denmark, 20-31 August 1973) was also used to provide substantive contributions to the preparations for the Congress, and the Government of Denmark invited European Governments to send representatives to a special Regional Preparatory Meeting held on 17 August 1973 to consider the Congress agenda. The Hungarian Government convened a meeting of European Governments in Budapest from 28 to 31 May 1974, and a Caribbean Commonwealth meeting on the Congress items was held from 5 to 11 January 1975.

7. Countries are being encouraged to consider holding meetings at their own expense in preparation for the Congress. This kind of co-operation is necessary in view of the need to obtain world-wide studies of the questions to be considered by the Congress. The Government of Canada, for example, invited officers of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control and the Secretariat to Canada in June 1973, where they participated in the programme of the biennial Canadian Congress of Criminology and Corrections. Special arrangements were made by the Canadian Criminology and Corrections Association for a review of the international aspects of crime prevention and control and particularly the agenda for the Fifth United Nations Congress.

8. In addition, a series of working groups of experts has been organized to assist in the preparation of Congress working papers.

#### V. RESEARCH MEETING

9. After consultations with experts in the research field, including those from Europe, America and the Soviet Union, the United Nations and the host Government have welcomed a proposal for a pre-Congress research meeting to be held during the week-end preceding the Congress. However, as this will not be an official United Nations meeting, full conference and interpretation services will not be provided. The host country will provide interpretation in its own two official languages, French and English. Participation is limited to representatives of delegations, upon invitation.

10. The research meeting will be held at Montreal, Canada, from 28 to 30 August 1975. It will study certain areas of scientific interest related to the Congress agenda, concentrating specifically on:

(a) Changing concepts of deviancy in different countries at different levels of development;

(b) Various evaluative methodologies for the several services within the criminal justice system; and

(c) Studies of discretion as this is exercised in the administration of justice.

11. Responsibility for the organization of the meeting rests with the United Nations Social Defence Research Institute (UNSDRI) and the International Centre for Comparative Criminology in Montreal.

12. Papers have been commissioned from selected experts as a basis for discussion, and non-governmental organizations will be invited to send scientific workers to the meeting, which will be limited in number and should comprise about 100 to 120 persons. The conclusions of this meeting are not intended to prejudge issues at the Congress, but delegations will be free to make such use of the discussions at the research meeting as they feel would be most appropriate to the issues at the Congress itself.

13. It should be noted that the research meeting will deal only with selected issues of a scientific nature and will not be concerned with policy issues, which are properly matters for the Congress itself.

#### VI. PARTICIPATION AND ACCOMMODATION COSTS

14. The expenses connected with participation, including travel and subsistence expenditures, will be the responsibility of participating Governments or of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations as well as organizations with observer status for their delegations, and of individuals for their own participation, in accordance with previous practice. It is important that delegations include representation of all the criminal justice and crime prevention services, i.e. police, prisons, courts, probation, parole, social welfare, forensic medicine, criminology etc. There will be no restriction on the numbers of official delegates. The size of delegations varies, but to ensure full representation of all the interests in the subject of crime, delegations exceeding 10 persons have not been unusual.

15. The Four Seasons Sheraton and The Royal York hotels have been designated as the principal Congress hotels. The main working sessions of the Congress and the many ancillary meetings will take place in these two hotels where blocks of rooms have been reserved for registrants. Rooms in these hotels are equipped with bathroom, telephone, radio, television, and individual air-conditioning units. Rooms of a similar standard have been booked at two other hotels - The King Edward and the recently completed Hotel Toronto. A shuttle bus service will link all four hotels and will run on a continuing basis throughout each day of the Congress. However, the four hotels are situated within easy walking distance of each other.

16. For the guidance of prospective participants, the daily rates for the designated hotels are as follows:

	<u>Single</u>	<u>Double</u>	<u>Suite</u>
The Four Seasons Sheraton	\$30.00 to \$34.00	\$36.00 to \$42.00	\$75.00 and up
The Royal York . . . . .	\$26.00 to \$34.00	\$33.00 to \$41.00	\$65.00 and up
The King Edward . . . . .	\$20.00	\$24.00	
The Hotel Toronto . . . . .	\$32.00	\$38.00	\$75.00 and up

The above-mentioned rates do not include meals. For registration procedures see paragraphs 30-32 below.

