

The Madrid Congress on Juvenile Delinquency

Conrado V. Sanchez

Antonio C. Carag

2 ATENEO L.J. 243 (1953)

SUBJECT(S): CRIMINAL LAW, JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

*KEYWORD(S): MADRID CONGRESS OF 1952, JUVENILE DELINQUENCY,
MINORITY, PENAL INSTITUTIONS, JUVENILE REHABILITATION*

The first International Spanish-Portuguese-American-Filipino Congress on Penology was held in Madrid from 5 January to 12 July of 1952. The Madrid Congress, as it was called, saw the attendance of eminent jurists, criminologists, doctors, psychiatrists and lawyers of several latin and American countries to discuss the latest trends and developments in penology. Despite the broad range of subjects discussed in said Congress, the Article limits itself to the subject of Juvenile Delinquency, as this is admittedly, a branch of the Philippine penal system which has been much neglected.

The Article discusses the underlying problems with the confinement and rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents in the Philippines. From the learnings of the Madrid Congress, the Article proposes certain reforms to this phase of the Philippine penal system. A higher degree of responsibility is asked of parents and family members of delinquents in guiding their children, and of ensuring that if their children are convicted of any crime, that they will exercise all the measures necessary to reform their upbringing. As to those extreme delinquents who must endure a deprivation of their liberty, a challenge is given to penal institutions to adopt greater measures that will aid in the rehabilitation of these juvenile delinquents, in preparing them for reintegration into society. And a final challenge is issued to the Government, to ensure that institutions of juvenile reform will be equipped with proper funds and tools to ensure that these institutions serve their noble purpose.