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FIFTH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF CRIMINOLOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTES

Strasbourg, 21st-23rd November 1967



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Two themes have been chosen for the Council of Europe's 5th annual Conference of Directors of Criminological Research Institutes:

1. Crime among migrant workers,
2. Types of offenders and types of treatments.

A note on Press arrangements and the list of participants at the Conference are attached.

1. European Migration and Crime

The post-war years have seen an enormous increase in European migration and the question arises as to whether the up-rooting of people from their familiar social surroundings and the problems of subsequently acquiring the habits, standards etc. of a new culture contribute in any significant way to an increase in crime. Such a contribution to crime, if it existed, might be discernable in terms of volume or, of course, it might be a question rather of specific kinds of crime not necessarily numerically very important.

A report on this subject will be presented by Professor F. Ferracuti, MD, Professor of Criminal Anthropology in the Institute of Rome School of Law, and also Director of the Criminology Programme, University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico.

The report surveys first of all some of the social psychological aspects of the phenomenon of migration in general. Thus, there is a discernable tendency for migrants more than most other people to have certain kinds of personality, often somewhat more aggressive with a tendency to a higher level of mental illness. Whilst the selection procedures and the operation of public health services give some indication of these general factors, criminality is much harder to discern.

One reason for this is that the criminal statistics of most countries do not indicate the country of origin of perpetrators of crimes. In consequence our knowledge of criminality among migrants has to be gained by sample survey methods.

Professor Ferracuti has surveyed such research as has been done. It seems that the stereotype of the migrant as a likely criminal is almost completely false. The researches so far undertaken suggest that though European migrants in host countries are probably more carefully watched both by ordinary people and the police, their crime rate appears to be only equal, sometimes inferior, to the rate for the population of the host countries. There seems to be no reason to suppose that a dangerous situation exists anywhere. A good deal more research is, however, necessary to examine more closely the specific crimes to which migrants appear to be prone in order that maximum preventive and remedial action may be undertaken.

2. Typologies of offenders and typologies of treatments

Offenders vary considerably, and one of the aims of penology must be to arrive at a systematic classification of types of offender. If, at the same time, it becomes possible to discover what kinds of treatment are most likely to produce the rehabilitation of various types of offender, the efficacy of present programmes of treatment might be very considerably improved. None of this is easy, however. It is extremely difficult to find meaningful ways of classifying types of treatment. Hitherto the attempt has been made by using what are predominantly legal classifications, i.e. probation, closed prison, open prison, etc. But these are too coarse a screen. Treatment in one open prison may be quite different from that in another - but it is hard to measure these differences.

Probation, too, under one probation officer may be very different from probation under another probation officer. It seems that certain probation officers deal with their clients in a somewhat authoritarian, firm, limit-setting way, whilst others are much more permissive, flexible and oriented towards leaving much responsibility with the client. It is obviously better therefore that the right kind of officer work with the right type of offender.

There is evidence to suggest that so long as offenders are distributed randomly through the various treatments, success rates will always remain about the same no matter what kind of treatment is applied. If, however, inter-action between the type of treatment prescribed and the type of offender can be forecast, then treatment efficiency should be sharply increased.

Reports on this subject will be presented by Dr. Richard Sparks of the Institute of Criminology, Cambridge; by Professor Marc Blanc, Professor of Psychiatry at Bordeaux; and by Mr. Bengt Börjeson, research worker in the University of Stockholm.

These reports will cover the typological researches so far carried out in the countries using English, French and Scandinavian languages respectively. One of the most impressive of the projects reported is that of the Californian Youth Authority in its Community Treatment Project. Here, a number of young people sentenced by the Courts have been classified according to assessments of their level of inter-personal maturity⁽¹⁾. Particular treatment approaches appropriate to various levels of maturity have been identified and an elaborate experiment set up to test the value of this experimental approach against control groups. So far, the recidivism rates for the experimentals are about half that for the control groups, and though the experimental treatment is somewhat more expensive than probation to apply, it is considerably less costly than building reformatories with their enormous capital and operating costs.

In Europe it is probable that research in this matter lags behind American research. The English Home Office Research Unit is, however, currently conducting research into types of probationer and types of probation officer which may yield useful results.

One result of Conference discussion should be to intensify research in this extremely important area of penology.

(1)

Inter-personal maturity is the level of maturity reached by an individual as shown by his perception of, relations to, other people, e.g. very low i.p.m. means that he does not see others as having existence themselves; only he exists (Cf. the tiny baby). This is a grossly disturbed or defective state. Higher up the ladder he sees others as "givers" or "withholders" (i.e. susceptible of manipulation). Higher still is an awareness of others as "bundles of complex processes" like those inside oneself. Testing for i.p.m. was formerly very difficult and lengthy. It is now simplified to paper/pencil tests.

