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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CRIME PREVENTION AND
CONTROL AT ITS SIXTH SESSION

(Held at Caracas, Venezuela, from 8 to 12 September 1980)

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I. ISSUES REQUIRING ACTION BY OR BROUGHT TO THE
ATTENTION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

1. The Committee on Crime Prevention and Control recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution and draft decisions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION

Co-ordination of the activities of United Nations bodies
in crime prevention

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the note by the Secretariat on the implementation of Council resolution 1979/19 of 9 May 1977 regarding co-ordination of the activities of United Nations bodies concerned with crime prevention and control and the functions and long-term programme of work of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, 1/ which was prepared for the purpose of assisting the Committee in its deliberations on how best to carry out its expanded functions as set forth in General Assembly resolution 32/60 of 8 December 1977 and Council resolution 1979/19,

Convinced that the magnitude and fundamental importance of the assigned functions require the most informed, thoughtful and deliberate consideration that the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control is able to provide,

Acknowledging the close link between crime prevention and the promotion of better living conditions for the peoples of the world, in accordance with the new international development strategy for the third United Nations development decade and the new international economic order, as well as the need for co-ordination of activities in the field of crime prevention, in pursuance of Assembly resolution 32/60 and Council resolution 1979/19, and aware of the request made by the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders that the capacity of the Secretariat in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice should be increased and that the responsible unit should be properly strengthened,

1. Decides that in order to permit such consideration the Secretariat should provide to the Committee as complete information as possible on:

(a) The programmes of international co-operation referred to in subparagraph 1 (b) of Council resolution 1979/19;

(b) The activities of United Nations bodies in matters concerning crime control and the treatment of offenders as provided for in subparagraph 1 (c) of the same resolution, and;

1/ E/AC.57/42.

(c) Ways and means by which the Committee might fulfil its functions, as prescribed by the Council in resolution 1979/19;

2. Requests the Secretary-General, in recognition of the overriding importance of this initiative, to make all reasonable efforts to provide the necessary manpower for the preparation of the above-mentioned information within the next few months;

3. Requests also that, at least three months prior to the beginning of the seventh session of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, the Secretariat should distribute to each member of the Committee a draft document containing the required information, requesting each member's comments and suggestions for the purpose of improving the draft, and that thereafter the Secretariat should evaluate and incorporate in the final version, within a period of one month, to the degree practicable, any comments and suggestions received, calling to the extent necessary upon the assistance of such United Nations bodies, working groups of consultants as may be available;

4. Further requests the Secretary-General, pursuant to paragraph 2 of Council resolution 1979/19 and considering the increased demands that would be made on the Secretariat, to ensure the provision of all the support necessary to enable the Secretariat to fulfil these additional demands, especially the task of co-ordination within the various United Nations bodies and with Member States, as required by Council resolution 1979/19.

Draft decision I

Seventh session of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control

The Economic and Social Council, in order to permit the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control to fulfil its mandate to act as the preparatory committee for the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders and to assist the Economic and Social Council in the co-ordination of activities of United Nations bodies concerned with crime prevention and control and the functions and long-term programme of work of the Committee, and considering that the sixth session of the Committee was reduced to five working days, thus making it impossible to cope with its increased mandate, decides to convene the seventh session of the Committee in the summer of 1981, for a period of two weeks.

Draft decision II

Question of the agenda for the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

The Economic and Social Council notes the preliminary discussion by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control at its sixth session on the question of the agenda for the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, and requests the Committee to finalize the agenda at its seventh session.

Draft decision III

Measures to ensure the proper preparation of the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

The Economic and Social Council requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures to ensure the proper preparation of the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders by:

- (a) Convening five regional preparatory meetings, and such additional subregional meetings as he may deem appropriate;
- (b) Convening as many interregional meetings of experts as the number of topics selected for the agenda requires;
- (c) Commissioning consultants before and during the Congress to assist the Secretariat in the preparation of all necessary documentation and the professional conduct of the Congress, pursuant to past practice;
- (d) Making all pre-Congress documentation available to Governments between six and twelve months before the Congress;
- (e) Making adequate provision for the participation in the Congress of the regional commissions and representatives of the least developed countries;
- (f) Making provision for an adequate public information programme to inform Governments and experts of the preparations for the Congress, especially with regard to the scope of the items on its agenda, to ensure full and complete participation in the Congress of Governments and experts.

Draft decision IV

Question of the appointment of the Executive Secretary of the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

The Economic and Social Council invites the Secretary-General to appoint the Executive Secretary of the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in accordance with the established pattern.

