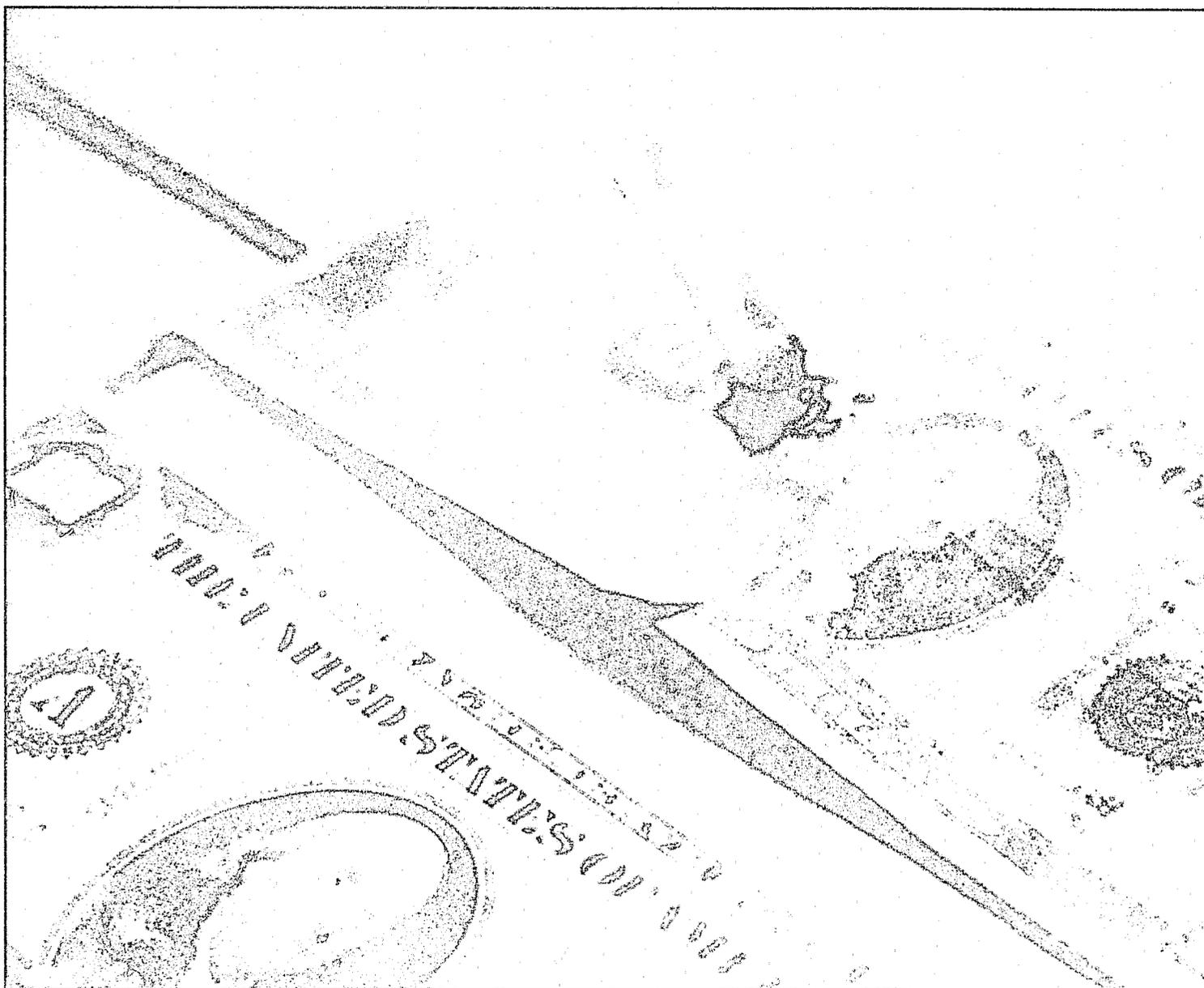


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INTERPOL: Global help in fight against drugs, terrorists, and counterfeiters



reprinted from the September 1985 issue of *NIJ Reports* for the 54th General Assembly Meeting of INTERPOL Member Countries.

