

THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE

The United States Department of the Treasury has sent the following letter in appreciation of AFP assistance during the visit of former President and Mrs Carter to Australia.

Sir:
Former President and Mrs. Carter visited Australia from February 4-10, 1984 with this visit covering approximately ten cities with numerous venues involving extensive logistics. It is my understanding, after discussing this visit with my personnel, that the visit proceeded extremely well. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, and all officers of the Australian Federal Police for a job well done.

In particular, I would like to commend Detective Sergeant Bob Heggie, Special Branch, on his participation during the visit. His liaison with other Departments in Australia, his professionalism, and organization, his response to change, and dedication to duty, not to mention the long hours involved, surely guaranteed the success of our mission. Men of this calibre are surely a credit to your Department and it's degree of professionalism. If only that we could receive this professional cooperation from all of our counterparts!

Again, allow me to thank you, and extend my best wishes to the men and women of the Australian Federal Police — Special Branch.

W.T. Benedict
Special Agent in Charge
United States Secret Service

BURMESE PM

The Commissioner also has received a letter of appreciation from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet on the AFP's handling of the visit of the Prime Minister of Burma, His Excellence A. Maung Maung Kha.

The letter reads:

LETTERS

I would like to place on record the substantial assistance given to the successful organisation of the visit by the Prime Minister of Burma by members of the Australian Federal Police.

In Canberra, particularly, the traffic arrangements for the Prime Minister's extensive convoy were very smoothly co-ordinated, due no doubt to the very efficient and thorough supervision of Acting Inspector P. McDonald. Inspector J. Cooper and Sergeant R. Heggie also carried out their duties as Police Liaison Officers in an unobtrusive and amenable manner as members of the party accompanying the Prime Minister.

J.A. Matthew
Assistant Secretary
Office of Ceremonial and Hospitality.

PM VISIT

The following letter was received by Senior Constable John Burrows, Australian Federal Police, East Melbourne.

Sir:
Please accept my thanks for the assistance of yourself and your colleagues during the afternoon and evening of 15 June 1984 when the Prime Minister visited the electorate of Flinders.

Although your presence was unobtrusive, you provided a secure influence so that all functions could be conducted with minimal fuss and a maximum of safety.

Again, my sincere thanks for your contribution to the smooth-running of functions associated with Mr. Hawke's visit.

Bob Chynoweth, MP
Federal Member for Flinders
Frankston, Vic.

Sir:
I recently had the opportunity to read your newspaper entitled Platypus. It was forwarded to me by Ms. Jenny Elston, a member of your Force who recently toured my country.

I found the varied collection of articles contained within the newspaper to be both interesting and informative and would like to inquire about the possibility of being placed on your mailing list. I would in turn place you on the mailing list for our Association's bi-monthly magazine, The Beat. I have enclosed a copy for you. (Also enclosed, a Waterloo Regional Police shoulder patch, picture below.)

Martin Sawdon
Waterloo Regional Police Association Inc.
R.R.2 Cambridge (G)
Ontario, Canada, N1R5S3.



STORM

Sir,
I wish to convey my thanks to you and your officers for speedy and expert help and assistance during the early hours of Saturday morning 28 July 1984.

As you are probably aware the roof on Motel 7 lifted during a storm and your Police Rescue

Squad together with the ACT Emergency Service lent their assistance in evacuating the Motel and ensuring that the roofing was made safe and secure for the remainder of the evening.

I would be pleased if you would convey to Senior Constable P. Baldwin and First Class Constables D. Brown and G. Lovell my sincere thanks for their help and congratulate you on the work and efforts of the Police Rescue Squad.

B.J. Morris
Managing Director
Arabis Pty Ltd.
Narrabundah, ACT

EMBASSY

The following letter, addressed to the Department of Foreign Affairs, has been referred for information to the AFP.

Sir,
It is with gratitude I would like to compliment you on your staff at the Australian Embassy, Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

My husband, Anthony Joseph De Fina had a massive heart attack and died in the bus in Skopje. I am sure you realise how traumatic it was for me, all by myself in a strange country. After a very bad time I travelled 550 miles to Belgrade, there to contact the Australian Embassy.

