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SECTION 3: GROUP WORKSHOP

WORKSHOP I: Backgrounds of Crime and Delinquency

Summary Report of the Rapporteur

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Titles of the Papers Presented

1. "Bōsō-zoku": Groups of Reckless Young Drivers
by Mr. Masayuki Tamura (Japan)
2. Juvenile Delinquency and Its Environment in Japan
by Mr. Tōichi Fujiwara (Japan)
3. Juvenile Delinquency and Corrupt Tendency in Korea
by Mr. Yang Kyun Kim (Korea)
4. Etiology of Juvenile Delinquency in Burma
by Mr. U Nyan Lynn (Burma)
5. Phases of Family Life in Iran
by Mr. Nasser Heshmati (Iran)
6. Some Consideration of the Influence of the Family Environment on the Personality Development of the Child
by Mr. Adnan Muhammed Ahmed Al-Sammarree (Iraq)

Introduction

The group consisted of two public prosecutors, one judge, one correctional officer, one researcher and one social worker. The group discussion put a focus on the backgrounds of crime and delinquency related to family, school, community, and cultural and economic conditions. Among many factors, the importance of family as one of the most effective institutions in preventing and controlling crime and juvenile delinquency was stressed. Since there was a wide variety of family conditions in each country, the group felt that such factor should be

evaluated in accordance with the particular conditions of the member countries.

"Bōsō-zoku": Groups of Reckless Young Drivers

According to Mr. Tamura (Japan), the term, *bōsō-zoku*, is defined by the Japanese police authority as those youngsters who gather together and drive motorcycles and automobiles recklessly in group. They drive with an excessive speed and ignore traffic regulations, often resulting in accidents. They like to make loud noise of exhaust, thus creating public nuisance, and often have fights in between groups.

Along with the development of motorization in Japan in the last decade, there arose a motorcycle boom among adolescents. The minimum age for driving license is 16 for motorcycles and 18 for automobiles. According to Mr. Tamura, nearly half of the high-teen boys belonging to *bōsō-zoku* have driving license. These groups increased in number year by year and reached 684 groups with 28,241 members in 1976. In 1974, 24 youngsters lost their lives in traffic accidents and 86 struggles took place between groups with 42 injured, and 1,266 were arrested. A total number of 15,540 were apprehended or given guidance by the police in 1975.

Based on a survey of 741 *bōsō-zoku* members made by the National Research Institute of Police Science in 1975, Mr. Tamura pointed out the following facts:

- (1) Concerning the social status of members, 85 percent of them were 16 to

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19 years of age, 30 percent were senior high school students and 52 percent were blue-collar juvenile workers. Comparing with youth of the same age they had shorter educational careers and were in lack of effort to promote themselves.

(2) Most of them showed interest only in motorcycles or automobiles and enjoyed thrills, excitements, and speed of driving. They seemed to be fond of displaying their masculinity and sense of freedom through reckless driving.

(3) Their purpose of affiliation with the groups was mainly to obtain fellowship which they could not find in their daily life in schools and workshops.

The group discussed the facts presented by Mr. Tamura and suggested the followings as countermeasures:

(1) Age limit for driving license should be raised.

(2) Parents should be requested not to let their children apply for driving license and not to give them automobiles except under justified circumstances.

(3) Traffic regulations should be more strictly enforced in order to eliminate the public nuisance, particularly by *bōsō-zoku*.

(4) School as well as social education for adolescents should be oriented to encourage them to engage in more creative activities.

The last suggestion was given a special attention by the group. It seemed that the most problematic trait of members belonging to *bōsō-zoku* groups was that they did not have the ability and will to continue their education in the country where a high educational career for youth was highly appreciated. Unless given proper guidance and incentive for schooling or work, *bōsō-zoku* members might drop out from the present-day competitive society. Their attitudes toward society are very similar to those of other delinquent boys. But it may be said that they have not become full-grown delinquents because they have devoted themselves to automobiles as a means of sublimation. Therefore, it is not a good solution for the problem of *bōsō-zoku* only to take away automobiles from them. It is essential to find ways of

canalizing their energy into healthier direction. Although *bōsō-zoku* is a quite unique phenomenon only in Japan and few other countries, the group felt that other countries will face the similar problem with the development of motorization in the future.