Draft decision V

Report of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control on its sixth session, 2/ in particular, the chapter

dealing with the preparations for the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, to be held in 1985. 3/

Draft decision VI

Provisional agenda and documentation for the seventh session
of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control

The Economic and Social Council decides to approve the provisional agenda and documentation for the seventh session of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, as set out below:

1. Implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/19 of 9 May 1979 regarding co-ordination

Documentation: Note by the Secretariat

2. Continuation of the preparations for the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, with special reference to its agenda

Documentation: Note by the Secretariat

3. Review of the rules of procedure for United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders

Documentation: Note by the Secretariat

4. Consideration of the provisional agenda for the eighth session of the Committee

3/ E/1980/112, chap. IV.

II. PROGRESS REPORT ON UNITED NATIONS ACTIVITIES IN CRIME PREVENTION AND CONTROL

(Agenda item 3)

2. The Committee considered agenda item 3 at its 1st to 3rd meetings, on 8 and 9 September 1980. It had before it a progress report of the Secretary-General on United Nations activities in crime prevention and control (E/AC.57/41).

3. At the Committee's request, the Chief of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, recapitulated the results of the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, drawing attention to the paragraphs of the resolutions adopted, which called for consideration and action by the Committee as well as for consideration by the Seventh Congress.

4. In the light of the developments since the first Congress in 1955, it was suggested that an assessment and evaluation of United Nations work in this field should be prepared for submission to the Seventh Congress, so as to have a global view of what had been achieved so far.

5. It was pointed out that the effectiveness of United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders and the impact of their results depended largely on the readiness of Governments to implement the recommendations made. The new intergovernmental nature of the congresses had increased the scope of their impact at the policy-making level. The interest of Governments and the importance of international co-operation in crime prevention and control was reflected in the emphasis placed by Governments on, for example, the elaboration of United Nations norms and guide-lines to serve as standards for the development of national policies and programmes.

6. The initiative of the Economic and Social Council in placing on the agenda for the Sixth Congress a new item on crime prevention and criminal justice and development was considered significant. There was a need for a better understanding of the relationship between development and crime: indeed, it was increasingly being realized that certain types of crimes were, at times, related to unplanned development. More work was, however, needed to explore the relationship between socio-economic factors and crime.

7. The Committee noted that there were increased demands from Member States to expand and intensify the level of international co-operation in crime prevention and control. While this was an ever more comprehensive and complex task, there was an obvious need and, indeed, an opportunity to strengthen crime prevention efforts as part of United Nations activities. The Organization thus had not only new challenges and horizons as a result of recent international developments but also an unprecedented role to play in meeting the requirements and wishes of Member States. The Sixth Congress had underlined the seriousness of the crime problem in many parts of the world, which negated the benefits of the developmental process, besides endangering the very survival of societies. Crime prevention had thus become a priority concern, which was attested to by the strengthening and expansion of the Committee's membership and role. The Committee recognized that the Sixth

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Congress undoubtedly had been a significant step towards international co-operation in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice in so far as the recommendations and resolutions adopted by it were concerned. Satisfaction was expressed with the high quality of the preparatory documentation which had largely contributed to the fruitful discussion and results achieved. It was suggested, however, that future congresses should have a less charged agenda so as to permit discussion in depth; that the Committee should have a special role in the setting of priorities for the congresses; and that it could also perform a useful function in that respect during the congresses. The need was expressed for wider opportunities to be provided to specialists to meet together in professional interest groups for the discussion of subjects of common concern. The preservation of the scientific nature of the congresses, together with their social and political aspects, was extremely important.

8. In considering the progress made in the specific areas of United Nations activity in crime prevention and control, the Committee reviewed the reports on the implementation, respectively, of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, and of the conclusions and recommendations of the Fifth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (see E/AC.57/41, paras. 1-3). The usefulness of these two reports was primarily due to the comprehensive replies received from Governments, which surely indicated their increasing interest and co-operation.

9. With regard to the implementation of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, the Committee observed that a recommendation had been made by the Sixth Congress for the finalization of the implementation procedures by the Committee upon the endorsement of that recommendation by the General Assembly. As far as the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of the Fifth Congress was concerned, it was felt that reporting on the progress achieved was extremely satisfying and, as recommended by the Sixth Congress, should be institutionalized as a regular United Nations function during the periods between the congresses.

