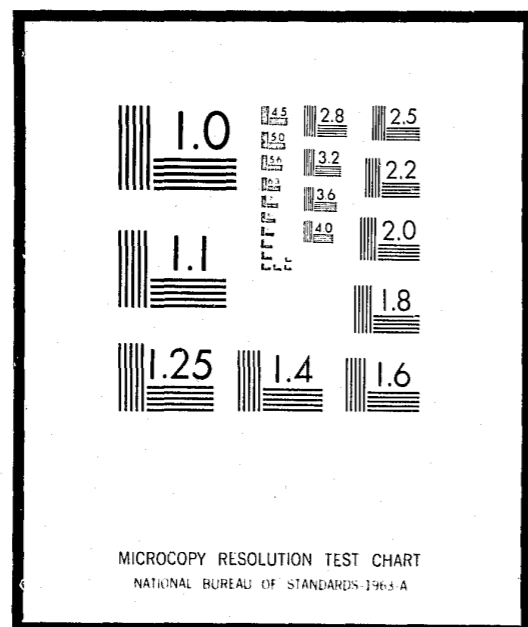


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## CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE POLICE AND THE PUBLIC FOR BETTER SELF-PROTECTION AGAINST CRIMES

The risk for discovery being great enough is a fundamental factor that always has to be taken into consideration when discussing measures concerning prevention of crime. If committing a criminal offence is too easy and without risk, this fact is greatly encouraging both regarding habitual offenders and e.g. a young person who may be tempted to commit his first crime. If, on the other hand, the crime is difficult to commit, and the risk to be caught in the act imminent, this serves as a restraining and preventive factor of an important kind. For example: If the front door lock of a dwelling is of such inferior quality that the bolt can be removed noiselessly and without damage in a couple of seconds with a knife or a screw-driver, it is both easy and rather safe to break into such a dwelling. If, however, the lock is reliable and resistant, the person who intends to break into the dwelling has to destroy lock, door and door-frame with a great hullabaloo. This takes time and can be heard and seen, and there is a considerable risk for discovery during the entire time that the house-breaking or theft is being carried out. The risk is often considered to be so great that a presumptive burglar gives up, and thereby the preventive purpose has been reached.

Thus it is of great preventive interest that the police co-operate with the public, and e.g. through advice about concrete acting cause people to be on their guard against criminal assaults, each one doing his best to render it difficult for criminals. A self-protection against crime thus built up is a feasible prevention that the police under no circumstances can afford to do without.

When the police system was nationalized information on the prevention of crime to the public became a concrete and acknowledged part of crime prevention from having been practically untried before. In the beginning it was important to chart the most current criminality for preventive measures, decide forms for information to the public, and initiate co-operation with authorities, branch-organizations and other groups which had a reason to work for preventive efforts in co-operation with the police. Afterwards work with information and contacts has been carried on uninterruptedly.

The National Swedish Police Board (NSPB) has aspired to establish the attitude in the regional and local police organization, that every policeman, regardless of classification or ordinary duty, must make good use of every possibility to advise the public about different ways in which to protect themselves against crimes. Information on crime prevention should, in other words, be integrated with all other police activity in a natural way. Apart from the preventive purpose, the advisory service gives good opportunities to establish positive contacts between policemen and helped persons, and this too, should benefit the relations between the police and the public.

The police force's mentioned increase of the efforts to prevent crimes has been emphasized in - inter alia - advice and directions on concrete measures sent out by the NSPB. Moreover, it has constituted the theme in the one-week courses centrally arranged four or five times per year

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with advice on the prevention of crimes as the main part of the programme.

Below there is an account of preventive efforts against different crimes, where the police have co-operated with and turned to 1) individuals, 2) interest organizations and branch sectors and 3) authorities.

1. Advice to individuals on improved self-protection against crimes has been given on the following among other things.

- Technical theft-prevention devices for motor vehicles and the importance of consistently using the device.
- Valuables removed from parked cars.
- Advice against the theft of bicycles: locking when parked, and kept indoors during the night.
- Theft-prevention devices, adequate lighting, guarding, etc against the theft of boats.
- Efficient locking, other technical burglary-prevention devices, and general standard of care to render burglary in dwellings and week-end houses difficult.
- The same advice to shop-owners and other business-owners.
- Advice on carefulness of bag-snatchers and pickpockets in schools, offices, hospitals, sports and swimming establishments, department stores, and during journeys by train, air, etc.
- Caution concerning deceit by travelling swindlers - e.g. carpet and art swindlers.
- Caution to pensioners about thieves and swindlers who come to old people's dwellings.
- Advice to especially women and old people to take possible care to prevent assault and robbery.

