

UNREST IN BURMA

— An Australian Connection?

ON Monday 29 December 1986 a former member of the Special Air Services Regiment (SAS) was arrested in Perth for alleged offences against the *Crimes (Foreign Incursions and Recruitment) Act 1978*. David Francis Everett, 25, of Booragoon, was charged with two counts of entering a foreign country with intent to engage in a hostile activity against the government of that country and two counts of engaging in a hostile activity against a foreign government.

It will be alleged that Everett travelled to Burma on two separate occasions during 1986 to train members of the Karen Liberation Army and also actively engaged in combat with them against Burmese government troops.

The Karen are a group of displaced Burmese who have been fighting for their own separate independent State, which they term Kawthoolei. The conflict between them and the central government has persisted for over thirty years.

It is a requirement for the prosecution to prove that the Government of the Union of Burma is recognised by the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia as being the lawful government of that country. This is done by the production of a certificate issued by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. For the prosecution to proceed it requires the written consent of the Attorney-General.

During the first period that Everett was alleged to have been in Burma he was a serving member of the SAS having taken extended leave from service. He was subsequently discharged from the Defence Forces in October 1986.

JOINT EFFORT

DURING late September to early October the Royal Agricultural Society holds its annual show in Perth. Last year the AFP and the Customs Department mounted a joint exhibit at the show.

Customs and Police Officers were present to speak to members of the public during the eight days of the show.

The exhibit portrayed the various functions of the Customs and Police, and emphasis was placed on their joint role in combatting drug importation.

The centrepiece was a pictorial display of a combined Customs — Police operation on the Western Australian coast 'Operation Samoyed' (see earlier item).

The exhibit was well received, and attracted many enquiries from members of the public on matters of general interest and recruiting.

Letters

Sir

This is not a complaint, but a thank you. Recently a gum tree outside the fence surrounding my unit was blown down, falling partly across the roadway. A neighbour and his wife came to help move it but it defied all efforts and we finally decided to leave it where it had fallen.

As we gave up, a police mini-bus and two constables came to see my neighbour about Neighbourhood Watch and they were good enough to drag the tree across the road to the grassland opposite.

The Police come in for a more than fair share of criticism so you might like to know that there are some grateful citizens.

(Mrs) Joyce Doran
Holder, ACT

Sir

My wife and I would like to place on record our sincere appreciation for the attendance of Detective Inspector Kemp and Sergeant Bennett at the funeral of our son Robert in Coffs Harbour on 18 October 1986.

Robert was a proud boy and a prouder police officer, and the tribute paid to him on that day just about says it all. I wish he could have had more time to be with all your nice people.

The attendance of so many of Recruit Training College Course 1014 and other Federal officers was overwhelming.

We thank the Australian Federal Police administration and those people who made it possible for so many officers to attend.

Pat & Bob Mackay
Coffs Harbour Jetty.

Sir

I would like to comment on the manner in which Constable Killhand and Constable Pinkhurst from the City Police Station, Canberra organised the transfer of a resident of '300 Hostel' Marrickville, which is a Residential Centre for Handicapped Persons, to Sydney. The patient, who is mildly retarded, had found herself in circumstances she found to be unbearable due to a domestic problem, and, through the prompt, efficient, courteous action of both constables, she was found

appropriate emergency overnight shelter and transfer to her home in Sydney, as well as suffering no further emotional stress or discomfort.

On behalf of the Agecare Group, I would like to personally thank them.

Christopher A. Young
Director of Nursing, Agecare
Marrickville, NSW.

Sir

I am the owner of a pharmacy in Queanbeyan. On Saturday afternoon at a particularly busy time in the shop a customer asked to see me. She identified herself as AFP Police Officer Christine Gray (off duty) and warned me that two women in the store were trying to steal some leather handbags off a stand. I thanked her for her help but believed that my security system in the store would stop these women from stealing the bags.

I approached the women and found that they had removed the security tags and were in the process of walking out with over \$500 worth of goods. I am sure that had that police officer not warned me I would have lost that stock.

She could easily have taken the view that this was none of her business and what was happening to me was my own fault. The fact that she did not take this view and that she did get involved shows what an asset she is to your organisation.

On behalf of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry I would like to thank her for her assistance.

John Thorne,
President, Queanbeyan Chamber
of Commerce and Industry.

Sir

I would like to register with you my sincere appreciation of the efforts on my behalf executed by Constable Buick. He exhibited all the traits necessary in an officer of the Australian Federal Police. His logic, swift action, clear thinking and pace led to the apprehension of the person who robbed me of my wallet containing between \$200 and \$300 within approximately 30 minutes of the theft.

Dennis Wahren
Aranda ACT

BACK COVER

- Australian Federal Police Association Executive members receive a bronze platypus on behalf of members of the AFP. From left:
- Jeff Brown, Garry Ward, Chris Eaton, Commissioner Grey, Peter Faldwin and Peter Chirgwin.
- The AFPA presented Commissioner Grey with an Association tie — in a nice shade of grey!

Photo — P. McFawn