Press Notice

This Conference will be held on the premises of the Council of Europe at Strasbourg. It is chiefly designed to enable Directors of criminological institutes to compare and discuss the results of their research and, wherever possible, to co-operate and co-ordinate their work. The conclusions will take some time to elaborate so no Press release may be expected during or after the meeting. However, a Press Conference will be held on Thursday, 23rd November. The reports mentioned will be available from the opening day (21st November). Requests should be addressed to the

Directorate of Information
Council of Europe
67 - Strasbourg (France).

The Conference will be held in private but interviews with the participants (see attached list) could be arranged through the Information Directorate. The Press are kindly asked to make their wishes known early so that suitable arrangements can be made with the participants. Please specify whether studio facilities will be required.

Telephone numbers:-

Council of Europe, Strasbourg: 35.92.22
- Press: extension 2195
- Radio-TV: extension 2524

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS / LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

I.- Directeurs ou représentants d'instituts de recherches criminologiques
Directors or representatives of criminological research institutes

AUTRICHE / AUSTRIA

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Institutes of Psychology of the
Universities of
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M. G. PICCA

Magistrat à l'Administration Centrale
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à la Direction de l'Administration
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M. Ph. ROBERT

Substitut à la Chancellerie
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à l'Université de Bordeaux
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REP. FED. D'ALLEMAGNE /
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Prof. Dr. Th. WURTENBERGER

Direktor
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GRECE / GREECE

M. C. VOUYOUKAS

Professeur Agrégé de Droit Pénal à
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Directeur du Centre d'Etude de la Délinquance
Juvénile de la Société d'Education Morale
de la Jeunesse
THESSALONIQUE

ITALIE / ITALY

M. B. di TULLIO

Direttore
Istituto di Antropologia Criminale
Universita di
ROMA

LUXEMBOURG

M. E. KLEIN

Premier Substitut du Procureur Général d'Etat
pour les Etablissements Pénitentiaires
LUXEMBOURG

PAYS-BAS / NETHERLANDS

M. W.H. NAGEL

Professeur à l'Université de
LEYDE

Dr. W.H.A. JONKERS

Université Catholique de
NIMEGUE

NORVEGE / NORWAY

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Institute of Criminology - University of
OSLO

SUEDE / SWEDEN

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Assistant Director at the
Institute of Criminal Science
University of Stockholm
STOCKHOLM

Prof. G. RYLANDER

Karolinska Institutet
STOCKHOLM

SUISSE / SWITZERLAND

.....

TURQUIE / TURKEY

Prof. S. DONMEZER

Directeur de l'Institut de Droit Pénal
et de Criminologie de l'Université de
ISTANBUL

ROYAUME-UNI / UNITED KINGDOM

Prof. G. TRASLER

Professor of Psychology
University of Southampton
Highfields
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II.- Membres du Comité Européen pour les Problèmes Criminels
Members of the European Committee for Crime Problems

- Mr. T. ERIKSSON Chairman of the E.C.C.P.
Director General of the National
Correctional Administration
STOCKHOLM (Sweden)
- M. L. DAMOUR Premier Président Honoraire de
la Cour de Cassation
PARIS (France)
- Mr. L. HULSMAN Professeur à l'Université de Rotterdam
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SAINT BLAISE (Suisse)
- M. G. ALTAVISTA Magistrat attaché au
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III.- Membres du Sous-comité du G.E.P.C. sur l'organisation pratique des
mesures de surveillance et d'after-care pour les personnes
condamnées ou libérées sous condition

Members of the E.C.C.P. Sub-Committee on practical organisation
of measures for the supervision and after-care of conditionally
released offenders

- M. L.N. NIELSEN Chairman of the Sub-Committee
Director General of the Prison Administration
COPENHAGEN (Denmark)
- M. G. di GENNARO Magistrat attaché à la Direction Générale des
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Ministère des Graces et de Justice
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KARLSRUHE (Fed. Rep. of Germany)
- M. A. SPIELMANN Substitut de Procureur d'Etat
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IV. - Membres du Conseil Scientifique Criminologique
Members of the Criminological Scientific Council

- Prof. L. RADZINOWICZ Chairman of the Scientific Council
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CAMBRIDGE (United Kingdom)
- M. J. PINATEL Président de la Commission Scientifique
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V. - Rapporteurs

- M.M. BLANC Professeur de Neuropsychiatrie
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- M. J. SUSINI Commissaire Divisionnaire
Commission Scientifique de la Société
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- Mr. R.F. SPARKS Faculty of Law
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VI.- Observateurs
Observers

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