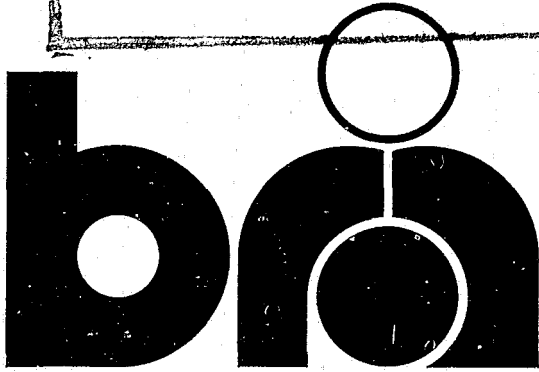




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NATIONAL COUNCIL
FOR
CRIME PREVENTION
SWEDEN

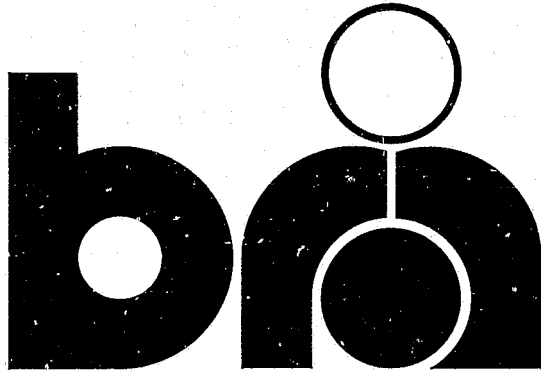
This brochure—published in January 1979—describes the NCCP's past activity as well as the fields and questions that we are working with at present and will be working with in the near future.

Society and criminality are changing rapidly. For this reason the NCCP is to be a flexible organization, one which can continuously adapt itself to new demands. This means that the way we work and the tasks we work with may look different in the future.

NCJRS

APR 16 1979

ACQUISITIONS



Introduction

Interest in criminal policy issues has increased in recent decades among both politicians and the general public. One reason for this attention has been the growth in crime. But people have also become more aware of the fact that criminality is linked to changes in society, and that criminal policy is related to developments in economic policy, labour market policy, family policy, educational policy, cultural policy and other fields.

During the 1960s spokesmen from several different quarters raised the idea of a special criminal policy agency which would be able to take a comprehensive approach to problems of criminality. Several Government inquiry commissions, for instance, advanced proposals in this direction.

The National Council for Crime Prevention (NCCP)

In early 1973 a Government commission was assigned the task of studying the prerequisites for setting up a central council which would be able to coordinate society's efforts to combat crime. Questions relating to criminological research were coordinated with the work of the Committee for Criminological Treatment Research.

The commission's report, entitled "The National Council for Crime Prevention", was presented in the spring of 1973, and on July 1, 1973 the National Council for Crime Prevention (NCCP) began its work in committee form. A year later, on July 1, 1974, the NCCP was transformed into a Government agency under the Ministry of Justice.

What is the task of the NCCP?

The NCCP does not have the authority to issue directives to other agencies or bodies. Thus, the establishment of the NCCP did not alter the responsibility which other agencies have for their respective domains. The NCCP is to be a **co-ordinating** and **advisory** body.

Tasks

According to its directives, the NCCP is charged with the task of promoting efforts in crime prevention within different areas of the community and of working to coordinate the efforts of society and of citizens in fighting crime.

The NCCP's assigned functions in the pursuit of these objectives include:

- following and analyzing trends in crime and producing forecasts of such trends,
- following, supporting and initiating research and development work on the causes and prevention of crime, as well as evaluating and disseminating the results of such work,

- working to coordinate research and development projects in the field of criminal policy,
- assisting in the framing of criminal policy by means of investigatory studies and initiatives.

These functions and tasks are not clearly defined. The NCCP itself has the possibility of taking up questions which are within the scope of its directives. Strong emphasis is placed on the Council's own initiatives.

How is the NCCP organized?

Board

The Government appoints the NCCP's Board, which currently consists of 19 persons. The Board includes politicians from all parties represented in the Swedish parliament, the under-secretaries of State in the Ministries of Justice, Health and Social Affairs and Education. The Board also includes representatives of labour and management organizations, of the associations of county councils and local authorities, of insurance companies and criminological research. Two elected members of the local trade unions in the NCCP's agency are also represented in the Board.

