



## Telex swindle hits Aussie firms

**O**verseas con artists are trying to swindle Australian firms by sending them false invoices.

Australian firms and government departments are receiving invoices for inclusion of details in international telex directories — invoices demanding payment for services not ordered or needed.

The invoices are not actually illegal because they always state in small print overleaf that the form is a combined invoice-order form. They are highly misleading, however — to put it most kindly.

Busy accounts clerks have inevitably paid these invoices without further checking — and those who have are yet to see their firms' names appearing in international telex directories.

Many firms and government offices have reported this fraud to the police. The AFP, through Interpol,

has been able to track down a lot of information on the culprits but is unable to do anything more than warn prospective targets to beware.

This is because the "fraud" is deemed to be committed in the country where the invoice originates and this type of unwanted soliciting for business is quite legal in Switzerland, Holland and Liechtenstein where most of these telex directory firms are established.

Various investigations into several of these telex directory firms have shown they are often managed by the same people — many of whom live in places like the Bahamas. In addition, none of these firms has any infrastructure in Australia to distribute telex directories if they are ever printed.

Some Australian firms have even received threatening follow-up letters when these "bills" aren't paid. Here's one extract:

*"Since there is no doubt that you owe the above-mentioned sum, you must expect considerable costs, when we go to court (in Switzerland). I want to give you one last chance for an amicable settlement . . . Please consider this letter as the very last attempt to reach an agreement with you. Should I not receive your payment within 14 days, I shall have to enforce payment by legal proceedings. This would mean a number of additional costs for you, namely penalty and interest for delay. We advise (sic) you to try to avoid these additional costs."*

AFP members receiving complaints from individuals and private firms are advised to refer them to State police, and to the AFP if the complaints are from Federal government offices or from within the ACT.

The best advice to everyone is — don't pay.

## Police Marksmen in W.A.



*The AFP team (back row): Constable Jack Roussety, Constable Frank Turner, Constable Burke Hugo, Detective Constable Brian Abbott, Constable Peter Theodore, Detective Sergeant Warren Woods, Detective Constable Nick Anticich; (front row): Sergeant Joe Borg, Sergeant Nigel Spitz and Constable Bruno Camera.*

**Any inmate thinking of making a break from the Woorooloo Prison Farm in Western Australia should be careful about the day he chooses — security services operating in the State now hold a shoot there each year.**

The second annual Western Australian Combined Security Services Shoot was held on the farm's firing range on Saturday, May 27.

The Woorooloo Prison Farm, run by the WA Department of Corrective Services, is about 60 kilometres east

of Perth via the Great Eastern Highway.

The WA Police was the host service this year and the AFP (Western Region) has agreed to be the host Service next year. The AFP (WA) has already formed a planning committee to make sure it upholds the high standard of the past two years competition.

Perhaps as the host Service next year, the AFP may be able to improve on the 1989 result — the WA Police won the competition for the second year in succession.



*Get back . . . they're holding the shoot!*

*Platypus 27, August 1989*