Director's notes

Cooperation is essential to effective law enforcement. Today, there is a renewed spirit of cooperation and willingness to support law enforcement. Citizens throughout our country have recognized that police can't fight crime alone, and they're participating in growing numbers to safeguard their homes and neighborhoods.

This groundswell of community involvement, many law enforcement experts believe, has helped bring about the encouraging signs of a downturn in crime that we have seen in recent years. Research on programs such as Neighborhood Watch and on strategies for strengthening police-citizen action against crime is contributing new knowledge that can help us maintain the momentum.

Just as police and citizens need to work as partners so, too, do Federal, State, and local officials. The Law Enforcement Coordinating Committees that were created in each of the 94 Federal judicial districts are fostering that kind of cooperation and mobilization of resources against crimefighting priorities such as drug abuse and trafficking.

Another program that is promoting networking among Federal, State, and local enforcement agencies went into operation this summer. The VI-CAP program (Violent Criminal Apprehension Program) is the result of a joint initiative by the National Institute of

Justice, the Office of Justice Programs, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to make it easier to track and arrest serial murderers. These anonymous killers who stalk victims as they move from place to place are very difficult to apprehend—many homicides remain unsolved each year.

VI-CAP uses a computerized system at the FBI's National Center for Analysis of Violent Crime to analyze data on unsolved murders reported by local and State police. The analysis will aid law enforcement agencies in linking apparently unrelated killings and mounting multijurisdictional efforts to identify and apprehend serial murderers. In the future, the program will be expanded to include serial rape, child molestation, arson, and other serious crimes.

Today's mobile criminal with a passport can move in and out of countries throughout the world, leaving a trail of victims. Tracking down these fugitives is often difficult for local agencies. Through assistance provided by another cooperative effort, INTERPOL, police agencies can call upon a global network of services to help them solve international criminal cases.

The name INTERPOL is widely recognized all over the world. Less well known, however, are the specific ways in which INTERPOL can assist local police agencies. This month's Research in Action describes this international association of 136 member nations' police forces. INTERPOL has no powers of arrest or authority to initiate criminal investigations, but through its

sophisticated information exchange capabilities, it can be an invaluable tool for local agencies in tracing and capturing fugitives. Through the coordination and information provided by INTERPOL, law enforcement can work to eliminate the artificial criminal havens often created by national boundaries.

INTERPOL can also help in countering the new kinds of crime spawned by advances in modern technology—electronic funds transfer frauds, money laundering, counterfeiting. As this month's article makes clear, INTERPOL represents a major resource in addressing crime problems that are transnational in origin and multinational in scope.

Combating today's sophisticated criminal demands the best efforts of all of us. The more we cooperate—professionals and public alike—the more we can do with the resources we have to make our communities safer.



James K. Stewart
Director
National Institute of Justice

This article was featured in the September 1985 issue of *NIJ Reports*, prepared by the National Institute of Justice/NCJRS—the National Criminal Justice Reference Service—for distribution to approximately 50,000 members of the criminal justice community who are registered users of NCJRS.

NCJRS maintains a computerized data base of more than 80,000 criminal justice documents, operates a public reading room, and offers complete information and referral services. For more information about NCJRS, write National Institute of Justice/NCJRS, Box 6000, Rockville, MD 20850.

INTERPOL: Global help in fight against drugs, terrorists, and counterfeiters

by Michael Fooner

In New York City, Inspector Paul Vitrano's organized crime case seemed to be going nowhere, even after 5 months and investigative help from the Federal Strike Force. Suddenly, things took a new turn.

