

The International Police Academy

Mr. Raymond J. Barrett

Effective police work is essential to internal security. And the internal security of our friends and allies is still important to the United States and to the U. S. Army. The role of the United States in many areas of the world is clearly declining. That is one of the main thrusts of the Nixon Doctrine. But an equally important feature of the Doctrine is the United States' commitment to help our allies and friends maintain their security and progress. There are still areas of the world in which violent and chaotic conditions would threaten important United States' interests. More generally, episodes of serious instability obviously are detrimental to the basic United States' desire for a peaceful world of free and independent nations.

In short, internal security in many countries of the world is still of direct concern to the United States. To acknowledge this reality does not mean that the United States should intervene in all of these situations. Nor does it mean that any and all instances of instability are contrary to United States' interests. The development process almost inevitably generates some instability and even violence. And occasionally these episodes have a constructive purpose and result. Nonetheless, the frustrations, tensions and dislocations of the development process are so strong that profound instability can destroy the climate needed for social, economic and political progress. It also provides opportunities for exploitation to Communist or other totalitarian purposes incompatible with democratic progress and the best interests of the United States.

Internal instability in a country important to the United States, thus, can prejudice our abilities, military and otherwise, to maintain our own national security. The U. S. Army has recognized this point through its concepts of internal development and internal defense. A complex national effort is required in any country to deal adequately with the requirement for internal security.

A crucial element clearly must be effective police work. This presents the military with something of a dilemma.

Mr. Raymond J. Barrett is a Foreign Service Officer in the US Diplomatic Service and has served in embassy assignments in Mexico, Nicaragua, Ireland, Egypt and Spain. Holder of a BA from Columbia University in History, an MA in Economics from the University of Wisconsin and a PhD in History from the University of Dublin, Ireland, he is currently assigned as the Department of State Advisor to the John F. Kennedy Center for Military Assistance, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

What, if any, requirement to counter a full-scale insurgency will ultimately be placed on the military forces depends a great deal on how well the police do their job. The military thus has a crucial interest in effective police operations.

A close and understanding relationship between the military and the police is what is required. For the military to try to take over the civil police function would be counterproductive. The police provide a low level and more integrated presence in civilian pursuits. They are one of the principal elements of government in direct contact with the populace on a day-to-day basis. As such, the police can contribute positively to an atmosphere of progress and equity through humane and evenhanded law enforcement. They are also in an excellent position to identify grievances that require government action to alleviate. Similarly, the police are well situated to obtain intelligence regarding subversive, violent or other activities inimicable to democracy and progress.

An effective police force in close contact and good repute with the populace is also the optimum vehicle for population and resource control measures. The latter are crucial to countering an incipient insurgency. The first essential is to separate the insurgents from support in the general populace. Without such support they must either reduce their activities or withdraw to resupply and regroup in isolated areas where they can be attacked militarily. An effective police force can identify those selective restraints likely both to hamper the insurgents and minimize resentments among the general populace. A humane police force can simultaneously maximize popular understanding and cooperation. In particular, an effective, humane police force will provide a clear and visible aura of protection, the thing the average citizen most wants.

Competent, responsible enforcement of law is essential to provide the climate of stability and security necessary to social, economic and political development. This point is an essential element in the United States' approach to internal security. It is recognized specifically by the public safety programs incorporated in the United States' aid programs for selected countries. A key role in this endeavor is played by the International Police Academy (IPA).

A knowledge of the Academy's activities is thus important to proper development of the U. S. Army's role in internal security. Obviously there are many ways that the military can backstop and assist the police. Pertinent training, provision of appropriate weapons and equipment, co-

operative intelligence, logistical support, and joint contingency planning are but some of the possible forms of assistance. But the military also has a positive interest in being fully aware of what is being done to further effective and humane police work. The role of the International Police Academy is thus important to United States' efforts to assist friendly countries in achieving internal security conducive to social and economic progress.

The Academy functions under the auspices of the Office of Public Safety in the Agency for International Development (AID). It is located in Washington, D. C., near the famous Georgetown University. The IPA came into being in December 1963. Earlier there had been an Inter-American Police Academy, started in July 1962 and located temporarily at Fort Davis in the Panama Canal Zone. The Inter-American program was incorporated in the IPA in the Spring of 1964.