17. Registrants are expected to assume the cost of all services for which they contract, including their telephone charges and any other specially engaged services, such as telegraphic services, or the temporary acquisition of office equipment. Typewriters, dictaphones, etc. may be rented through the Canadian organizers and the hotels.

#### VII. PROGRAMME

18. The theme for the Fifth United Nations Congress is "Crime prevention and control - the challenge of the last quarter of the century". The agenda as approved by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control at its second session (E/CN.5/494), and as amended at its third session (E/CN.5/516), is as follows:

(1) Changes in forms and dimensions of criminality - transnational and national;

(2) Criminal legislation, judicial procedures and other forms of social control in the prevention of crime;

(3) The emerging roles of the police and other law enforcement agencies, with special reference to changing expectations and minimum standards of performance;

(4) The treatment of offenders, in custody or in the community, with special reference to the implementation of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners adopted by the United Nations;

(5) Economic and social consequences of crime: new challenges for research and planning.

19. These five items will be discussed in five separate sections. The conclusions of all sections will be discussed in plenary session, which will also be the forum for lectures and special addresses.

20. The Congress programme will include visits to Canadian crime prevention services and correctional institutions. Plans are underway for a presentation of

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films. Motion pictures pertaining to crime prevention and criminal justice and other subjects of interest to participants may be submitted for screening, subject to acceptance by a United Nations Selection Committee. The Canadian Co-ordinator emphasizes that in order to ensure the scheduling of films submitted for screening by individual participants, non-governmental organizations and national delegations, a letter advising should be received no later than 15 April, 1975, by:

Office of the Director of Conference Services,  
Fifth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime  
and the Treatment of Offenders,  
Sir William Mulock Building,  
241 Jarvis Street,  
Toronto, Ontario M5B 2C3.

21. Arrangements are being made to provide hospitality to persons accompanying Congress registrants. A detailed schedule will be made available to registrants, describing various tours to places of interest. A hospitality centre will be set up in both principal Congress hotels where assistance regarding travel and tour plans will be available.

22. As indicated in the information circular of 10 July 1974, the host country received few responses to its proposal to hold an international prison arts exhibition and most of the answers did not support the proposal. Under these circumstances, it has been decided to hold a Canadian exhibition of prison arts, but to invite, as guest exhibitors, those countries which have already expressed an interest. Other countries which may wish to participate but have not as yet expressed their interest, should do so immediately by writing to:

Executive Director  
Prison Arts Foundation  
143 - 5th Avenue  
Brantford, Ontario N3S 1A3  
Canada

Letters should be received no later than 15 April 1975. Details regarding conditions of entry and shipping instruction will be provided by the Prison Arts Foundation.

23. Participating countries and international organizations are also invited to submit items for display in an international exhibit which is planned for the Congress. Items should be of a two-dimensional nature and may include such items as posters, pictures, pamphlets etc. Slides can be submitted, but the cost for showing these must be absorbed by the Government or organization responsible for the entry. It should also be emphasized that the cost of transportation of items, setting-up and repacking is the responsibility of the Government or organization submitting the material. Space for the display is the only item for which the host country is responsible. Applications for space reservation should reach the Office of the Director of Conference Services no later than 15 April 1975, at the following address:

Office of the Director of Conference Services,  
Fifth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime  
and Treatment of Offenders,  
Sir William Mullock Building,  
241 Jarvis Street,  
Toronto, Ontario M5B 2C3,  
Canada.

Space limitations may impose some constraints on requests. For those planning on supplying their own projectors for slide display purposes, it should be noted that these should be equipped to operate from a 110 volt 60 Hz two-pin electrical outlet.

24. Five official United Nations languages have been adopted as working languages of the Congress: Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Efforts are being made to add Arabic as an official and working language at the Congress.

