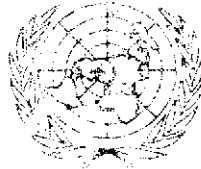




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CRIME PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, in paragraph 4 of its resolution 3021 (XXVII) of 18 December 1972, invited Member States to inform the Secretary-General of the situation concerning crime prevention and control in their respective countries and the measures being taken to provide information for a report to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session; and, in paragraph 8, instructed the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control to submit a report to the Assembly at the same session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the methods and ways likely to be most effective in preventing crime and improving the treatment of offenders, including recommendations on the measures most appropriate in such areas as law enforcement, judicial procedures and correctional practices.
2. The Economic and Social Council, by its resolution 1924 (LVIII) of 6 May 1975, invited the General Assembly to postpone consideration of these reports to its thirty-second session.
3. The Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, at its fourth session, in 1976, completed the report called for in paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 3021 (XXVII), using as a basis the results of the work of previous sessions of the Committee and of the Fifth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, 1/ held at Geneva in September 1975. This report (E/CN.5/536, annex IV) was submitted to the Commission for Social Development at its twenty-fifth session and to the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-second session.

* A/32/150.

1/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.2.

4. At its sixty-second session, the Economic and Social Council, by its resolution 2075 (LXII) of 13 May 1977, inter alia, decided to submit to the General Assembly two draft resolutions, entitled, respectively, "Methods and ways likely to be most effective in preventing crime and improving the treatment of offenders" and "Report of the Fifth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders", the texts of which are reproduced in the annex to the present document.

5. At its thirty-second session, the General Assembly will have before it (a) the report of the Economic and Social Council on its sixty-second and sixty-third sessions, 2/ (b) the report of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control (E/CN.5/536, annex IV) called for under paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 3021 (XXVII), and (c) the report of the Secretary-General called for under paragraph 4 of that resolution. As background documentation for its deliberations on this agenda item, the Assembly will also have at its disposal the report of the Fifth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. 1/

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/32/3).

ANNEX

Draft resolution submitted by the Economic and Social
Council for adoption by the General Assembly

A

Methods and ways likely to be most effective in preventing
crime and improving the treatment of offenders

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3021 (XXVII) of 18 December 1972, in which it instructed the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control to consider the methods and ways likely to be most effective in preventing crime and improving the treatment of offenders, including recommendations on the measures most appropriate in such areas as law enforcement, judicial procedures and correctional practices,

Concerned about the prevailing trends of criminality in many countries of the world, which show the spread of emerging new forms of serious and organized crimes,

Having considered the report entitled "Methods and ways likely to be most effective in preventing crime and improving the treatment of offenders", contained in annex IV to the report of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control on its fourth session, a/

1. Takes note of the above-mentioned report as a guideline for future United Nations activities directed towards the prevention and control of crime and delinquency and the treatment of offenders;
2. Invites Member States to make use of the report in formulating and implementing national crime prevention policies and strategies;
3. Calls upon Member States, as well as international governmental and non-governmental organizations and specialized agencies, to collaborate fully with the United Nations Secretariat and with each other in pursuance of the goals set out in the report;
4. Urges all Member States, as well as international governmental and non-governmental organizations, to support the United Nations Trust Fund for Social Defence and the international and regional institutes in crime prevention and control;

a/ E/CN.5/536.

5. Recommends that the Secretary-General should draw on the report in formulating proposals for future medium-term plans in crime prevention and criminal justice.

B

Report of the Fifth United Nations Congress on the
Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

The General Assembly,

Conscious of the seriousness of crime problems which have assumed new forms and dimensions in many countries of the world and are transcending national boundaries,

Concerned about the high social and material cost which crime exacts and the impediment it presents to more wholesome development and a better quality of life for all,

Alarmed at the excesses of those crime control policies which, in certain countries, extend to torture and other abuses negating the basic principles of human rights and of criminal justice itself,

Reaffirming the need to develop effective and equitable policies for crime prevention and control consonant with fundamental human rights and a more rational use of available resources, both human and material,

Recognizing that the various forms of social control for the prevention of crime should take into account differences in traditions, economic and political structures, available resources and levels of development existing among Member States,

Recalling the responsibility assumed by the United Nations in the field of crime prevention in General Assembly resolution 415 (V) of 1 December 1950, the affirmation of United Nations leadership in crime prevention as reflected in Economic and Social Council resolutions 731 F (XXVIII) of 30 July 1959 and 830 D (XXXII) of 2 August 1961 and the call for strengthening international co-operation in crime prevention contained in Assembly resolution 3021 (XXVII) of 18 December 1972,

Having considered the report of the Fifth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, b/ held at Geneva from

b/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.2.

1 to 12 September 1975, and the recommendations made by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control at its fourth session, c/

1. Endorses the conclusions of the Fifth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders;

2. Requests that, in the light of the needs emphasized at the Fifth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, the Secretary-General implement to the fullest extent possible the conclusions of the Fifth Congress, especially by:

(a) Giving them the widest possible circulation and dissemination and by stimulating international efforts to exchange experience and knowledge;

(b) Gathering and disseminating information concerning crime trends and criminal policies, with special emphasis on economic criminality and abuses of economic power that have a detrimental effect on national economies and international trade, and developing strategies to deal with them;

(c) Providing, to Member States requesting them, advice and assistance for the re-evaluation of their criminal justice systems and for reassessment of the purposes as well as the effectiveness of such systems in relation to national and local requirements;

(d) Elaborating guidelines for the development and implementation of policies designed to make criminal justice systems more responsive to current social needs, to ensure the strict observance of fundamental human rights and to promote a more rational, consistent and integrated approach to the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders;

(e) Fostering the exchange among countries of information relating to crime and to the functioning of the criminal justice systems and establishing an international system for a unified informational data base;

(f) Transmitting for appropriate action to the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions, as well as to all other United Nations organs and organizations concerned, those conclusions of the Fifth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders that fall within their spheres of competence;

3. Stresses the need for intensive co-operation and co-ordination in crime prevention and control among all the United Nations organs and organizations concerned, especially the United Nations Development Programme, the various regional commissions and institutes and the specialized agencies;

c/ E/CN.5/536, chap. I, sect. B.

4. Urges that technical assistance in crime prevention and control be made available to Governments requesting it as a matter of urgency, and that high priority be given to the provision of regional and interregional technical advisory services and co-operation, particularly in the light of recent directives of the policy-making bodies of the United Nations focusing on regional and intercountry activities, and the proven success of this approach to crime prevention;

5. Invites Member States to give maximum attention and support to the conclusions of the Fifth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and to secure their utmost effect on national laws and practices;

6. Draws the attention of Member States to the existence of the United Nations Trust Fund for Social Defence, established in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 1086 B (XXXIX) of 30 July 1965, and urges them to contribute to it;

7. Appeals to all Member States to support international action for crime prevention, especially through the sharing of costs of international meetings, seminars, workshops and training courses and by acting as hosts to regional research centres, and to furnish to the Secretary-General, in time for submission to the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, to be held at Sydney in 1960, information relating to the measures taken to implement the conclusions of the Fifth Congress;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures for the preparation of the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and to prepare a report on the information received under paragraph 7 above for submission to the Sixth Congress and to the General Assembly.