

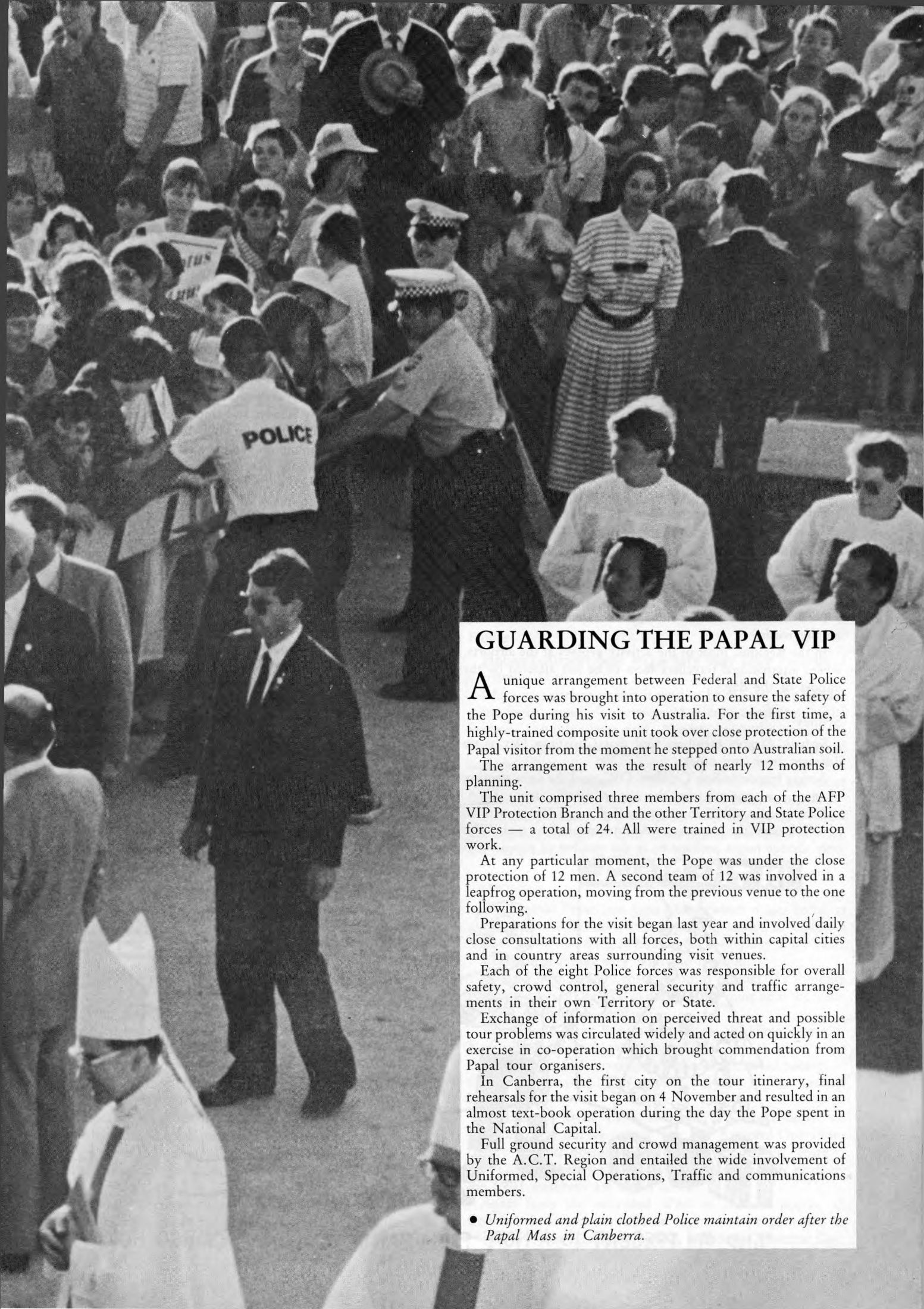
THE SEASON OF PEACE



The visit of Pope John Paul II in November brought something more than the reality of religion to Australia. He brought the conviction that people of all beliefs can live side-by-side, with common interests and a common purpose.

This too, is the message of Christmas.

So it is perhaps opportune that the Pope should have brought to Australians the feeling of joy, goodwill and peace to all mankind at this time of year.



GUARDING THE PAPAL VIP

A unique arrangement between Federal and State Police forces was brought into operation to ensure the safety of the Pope during his visit to Australia. For the first time, a highly-trained composite unit took over close protection of the Papal visitor from the moment he stepped onto Australian soil.

The arrangement was the result of nearly 12 months of planning.

The unit comprised three members from each of the AFP VIP Protection Branch and the other Territory and State Police forces — a total of 24. All were trained in VIP protection work.

At any particular moment, the Pope was under the close protection of 12 men. A second team of 12 was involved in a leapfrog operation, moving from the previous venue to the one following.

Preparations for the visit began last year and involved daily close consultations with all forces, both within capital cities and in country areas surrounding visit venues.

Each of the eight Police forces was responsible for overall safety, crowd control, general security and traffic arrangements in their own Territory or State.

Exchange of information on perceived threat and possible tour problems was circulated widely and acted on quickly in an exercise in co-operation which brought commendation from Papal tour organisers.

In Canberra, the first city on the tour itinerary, final rehearsals for the visit began on 4 November and resulted in an almost text-book operation during the day the Pope spent in the National Capital.

Full ground security and crowd management was provided by the A.C.T. Region and entailed the wide involvement of Uniformed, Special Operations, Traffic and communications members.

- *Uniformed and plain clothed Police maintain order after the Papal Mass in Canberra.*