

DEVELOPMENT, CRIME PREVENTION, AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

PEDRO R. DAVID
Estados Unidos

Introduction

In discussing the topic of “*New Perspectives in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and development*”, the role of International Cooperation Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and The Treatment of Offenders, Caracas, Venezuela (25 August to 5 September, 1980), “recognized that prevention of crime and criminal justice are integral to efforts to promote development”. Furthermore that: “Crime prevention and criminal justice should therefore be viewed within a development context and in their interrelationship with economic growth and social change”.

It was also recognized “that much more work is necessary to comprehend better the interactions between crime and development with a view to evolving appropriate policy options for development planning. It was felt that development *per se* was not responsible for the increase in crime. Crime, with its attendant costs to society was seen, not only as a hindrance to development, but also, in some cases, as a consequence of the latter, particularly of un-planned or inadequately planned economic growth and social imbalances”.

The Sixth Congress cautions to the effect that it is difficult, if not impossible, to establish universally applicable definitions and policies in regard to crime and to development, because these factors are unseparably tied to the economic, social, political, and cultural realities of each country.

While the Sixth Congress recognized the need to strengthen indigenous resources and capabilities in dealing with these issues, it also acknowledges the need to promote cooperation among countries, particularly at the regional and subregional levels.

It was recognized, in addition, the importance of crime prevention

in the context of the development of the human potential, and the close linkages between prevention of crime and social justice.

“Criminality and development”, the Sixth Congress asserts, “should not be considered only within a national context, since the impact of international economic relations on this problem is considerable”.

The Congress also recognized the need for more research and analysis of the various issues of crime and development and that these should be accompanied by action-oriented measures specifically in the area of technical assistance to member countries, and the application of research into the practice of organs of criminal justice.

References were also made to the important role of the U.N. in the advancement of international cooperation, including that of Congresses, the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, and among others, the role of regional institutes such as the U.N., Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (ILANUD).

The Sixth Congress approved 18 recommendations on the subject: Recommendation No. 1 advocates a precise definition of the scope and activities of U.N. organs in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice in connection with social and economic development; in Recommendation No. 2, the Congress stresses the need for initiation and development of further research and analysis on the interrelations between crime and specific socioeconomic issues, such as employment, migration, urbanization and industrialization, among others.

It is particularly in response to the former recommendation that this essay has been formulated, though I acknowledge the preliminary quality of these elucidations.

1. Four Concepts of Development

For many years, development has been synonymous with economic growth measured in aggregate terms, neglecting social factors. This has been also called the “puritan model”¹ and it tends to equate development with industrialization and production. From a second, more current, perspective, development embodies both economic growth and social change. It is a human investment model based on the notion of human capital and its role in the development process. Develop-

¹ *Social Defense in the Context of Development*, Un Secretariat, Int. Review of Criminal Policy, pp. 3-8, 1967.

ment implies here increase in productivity due to better education, better training, health, and nutrition. The third model considers development, despite the current intense debate as to its character, as a process which involves a particular constellation of means for improving the quality of life.

The concept of the quality of life is in itself a valuational as well as a factual and normative complex historically and culturally bound. However, despite unique connotations for each culture, the concept offers commonalities cutting across the varied spectrum of human variations. An important common note for the quality of life across cultures, we may add, is to be unimpaired by the overwhelming presence of crime, corruption, and violence, both at the national and international level. A fourth perspective can be found in the Un Declaration on Social Progress and Development, comprising an integrative model for which "the fundamental aim of development is the sustained increase of the well-being of the entire population on the basis of its full participation in the process of development and a fair distribution of the benefits".

The Declaration considers that rapid economic growth must go hand in hand with qualitative and structural changes in each country.

Since the economic and social situation in the world remains disturbing, the Declaration reaffirms the socio-economic development objectives which were established by the international community during the 1970s, such as the elimination of hunger and malnutrition by the year 1985, full employment by the year 2000, the eradication of illiteracy by the end of the 1980s, safe and adequate water supplies by 1990, 74 years of life expectancy in all countries by the year 2000, the full integration of women in political, economic and social affairs, and health for all by the year 2000.

Finally, it calls upon all Member States to promote economic and social progress by the formulation and reimplementation of a set of policy measures to achieve their goals and objectives, within the framework of national priorities and interests in the fields of employment, education, health, housing facilities, the well-being of children, full participation of youth in the development process, the full integration of women in development, and emphasis on the importance of the establishment of the new international economic order for the achievement of social progress.

2. *The Limitation of Three World Models of Economic Growth. The World Model of the Club of Rome:*

Some of the current analyses rendered in terms of economic growth models have been formulated without central references to various social phenomena. This has been explicitly acknowledged by the Club of Rome:

What will be needed to sustain world economic and population growth until, and perhaps even beyond, the year 2000? The list of necessary ingredients is long, but it can be divided roughly into two main categories.

