

People's Republic of China, RCMP Exchange Visits

by Insp. Robert Kells

In 1986, the Chinese Consul General in Vancouver reported that he had received notice from the Ministry of Public Security (MPS) in Beijing that the Ministry would be receptive to a visit to Canada to look at policing methods. In return, the MPS were interested in a Canadian federal police delegation visiting the People's Republic of China (PRC). The proposed exchange received support from External Affairs and the Solicitor General.

In October, 1987, Commissioner Inkster wrote to the Director, Criminal Investigations Department, Ministry of Public Security, suggesting an exchange involving approximately 8 to 10 police personnel from RCMP middle management. It was proposed that the receiving agencies would be responsible for expenses while in their respective countries. The letter was conveyed to the MPS by the Canadian Ambassador in Beijing, Mr. Earl Drake.

In February, 1988, the MPS wrote to the Commissioner agreeing to the exchange, and concurring with financial aspects. The Commissioner replied in May, 1988, advising that the RCMP would like to visit the PRC from June 13 to 26, 1988, with a delegation of nine members. The Chinese agreed to the proposal and dates involved and set up an itinerary which would give the RCMP delegation a broad view of China and Chinese policing techniques.

On June 13, eight members left Ottawa for Vancouver and China. The delegation,

headed by Deputy Commissioner Roy Moffatt, included: Inspector Bob Kells, Economic Crime; Insp. Bill Whyte, Identification Services; Insp. Bill Erickson, Informatics; Insp. Wayne Pushka, Enforcement Services; S/Sgt. Chester Kary, Drug Enforcement; S/Sgt. Bob Farnham, Protective Policing; and S/Sgt. Brian Carline, Training Directorate. In China we were met by George Gibbs, Foreign Services (Liaison Officer, Hong Kong).

The purpose of the trip was two-fold:

- To facilitate an information exchange between the RCMP delegation and representatives of the MPS.
- To establish lines of communication between the RCMP (primarily the Liaison Officer in Hong Kong) and the MPS, various Public Security Bureaus, and the individual members of those bureaus to ensure cooperation in the investigation of international crime involving the two countries.

Police perspective

Surprisingly, we found that policing in China has many similarities to policing in Canada. Public order in China is maintained by the MPS which is subordinate to the State Council. The Ministry is divided into four basic components: Ministry, Provincial, District and County Bureaus. In effect, these are the headquarters, divisions, sub-divisions and detachments. The MPS, which has over 1,200,000 members, is divided into two