10. Concerning the issue of capital punishment, some members regretted that the Sixth Congress had not been able to adopt, for transmission to the General Assembly, a resolution to further curtail the use of the death penalty with a view to its future abolition. It was felt that the reason why this initiative had not succeeded was probably that there had been a misinterpretation of the respective points of view of the various countries, which prevented a compromise being reached. The Committee felt that the draft resolution might have had a better chance of adoption if it had not stated the specific time period for the abolition of the death penalty but, rather, had called for this to be done "as soon as possible". While most aspects of the capital punishment issue had already been explored, some special facets could perhaps be studied, especially the possible impact of terrorist activities on the trend towards abolition and whether a correlation existed between the maintaining of abolition of capital punishment and the incidence of terrorism.

11. The Committee also considered the progress achieved in three major substantive projects in the work programme: (a) crime trends and crime prevention strategies;

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(b) guidelines for the prevention and control of violence; and (c) policy guidelines on the expeditious and equitable handling of criminal cases. The Committee emphasized the importance of this work and the need for it to proceed on a continuing basis since research and analysis in problem areas of priority concern were a prerequisite for the development of policy recommendations and planning guidelines at different levels. Priorities should also be set so as to be able to focus in the future on matters of concern to countries in different regions of the world.

12. The regular assessment of crime trends and crime prevention policies was deemed a pivotal and continuing United Nations task. The first efforts in that respect had provided valuable insights but had also revealed some limitations, particularly those related to the excessive sophistication of the instrument used which had made it impossible for some countries with a limited data base to respond. Efforts were needed in the future to develop minimum, medium and maximum standards for information-gathering which would be helpful to countries at various stages of development in improving their data-collection and analysis capability. The intention to convene an expert group meeting on the subject late in 1980 was noted, and the offer of host facilities and support services extended by Rutgers University, New Jersey, United States of America, for this purpose was welcomed.

13. The work done by the United Nations Social Defence Research Institute (UNSDRI), the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI) and the United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (ILANUD) on crime statistics was also mentioned. ILANUD had prepared a compendium and analysis of crime statistics in the Latin American and Caribbean region and was attempting not only to institutionalize the monitoring of crime trends and crime prevention policies in the region as a continuing exercise, but also to develop a manual for the collection and analysis of crime statistics in line with the requirements and possibilities of countries in the area. The convening of expert groups in that sphere by UNSDRI and ILANUD, respectively, had proved most helpful.

14. The trends, forms and factors associated with the effectiveness of policies for the prevention and control of violence, the exacerbation of which had threatened the quality of life, was one of the gravest problems of today. It was stressed that in some countries the eruption of violence was often a manifestation of inherent injustices and other problems persisting in societies, the relationship of which to the phenomenon had to be explored if inroads were to be made in this complex and troubling area. The work of other appropriate bodies in respect of problems such as that of terrorism had to be taken into account - an issue further pursued in the discussions on the co-ordination of activities relating to crime prevention and control (see chap. III below).

15. The protracted periods of detention pending trial in some countries, often exceeding the possible maximum time to be served, and the excessive number of prisoners in that category pointed to the importance of the work on the expeditious and equitable handling of criminal cases. The members of the Committee expressed the wish to consider the guidelines resulting from that work at its seventh

session. The development of United Nations guidelines would set a standard against which countries could gauge their efforts. It was also suggested that in the future attention should be given to the problems of victims, which had been largely ignored in the past.

16. The Committee commended the work of the Secretariat in preparing the International Review of Criminal Policy, the Newsletters and various studies and research projects and urged the wider dissemination of information on crime prevention and criminal justice. It was recognized that that kind of activity had contributed substantially to the dissemination among Governments, administrators and scholars of relevant information required for the improvement of national policies and programmes and the enhancement of international co-operation in that field.

17. It was observed, however, that the members of the Committee did not receive regularly United Nations publications and documents considered indispensable to their effective contribution to the Committee's work. The Committee therefore requested the Secretariat to keep its members informed of relevant developments, through the timely dispatch of all pertinent materials.

18. The Committee took note of the technical assistance activities carried out in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. While appreciating the results of the projects completed or in progress, the Committee observed that such projects were extremely limited in number when compared with the needs that existed in developing countries.

19. Among the reasons for those short-comings was the fact that countries were not aware of the system within the United Nations for the assessment of their needs or of the procedures for requesting the technical assistance necessary to meet those needs. In the past, the activities of interregional and regional advisers in crime prevention and control had helped the responsible national decision makers to activate the machinery within the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for the solution of their countries' crime prevention problems, but these services had been withdrawn in 1974.

