

RESOLUTION No. AGN/46/RES/6

SUBJECT:

CRIME PREVENTION

To be classified as follows:

1 copy in the Chronological Series: year 1977

1 copy in the Subject Series

Heading: Prevention of crime - Social role of the police.

Sub-heading: Organisation of crime prevention.

1 copy in the Subject Series

Heading: Criminology and Sociology.

TEXT OF RESOLUTION

HAVING STUDIED Report No. 11, "Principles for Organising Police Crime Prevention Activities", submitted by the General Secretariat, and Report No. 17, "Crime Prevention" - A three-fold Approach", submitted by the Royal Hong Kong Police Force (United Kingdom),

CONSIDERING THAT crime prevention in its widest sense should be the responsibility of society as a whole, with the police being particularly well-placed to carry out certain crime prevention activities,

STRESSING THE FACT THAT such crime prevention activities constitute a very important and essential task of the police,

CONVINCED of the importance of organising crime prevention activities in a rational manner in order to achieve the maximum preventive effect with the staff and resources available,

NOTING THAT sometimes police crime prevention activities evolve without adequate planning policy and that the knowledge and scientific bases needed for rational organisation of such activities are generally lacking,

CONSIDERING THAT the police have an important role to play in the establishment of these bases in collaboration with research workers,

The ICPO-INTERPOL General Assembly, meeting in Stockholm from 1st to 8th September 1977 at its 46th session:

MAKES THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Research work should be undertaken with a view to:
  - a) obtaining a better knowledge of crime for planning appropriate preventive action;
  - b) acquiring greater insight into the repercussions and secondary effects produced by such action on crime;

- c) developing quantitative and qualitative assessment methods in this field with the ultimate aim of being able to compare the results obtained by the various prevention methods and activities used and to re-evaluate the whole conception and organisation of crime prevention;
2. The police should foster such research work and participate in it, using the experience they have acquired and the opportunities open to them of making practical experiments in the field;
3. Rational criteria should be established for defining the limits of police crime prevention activities and for assigning such responsibilities to the police and/or other public and private bodies, particularly those carrying out preventive action of an educational or social nature;
4. Machinery should be set up to co-ordinate preventive activities and facilitate co-operation in this field at national, regional and local levels, with the participation of all administrative and other bodies concerned;
5. There should be general legislative or regulatory texts assigning crime prevention authority to the police and/or other administrative bodies, with special provisions giving the police the necessary powers to carry out their crime prevention duties;
6. In order to improve the effectiveness of their crime prevention activities and adapt them as crime and society evolve, the police should continually review their internal organisation, notably with regard to:
  - a) the dividing up of the territory to be policed into sectors, the geographical distribution of services and the assignment of available staff to these services and sectors, taking due account of such data as the geographical distribution of crime and the time needed for the police to reach the scene of an incident;
  - b) the selective deployment of staff in a given sector to take account of such information as is available about the distribution of crime in time and place;
  - c) the specialisation of police services and personnel in certain aspects of crime prevention work;
  - d) the possible employment of non-police personnel (for example, psychologists and sociologists) or "associate" staff;

ASKS the National Central Bureaus to take the necessary steps aimed at implementation of the above recommendations.