



International Police Association **IPA**

Interview by
Ilias Spyridonidis - Atlasorbis correspondent from Greece



Michael Odysseos
International
President
of the
International
Police
Association

Where the Association is present and how it works, in which direction operates?

In 68 Countries all over the World there are 68 National Sections. The main objective of the members of the Association is to assist the police to carry out its difficult task which is the enforcement of Law and Order. To achieve this, our members, whether serving or retired, offer every kind of assistance to the police to combat crime, especially the organized crime, drugs trafficking, illegal immigration etc. In addition our members are dealing with social, cultural and other humanitarian activities.

What is the role of IPA in the European Council and in the United Nations?

The Association is recognized as a non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) in consultative status (special) with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and also enjoys consultative status with the Council Europe.

The Association has representatives in New York, Geneva, Vienna, Brussels and Strasburg.

It should be noted that the Association has a continued commitment to the principles set out in the universal Declaration of Human Rights by recognizing that any

form of future is absolutely inconsistent with these principles.

Mr. President is it important for a government the economic and work security of its police officers? That conditions, is it possible to influence the police departments security performances, in other words, their work?

The Members of the International Police Association are doing everything in their power to assist the police of the various Countries to fulfill their target, especially now when crime is increasing worldwide and the police acquire additional and more demanding responsibilities.



International Police Association

The largest police organisation in the world!

Servo per amikeco!

At the same time they will continue to support and cultivate modern international trends such as harmony, unity, love, friendship, co-operation, the abolition of boundaries, the reduction of global conflict and the maintenance of peace.



History of IPA



Arthur Troop - The founder IPA

The International Police Association was founded in 1950 in Great Britain. The Association is based on friendship and solidarity. Its motto is in the language of Esperanto “SERVO PER AMIKECO” and means “Service Through Friendship”. The Founder, Arthur Troop wanted to create a channel of friendship and international co-operation amongst police officers.

His notion of an Association with development of social, cultural and professional links amongst its members in an environment free from discrimination of rank, sex, race, colour, language or religion became a reality.

From small beginnings, the IPA message quickly took hold and the formation of new Sections throughout the world became rapid. Soon there were National Sections in the majority of Western Europe, Africa, America, Asia and Australasia. The political changes in Eastern Europe in recent years have been the catalyst for increase growth and development. Today there are IPA Sections in the majority of the countries of the former Soviet Union.

The IPA has a life of more than 58 years and Arthur Troop’s fundamental ideals still remain to-day.

Recently, under my capacity as International President, I visited many countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Kenya, Botswana, Swaziland, Mozambique, Sri Lanka and Peru. In all these countries, I met many police officers and discussed with them the ideals of the International Police Association. I had also the opportunity to meet many Police Chiefs, Ministers of Police and other Governmental Officials.

What is the IPA?

The largest police organisation in the world with more than 360,000 members in 60 National Sections in all continents;
Open to every serving or retired police officer irrespective of rank, sex, race, colour, language or religion;
Open to members wherever they live.
When a Section has not been formed in their country, they can become Foreign Associate Members of another Section;
A democratic body that has nothing to do with politics or trade unions where every position is open to all, from Branch Officer to the International President;
An NGO in Consultative Status (Special) with the Economic and Social Council of the UN and with the Council of Europe; our Status was upgraded in 2004 and we now have a voice and participate in discussions and make suggestions; and
Committed to the principles set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and recognises that any form of torture is absolutely inconsistent with those ideals.

What are the aims of IPA?

To create bonds of friendship and promote international co-operation;
To develop cultural and social activities;
To exchange professional experience;
To preserve human rights and contribute of the peaceful co-existence of different nationalities;
To contribute to the procreation of world peace;
To promote the respect of law and order among police officers;
To enhance the image of the police and assist police officers to improve the rela-

tions with the general public, and To contribute to a mutual understanding of mutual problems.

What are the pursuits of the IPA and the benefits of the members?

Police professional seminars in our Training Centre IBZ Gimborn in Germany;
Local, Regional, National and International informative meetings and events in all five continents;
Scholarships on police professional matters;
Exchange of police officers;
International Youth Gatherings for children and grandchildren of IPA members aged 15-18 years;
International Youth Exchange Programmes, giving the opportunity to youths to experience a foreign language;
Emergency-Aid to police officers and their families;
Help and assistance to members and their families traveling abroad;
IPA Houses are available in many Sections;
And Friendship Weeks, sporting events and anniversary celebrations with social and cultural flavours are held to encourage international membership participations.
The Association, in order to fulfill its aims and objectives, introduced several projects that are supervised by members of the Permanent Executive Bureau who chair five International Commissions that are the working tools of the PEB.

