

# AFP Liaison Officers meet

tracking the chemicals from which they are composed.

The narcotics with which international criminal elements want to attack particularly our youth have to be imported. Again, fortunately, we have only the two 'barriers' — sea and air, to contend with but it's enough with one of the world's longest continuously-navigable coastlines.

## Regular couriers

Contrary to televised fiction, most of the marihuana smuggled into Australia comes by ship and most of that by regular commercial craft. Another component is brought in on private pleasure craft and yachts. The most often used system of sending heroin and cocaine in is by the postal service, the use of airline passengers as couriers being the least used and the least reliable — no matter how pretty the courier.

There is still sufficient profit in the trade to encourage the use of couriers on a regular basis but their apprehension rate is reportedly high.

Australia's main concern for its own protection at present is stemming the flow of narcotics into the country and this we do by a variety of methods which begin in collaboration with overseas authorities from virtually the moment the illicit drug seeds are planted until their produce is refined and sent into the streets.

It's a battle of surveillance and intelligence in a vicious war which the drug lords wage against each other as freely as against the conscience of the world.

With the national strategic scenario showing no likelihood of any plausible threat to our national security within the foreseeable future it's also a war which is actively waged against us every day — the more insidiously because it knows no Geneva Convention nor any other of the Rules of War.

It's a war which is waged around the clock and around the world. It's a war also in which our relative isolation has proved no total barrier to the assault upon our way of life.

It's a war as well which the enforcement agencies are determined that we will continue to wage until we win.

**Training for overseas service, language proficiency and training assistance to host countries were among a wide range of subjects discussed by Overseas Liaison Officers at the 1990 conference held in Bangkok from 7-8 February.**

Liaison officers from 11 posts were in Bangkok for the conference, which also was attended by Assistant Commissioner (Investigations) Peter Lamb and Commander (International Division) Lloyd Worthy from Headquarters.

Assistant Secretary Projects, Mr John Ireland, addressed officers on changes in the AFP and the newly-introduced

Performance Management Plan.

Officers present were: Superintendent Steve Polden, Liaison Co-ordinator Bangkok; Superintendent David Schramm, SLO Buenos Aires; Superintendent Chris Eriksen, Liaison Co-ordinator Hong Kong; Superintendent Joe McKirdy, SLO Islamabad; Superintendent Terry Butler, LO Kuala Lumpur; Superintendent Alan Sing, Liaison Co-ordinator, London; Superintendent Denis Craft, SLO Los Angeles; Superintendent John Robinson, SLO Manila; Superintendent Tim Egan, LO Nicosia; Superintendent Steve Flegg, LO Singapore; and Superinten-

Continued on page 9



At the Liaison Officers' conference table, Bangkok. From top left, Superintendent Joe McKirdy, Superintendent Terry Butler, Mr John Ireland (partially obscured), Superintendent Chris Eriksen, Superintendent Mike Phelan, Superintendent Steve Polden and Sergeant Ken Davis, partially obscured by Assistant Commissioner Peter Lamb. Left foreground is Commander Lloyd Worthy.



The other side of the table. From left, Superintendent Tim Egan, Superintendent David Schramm, Superintendent John Robinson, Superintendent Denis Craft, Superintendent Steve Flegg and, partially obscured at the far end, Superintendent Alan Sing.

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- From Page 5

dent Mike Phelan, SLO Washington. It was the first such conference for Commander Worthy, who recently took over as head of Internat.

### Opening address

In his opening address to the conference, Assistant Commissioner Lamb briefly covered a number of topics, including the newly-formed Internal Audit and Security Division, the Winchester Inquiry, reorganisation and regionalisation of Investigations Division and sections within the AFP and new overseas post proposals.

Mr Lamb also touched on a proposal to develop an 'Overseas Service' section within the AFP.

Superintendent Schramm said a course should be developed to identify and prepare prospective members for overseas service.

A submission is to be prepared by Commander Worthy on the formation of such a section.

Officers discussed the possibility of relieving an officer at a single man post with one from a multi man post, enabling the latter post to be brought up to strength from a pool of selected members who have registered an interest in serving overseas.

### Language training

Assistant Commissioner Lamb also pointed out the need for LOs to be proficient in languages relating to their operational locations.

He said that research revealed there were adequate members within the AFP with language skills, however this was not the case with LOs.

A request was currently with the Point Cook Language Training School, the Australian National University and the Canberra University (formerly CCAE) to develop a language training package suitable for prospective or selected members to take up positions as LOs overseas.

Other subjects covered included: Post and financial management programs, operation co-ordination by headquarters, communication turn-around times, as well as operational and general administration matters.

Page 9