20. It was recognized that the re-establishment of the services of such advisers was a crucial step to be taken in order to raise the awareness of policy makers and planners of those needs and the means available to meet them, and to stimulate appropriate requests for technical assistance. In that connexion, the Committee observed that paragraph 2 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/20 of 9 May 1979, in which the Council had requested the Secretary-General to restore and make available through UNDP the services of interregional and regional advisers in the field of crime prevention and the treatment of offenders to Member States, at their request, had not yet been put into effect and requested its speedy implementation.

21. The directors of UNSDRI and the United Nations-affiliated institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders reviewed the work of their respective institutes during the past two years, giving details of their training and research activities and stressing new initiatives taken as well as the

existing and prospective requirements which needed to be met if the institutes were to fulfil their potential in training key personnel in their regions, conducting action-oriented research to be used as a basis for policy formulation and planning, and extending technical aid at the request of interested Governments.

22. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the achievements of the institutes which discharged a crucial role in developing joint approaches by countries with common concerns. It recognized the problems facing the institutes in their efforts to obtain and maintain adequate support which would permit a sound basis for their operations. It also recognized the special problems facing some of the institutes and called for the urgent implementation of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1979/20 and 1979/21 and of the recommendations made at the Fifth Congress, calling for the provision by the United Nations and UNDP of adequate support to the institutes on a regular basis, as well as the co-operation of Member States. It welcomed the impending creation of a regional institute for Africa, south of the Sahara, whose establishment was long overdue.

23. Finally, the Committee expressed its appreciation to the host Governments of the institutes which had so generously supported their work, and called for an increased level of contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Social Defence. It was noted that at present the Fund was merely an account, there being no special personnel or other provision for its administration and expansion. The Committee proposed that that weakness should be remedied to permit active efforts to increase the contributions to the Fund.

Action by the Committee

24. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the valuable documentation which had been prepared by the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch for the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

25. The Committee took note of the progress report of the Secretary-General on United Nations activities in crime prevention and control (E/AC.57/41), prepared by the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch within its limited resources, particularly the sections thereof dealing with crime trends and crime prevention strategies; guidelines for the prevention and control of violence; and policy guidelines on the expeditious and equitable handling of criminal cases. The Committee recommended that the analysis and presentation of relevant information on crime trends and prevention strategies, as well as on violence, should constitute a permanent activity of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch to be conducted in close co-operation with UNSDRI, the United Nations-affiliated institutes, and the national institutes concerned. It was also suggested that in the future attention should be given to the problems of victims, which had been largely ignored in the past.

26. The Committee endorsed the proposal for holding the expert group meeting on crime trends and crime prevention strategies at Rutgers University, New Jersey, United States of America, and expressed its appreciation to the University for the invitation.

27. The Committee made a specific request to the Secretariat to make available to all its members on a regular basis, the publications and documents prepared by the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, as well as all other material having a direct bearing on its functioning.

28. It was felt that vigorous efforts should be made to mobilize financial resources from Member States in the furtherance of the crime prevention and criminal justice activities of the United Nations, particularly within the framework of the United Nations Trust Fund for Social Defence.

29. The Committee noted that implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/20 would greatly facilitate the promotion of crime prevention and criminal justice activities at the regional level, and strongly recommended that, in particular, paragraph 2 of the resolution should be implemented as soon as possible.

III. IMPLEMENTATION OF COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1979/19 OF 9 MAY 1979
REGARDING CO-ORDINATION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF UNITED
NATIONS BODIES IN CRIME PREVENTION AND CONTROL AND THE
FUNCTIONS AND LONG-TERM PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE
COMMITTEE

(Agenda item 4)

30. The Committee considered agenda item 4 at its 4th to 7th and 9th meetings, from 9 to 12 September 1980. It had before it a note by the Secretariat entitled "Implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/19 regarding co-ordination of the activities of United Nations bodies in crime prevention and control and the functions and long-term programme of work of the Committee" (E/AC.57/42).

31. In introducing the note, the Chief of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch stressed the importance of Council resolution 1979/19 in relation to the functions of the Committee and its future programmes of international co-operation, especially in so far as they concerned the co-ordination of activities of the various United Nations bodies.

32. The Committee observed that its new position, enlarged membership and expanded functions required a more extensive elaboration of the projected programmes and methods of work.

33. The Committee pointed out that while subparagraphs (a), (d) and (e) of paragraph 1 of Council resolution 1979/19 were quite clear in outlining the Committee's task, subparagraphs (b) and (c) required much more detailed elaboration, taking into account the relevant resolutions and recommendations of the Sixth Congress, at which the need for strengthening the Committee's role as well as the supporting Secretariat services had been stressed.

