

analytical reports of the Secretary-General at five-year intervals,

Having considered the report submitted by the Secretary-General under the aforementioned resolution,⁷⁸

Sharing the views expressed in the report that:

(a) Since the issuance of the United Nations reports of 1962 and 1967 on capital punishment a majority of Member States have gradually shifted from a concern about the issue of the death penalty to one favouring the eventual abolition of this punishment,

(b) The total number of offences for which the death penalty can be imposed has been progressively declining in many parts of the world,

Noting with satisfaction that in the period 1969-1973 further progress has been made in some countries by abolishing capital punishment either totally or for ordinary crimes, or by suspending it, or by restricting the number of capital offences,

Noting with interest that a certain number of retentionist countries provided information on death sentences and the execution of the death penalty, thus co-operating fully in the study undertaken by the Secretary-General, and that the death sentences of a considerable number of convicted persons have been commuted to life imprisonment or that pardon was granted,

Noting also with interest that in some countries studies concerning capital punishment are being undertaken within the context of the drafting of new penal legislation,

1. *Reaffirms* the principle established in Council resolutions 1574 (L) of 20 May 1971 and 1745 (LIV) of 16 May 1973 that the main objective to be pursued in the field of capital punishment is that of progressively restricting the number of offences for which the death penalty might be imposed, with a view to the desirability of abolishing this punishment;

2. *Requests* the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control to study, with the co-operation of the United Nations Social Defence Research Institute and other research centres:

(a) Appropriate ways to analyse existing trends not only in the position of Member States on this matter at a given moment but also in the progress made towards the restriction of the number of capital offences, so that the attitudes of Member States in the field of capital punishment may be fully reflected;

(b) Ways and means to stimulate the carrying out of studies concerning capital punishment, especially in countries where new penal legislation is being elaborated;

3. *Invites* Member States which have not yet done so to reply to the questionnaire provided by the Secretary-General for the preparation of the aforementioned report, so that the 1980 report may provide a global picture of the use and trends of capital punishment;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2857 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971, to proceed with the report on practices and statutory rules which may govern the right of a person sentenced to capital punishment to petition for pardon, commutation or reprieve, and to report on these questions to the Economic and Social

⁷⁸ E/5616 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1.

Council at the latest at its sixty-eighth session, together with the basic 1980 report on capital punishment.

1948th plenary meeting
6 May 1975

1931 (LVIII). Report of the International Narcotics Control Board

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report of the International Narcotics Control Board on its work in 1974,⁷⁹

Recalling its resolution 1843 (LVI) of 15 May 1974,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* for the contribution to international drug control made by the International Narcotics Control Board during 1974;

2. *Commends* the Board on its comprehensive and informative report for 1974;

3. *Recommends* that report to the urgent and serious attention of all Member States.

1948th plenary meeting
6 May 1975

1932 (LVIII). Illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the variety of means used by international traffickers to try to conceal drugs travelling from the places of production or processing to the illicit consumer markets from discovery by the national law enforcement agencies,

Considering the difficulties for the services concerned of detecting persons engaged in the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

Believing that close international co-operation is required if the development of this traffic is to be combated with the best chances of success,

Noting the agreements worked out under the auspices of the competent international bodies, such as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the Customs Co-operation Council,

1. *Invites* States to take into consideration the pertinent recommendations and resolutions as adopted by the organs of the United Nations as well as by other competent international bodies;

2. *Further recommends* States to co-operate closely in a co-ordinated campaign providing for an exchange of information likely to facilitate the detection and suppression of the international illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

1948th plenary meeting
6 May 1975

1933 (LVIII). Cannabis problem

The Economic and Social Council,

Referring to the provision of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961,⁸⁰ in particular to article 2, paragraphs 1 and 5, article 4 (b) and (c) and article 35 (b) and (c),

⁷⁹ E/INCB/25 (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.75.XI.3).

⁸⁰ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515, p. 151.