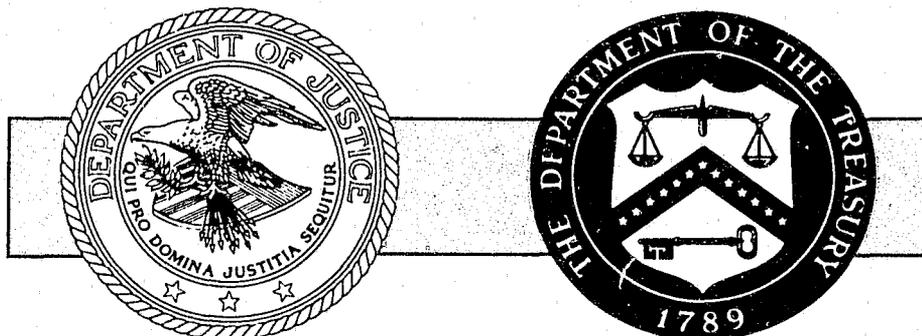
Vince Rizzo, the main target of the investigation at that time, was a racketeer known to be involved in heroin, loansharking, and extortion, but investigators felt sure he was involved in even bigger crimes. Two of Vitrano's detectives from the District Attorney's special squad were on surveillance of Jimmy's Lounge, a mobsters' hangout on the Lower East Side, when they spotted a dapper, elderly man stepping out of a taxi on his way to meet Rizzo. He seemed entirely out of place in the seedy surroundings.

The detectives trailed the well-dressed stranger in the hopes of new leads. They followed him to a midtown hotel, where they learned he was registered as Tony Grant, from London.

Searches of city, State, and Federal criminal records produced nothing. Tony Grant was unknown to police in the United States.

The inspector in the case sent a request to Washington. Could INTERPOL

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The United States INTERPOL unit is the United States National Central Bureau (USNCB), a separate agency within the Department of Justice. Legal jurisdiction resides with the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Treasury, who serve as Permanent Representative and Alternate Representative, respectively, to INTERPOL. Twelve Federal agencies participate in the management and staffing of the USNCB:

- Drug Enforcement Administration
- U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Criminal Division, Department of Justice
- U.S. Postal Inspection Service
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Inspector General
- U.S. Secret Service
- U.S. Customs Service
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms
- Internal Revenue Service
- Comptroller of the Currency
- Federal Law Enforcement Training Center

identify Tony Grant? Did he have a criminal history somewhere?

The mystery of Tony Grant from England, and of his connection with Vince Rizzo in New York, was soon solved but not without some interesting developments. The case fanned out into one of the largest organized crime investigations of its time.

At the outset, the INTERPOL case investigator in Washington radioed INTERPOL headquarters in France and received an extensive dossier by radio on Hyman Klebanov, alias Tony Grant, wanted by police in several countries for jewel theft, fraud, and swindling. He was believed to have settled in Argentina.

The Rizzo investigation now moved ahead rapidly. With Tony Grant under surveillance in the United States, an INTERPOL case investigator opened communications with the INTERPOL bureaus in Buenos Aires and Santiago. Eventually, the investigation led to the disclosure of a large-scale cocaine importation conspiracy organized by Rizzo and to the capture of a major cocaine smuggler.

By coordinating their investigations through INTERPOL, the New York and South American law enforcement authorities also uncovered Rizzo's connection with a counterfeiting ring stretching from Canada and New York to Argentina, Chile, and Japan.

Even these activities were overshadowed by Rizzo's really big operation: international traffic in stolen and counterfeit stocks and bonds valued in

billions of dollars. The INTERPOL case investigator channeled reports between detectives and agents in the United States and their colleagues in Europe and Latin America; Rizzo, Grant, and a score of crime syndicate members were arrested and prosecuted. Ongoing investigations that followed the Tony Grant episode disclosed further criminal conspiracies and connections of Sicilian drug dealers with terrorists and international bankers.

A global network

As law enforcement agencies battle new breeds of crime spawned by advances in modern technology, INTERPOL is becoming an ever more important tool for criminal investigation. Its world association of national police forces places a global network of services at the disposal of police officers whose cases extend to foreign jurisdictions. Established for mutual assistance in detecting and deterring international crimes and criminals, INTERPOL provides the only practical means by which most local enforcement authorities can pursue a criminal matter outside the country.

INTERPOL gives U.S. law enforcement agencies access to the police resources of 136 nations around the world. The service is free to the local agency, and it has become increasingly important in the investigation of such crimes as traffic in drugs, guns, and stolen works of art, laundering of money, electronic funds transfer fraud, counterfeit currency, and acts of international terrorism.

In recent years, the United States has increased its participation in INTERPOL to help strengthen the organization's capabilities to fight international criminal activities that threaten the security and the economies of many countries.