34. The Committee acknowledged that with the adoption of resolution 1979/19 the Economic and Social Council had clearly defined some of the functions already being performed by the Committee and agreed that the emphasis given to the preparation of programmes of international co-operation as well as to the assistance to be provided to the Council on matters of co-ordination represented a recognition by Member States of the importance of the Committee.

35. Considerable discussion took place in an effort to provide an appropriate interpretation of the functions of the Committee, as indicated in the resolution, especially in subparagraphs (b) and (c) of paragraph 1. In that context, questions were raised regarding the nature of the Committee, its status within the United Nations system, and its future methods of work in view of its increased obligations and responsibilities.

36. During the discussion, the Committee agreed that there was a contradiction between, on the one hand, the increased demands made on the Committee in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 32/60, Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/19 and the various resolutions adopted by the Sixth Congress and, on the other hand, the existing constraints (in terms of the capacity of the Committee and its calendar of meetings) affecting the work of the Committee.

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37. In that connexion, the Committee took note of the limitations imposed on it in terms of financial resources and schedule of meetings, as outlined by the representatives of the Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters and of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs respectively. These limitations and constraints would greatly affect the proper functioning of the Committee in the fulfilment of the tasks entrusted to it.

38. In these discussions it also emerged quite clearly that the services provided by the Secretariat to the Committee had become inadequate to the task and were not proportionate to its increased functions. Several proposals were made regarding the substantive aspects of the work, as well as the structural and organizational arrangements of both the Committee and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch. In particular, a certain amount of agreement was expressed on the following:

(a) The need for a more detailed and comprehensive elaboration with supporting background material and other documentation of the functions specified in subparagraphs (b) and (c) of paragraph 1 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/19, which could be considered by the Committee, or a working group thereof to be established to consider these matters, at a special session to be convened in 1981, after the approval by the General Assembly of the resolutions and recommendations of the Sixth Congress;

(b) The need to upgrade the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch within the United Nations structure in a manner comparable with Secretariat units serving other bodies;

(c) The urgent need for a definition of priorities in the light of the recommendations of the Sixth Congress and the necessity for further activities relating particularly to co-ordination and international co-operation in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice within the United Nations system, the note prepared by the Secretariat (E/AC.57/42) serving as a basis for further action.

39. Questions were raised with regard to the possibility of deferring implementation of the decision to transfer the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch to Vienna until a deep evaluation by the Committee of the results of the study mentioned in subparagraph 38 (a) above as well as of the implications of the resolutions of the Sixth Congress had been made.

40. Several Committee members from developing countries emphasized the problems which the projected transfer of the Branch posed for their Governments since they did not have missions in Vienna. It was also pointed out that since the major activities to be co-ordinated were situated at Headquarters, the outposting of the Branch would seriously impair its ability to provide adequate assistance to the Committee in its co-ordinating function.

41. In that context, the representative of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs indicated, in

response to the wishes of the Committee, the intention of the Department to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session proposals for appropriately strengthening and reinforcing the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, based on the recommendations of the Sixth Congress and in expectation of their adoption by the Assembly. He also indicated the intention of the Under-Secretary-General of the Department to consider the establishment of liaison arrangements at Headquarters to facilitate the work of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, including the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch. He further stated that, in response to General Assembly resolutions 31/194 of 22 December 1976 and 33/181 of 21 December 1978, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, with its constituent units, including the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, had already been transferred to Vienna. However, in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/29 of 9 May 1979, some staff members of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch had been temporarily retained at Headquarters to prepare for the Sixth Congress. In accordance with the provisions of that resolution, those staff members had been retained until the end of the Sixth Congress and would be transferred to Vienna in October 1980. He drew the attention of the members of the Committee to the fact that their report would be submitted to the Council for consideration at its first regular session of 1981. The Committee might wish to take that fact into consideration in deciding upon issues which were essentially administrative and financial in nature.

42. The Committee acknowledged with appreciation the statement of the representative of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and was of the view that urgent action should be taken with regard to the matters indicated by him. The Committee furthermore stressed the need for strengthening the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch and for appropriate liaison arrangements.

43. During the discussion on the substantive part of the note by the Secretariat (E/AC.57/42), it was agreed that the document could serve as a starting point for the preparation of a more elaborate study on the implementation of Council resolution 1979/19.

44. In clarifying some specific points in the note, the representative of the Secretariat accepted a revision to subparagraph 14 (a), namely, deletion of the words "social disorganization and". As far as subparagraph 15 (c) was concerned, the understanding was that programmes for the strengthening of inmate grievance procedures could be developed at the national and international levels, not necessarily as a universal approach but perhaps as a regional one.