#### VIII. DOCUMENTATION

25. The United Nations Secretariat is preparing a working paper on each of the substantive items on the Congress agenda, detailing the elements of the problem, indicating the special concern of various countries and defining the major issues involved. These documents will constitute the basis for discussions. Specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council may also prepare background documentation on specific questions pertaining to the subject matter under consideration. Any such documents prepared for circulation to the participants should be submitted, if at all possible, in all languages, and should include copies as follows: English, 1,300; French, 500 and Spanish, 300. All copies for circulation must reach the Executive Secretary of the Congress before 1 May 1975. Since the United Nations cannot accept responsibility for the translation of these documents, they will be circulated in the languages received. National statements prepared by Member States are invited in advance of the Congress.

26. Congress documents will be mailed to participants at least six weeks prior to the Congress and they are urged to bring these documents with them, as there will be no further distribution during the Congress.

#### IX. "SMALL GROUP" MEETINGS

27. Following the precedent of previous Congresses, the host country will provide meeting rooms and is making consultants available for the organization of small group meetings. Ordinarily, however, it will be impossible to provide interpretation. All available interpreters will be fully engaged in servicing the official meetings and will be unable to service side meetings of any kind. This leaves organizers with the choice either of holding common-language group meetings or of managing with such consecutive interpretation as they themselves can

supply. However, the host country may be able to supply - to a limited extent - interpretation services in its own two official languages, English and French. Certain professional seminars and sessions organized by non-governmental organizations are already being planned and the host Government is scheduling these accordingly. Schedules will be circulated in advance of the Congress date.

X. REGISTRATION AND FURTHER INFORMATION

28. Registration commenced on 1 September 1974. Bearing in mind the limitations the out in paragraph 5 of this circular, persons qualified under section III, subparagraphs 4 (a), (b), (c) and (d) may apply for registration forms to the

Executive Secretary for the Fifth United Nations Congress  
on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders  
c/o Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Section  
Social Development Division  
United Nations, New York 10017

29. Persons falling under section III, subparagraphs 4 (a), (A) and (d), however, need not apply individually until such time as they have been included in the official list of representatives sent to the United Nations by their Governments or organizations. Thereafter they will be supplied with registration forms.

30. Since the Secretariat anticipates that the number of applications will exceed the capacity of Congress facilities, early submission of registration forms by individual participants is advisable. In any case, these forms should be returned not later than 15 April 1975.

31. Upon receipt of a completed registration form, the Secretariat will signify official recognition of the applicant's status as a participant or observer by returning to him a registration slip bearing a registration reference number. For administrative purposes this number should be quoted in all subsequent correspondence.

32. Upon receipt of the registration reference number, participants may apply for hotel reservations at the Office of the Director of Conference Services (for complete address see para. 23 above). Hotels will not accept registrations other than from the Office of the Director of Conference Services.

33. There will be no registration fee.

34. A final note on the host city seems in order. Toronto is the capital city of the Province of Ontario, and is Canada's largest city in terms of population. It is also the industrial, financial and cultural centre of that province. Its 2,750,000 residents are drawn from a wide variety of ethnic origins, and Toronto reflects the influence of a number of different cultures which make it one of Canada's most cosmopolitan cities. The city has art galleries, museums, restaurants



and shops in abundance, but in spite of its busy industrial and commercial life, the visitor to Toronto can relax in the quiet of one of the city's 200 parks and landscaped gardens which stay open on a year-round basis.

35. A word on the weather is also called for. The Canadian Autumn ("Fall") is well known throughout the world. Although September is too early to see the famous fall colours, it is the month when temperatures start to move down a little in Ontario. Visitors can expect a day-time average temperature of a comfortable 71° Fahrenheit (21.7° Celsius) dropping to a cool 51° Fahrenheit (12.7° Celsius) at night in Toronto.

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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](mailto:CJSmithphd@comcast.net) or Emil Wandzilak at [emil.wandzilak@unodc.org](mailto:emil.wandzilak@unodc.org).