

is alarming authorities world-wide. The Secretariat-General reported to the conference that since late 1988 Taiwan has been plagued by the activities of organised gun and ammunition traffickers who had been smuggling thousands of firearms into Taiwan from mainland China. During 1990, Japan reported the seizure of 864 illegal hand guns which resulted in the arrest of 611 people.

China reported that illegal firearms trafficking has become a serious problem over the past few years in Asia and the rest of the world. At present the main source of trafficking is from neighbouring countries south of China.

Pakistan reported that the past decade saw the proliferation of arms into Pakistan on an unprecedented scale with the result that firearms have spread so much that now they are affecting law and order in certain regions. Hong Kong delegates reported that illegal firearms is the most serious aspect of the crime situation faced in that country at the moment. Sri Lanka's delegate appealed to all nations in the region to be on the look-out for ships and other transport that may be carrying illegal arms or other illegal cargo.

Crimes against children

The Secretariat-General of Interpol has circulated a questionnaire to all member nations on the topic of offences against children. Responses from Asian countries are of particular interest to the organisation's governing body which has an increased interest in combating crimes committed against children. Of particular interest is the development of strategies against trafficking in children and child pornography. Interpol is trying to emphasise greater concern to the intensified effect of police action in this area of criminality.

International economic crime was discussed with detailed reports being tabled by China and Pakistan.

China reported that in 1990 it seized US \$870,000 in counterfeit currency and that in the past few years millions of dollars of counterfeit currency was discovered. Of the 42 cases of credit card fraud, 40 involved foreign credit cards and China acknowledged that it lacked experience in effective checks and combats of fraud crime using credit cards.

On the subject of organised crime, Japan reported a change among criminal organisations, an increase in the number of open rivalries among Japanese criminal groups, the use of more firearms by mobsters, and internationalisation of criminal groups. Under anti-crime legislation currently under examination, a group called Boryokuyan will be legally defined as a criminal organisation when it has satisfied certain conditions.

Korea cited the 1988 Olympic Games as a time from which organ-

ised crime has grown in that country while Pakistan told the conference that although there is no large syndicated crime group there have been groups involved in very small scale crime related to drug trafficking, terrorism, smuggling of consumer goods and armaments, and counterfeiting.

The conference ended with delegates agreeing on 16 points to be raised at the next General Assembly of Interpol which is to be held later this year. Those points are outlined in a separate article.

Conference support team shines

LIKE all major events, the 11th Asian Regional Conference of Interpol needed a precision team behind the scenes to organise logistics, venue and the hundreds of other details.

Interpol Australia had not hosted a conference of this nature before and was breaking new ground with every step. However, it was all made easier with the confident skills and experience of a team headed by the OIC NCBA, Superintendent Joe Royle.

His two most loyal lieutenants were Sergeant Kevin Inwood who was to be conference venue controller; and former AFP member Graeme Sindel who was contracted as conference adviser.

Other major conference support was provided by Atkinson Conference Services, a Melbourne-based firm headed by Jill Atkinson. Many other AFP personnel were deeply involved in the conference planning and execution.

They included John Ireland who was the link between the Commissioner, the Government and Inter-

pol planners; Constable Di Wall, of Interpol, who organised and conducted an interesting program for people accompanying delegates to the conference; Sergeant Stan Burns, the AFP's national transport officer who co-ordinated the complex transport requirements; Les Laundon of Electronic Services who headed the team responsible for the vital communications network at the conference venue which included speaker systems to each delegation, kilometres of cable to feed microphones and audio equipment and the all-important interpreters' booth; several members of the ACT Region who provided physical security for the venue - not an easy task considering the conference was held during the Gulf War; Superintendent Rob Tunnicliffe of Eastern Region provided liaison, security and transport co-ordination in Sydney; and Brian Swift took care of media matters for the conference. Many other Interpol and AFP staff played important roles and were complimented by the Commissioner for their efforts.



Some of the members of the organising team for the conference