2. The police have opened co-operation with the following interest organizations and branch sectors to prevent various crimes involving property above all.

- Insurance companies co-operate for preventive measures against vehicle and boat thefts, improved burglary-prevention devices in dwellings, shops, offices, banks and other premises, and prevention and uncovering of insurance frauds.
- Bank organizations for robbery- and burglary-prevention devices, and measures against cheque and bank fraud.
- Organizations of bank and postal staffs for robbery-prevention devices.
- Industrial organizations for burglary-, fire- and sabotage-prevention devices.
- Organizations of merchants and commercial employees for measures against shoplifting, cheque fraud and burglary.
- Building enterprises and their organizations for measures against burglary and theft on construction sites.
- Motorist organizations, and car and petrol dealers for efforts against vehicle thefts.
- Boat organizations to prevent theft of boats and engines.
- House-owners' and tenants' organizations for burglary-prevention devices in dwellings.
- Pensioners' organizations for advice to old people on how to prevent theft, fraud and robbery.
- Locksmiths, lock manufacturers, etc. to improve lock constructions and other technical burglary-prevention devices.

3. Co-operation regarding crime prevention exists between the police and the following authorities.

- The postal authorities concerning robbery, frauds committed against the Post-Office, and burglary-prevention devices.
- The Swedish State Railways for co-operation against burglary in goods depots and railway-carriages, and thefts from passengers.
- The National Planning Organization for the working out of directions and construction norms concerning technical burglary-prevention devices when designing and building houses.
- The Swedish Bank Inspection Board concerning cheque fraud and bank robbery.
- The social welfare authorities for collaboration when distributing pamphlets containing advice concerning crimes against old people.
- The medical service authorities for measures against thefts in hospitals.
- The Swedish Defence Staff for preventive measures against thefts of weapons and explosives during transports.

Central debates and co-operation in work groups with the above mentioned authorities and interest organizations constitute an important part of the National Swedish Police Board's work for crime prevention. The contacts which in most cases have been initiated by the Board, in their effects often form the bases for advice and instructions on crime prevention in the police districts, where the policemen in turn take the corresponding local contacts for co-operation and concrete measures.

The experience that the individual himself has good possibilities to avert crime if he knows enough about it, convincingly supports the idea that the information to the public is an indispensable part of the work for crime prevention. Therefore, to the extent that the allocations to the NSPB permit, pamphlets containing advice on the prevention of e.g. burglary, vehicle theft, boat theft, crimes against old people and fraud have been issued. Furthermore, as an aid for the local police regarding information on crime prevention in e.g. associations, three different colour slide series with commentaries for advice against car theft, boat theft, and burglary in dwellings have been produced. Besides, during the autumn of 1972, the police districts were sent a combined series of 68 colour slides and a sound reel of about 20 minute playing time for advice on prevention against practically all crimes that the public can be subjected to. This series too, is to be used when the policemen personally attend associations and similar events.

As much as possible the services of mass media are being utilized in order to reach the public with advice about crime prevention. In this respect the daily press has shown great interest and frequently gives both actual and detailed information on how to protect oneself against crimes. The papers have used press material distributed by the NSPB, and they have been notified of the experiences of the local police through interviews. In both national and local broadcastings the radio has made room for information on crime prevention to about the same extent as the daily press. Unfortunately, however, information through the television media is so far of very modest proportions. This is too bad since information on crime prevention often requires a concrete description of a situation and benefits from being presented in a combination of sound and picture. Policemen dealing with crime prevention are convinced that a regular television programme with concrete advice would make the public essentially more interested in crime prevention since the penetration of television is superior to that of other media. Thus the police should get economic resources to produce an appropriate number of short television programmes containing advice on prevention against

current crimes. The broadcastings should take place in connection with a news programme and at a fixed time. The costs of the production should be a good social investment in the efforts of the police to prevent crimes in co-operation with the public.

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