An organization without precedent

INTERPOL is something of a legal curiosity. It conducts intergovernmental activities but has no basis in international treaty, convention, or similar

legal instrument. A group of police officers wrote the INTERPOL constitution, but it was never submitted for diplomatic signatures or ratification by governments.

Member governments have not delegated any powers or authority to INTERPOL, and so it functions wholly within the limits of the laws of each member country and the provisions of its own constitution. Thus, INTERPOL has no powers of arrest, nor can it conduct a search and seizure or a criminal investigation. These powers can be exercised only by police of the member nations.

In facilitating cooperation among member police agencies, INTERPOL deals exclusively with "common law" crimes. Its constitutional mandate rigorously excludes involvement with political, military, racial, or religious matters.

In spite of these constraints, the organization received almost instant official recognition when it was founded in 1923. Then it had less than two dozen members, but now it has a roster that parallels that of the United Nations, with notable exceptions that include Vietnam, Brazil, Cuba, the Soviet Union, and several other Eastern bloc countries.

INTERPOL's organization and services

INTERPOL's two-tiered structure comprises a General Secretariat and a network of National Central Bureaus, one in each member country.

The organization's constitution designates a General Assembly, representing all member nations, as its governing authority. Each member nation has one vote in the General Assembly, regardless of size or financial contribution. Expenses are met by annual dues, paid by each member on a sliding scale that takes into account the size and economic strength of the country. Members determine their own level of dues payment,

INTERPOL maintains records of many international criminals and, on request, communicates them to law enforcement agencies around the globe.

subject to approval by the General Assembly. The United States' dues represent approximately 5 percent of INTERPOL's annual \$6 million budget.

The General Secretariat is located in St.-Cloud, a suburb of Paris, but new headquarters are being constructed in Lyon in central France. The staff of approximately 225 professional, technical, and support personnel, directed by the Secretary General, is organized into three divisions.

Police Coordination Division. The core of the entire organization, this division manages liaison with the National Central Bureaus and connects police in one country with their counterparts in other nations. It also maintains INTERPOL's criminal record systems and selective, cumulative files. One of these contains more than 3.3 million names of international criminals, arranged alphabetically and phonetically and accommodating all languages including Chinese. Another system contains test examples of all currencies of

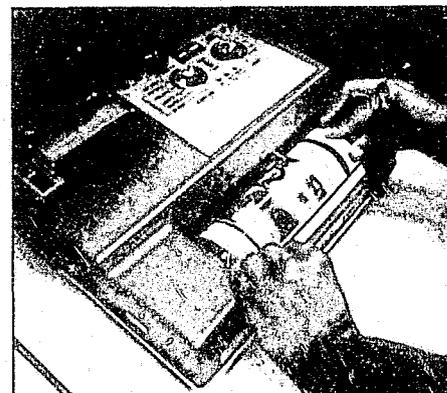


Photo by Jim Cosgrove, DCI

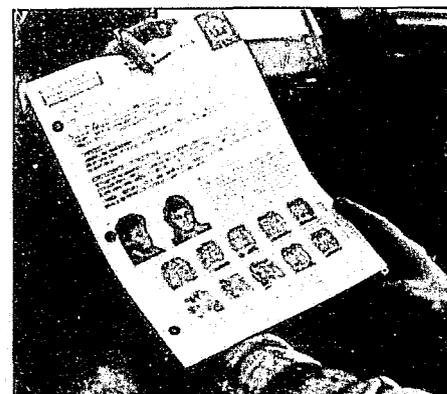


Photo courtesy INTERPOL

INTERPOL: Global help in fight against drugs, terrorists, and counterfeiters

the world, both authentic and counterfeit, and includes cumulative records of counterfeits in circulation. Other systems contain case files, fingerprints and mug shots, and indexes covering boats, autos, aircraft, and other items used in criminal undertakings.

Primarily through this division, the Secretariat directly intervenes in more than 50,000 cases a year and issues 700 to 800 international wanted-person notices and nearly 250 international stolen property notices. It supplies the member countries' National Central Bureaus with more than 20,000 reports for their action. In 1984 it transmitted about 800,000 radio teletype messages on cases and criminals.

