SUGGESTIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF CRIMINAL STATISTICS

In response to a resolution of the Economic and Social Council (155 (c) VII), requesting the Secretary-General to undertake inquiries in the field of the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, a survey of criminal statistics was undertaken in 1948-1949. A memorandum "Statistical Report on the State of Crime 1937/46" has been prepared for consideration by the Social Commission at its sixth session in April 1950 (E/CONF.5/204).

The attention of the Statistical Commission is drawn to this report and especially to certain recommendations relating to the classification of statistics of crime and the development of minimum standards for the compilation and presentation of criminal statistics.

The report in Section I summarizes the request made to Governments to report data on criminal statistics and the replies received from the Governments. In commenting on the data, the report emphasizes the need for adopting a standard statistical unit and also for suggested standard groupings of the data.

In Section II, a summary is given of the previous international comparisons in the field of criminal statistics, with comments on the limitations of such comparisons.

Section III summarizes the statistical tables contained in the annex.

In Section IV of the report, basic suggestions for the development of international criminal statistics are summarized. The attention of the Statistical Commission is drawn to a discussion regarding the statistical unit (page 23) and essentials of a classification (pages 24-26), and to the suggestion on page 27 regarding a programme for the United Nations of action for the development of criminal statistics.