The IPA's concept is broadly international, to bring together police administrators from throughout the Free World. The central theme is competent and responsible enforcement of law so as to foster social development. All of the participants are experienced police officials. Several graduates are heads of national police forces and many others occupy senior positions. To date, over 3,900 police officers from 72 countries have completed the Academy's programs.

The presentations and discussions offer the participants concepts and techniques that they might be able to adapt to improve their police capabilities at home. It is recognized that police systems must meet each country's own needs and are not really transferable. All subjects are discussed in an academic atmosphere. The emphasis is equally on humane civil concepts and control and on preventing subversion and maintaining law and order. The program is designed to provide visiting police officers with professional knowledge conducive to maintaining public order with minimum use of force and, at the same time, improving the public image of the police.

The Academy offers two courses. The Senior Course is fourteen weeks long and is given twice each year, once in Spanish and once in English. It is designed primarily for police officers at senior executive levels. The participants are police officers with responsibilities for policy-making, staffing or operational command and major units. The General Course is designed for those in supervisory positions in operational or administrative support elements of a police organization. It is presented in English, Spanish and French. The course runs seventeen weeks, with the final four weeks devoted to specialized training in each participant's functional area of activity. Generally, five classes are in process at any one time, with some 150 participants enrolled at the Academy. Each class usually has participants from twelve to fifteen different countries.

The IPA faculty is drawn from experienced police officials. Its members have served previously with city, county and state police forces, sheriff's offices, military police organizations and federal law enforcement agencies. All have served overseas in programs of the Office of Public Safety to advise and assist in police organizations of other Free World nations. The Academy also makes extensive use of guest speakers. This arrangement makes it possible to include specialists from many disciplines in AID, the

Departments of State, Justice, Treasury and Defense; city, county, and state police officials, university professors and visiting foreign dignitaries.

The instructional focus is on police management, police operations and internal security. The Academy, of course, is well equipped with audio-visual training aids and interpreting equipment. Extensive use is made of seminars and discussion techniques. Students are also required to prepare and present theses on appropriate topics, followed by question and answer sessions. A unique simulated police comment center makes it possible to carry out realistic gaming exercises, enabling police officers to confront problems and try out solutions. The Academy also includes a professional reference center, a modern firearms range and a modest gymnasium. English language lessons, if needed, are offered at nearby Georgetown University.

Each class includes an American class counselor. He is usually an adviser serving in an overseas program of the Office of Public Safety who is in the United States on home leave. Before returning overseas he is detailed to an IPA class and accompanies it right through to graduation. This arrangement provides mutually beneficial contact, on a day-to-day basis, between a representative American police official and the foreign participants.

The Academy's program also includes exposure to police work outside the classroom and to the United States generally. On arrival in the United States the participants attend a one week general orientation course at the Washington International Center. While at the Academy they do not live in official quarters; they choose their own accommodations, which provides a greater exposure to everyday American living conditions. Each class also makes an eight to ten day tour of several states by chartered bus. The itinerary varies but includes visits to appropriate American city, county or state police forces to observe actual problems and operations. The tour also includes opportunities to see industrial plants and various points of historic, cultural or general interest. Many families or groups provide informal visits to American homes or institutions. Another three day visit is paid to the U. S. Army John F. Kennedy Center for Military Assistance; here the joint police and military concerns in the fields of internal development and internal defense are examined.

Graduation exercises at the IPA are held four times a year. The program features a distinguished speaker. Among those who have been IPA graduation speakers are: the late senator Robert F. Kennedy; General Maxwell D. Taylor; U. S. Secret Service Director James J. Rowley; Under Secretary of State U. Alexis Johnson; Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Eugene T. Rossides; and the Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, W. L. Higgitt.

A professional magazine, the *International Police Academy Review*, serves as a continuing training aid. It contains articles by former participants, other foreign and United States police officials and personnel of the Office of Public Safety. The *Review* is edited by the IPA staff and published by AID in English and Spanish. It is distributed to all former Public Safety training participants.

Never before has the importance of effective and responsible police work been so prominent. The International Police Academy plays a unique and constructive role in trying to achieve this goal—an essential element in a truly Free World.