45. Several members requested that Arabic should become a working language of the Committee, so that Arabic-speaking members might participate more effectively in the work of the Committee.

Action by the Committee

46. At the 7th meeting, on 11 September 1980, Mrs. Guerra de Villalaz (Panama) introduced a draft resolution entitled "Co-ordination of the activities of United Nations bodies in crime prevention", which read as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Considering the need of the developing countries for greater and continuing assistance and co-ordination of efforts for crime prevention as an integral part of national economic and social planning,

"Considering also that the majority of bodies and offices to which the principle of co-ordination should be applied are situated at United Nations Headquarters (Centre on Transnational Corporations, Office of Legal Affairs, UNICEF, bodies dealing with intersectoral problems of social development, policy and planning and with the reports on the world social (and economic) situation, Committee for Development Planning, Statistical Office, Population Division, etc.).

"Taking into account the lack of economic capacity of the developing countries to establish other machinery in addition to the permanent missions at United Nations Headquarters,

"Acknowledging the close link between crime prevention and the promotion of better living conditions for the peoples of the world, in accordance with the international development strategy for the third United Nations development decade and the new international economic order, as well as the need for co-ordination of activities in the field of crime prevention, in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 32/60 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/19,

"Resolves:

"(a) To set up a working group of the Committee to study in depth and determine the priorities and machinery for better co-ordination of United Nations activities in the field of crime prevention, in accordance with the mandate contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/19;

"(b) To postpone the transfer of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch until completion of the work of the said group of experts by the beginning of 1981."

47. After informal consultations, the sponsor withdrew the draft resolution and, at the 9th meeting, on 12 September 1980, submitted a revised text thereof, which read as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recalling that in August of 1980 the Secretariat, in order to assist the Committee in its deliberations of how best to carry out its expanded

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functions under General Assembly resolution 32/60 and resolution 1979/19 of the Economic and Social Council, prepared written observations regarding possible approaches the Committee might wish to consider in implementing its mandate,

"Cognizant of various other documents that will afford the Committee some aid in its assigned functions,

"Convinced that the enormity and fundamental importance of the assigned functions require the most informed, thoughtful, and deliberate consideration that the Committee is able to provide,

"Acknowledging the close link between crime prevention and the promotion of better living conditions for the peoples of the world, in accordance with the international development strategy for the third United Nations development decade and the new international economic order, as well as the need for co-ordination of activities in the field of crime prevention, in pursuance of the above General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions, and reiterating the request of the Sixth United Nations Congress for increasing the capacity of the Secretariat in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice and properly strengthening the responsible unit,

"Concludes that to permit such consideration the Committee must have available to it more extensive documentary materials, including, inter alia, concerning existing and proposed programmes of international co-operation referred to in paragraph 1 (b) of the resolution, and concerning the activities of United Nations bodies in matters of crime control and treatment of offenders referred to in paragraph 1 (c) of the resolution,

"(1) a list of all United Nations responsibilities directly related to crime prevention and control, together with an indication of the source and date of the directive creating the responsibility and the United Nations body to which the responsibility is entrusted;

"(2) a brief assessment of the degree to which each such body is now able to fulfil the assigned responsibilities, and, if not entirely able to fulfil them, of the nature and extent of additional efforts that would be required;

"(3) a tentative assignment, for discussion purposes, of a general order of importance of those responsibilities to the general goal of international and national crime prevention and control, together with an identification of those that should be continued or undertaken immediately and those that might safely be postponed to a later time, and together with a suggestion of an appropriate current level of effort for each;

"Requests that the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Secretariat, in recognition of the overriding importance of this initiative, make all reasonable efforts to provide the time necessary for the preparation

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of such written materials within the next few months, calling to the extent necessary upon the assistance of such United Nations bodies, working groups or consultants as may be available;

"Requests further that, at least three months prior to the beginning of the seventh session of the Committee, the Secretariat mail to each member of the Committee a draft copy of such materials within a period of one month, request each member's comments and suggestions for, if necessary, purposes of improving the draft, and that thereafter the Secretariat evaluate and incorporate in the final version, to the degree practicable, any comments and suggestions received;

"Requests finally, that the Secretary-General, pursuant to paragraph 2 of resolution 1979/19 of the Economic and Social Council, and considering the increased mandates of the Secretariat, assure the provision of all necessary support requisite to facilitate and enable the Secretariat to fulfil these additional demands especially the task of co-ordination within the various United Nations bodies and with Member States, as required by the above resolution."

