

THE 'THIRD DIMENSION'

AS there are several articles in this *Platypus* dealing with overseas matters, it is timely for me to discuss briefly what I call the 'third dimension' of the AFP after ACT Policing and the Australia-wide investigative element: that of International Branch and its liaison officers.

The International Branch, operating as part of Investigations Department, is the focal point within the AFP for matters relating to the Force's overseas posts. The Branch coordinates the activities of AFP Liaison Officers attached to Australian Missions and police agencies overseas, and collects, evaluates and disseminates intelligence received from the officers and other intelligence sources.

In today's society where the preservation of peace and the enforcement of justice is placing greater demands on police, especially in the area of international enquiries, there is a greater need for cohesion between police forces throughout the world. Organised crime recognises no boundaries and neither should law enforcement agencies be confined by national borders and narrow self interests. Through its International Branch and ultimately the overseas liaison officers, the requests for overseas assistance by the AFP are ever increasing. By way of reciprocation, any matters that come to the notice of AFP members that would be of interest to any overseas law enforcement agency, should be forwarded to International Branch for dissemination.

The initial overseas role was inherited from the former Bureau of Narcotics and

the then Commonwealth Police. It was, however, quite limited. The expansion since then has not just been in the number of posts: the work generated through an ever increasing flow of intelligence has been vast in the last five years, and has resulted in this facet of the AFP becoming of great importance.

Generally, the overseas post workload is drug oriented with Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta, Islamabad and (to a lesser extent) Wellington being typical examples. Hong Kong and Singapore however incorporate a strong commercial crime element, while Manila's role, until recently, was primarily one of criminal intelligence. The London, Honolulu, Los Angeles and Washington Posts' roles are multi-faceted dealing with the full spectrum of criminal activity. Both the Washington and London offices have the additional responsibilities of liaising at a higher level of host country Government and law enforcement agencies. London is responsible also for AFP liaison throughout continental Europe; Washington for AFP liaison in Canada and through Central and South America.

It is important to Australia that the AFP be well represented on the international policing scene. It enables us to receive and give crime intelligence and information on matters which, while they may be occurring beyond Australia, could well impinge on the States or our own internal policing. A case in point is the recent and successful Operation Oyster, which resulted in the disruption of a substantial heroin importation from Pakistan to Australia. This success can in

part be attributed to the excellent links our liaison officers have forged, which gave them access to the intelligence necessary to enable AFP members in Australia to bring the operation to a successful conclusion. There have been a number of other less well publicised, but still important successes which were possible only because of the effective gathering of vital intelligence by our liaison officers.

It is also true to say that the standing of the AFP in the international law enforcement forum has never been higher and that we are a major force in this area. There is a close professional relationship between the AFP and most senior overseas police agencies which is reflected in sound operational cooperation and mutual benefit. The professionalism and dedication of our liaison officers has built up a reservoir of goodwill and trust which has contributed to the high regard in which we are held.

All ranks of the AFP should be aware that the role performed by this 'third dimension' of AFP policing is an essential one, both to the AFP and to other Australian law enforcement agencies, and the excellent work being carried out in this area further enhances the AFP's reputation. It complements our community and national policing work, with continual efforts on all three fronts: it offers also an interesting and challenging variation to 'standard' police careers, which I commend to all members with the necessary qualifications and experience.



(R.A. Grey)

CONTENTS

FEATURE

- 1 Commissioner Visits the People's Republic of China

LEGAL

- 5 Proceeds of Crime Bill 1987
- 9 Not Their Day

CONDITIONS

- 10 Invalidation Retirement
- 11 Welfare
- 11 Office Structures

HAPPENINGS

- 12 Veterans Memorial
- 12 The Queen's Police Gold medal Essay Competition

HISTORY

- 13 'Father' of the AFP
- 15 Canberra 'Dry'
- 16 Incidents at Casuarina Sands

CASE STUDY

- 18 Operation 'Needle'

NORTHERN REGION

- 24 Death Dealing Devices
- 26 Chief Inspector Johanna Wendler
- 26 Cairns 'First'?
- 27 Senior Constable McCowan — Barrister-at-Law
- 27 Security Well Covered at Expo 88

PEOPLE

- 28 Dux Had a Head Start
- 28 Darwin Relay Team
- 29 Promotion
- 30 Drug Abuse — The Fashionable Finish
- 31 Money Launderers Watch out!
- 32 Queen's Birthday Honours
- 33 Farewell
- 33 Welcome
- 34 Whitewater Lady
- 34 City Desk — 20 Years
- 35 Class 1020 Graduates
- 35 Anzac Day in Cyprus
- 36 Bravery Awards in Cyprus

BACK PAGE

- Cash for a Car — Nothing for the Hash