

## Chinese Police Tour Canada

by S/Sgt. George Watts

For some time, the Force and the Chinese Ministry of Public Security (MPS) looked at the feasibility of establishing liaison between our organizations. While we have a liaison officer based in Hong Kong, our ties with the People's Republic of China (PRC) police have not been close, nor did we have many occasions to deal with them.

Circumstances of late have evolved rather dramatically, from a political standpoint, in the PRC, with the advent of its open door policy. With the forthcoming change in the status of Hong Kong, and increased need for mutual assistance from an investigational standpoint in areas such as Commercial Crime, Drug Enforcement, and Customs, Commissioner Inkster believed the time was right to institute an exchange of personnel.

On the return of our delegation from China, Commissioner Inkster wrote to the Ministry of Public Security, inviting a party of police officials to visit Canada. The Ministry responded affirmatively, and Mr. Gao Xu was appointed head of the Chinese delegation. Mr. Gao Xu is the Director, Public Order Department, and is responsible for 500,000 police personnel. The other delegates selected by the ministry were: Mr. Zhou Liqian, Director, Public Security Department, Hebei Province; Mr. Jiang Shulin, Division Chief of Investigation, CIB Department; Mr. Ruan Xingxian, Deputy Division Chief, International Liaison Department; Mr. Xi Ruisen, Associate Professor, China People's Police University (interpreter).

The delegates arrived in Ottawa on October 2, 1988, and were given tours of the national capital area and RCMP operations at Headquarters and "A" Division, including Identification Services, Forensic Laboratories, Canadian Police College,

Canadian Police Information Centre, Executive and Diplomatic Protection Section and the Ottawa Police Department. Social events were arranged, including several official luncheons and dinners, and a formal banquet hosted by Commissioner Inkster at the Canadian Police College, which the delegates and RCMP members attended in uniform. This banquet was also attended by all members who went to China.

On October 7, the delegation left Ottawa for Toronto, accompanied by C/Supt. John Bentham, Director, Communications & Media Relations, S/Sgt. George Watts, NCO i/c Public Information and tour coordinator, George Gibbs, Liaison Officer, Hong Kong, and Ms. Jennie Chang, Canadian interpreter. The group spent four days in Toronto, visiting sites of interest in the metro area, Niagara Falls, Gravenhurst, (the birthplace of Dr. Norman Bethune), Orillia, and meeting with members of the Metropolitan Toronto Police force and the Ontario Provincial Police. Even though Toronto is Canada's largest city, Force members were asked repeatedly, even at rush hour, "Where are all the people?" The Chinese police officials did, however, concede that they had never witnessed traffic such as the group observed on Highway 401 and Highway 400 coming in from Orillia at the end of Thanksgiving weekend.

On October 13, the group left for Regina, Saskatchewan. While there, they toured the RCMP Training Academy at "Depot" and "F" Division headquarters. They were quite impressed when Assistant Commissioner C.I.C. Macdonell, CO, "F" Division, spoke to them in Mandarin (he had served as LO in Hong Kong and took Chinese language training prior to his posting). The delegation was also taken