48. Mr. S. V. Borodin (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) made a statement on the draft resolution in which he said that, since the draft resolution had been submitted for consideration very late and had not been circulated in all the official languages of the Committee, he was not in a position to participate in the discussion on the draft resolution and would not therefore participate in the vote.

49. At the same meeting, the revised draft resolution was further revised orally and was subsequently adopted, as orally revised (for the text, see chap. I, draft resolution).

50. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted a draft decision entitled "Seventh session of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control" (E/AC.57/L.15), which was introduced by Mr. A. A. A. Shiddo (Sudan) (for the text, see chap. I, draft decision I).

IV. INITIATION OF PREPARATIONS FOR THE SEVENTH UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS
ON THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND THE TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS

(Agenda item 5)

51. The Committee considered agenda item 5 at its 7th meeting, on 11 September 1980. It had before it a note by the Secretariat entitled "Initiation of preparations for the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders" (E/AC.57/44).

52. The Chief of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, introduced the note, which contained information on the preliminary steps to be taken for the organization of the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, the preparation of which had been entrusted to the Committee by General Assembly resolution 32/60 and by Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/19.

53. It was pointed out that the Committee's guidance was required on the agenda for the Seventh Congress, as well as on the preparatory work for it. In particular, the preparatory regional and interregional meetings of experts should be scheduled in such a way as to be completed by the end of 1983 and consultants' reports by 1984, to ensure timely preparation of the documentation. The Committee would have to recommend that suitable financial provision should be made to permit adequate preparations and the participation of representatives of the least developed countries, of the regional commissions and of experts/consultants.

54. The Committee felt strongly that all necessary measures should be taken to increase the level of participation in the Congress and to provide the necessary resources for effective preparations for the Congress.

55. The Committee agreed that the agenda for the Congress should be limited to three or four items to be considered in depth and by subitems, with emphasis on practical approaches, so as to achieve concrete results. It was suggested that the agenda items should relate to the resolutions and recommendations of the Sixth Congress, focusing on such aspects as crime trends and crime prevention planning, standard minimum rules for juvenile justice, economic criminality, alternatives to imprisonment and agreements, e.g., on the transfer of prisoners.

56. It was also suggested, however, that areas which had not yet received sufficient attention should be dealt with. For instance, the development of standard minimum rules for criminal justice and the utilization of scientific contributions in the criminal justice process. Special attention should be given to the prevention of discrimination in criminal justice and to the compensation of victims, especially victims of the abuse of power. There should also be a focus on the police, especially in crime prevention and the observance of human rights, the training of law enforcement, judicial and correctional personnel etc.

57. It was stressed that international crimes, such as genocide, apartheid, and other crimes contravening United Nations conventions should receive in-depth criminological attention, as part of the work on an international criminal code.

58. The relationship between crime and development was considered crucial, inviting priority attention at the Seventh Congress. It was necessary to relate the Congress agenda to the mainstream of United Nations preoccupations, such as the new international economic order, with special attention given to activities interfering with its achievement and developmental progress, such as certain harmful activities of transnational corporations. The relationship between social change and criminality had to be more thoroughly explored.

59. The developing countries had a valuable contribution to make and useful experience to share and should not be considered only as the recipients of guidance.

60. The importance of adequate opportunities for expert contacts and professional exchanges was underlined. The need for wider dissemination of information on the Congress, so as to permit countries adequately to prepare for it, was stressed, as was the usefulness of having consolidated proposals, such as had already been prepared by the regional meetings.

61. The Committee welcomed the offer of the Government of Morocco to act as host to the Seventh Congress, although some other offers had also been received, including one from the City of San Francisco.

Action by the Committee

62. On the basis of the previous discussion, the Committee agreed to recommend to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of four draft decisions on the initiation of preparations for the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (for the texts, see chap. I, draft decisions II to V).

V. CONSIDERATION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE

(Agenda item 6)

63. The Committee considered agenda item 6 at its 8th and 9th meetings on 11 and 12 September 1980.

64. Some members of the Committee expressed the view that the provisional agenda for the seventh session should be annotated and that the annotations should be explicit.

Action by the Committee

65. At its 9th meeting, the Committee agreed to recommend to the Economic and Social Council for its approval the provisional agenda for its seventh session, including the relevant documentation (for the text, see chap. I, draft decision VI).

