

D. Minister and Senior Official Responsible for Crime Prevention

Michel Hamelin of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (70:30), Irvin Waller (70:9) and other witnesses, made the point that crime prevention is not a clearly visible policy area of the Department of Justice, although it is that department's responsibility at the federal level. It was recommended that the Minister of Justice appoint a senior official, such as an Assistant Deputy Minister, to be responsible for crime prevention, in order to give the issue weight and priority.

The Committee believes that if crime prevention is to represent a serious policy initiative in the federal government that has influence in the bureaucracy, then a senior official in the Department of Justice must be identified as responsible for crime prevention policy and program development, and the Minister of Justice must be accountable for developments in the prevention of crime in his or her department.

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that the Department of Justice maintain its role as the Department responsible for crime prevention and that it appoint a senior official responsible for crime prevention policy and program development.

E. International Crime Prevention Centre

In her submission to the Committee, the then Minister of Justice, Kim Campbell, noted that the concept of crime prevention has been developed and refined through international conferences. In fact, over the last two decades United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders have taken the notion of crime and delinquency beyond the realm of illegal behaviour and law enforcement. Acts that violate criminal norms are increasingly seen to be linked with economic and social development.³⁷

The first "comprehensive statements" on crime and social development were made at Kyoto in 1970 and contained in the *Declaration of the Fourth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders*. The declaration, endorsed in 1971 by the Economic and Social Council, "stresses that effective steps should be taken to coordinate and intensify crime prevention efforts within the context of the economic and social development that each country envisages for itself."³⁸

The *Caracas Declaration* of the Sixth Congress, endorsed by the General Assembly in 1980, "relates crime prevention to. . .social conditions and the quality of life, seeking to improve them and to reduce the social and material costs of crime."³⁹

In 1985, the Seventh Congress, held at Milan, adopted the *Milan Plan of Action and the Guiding Principles for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in the Context of Development and the New International Economic Order*. The *Milan Plan* recommends ways of toughening international and

³⁷ United Nations, *Compendium of United Nations Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice*, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, New York, 1992, p. 3.

³⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁹ *Ibid.*