

Many people are beginning to tip that Sir Colin has a good chance of moulding the AFP into the Australian equivalent of America's FBI or Britain's Scotland Yard.

"If AFP becomes as much of a by-word as America's famed FBI, Australia will have an Englishman to thank for it," wrote leading crime journalist Bob Bottom recently.

"As the pioneering commissioner of the Australian Federal Police . . . Sir Colin Woods has already succeeded in inspiring public confidence in the new force. If he has his way during the remaining two years of his three-year term, AFP is destined to become the symbol of a force to be reckoned with."

Drugs Unit

The Drugs Unit of the AFP is based in Canberra but it has a number of specialist units located in each of the states and drug liaison officers stationed overseas.

"To a certain extent, a natural overlapping occurs between state police responsibilities and what the federal police would do within that state," explained Chief Superintendent Bates.

"Basically, the federal drug enforcement role is within two areas: the import/export of drugs, because that is a federal offence, and coupled with that what we loosely call major trafficking in drugs.

"And when we talk about major trafficking in drugs we include those people who are the financiers and the organisers and those who are trying to control the drug trade. . .

"Where the AFP is not directly involved from a prosecution point-of-view is at the domestic street level of the use and abuse of drugs. That is clearly a state matter.

"But it is also in that area, of course, that police forces pick up a lot of their intelligence. So there has to be an interface of the AFP with

the state police to get the benefit of that intelligence to assist the broader aims of combating the drug problem".

In the import/export area, the AFP shares the responsibility for drug law enforcement with the Bureau of Customs.

"As Narcotics Bureau officers we were customs officers," said Chief Superintendent Bates. "When the government decided to integrate the Bureau into the AFP, it had to clarify the role of Customs and the responsibility of the AFP.

"The Government decided that Customs would continue with the traditional Customs role—the barrier role of trying to prevent the flow of drugs into the country. It was up to the barrier stage only and from there onwards the responsibility rested with the AFP."

The situation has never been black-and-white, so practical administrative arrangements were made between the Department of Business and Consumer Affairs (housing Customs) and the Department of Administrative Services (housing the AFP) to facilitate co-operation.

Heroin Focus

The Drugs Unit places a clear emphasis on heroin trafficking. "Most of the heroin coming into Australia originates in South-East Asia and is routed through Bangkok and also down the Malay Peninsula through places like Penang and Kuala Lumpur," said Chief Inspector Schramm.

"While there is also a substantial trade in cannabis, particularly in the form of Thai sticks, our main objective is to try and counteract heroin trafficking.

"I think there would be no argument within the community—amongst those involved in the treatment and rehabilitation of drug

addicts and amongst law enforcement people—that the priority has got to be heroin.

"Currently, the Golden Triangle (Burma, Laos, Thailand) remains the main source of supply of heroin into Australia. It would not be fair to say, however, that it is the major heroin producer in the world. It enjoyed that distinction for a number of years, but recent intelligence suggests that South-West Asia (Afghanistan, Northern Pakistan and Iran) is becoming the main source of heroin production from our point-of-view.

"However, because of Australia's proximity to South-East Asia and because of our recognised air travel routes, South-East Asia continues to be the main source of supply."

The illegal drug trafficking is usually detected by one of two major methods. "The first way," said Chief Inspector Schramm, "is to arrive in an international airport and be subjected to baggage examinations, or maybe even a physical search. That's very much a Customs responsibility.

"The AFP, however, relies primarily on intelligence—learning who is bringing it in, when they are bringing it in, and where they are bringing it in."

It is clear from the many recent law enforcement moves that "co-operation is the name of the game" at the moment. As Chief Superintendent Bates put it: "The Commissioner, Sir Colin Woods, has very strongly taken the role of working and co-operating with his counterparts in each state to try to formulate an extremely positive approach to ensure that the drug problem in the 1980's is going to be viewed as one of national concern.

"If there is going to be an impact on this problem, there must be an atmosphere of co-operation."

Australian Federal Police College Library

LOCATION

The library is located on the Ground Floor of Lawley House, Brisbane Avenue, Barton. All visitors to the College must first of all register with the Duty Officer at the front Enquiries Counter.

BACKGROUND

Originally established as part of the Commonwealth Police Training Centre in July 1978, the library now holds a comprehensive collection of

textbooks, periodicals, legislation, law reports, digests and reference material.

SERVICES

The library and information services provided by the College Library include:

- a) answering reference and research queries;
- b) loan of library material including textbooks, law reports and periodicals;

d) photocopying of any library material required;

e) distribution of legislation to all Divisions; and

f) provision of current awareness services.

There are two qualified staff members in the College Library:

Librarian: Pamela Handside

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Library Officer: Marie Wilson

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