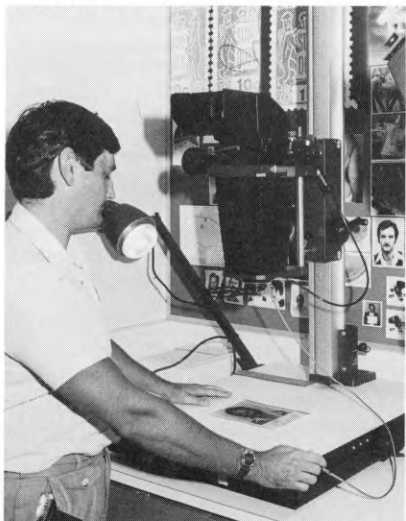
I could not allow the matter to slide by unnoticed by you. My special thanks to the following people, Mrs Margaret O'Brien, Sheila Nada, Mr and Mrs Warren Wilde and Jim Baxter (Warren and Jim are AFP Protective Service component members). I feel that you and Australia should be very proud of these people who did their job well, conducted themselves very nicely and went beyond the call of duty.

Oriel Gray de Fina, JP.
Carrington Parade
New Lambton, NSW.

Document check unit is rushed

"One of the best-equipped laboratories in Australia" — that's the AFP's Sydney-based Document Examination Bureau, according to its OIC, Acting Senior Sergeant Ian Evans.

It has to be, for the work is constant.



• First Constable Peter Salter at work with photographic equipment.

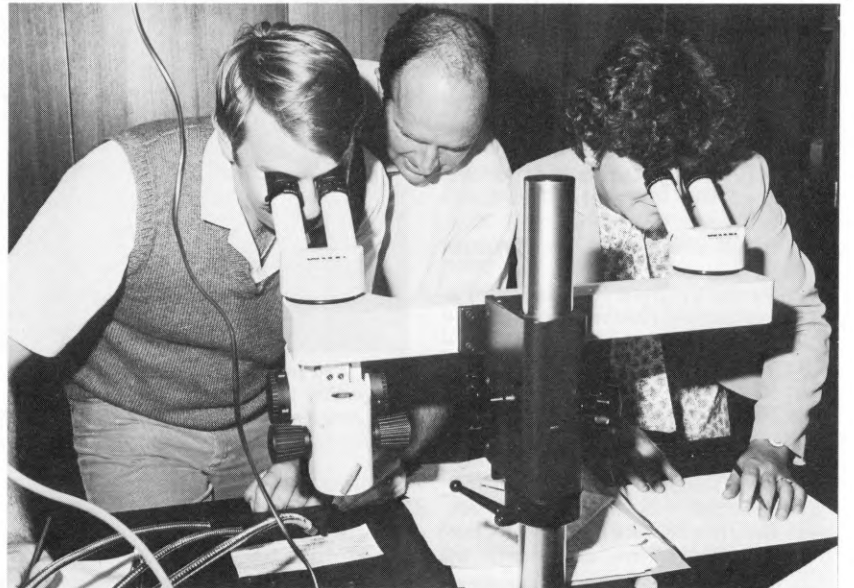
In the past 12 months, for example, the Bureau has produced 30,000 photographic prints and completed over 130 document examination cases involving some 18,000 documents.

It also offers a service to Commonwealth Government Departments and statutory authorities. The Australian War Memorial, for example, recently sent one of its specialist photographers to the Bureau to study its infra red document examination techniques.

"That's not, of course, anything like the full extent of our role," said Ian. "The diverse nature of that role also includes assistance in the design of the Australian passport, advice to numerous royal commissions, and, not forgetting our vital back-up role, to assist in drug operations or provide a photographic back-up service at the scene of crimes and incidents generally."

The Bureau was formed in the late 1960's, in the days of the former Commonwealth Police Force. Soon after taking over, Ian was joined by his 2IC, Sergeant Chris Anderson.

Ian is justifiably proud of the equipment the Bureau has acquired



• Trainee document examiners First Constable Ray Salmon, a former bank teller, and Constable Belinda Austin, who holds a Bachelor of Education degree in librarianship, use a comparison microscope to check the authenticity of a document while Sergeant Evans looks on.

— equipment vital to its specialist role.

It includes a comparison projector now worth over \$70,000 (although it was purchased at half that price three years ago); a DeVere colour enlarger and AGFA print colour processor, stereoscopic microscopes with drawing attachments and an array of other costly specialist equipment.

"To keep pace in the document examination field you just have to

have the equipment and the trained personnel," Ian said.

"I must admit getting, but more particularly keeping, trained staff is one of our biggest headaches.

"We're always short of staff. But I suppose that's something you hear quite regularly.

"Certainly, projected new opportunities for a career path in a specialist field rather than the demand for broad-based experience should work to our advantage," he said.