Juvenile Delinquency and Its Environment in Japan

Mr. Fujiwara (Japan) discussed the problems of juvenile delinquency and its environmental factors in Japan. He pointed out the followings as the characteristics of the contemporary juvenile delinquency:

(1) Shoplifting showed a strong tendency to increase;

(2) Assault in schools was increasing;

(3) Improper sexual company by junior and senior high school girls was growing more rampant;

(4) Abuse of thinner, toluene, glue, etc. was spreading among juveniles; and

(5) Violence and other offences by *bōsō-zoku* were getting more serious.

Then Mr. Fujiwara explained some of the environmental factors in Japanese society which were related to the recent trends of juvenile delinquency. Japan is highly urbanized, and following this urbanization unhealthy social environment is spreading throughout the country. There is also a flood of indecent films and magazines which show sexual relation and violence affirmatively and thus stimulating sexual desire of youth and encouraging violent behavior of juveniles. Moreover, not a few children have not received proper education and guidance both in school and at home under the present competitive society. At present, children and their parents as well are involved in severe competition in the entrance examination to higher schools. Only few students can be successful in entering high-ranking schools. As a result, many junior and senior high school students are observed with feelings of failure and inferiority. Thus, they were easily subjected to bad influence of unhealthy social environment.

The group generally agreed that

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juvenile delinquents dealt with by the police were only the visible tip of an iceberg, and that the measures of preventing juvenile delinquency should be directed toward constructing sounder environment for all juveniles throughout the country. Mr. Fujiwara expressed the view that the public should be organized to pay much consideration to clean up social environment. For instance, indecent films and magazines should be regulated. Besides, sex education should be given to children at a certain age both in schools and homes. He also emphasized that teachers and parents should pay more attention to the healthy development of human relationship of children by increasing opportunity to talk personally with children on every matter faced by them in daily life. Children should be given proper guidance on how to lead a meaningful life and what are important and worthy in the life of human beings.

As to the control of unhealthy films and materials, Mr. Fujiwara pointed out that it was very difficult for the police to control adult movies and other pornographic materials through the methods of prior restraint, and the concept of obscenity under the Penal Code was not wide enough to cover all indecent films and other materials inimical to youth. In this connection, it was observed that the standard of decency varied from one nation to another reflecting different cultures and traditions. However, the group was in agreement that children should be properly protected by their parents, schools, communities, and other social institutions from the vicious influence of pornographic movies and magazines and proper sex education be given to children.

Juvenile Delinquency and Corrupt Tendency in Korea

Among various aspects of juvenile delinquency in Korea, Mr. Kim (Korea) stressed the impacts of juveniles misbehaviors such as drinking, smoking, and keeping long hair. He also gave detailed accounts of the functions of family courts and other authorities in charge. Mr. Kim pointed out the recent decrease of

misbehaving juveniles might be due to the successful implementation of Saemaul (New Village) Movement which had been launched in 1971.

As to the rationale for prohibiting juveniles to drink, Mr. Kim noted on its direct crime-stimulating effects, indirect crime-stimulating effects and eugenic effects. According to his explanation, smoking and keeping long hair as well as drinking were considered in Korea as contributing factors to juvenile delinquency. He took a deep interest in corrupt tendency cases. Corrupt tendency is manifested in irresponsible behaviors which tend to degrade the traditional good mores and customs unique in Korea, such as lewd action, distribution of obscene materials, prostitution, drunken disturbance, long hair, and other various minor offenses.

The group generally agreed that, while the transfusion of Western culture and civilization had certainly been beneficial to the upgrading of living standard, it sometimes had broken traditional morality and germed mammonism (almighty dollar principle). Mr. Kim stressed the necessity for effective legislation and purification plan against corrupt tendency, and considered vigorous inspiration of Saemaul spirit (diligence, self-help, and cooperation) as one of the most important measures. The group paid special attention to Korea's efforts to strengthen or reinforce moral and ethical standard in the community. Although some participants were opposed to the prohibition of long hair, many agreed that such regulation might be understood under the present extraordinary circumstances in Korea as an effort to unite people for the national interest.

Etiology of Juvenile Delinquency in Burma

Mr. U Nyan Lynn (Burma) dealt with different aspects in the etiology of juvenile delinquency and presented its prevailing causes in Burma. He stressed the importance of family life, urbanization, school life, and urban employment. As to the family life in Burma, he touched upon such problems as incompetent

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parents, broken homes, earning mothers, and poor economic conditions. In discussing urbanization, he maintained the view that industrialization and urbanization were both inevitable and welcome in developing countries and juvenile delinquency appeared to be an inescapable price a developing country must prepare to pay.