Administrative Division. This division operates INTERPOL's vital telecommunications systems. A global police radio network is supplemented by teletype, telephone, facsimile, and postal services. All these link the General Secretariat with the worldwide network of National Central Bureaus.

Research Division. Here information is assembled and analyzed on crime subjects of special interest to the membership. INTERPOL's concern is with a broad range of offenses, but emphasis changes from time to time depending on international crime patterns. High on the list now are international terrorism and assassination, narcotics traffic, and money laundering, along with financial fraud, traffic in stolen works of art, and apprehension of fugitives. The priorities are discussed and voted on at General Assembly meetings.

The Research Division prepares a monthly journal and special subject studies; the distribution is confidential. Recent studies have been published on hostage taking, drug traffic, typewriter identification, rented-car theft, international fraud, and computer crime.

National Central Bureaus

The National Central Bureaus—one in each member country—are contact points for coordinating international criminal investigations. They transmit assistance requests, exchange criminal information, and generally facilitate investigations.

Each National Central Bureau thus has the triple responsibility of maintaining open channels to all police units in its own country, connections with the bureaus of foreign countries, and liaison with the General Secretariat.

Member nations establish and control their own National Central Bureaus. In most countries, the bureau is a component of a national police service and is headed by a chief appointed from among the country's professional police officers. The assignment may be a full-time one or may be an addition to other duties. The chief is usually a part of the member country's delegation to the INTERPOL General Assembly.

The United States INTERPOL unit

The United States has one of the largest and most active National Central Bureaus in the world. The U.S. bureau has developed a structure that accords with American concepts about multi-agency cooperation in law enforcement. The bureau is an integral part of the United States law enforcement system and of INTERPOL as well. A separate agency within the United States Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., it is sometimes referred to as "INTERPOL-USNCB", often shortened to "USNCB."

Legal jurisdiction resides with the U.S. Attorney General, who serves as permanent representative to INTERPOL, and with the Secretary of the Treasury, the alternate representative. They or their designees head the delegation to the INTERPOL General Assembly.

How police can tap INTERPOL

The U.S. National Central Bureau can provide expertise on identifying and obtaining available foreign assistance for almost any investigative problem a local police officer or Federal agent is likely to have—from simple name or auto registration checks to full field investigations, from witness interviews to evidence searches, from detention of fugitives to extradition.

In most instances, the police officer or Federal agent can obtain this kind of help without leaving home. The USNCB makes the contacts with police agencies here and abroad, handles interchange of followup messages, retrieves information from files, and transmits results back to the home office of the investigator making the request.

When an agency wants to send its own personnel to conduct an investigation in foreign territory, INTERPOL identifies the specific officers in the foreign country who can help and establishes the visiting officer's credentials.

For instance, in the Rizzo organized crime case described earlier, the New York district attorney determined it was urgent to conduct a week-long surveillance of the suspect in Munich, but the district attorney's special squad could spare only one young detective who had no knowledge of German or German law on wiretaps and bugging. On request, the USNCB arranged for German police cooperation. The Munich department assigned detectives to assist the American, guided him through the legal requirements for wiretaps and bugs, furnished vehicles and surveillance teams, and provided translations.

A comprehensive information network

USNCB operations depend on inter-related electronic and computerized communications systems spread across this country and around the world. Local law enforcement officers can contact the USNCB office in Washington through the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System or by mail, telephone, or facsimile. Foreign police contacts are made through the international INTERPOL radio system or by telex, cable, telephone, or mail.

USNCB has links to all major U.S. computerized criminal records systems, including the Treasury Enforcement Communications System, the FBI's National Crime Information Center, the Interstate Identification Index, the Department of Justice administrative communications system, the State Department's Advanced Visa Lookout System, and the Master Index files of the Immigration and Naturalization

Service. A photofacsimile installation enables the USNCB to send and receive high-resolution laser-beam images of photographs, fingerprints, and documents.

In the recent decade, USNCB activity has increased to a current annual caseload of 32,000. Although 8,000 to 9,000 cases are closed each year, 12,000 new cases are received. In response, the USNCB is upgrading its in-house INTERPOL Case Tracking System, the computerized index of persons, organizations, and property relating to international crime cases. Currently, investigators must formulate specific queries to obtain information from this data base. Eventually the system will *automatically* identify and signal interrelationships in multifaceted criminal investigations.

