

Northern Territory to interview each one of these officers. It is the intention of the Australian Federal Police that as many former agents as possible will be sworn in as police members. I trust that, in due course, those former agents to gain police rank will discover that their lot has been greatly improved in terms of career prospects. They will be in a much larger organisation in which opportunity for advancement will rest on individual merit and ability.

It would, however, be unrealistic of me not to acknowledge publicly that the transition of some former narcotics agents to police ranks presents a complex set of problems for the police. On one hand, there are the police requirements for certain physical, educational and training qualifications. On the other hand, there is the undoubted wealth of specialist skills and expertise that have been developed by former narcotics agents. I have made this point clear to former agents and I have told them that as potential police officers, they must of course be acceptable not only to me, but to my police colleagues in the States.

Those not absorbed as police members will still be able to make a positive contribution as public servants as part of the multi-disciplinary intelligence net that we are establishing. We are going to need all the skilled manpower we can get.

I therefore assure all former narcotics agents that far from seeking to exclude them from police ranks, I shall be looking for reasons to include as many as possible, consistent with common sense and good judgement.

COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE

Last Tuesday marked the close of a two-day meeting in Canberra of all Australian police commissioners. The purpose of the meeting was to draw up a plan of action that would enable more

efficient policing of drug laws on a national basis.

The key decisions of that meeting were these:

- (I) The establishment of a national crime intelligence centre;
- (II) The establishing of State crime intelligence cells which will be linked to the national intelligence centre;
- (III) Clarification, as required by the Federal Police Act of the jurisdiction of all Australian police forces in relation to the enforcement of drugs laws within State Boundaries;
- (IV) The establishment of a high level police group to undertake urgent planning to implement these decisions. (A subgroup — consisting of experts from three States — was also formed to concentrate on the establishment of the national crime intelligence centre.)

You may be interested to know that the Deputy Commissioner of the Victoria Police will tomorrow chair a two-day conference in Melbourne of all Assistant Commissioners (Crime). This meeting will concern itself with exchanges of information that will enable us to very speedily make a basic national assessment of the current state of drugs trafficking and drugs-related crime. The Assistant Commissioners will have expert support to draw from and I am sure you will agree that this meeting stands to achieve much in a short space of time.

The small expert group I mentioned above is already working. Attached to this statement is its term of reference and I draw your attention to the fact that this group was instructed by last week's Commissioners' Conference to make its report within one month.

A.F.P. APPOINTMENT

Finally, I should like to announce the appointment of Chief Superintendent John Reilly as Acting Assistant Commissioner in the Australian Federal Police. Mr Reilly will have direct responsibility for the narcotics law enforcement area of the force.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Whereas the Report of the N.S.W. Royal Commission into Drugs and the Interim Report of the Australian Royal Commission on Drugs have outlined principles and concepts on the collation and dissemination of drug intelligence and the enforcement of drug laws, and whereas the Commissioners are in agreement that the collection of drug intelligence cannot be viewed in isolation and must 'per force' include the wider spectrum of criminal intelligence:

The Working Group is required to report on:

- (I) the establishment of a national crime intelligence centre, its staffing arrangements, its role in relation to operational enforcement units and State crime intelligence organisations, and the criteria for data input (its assessment and dissemination). The Working Group should also consider the central unit's role in relation to co-ordinating crime intelligence assessment training;
- (II) the establishment of Commonwealth State and Territories local crime intelligence units, their staffing, organisation and relationship (including information input) to the Central Unit;
- (III) the management and command, including the identification of targets arising from intelligence

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NEW APPOINTMENT: NARCOTICS HEAD

Mr John Daniel Reilly was appointed Acting Assistant Commissioner (Narcotics) in December, 1979.

He was born at Warragual, Victoria, in 1929 and was a dairy farmer before joining the Victoria Police in 1953.

He gained a Bachelor of Science Degree at the University of Melbourne and attained the rank of Sergeant. Mr Reilly worked in the Forensic Science Laboratory before resigning from Victoria Police in 1964 to join the Commonwealth Public Service where he remained until 1970. During that time he spent a number of years in the Customs and Excise section that later became known as the Federal Narcotics Bureau.



In 1970 Mr Reilly joined the former Commonwealth Police Force as Senior Inspector at the Australian Police College, Manly. He was

promoted to Chief Inspector in 1972.

After promotion in 1975 to Canberra as Superintendent of the Australia National Central Bureau (Interpol) for two years, Mr Reilly then became the Acting Senior Superintendent of the Australian Crime Intelligence Centre, before being posted back to Sydney in 1977 as Officer-in-Charge of the New South Wales District.

He has been awarded the Queen's Police Medal for Distinguished Service and the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal.

Mr Reilly is an Associate Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management and an Associate of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute.

He is married with two children and his hobbies include golf, gardening and reading.