Unsatisfactory situation of schools and educational system in Burma was also reported by Mr. U Nyan Lynn: He further discussed the impacts of widespread urban unemployment among young people on their delinquent behaviors. The widespread unemployment in sprawling urban areas constitutes the central and most baffling problems facing the country. Then he touched upon the minimum age of 18 required for the registration in the employment exchange department. He was of the opinion that if this age be reduced to 16 which was the age of completing ordinary school education the problem would be mitigated to a considerable extent.

Concerning urbanization, Mr. Fujiwara maintained that urbanization was one of the most important causes of the increase in crime and delinquency, but it would be possible to implement a development plan so as to make use of beneficial effects of urbanization. During the discussion, it was generally agreed that family environment was of primary importance in preventing juvenile delinquency. In this connection, many participants pointed out the decline of family authority to control over the behavior of children. While different family structures such as joint family, corporate family and nuclear family prevail in different societies, the decline of its authority might be attributed to financial difficulties to support the members of family, the generation gap between old conservatives and young liberals, and various other complicated factors. Mr. Heshmati pointed out the importance of educating mothers on proper ways of bringing up children.

Phases of Family Life in Iran

Mr. Heshmati (Iran) described the

history of Iranian corporate family system based on polygamy. He referred to Koran, traditions and regulations concerning marriage and divorce, proper relation between men and women, treatment of widows and orphans, inheritance and upbringing of children. He specially mentioned the Koran's saying that a man was allowed to have up to four wives but required to treat them equally and justly. But many men with more than one wife are unable to provide their family members with proper treatment and sufficient economic assistance. This causes many social problems seriously affecting the welfare of many wives and children. The Government is making every effort to improve the situation.

According to Mr. Heshmati, the present Government is making every effort to eradicate polygamy, bigamy and concubinage. The reason is that a man is not capable of treating two or three wives equally and justly according to the religious regulation. At the present, a second marriage must be approved by the court and the permit is issued only if the husband has had the consent of his first wife or she is mentally or physically disabled, and he is financially and physically capable of having a second wife.

On the other hand, Mr. Heshmati pointed out that women in Iran had been liberated to have the same opportunity with men. Now they are participating in many fields shoulder to shoulder with men. Unlike in older days a man cannot divorce a woman without a sound reason.

The group agreed that, under the corporate family system with two or more wives and their children, it would be very difficult for wives to take a mother's role of giving sufficient education and proper discipline to their children. Such family system may be regarded as one of the powerful causes of crime and delinquency. The group supported the opinion of Mr. Heshmati that the governmental and civil movement to elevate the status of women and to improve the family situation which had been obtaining successful results should further be pursued.

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Some Consideration for the Influence of Family Environment on the Personality Development of the Child

Mr. Al-Sammarree (Iraq) described complex problems of family in Iraq. He stated that families were the most biologically-oriented structure of human social organizations. Sexual satisfaction, procreation, education and discipline of children, and the physical maintenance of all family members account for a great deal of family activities. He added that families were of vital importance to the psychological development and socialization of children. For most people selfhood is formed in families. Families serve as bridges to organizations and relations in all spheres of life in society.

The families in Europe consist of three or four persons, but in African and Asian countries the size of family is larger. According to Mr. Al-Sammarree, Iraqi families normally consist of four to 10 persons. In Iraq a man can marry up

to four wives. This was one of the main sources of social problems and crimes in Iraq. He reported on a case that a man married four wives and had 21 children. It was obviously impossible for him to bring up these children properly. Although the government is making efforts to establish homes for illegitimate children, many children of big families become delinquents. He also pointed out the fact that many pilgrims to Iraq from other Islamic countries become victims of pickpocketing by deprived children.

The group noted that family played a very important role in the prevention of crime and delinquency. The phenomenon of crime and delinquency is often attributable to inadequate family conditions. When a man becomes frustrated economically or socially he is likely to commit an offence. The group shared with Mr. Al-Sammarree the opinion that if the family system of Iraq be modified to adapt to the current situation of the country, the problems of crime and delinquency would be greatly mitigated.



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