Recent expansion of U.S. role

U.S. participation in INTERPOL is undergoing important changes that go far beyond caseload increases. In part, the changes respond to growing awareness of international crime and conspiracy and the power they have to damage the Nation's social and economic well-being. The changes also reflect recognition by the U.S. law enforcement community of the capabilities INTERPOL offers for stronger measures against crime, particularly against such offenses as international terrorism and illicit drug traffic.

In 1980 the United States delegation to INTERPOL began a series of initiatives to encourage INTERPOL to deal more aggressively with these offenses. As a preliminary measure, the USNCB was strengthened in several ways.

First, the USNCB established an Anti-Terrorist Unit within its own offices. The mission of the unit is to take a fresh look at INTERPOL's special capabilities in exchanging and coordinating criminal information to mitigate terrorist activity.

Next, the USNCB established an Economic and Financial Crimes Unit to consider how investigations of fraud and financial and bank crimes could be coordinated to fight large multinational

conspiracies for laundering criminal money.

And third, it set up a Fugitive Unit to strengthen an aspect of law enforcement that had become lax. Expansion of the existing Drug Unit was planned also.

Following on these preliminaries, the U.S. INTERPOL delegates initiated meetings with INTERPOL representatives of other countries to consider strategies for intensifying INTERPOL's involvement in these matters.

INTERPOL intensifies police collaboration

As a result of these meetings, INTERPOL is adopting new and more aggressive policies to strengthen its response to international criminal activity.

The highly successful Drug Subdivision set the pattern; now 20 countries contribute specialists to the headquarters staff of this unit. With intensified international police collaboration, the Drug Subdivision is handling nearly 30,000 illicit drug trafficking cases a year.

With the Drug Subdivision as a model, the General Secretariat is developing special units responsible for the following additional programs:

- Anti-Terrorist Program
- Economic and Financial Program (focused on money laundering and electronic funds transfer fraud)
- Stolen Art Works Program
- Counterfeit Financial Instruments Program

These units will be charged with passing on to the international police community the sophisticated investigative techniques developed in member nations to combat these offenses.

The U.S. delegation is looking toward the creation of two additional units at INTERPOL headquarters: one to deal more effectively with crimes against property and another concerned with the control of explosives and weapons trafficking.

Thus, U.S. representatives have increased their involvement in INTER-

POL and offered greater leadership assistance in the international law enforcement community. In 1984 John R. Simpson, Director of the U.S. Secret Service, was elected as the first American to be President of INTERPOL.

These recent developments—greater leadership on the part of the United States, a more proactive Secretariat, and a consensus among member nations that the organization can and should strengthen its response to international crimes—are contributing to INTERPOL's emergence as an important crime-fighting resource for police forces throughout the world. Law enforcement agencies in many parts of the United States and other countries are expected to benefit from INTERPOL's services—and to contribute to them as well.

For more on how INTERPOL can help U.S. law enforcers, see next page.



Photo courtesy INTERPOL

John R. Simpson, Director of the U.S. Secret Service, became the first American President of INTERPOL when he was elected at the 53rd INTERPOL General Assembly.

INTERPOL: Global help in fight against drugs, terrorists, and counterfeiters

INTERPOL helps local police find fugitive

In St. Petersburg, Florida, investigation of the cold-blooded shooting death of a narcotics officer led to a man named William Haake. Detective Don Quire had a warrant for Haake's arrest but was unable to locate him.

The police department put out an APB across Florida and nearby States. Detective Quire received information that the fugitive had obtained a passport under the fictitious name of "Michael Eastman." Evidently he was fleeing abroad, out of Quire's reach.

Quire called the INTERPOL bureau in Washington. The bureau arranged for a wanted notice to be circulated in foreign countries and entered basic information in its case-tracking computer.

For several months, the fugitive remained undetected until, one morning, as a staff technician in the Washington INTERPOL office was processing incoming radio messages from overseas and entering names in the computer, the screen lit up with a "hit."