VI. REVIEW OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR UNITED NATIONS CONGRESSES ON THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND THE TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS

(Agenda item 7)

66. The Committee considered agenda item 7 at its 7th meeting, on 11 September 1980. It had before it a note by the Secretariat entitled "Review of the rules of procedure for United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders" (E/AC.57/43) which was introduced by the representative of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

67. After a brief preliminary discussion, in which reference was made to rules 3 and 30 and the proposed addition to rule 33 (see document E/AC.57/43, para. 14), as well as to the extent of the Committee's discretion to propose changes to the rules of procedure for the congresses, the Committee agreed to take note of document E/AC.57/43 and to postpone substantive discussion and decisions on the proposals contained therein to its seventh session, in order to give the members of the Committee more time to study those proposals.

VII. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

68. The Committee on Crime Prevention and Control held its sixth session at Caracas, Venezuela, from 8 to 12 September 1980. The session was opened by the Chief of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch. The Minister of Interior of Venezuela made an opening statement.

B. Membership and attendance

69. The following persons are members of the Committee: A. Adeyemi (Nigeria), S. M. Badu (Ghana), Stanislav Vladimirovich Borodin (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Anthony John Edward Brennan (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Dhavée Choosup (Thailand), Dušan Cotic (Yugoslavia), Ronald L. Gainer (United States of America), Giuseppe di Gennaro (Italy), József Gödöny (Hungary), Aura Guerra de Villalaz (Panama), Ahmad M. Khalifa (Egypt), Manuel López-Rey y Arrojo (Bolivia), Francis Joseph Mahony (Australia), Mustafa Abdul Majid-Karah (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), Albert Metzger (Sierra Leone), Jorge Arturo Montero (Costa Rica), Chadly Mohamed Ahmed Nefzaoui (Tunisia), John Olden (Ireland), P. R. Rajagopal (India), Simone Andrée Rozes (France),

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Saladh El-Din Salhadar (Syrian Arab Republic), Miguel Schweitzer Speisky (Chile), Abdel Aziz Abdalla Shiddo (Sudan), Ramananda Prasad Singh (Nepal), Silvino Julián Sorhegui Mato (Cuba), Yoshio Suzuki (Japan) and Yip Yat-Hoong (Malaysia). All the members of the Committee, except S. W. Padu, J. Góđöny, P. R. Rajagopal, S. El-Din Salhadar, M. S. Speisky and P. J. Sorhegui Mato, attended the session.

70. The session was also attended by observers from Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Colombia, Cuba, the German Democratic Republic, Kuwait, Peru, Sweden and Venezuela.

71. The United Nations Social Defence Research Institute and the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders were represented.

72. Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in category II consultative status with the Economic and Social Council was also represented.

C. Election of officers

73. At its 1st meeting, on 8 September 1980, the Committee elected the following officers:

Chairman: Mr. Giuseppe di Gennaro (Italy)
Vice-Chairmen: Mrs. Aura Guerra de Villalaz (Panama)
Mr. Mustafa Abdul Majid-Karah (Libyan Arab
Jamahiriya)
Mr. Ramananda Prasad Singh (Nepal)
Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur: Mr. Dušan Cotic (Yugoslavia)

D. Agenda and documentation

74. At its 1st meeting on 8 September 1980, the Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Progress report on United Nations activities in crime prevention and control
4. Implementation of Council resolution 1979/19 of 9 May 1979 regarding co-ordination of the activities of United Nations bodies in crime prevention and control and the functions and long-term programme of work of the Committee

5. Initiation of preparations for the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders
6. Consideration of the provisional agenda for the seventh session of the Committee
7. Review of the rules of procedure for United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders
8. Adoption of the report of the Committee

75. The documents that were before the Committee at its sixth session are listed in the annex to the present report.

VIII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

76. At its 9th meeting, on 12 September 1980, the Committee adopted the draft report on its sixth session (E/AC.57/L.14 and Add.1-6), as orally amended during the discussion.

77. The Committee subsequently decided to request the Economic and Social Council to consider the report of the Committee on its sixth session at the Council's resumed second regular session of 1980.

Annex

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE AT ITS SIXTH SESSION

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/AC.57/40	2	Provisional agenda
E/AC.57/41	3	Progress report on United Nations activities in crime prevention and control: report of the Secretary-General
E/AC.57/42	4	Implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/19 regarding co-ordination of the activities of United Nations bodies in crime prevention and control and the functions and long-term programme of work of the Committee: note by the Secretariat
E/AC.57/43	7	Review of the rules of procedure for United Nations Congresses on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders: note by the Secretariat
E/AC.57/44	5	Initiation of preparations for the seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders: note by the Secretariat
E/AC.57/L.14 and Add.1-6	8	Draft report of the Committee on its sixth session
E/AC.57/L.15	4	Draft decision
E/AC.57/L.16	4	Draft resolution
E/AC.57/INF.1 and Corr.1		List of participants