The Board determines the broad outlines of the Council's policy. Thus, it deals with the major issues of principle, for example, proposals from the Agency in particularly important matters, budget questions and significant statements of opinion by the Council on matters submitted to it for consideration.

Executive Committee

The day-to-day activities of the Council are managed by its Executive Committee and the Agency. The Executive Committee consists of five Board members and the director of the Agency.

Agency

Within the Agency there is an Inquiry Division and a Research and Development Division. The Agency director's secretariat is divided into an Agency secretariat and an Information secretariat.

Working Groups Project Groups

Part of the Council's inquiry work is carried out in working groups with representatives of Government agencies and organizations and in smaller project groups which work on a relatively short-term basis.

Expert Group

The heads of the National Social Welfare Board, the National Board of Education, the National Police Board, the National Prison and Probation Administration and the National Courts Administration, plus the Chief Public Prosecutor have been linked to the Council as experts.

Scientific Group

A group of researchers from various fields assist the Council in scientific questions. One of the group's functions is to submit comments on applications for research grants.

Staff

The NCCP has at present a permanent staff of 19 persons. In addition, around 20 people are engaged in the NCCP with various projects, etc. Some of these people are employed in Government ministries and other agencies.

How much does the NCCP cost?

The Council's appropriation for the 1978/79 budget year totals around Skr 7 million, including:

- for administration Skr 3.6 million
- for research and development
(research in the NCCP, via private
researchers, at other agencies,
narcotics frequency studies) Skr 2.7 million
- for information Skr 0.7 million

What does the NCCP do?

Since so many social issues are of importance for the development of crime, the NCCP's field of activity is a large one.

Part of the Council's activity is within the judicial system, i.e. the police and public prosecution authorities, the public courts, and the correctional system. The NCCP's ambition is to take a broader approach to the problem, and it is coordinating its own work in this area with similar efforts by others, such as the schools, the social welfare authorities, the labour unions and employers' organizations, as well as other organizations and private individuals.

The NCCP gathers information on research results and ideas and proposals in various areas that may result in concrete decisions and criminal policy initiatives. Its criminal policy development work is focussed primarily on areas where the Council believes it can achieve results.

The NCCP's activities are broken down into:

- research and development work
- inquiry work
- information

Research and Development Work

The Council's efforts in this area have a two-fold goal: 1) to support and coordinate research and development work in the field of criminal policy; and 2) to make sure that the results become known and can be used in criminal policy work.

The NCCP functions partially as a research council, lending support, financially and otherwise, to criminological re-

search. The Council may decide to provide special support to projects in areas it deems important by offering grants either to individual researchers or to official agencies within the judicial field. In the introductory phase, the Council's aim was to encourage research on general deterrence. Research on juvenile delinquency has always been a major focus. Recently, the Council decided to provide special assistance to research on economic crime.

Evaluation

The tasks of the Research and Development Division also include the evaluation of various projects in the field of criminal policy. One of the programs under study is the Reinforcement of Non-Institutional Care project (the Sundsvall experiment).

Internal Research and Development Work

The Council's own research and development work can be broken down into six main areas:

- trends in crime
- juvenile delinquency
- research on preventive measures
- research on correctional treatment
- narcotics and crime
- economic crime

Trends in Crime

The NCCP is to follow and analyze trends in crime and make forecasts of future developments. The results are published in an annual report. The report also takes up circumstances in society which may be assumed to be of special importance for the development of crime, e.g. urbanization and youth unemployment.

Juvenile Delinquency

The Research and Development Division monitors research on juvenile delinquency. The goal in this respect is to find not only methods for evaluating future developments, but also measures which can curb the present trend

towards increased crime. One of the approaches being followed is that of carefully studying juvenile delinquency in certain municipalities in Sweden.

Research on Preventive Measures

The NCCP follows research on measures for preventing and combatting crime. The Research and Development Division has devoted special attention to police research. Examples of police research include studies of the connection between criminality and the resources of the police, the methods used in police work, the effects of police interventions, the function of the police in society, etc.

Research on Correctional Treatment

The NCCP does research in various areas relating to correctional treatment. Analyses are made of relapse statistics. There are discussions on new forms of probation, and studies are being made on the readjustment of offenders to working life.

Alcohol, Drugs and Crime

The NCCP provides financial support to different official agencies which are following developments in the field of narcotics. The link between alcohol and crime is another question being followed by the NCCP.