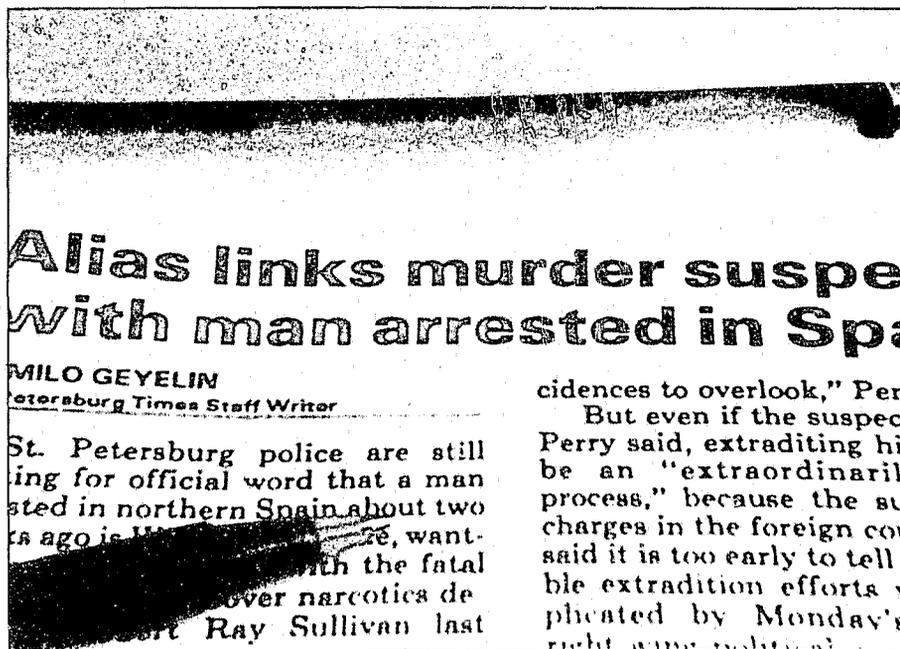
The message from Spain: Spanish police had arrested a United States citizen, Michael Eastman, as he was crossing the border from France and were holding him on illegal drugs and weapons charges.

The computer in Washington was associating the name "Michael Eastman" with one it had on the index as an alias of William Haake, Florida fugitive. The INTERPOL office notified Detective Quire, who moved for extradition proceedings.

Quire had to verify the identification of the prisoner. He assembled documents which the INTERPOL bureau transmitted to authorities in Spain.

Then a complication developed. Florida law permits capital punishment; Spanish law does not. Under its extradition treaty with the United States, Spain can refuse extradition where an accused would be at risk of capital punishment if brought to trial.

The INTERPOL bureau channeled communications between Florida and Span-



Florida police track fugitive through computer message in INTERPOL Washington office.

ish authorities on the question: If Florida would agree not to impose the death penalty in the event of conviction, would Spain honor the extradition request? It would. The agreement clears

the way for the fugitive's extradition to the United States as soon as he completes the sentence imposed for crimes committed in Spain.

How to contact INTERPOL

If you need assistance from INTERPOL, make your request in writing on an official letterhead, or by "hard copy" if you use a telecommunications system. Identify yourself and your agency and specify the criminal activity under investigation and the relationship to that investigation of the persons you are inquiring about. All requests and inquiries must comply with Federal statutes and regulations, Department of Justice policy, and international standards on exchange of information and investigations. The USNCB will decline to handle requests or inquiries involving political, military, religious, or racial matters. These types of assistance are available:

- Name checks
- Criminal histories
- License checks
- Fingerprint checks
- Photograph and physical description checks
- Fugitive searches
- Witness location and interview

- Weapons traces
- Modus operandi information
- Extradition and deportation proceedings
- Selected types of stolen property identification and recovery
- Information on missing, ill, or deceased persons
- Wanted notices

Send inquiries or requests to:

INTERPOL
United States National Central Bureau
U.S. Department of Justice
Shoreham Building, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20530

For more information, call INTERPOL at 202-272-8383. Normal working hours are 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, but duty officers provide 24-hour coverage.

NLETS: DCINTER00

Facsimile: 202-272-8147, ITT compatibility groups 1, 2, and 3

Photofax: 202-272-8148 (system is Amecom by Litton)

Photo by Jim Cosgrove, Development Communications, Inc.