The first category includes the physical necessities that support all physiological and insutrial activity, food, raw materials, fossil and nuclear fuels, and the ecological systems of the planet which absorb wastes and recycle important basic chemical substances. These ingredients are in principle tangible, countable items, such as arable land, fresh water, metals, forests, the oceans. In this Chapter we will assess the world's stocks of these physical resources, since they are the ultimate determiants of the limits to growth on this earth.

The second category of necessary ingredients for growth consists of the social necessities. Even if the earth's physical systems are capable of supporting a much larger, more economically developed population, the actual growth of the economy and of the population will depend on such factors as peace and social stability, education and employment, and steady technological progress. These factors are much more difficult to assess or to predict. Neither this book nor our world model at this stage in its development can deal explicitly with these social factors, except insofar as our information about the quantity and distribution of physical supplies can indicate possible future social problems. Food, resources, and a healthy environment are necessary but not sufficient conditions for growth. Even if they are abundant, growth may be stopped by social problems.²

The Club of Rome, in order to understand and predict economic growth has made extensive use of a world model that unfortunately did not include social factors in its matrix. As the Club acknowledge,

Our World model was built specifically to investigate trends of global concern – accelerating industrialization, rapid population growth, widespread malnutrition, depletion of non-renewable resources, and a deteriorating environment.³

² Meadows, Donnella H. and others, *The Limits of Growth*, Potomac Publishers, pp. 55-79, New York, 1974.

³ Meadows, Donnella H. and others, *The Limits of Growth*, Potomac Publishers, pp. 22-27, New York, 1974.

In relation to the desirability of including social factors in the model, the same commission has concluded that:

We affirm that the global issue of development, is however, so closely inter-linked with other global issues that an overall strategy must be evolved to attack all major problems, including in particular those of man's relationship with his environment.

*The final, most chronic and most important information we need deals with human values.*⁴

The Leontieff World Model

Leontieff's global economic model of the world economy was constructed, in the first instance, for the study of development in relation to environmental questions.⁵ The purpose of this model is to display various possible interrelationships, as the world economy evolves over future decads, between environment and other economic policies. With respect to time horizons, the world economy of 1970 is depicted and compared with hypothetical pictures of the world economy in 1980, 1990, and 2000. Most of the alternative hypothetical pictures (scenarios) analyzed by Leontieff embody various assumptions about rates of growth of population and of growth product per capita.

Leontieff's model, though it recognizes that "the principle limits to sustained economic growth and accelerated development are political, social, and institutional in character rather than physical" does not include such data.

The study predicts also that target rates of growth in the developing regions set by the IDS for the Second United Nations Development Decade, are not sufficient to start closing the income gap between the developing and developed countries.

To ensure accelerated development, two general conditions are necessary; the study includes: far-reaching changes of a social, political, and institutional character in the developing countries, and second, significant changes in the world economic order.⁶

As in the case of the World Model of the Club of Rome, the Leontieff model does not include data on socio-political factors and

⁴ Op. cit., pp. 55-186.

⁵ Leontieff, W. et al., *"The Future of World Economy"*. New York, Oxford University Press, 1977, pp. 2-3.

⁶ Op. cit., pp. 10-11.

conditions related to development, recognizing, however, the decisive role played by them as blocking or fostering economic growth.

3. *North-South. A Programme for Survival*

The Willy Brandt Commission Report on International Development Issues

Despite occasional references to “waste and corruption, oppression, and violence”, and even though the report recognizes that “the work for a new international order cannot wait until these and other evils have been overcome”,⁷ it fails to establish in a clear and unequivocal way, the powerful interrelationships between the new international order and the issue of crime.

As to the interrelations between economic development and social issues, the report calls for the establishment of quantifiable development criteria; but when it lists the specific concerns to be included in the measurement of growth, it fails to include crime or criminal justice indicators. The interrelations between economic development, marked by industrialization, urbanization, and destruction of indigenous social control organs, is not mentioned in the report.

The lack of specific identification of the crime issue is particularly regrettable in the report, in view of the fact that other issues closely tied to development have been clearly referred to.

All of these models have somewhat neglected the integration of economic data with meaningful factors associated with “the quality of life itself”, one of whose positive dimensions is to be free from the fear of crime.

Inter-relationships between Socio-economic Development and Crime

The economic growth of nations has been associated with far reaching changes in their socio-economic structure. Of particular significance, is the process of industrialization, urbanization, sectoral re-deployment of labour, and other socio-economic-political changes. Among the latter, we shall mention, the demographic changes, shifts, in foreign trade patterns, technological development, increasing specialization among economic activities, and growth and specificity of institutions.

⁷ *North-South. A Programme for Survival*, page 10.

The character, extension and pace of this change vary among countries according to size, resources, cultural profiles, socio-political histories, development policies and the differential impact of the global scenario on given societies. Despite national and regional variations, there are common realities characterizing the various processes underway, and all of these, as we shall see, pose serious challenges to efforts in the crime prevention area and the administration of criminal justice in developing countries.