Economic Crime

The Research and Development Division supports and takes initiatives relating to research on economic crime. One example of this type of work is a project on bankruptcies in Stockholm.

Inquiry Work

The NCCP's Board has the possibility of setting up working groups to deal with questions within the scope of the Council's activity.

The tasks of the present working groups have been drawn from three areas:

- protection against crime
- social welfare questions

Protection Against Crime

The Group for
Transports of
Valuables

Social Welfare Questions and Efforts

The Child
and Youth
Group

■ the judicial system

In conjunction with the wholesale and retail trade, the police and the insurance companies, the NCCP has prepared a number of brochures on how to guard against certain types of crimes.

A Group for Transports of Valuables is presently working to coordinate the various official agencies, organizations and companies involved in transports of valuables. The guiding principle for the group's work is the personal security of the people transporting money or other valuables.

Calling attention to and studying the need for various social welfare efforts within crime prevention is an important task. For understandable reasons, this is a question of long-term action. Particular emphasis is placed on the situation of young people.

In different working groups, the NCCP has previously discussed:

- the possibility of the schools to provide knowledge about law and the legal system
- how cooperation between social welfare authorities, the schools and the police functions out in the field
- the possibilities of rapidly taking steps in the case of young offenders

The NCCP's interest today is focussed on the school. Taking the school as its point of departure the Child and Youth Group will present ideas and make suggestions for crime prevention measures relating to children and young people. It is especially important to study the links between difficulties in school and certain social problems. Various forms of school problems such as truancy, vandalism and violence/bullying are the central issues. The group will

The Group
for Readjustment
Assistance to
Offenders

**The Judicial
System**
Criminal
Policy
Development
Work

Review of
Legislation
relating to
Organized and
Economic Crime

also study whether the proposals contained in the so-called SIA bill (the Internal Working of the School) passed by the Swedish parliament can have an effect in preventing crime.

There is a connection between criminal policy and social policy. The Working Group for Readjustment Assistance to Offenders is working to get the community, organizations and individuals to make it easier for the offender to reintegrate himself into society. The offender's possibilities of finding a job, his housing situation, and his finances are questions that are being dealt with.

With respect to research and development work in the field of criminal policy, the NCCP has studied the need for reforms in the penal code and in the judicial and correctional system. The Council has conducted discussions on crimes against property and drawn up guidelines for legislative reform in that area. A Council publication discusses the principles underlying the sanctions system and also presents concrete proposals for changes.

The NCCP has been commissioned by the Government to make a review of legislation relating to organized and economic crime. This work, which is directed by a group consisting of representatives for the parliamentary parties, covers the following questions:

- tax and currency legislation and related matters
- organized crime
- professional ethical standards, indirect control etc
- environmental crimes and labour protection

Information

One of the NCCP's important tasks is to provide information on problems within the Council's sphere of activity and on criminological research results.

Research and inquiry results are disseminated through reports and other publications, through exhibitions, in the Council's quarterly journal, at seminars and conferences.

What is the outcome of the NCCP's work ?

The results of the Council's activity are presented primarily in the form of published reports. These may be written by working groups or by individual researchers. A report may also consist of documentation from a conference.

The reports are published in the NCCP's name, but it is stated in the preface of each work that the material was published before the Council took up a definite position with respect to the contents. It is up to the Agency to present proposals to the Executive Committee and the Board as to how the reports are to be dealt with. The results can take the form of formal proposals from the NCCP for submission to

- the Government
- authorities and organizations affected by the Council's work

It is important at this point to reemphasize the fact that the NCCP is solely a coordinating and advisory body, and thus it cannot give assignments to other official agencies. In many cases, however, the viewpoints and proposals of the NCCP have been included in directives to inquiry commissions appointed by the Government. Within various agencies, where attention may have been drawn to certain questions as a result of the intervention of the NCCP, the proposals have led to changes in regulations.

The NCCP reports are also used to a large extent in the educational system and in personnel training programs in the judicial system.

Other effects of the Council's activity are harder to measure. But the NCCP has, for example, influenced the debate on criminal policy in Sweden through the material presented in its reports and articles, at conferences and seminars and so forth.

Final Comment

Criminal policy today is characterized by a certain pessimism regarding the possibilities of controlling crime through the judicial system and by traditional methods. The creation of the NCCP underscores the fact that **every-one** bears a responsibility for the present and future development of crime in society.



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