

INTERPOL

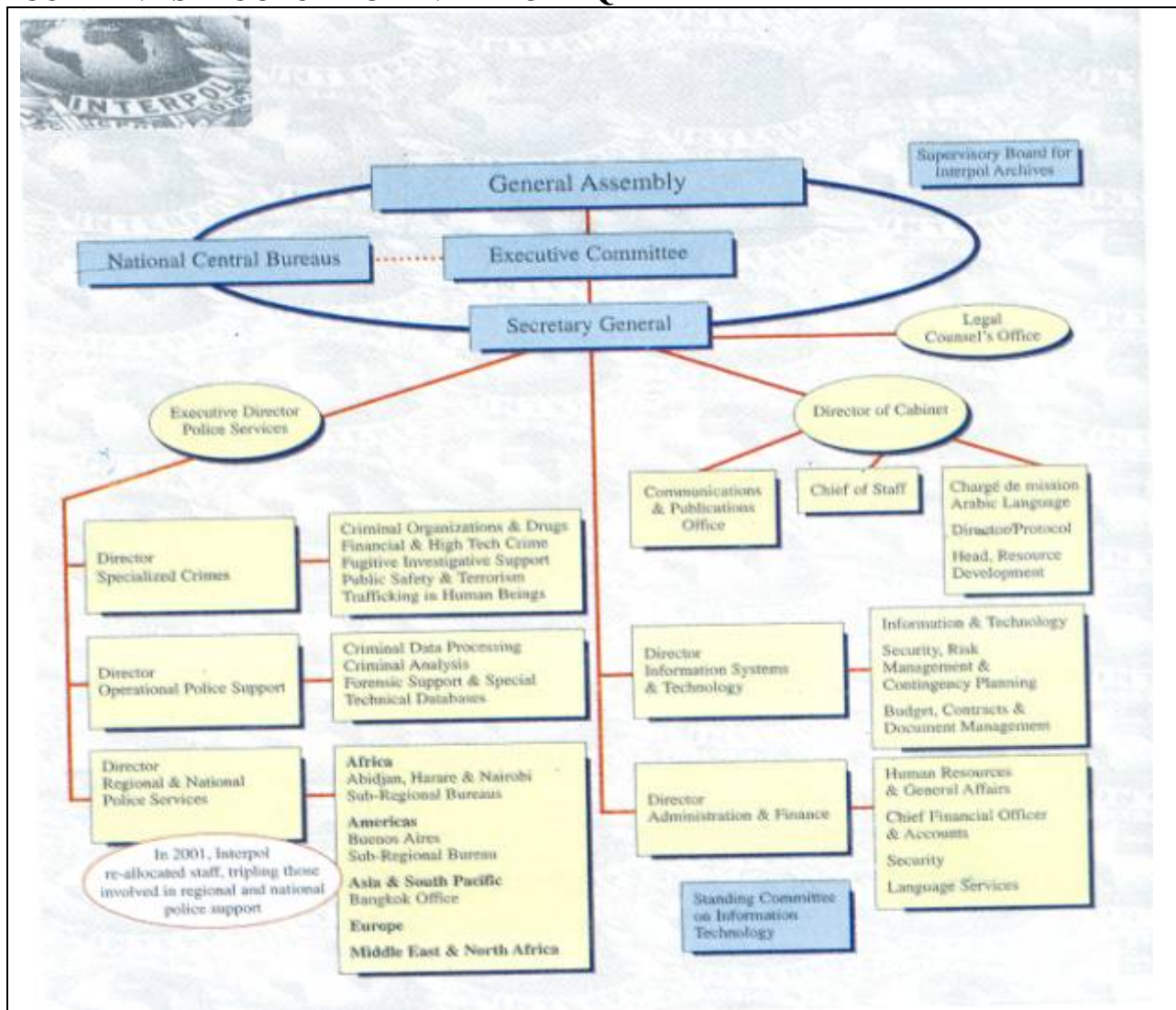
-- by Sri Vinay Ranjan Ray I.P.S.

The 20th century witnessed the onset of Globalization phenomenon-in business, trade, transportation, banking, communication, traveling-and it revolutionized the total array of human existence and its activities. The criminals adopted this fastness more easily, eagerly and effectively than the common man. The birth of transnational crime activity and international criminals was crystallized. Not that such criminals were not existing earlier, what made the difference is possibility of Wide-Area-networking and unbelievable pace of mobility. Result is that States-bound by logistical, legal and sovereignty limitations have been left far behind-in controlling, preventing and nabbing such criminals-in the absence of international co-operation.

Interpol is the supposedly best answer as on today. At present it is the only official international police co-operation organization solely and permanently responsible to ensure day-to-day international police co-operation.

Interpol headquarter is situated in Lyon City in France and 181 countries in the world are its members. The current structure of the HQ can be seen in the table below.

CURRENT STRUCTURE OF INTERPOL HQ



We as police officers are aware that since last couple of years number of accused in Mumbai bomb blast case have left the country and our investigating agencies are making hectic efforts to nab them. Accused in Rajeev Gandhi blast/assassination case, the extortion operation accused belonging to Mumbai mafia, U.P mafia, Gujarat mafia, have made their operational headquarter in Dubai, Abu-Dhabi, Bangkok, Malaysia, Singapore, Pakistan, Nepal and several of European countries-but they are to be brought and tried in Indian courts for their offences committed on our land. Similarly in A.P – the accused in Krushi Bank, Prudential bank scam cases, several accused in dowry harassment cases, fake-currency cases have absconded abroad and we have to make efforts to bring them back and subject them to the process of law and trial and take the cases to the logical end.

Why Interpol is needed?

As we all know that each country in this world has a power of sovereignty over its territory and any person present in its territory enjoys the fruits of sovereignty according to his legal status. In every country broadly speaking – two types of people can be present – one, its own citizens (as per the law of citizenship) and two – those who have temporarily been permitted to stay in that country. Such temporary citizens also enjoy some territorial rights and it is not easy to get them.

Therefore, Interpol acts as a co-coordinating agency between the countries to secure the guilty person and help the course of law to justice.

How the Interpol works?

As it is illustrated in the table, the various organs at Interpol Headquarters can be seen. For basic knowledge-officers must know the General Assembly, the Executive Committee and the General Secretariat are the most important bodies in Interpol.

The General Assembly (GA) ¹ is the Supreme governing body of Interpol. It formulates general policies, and takes all decisions regarding resources needed for international co-operation, working methods, finances and program of activities.

1. The GA meets only once a year.

The Executive Committee (EC) ¹ consisting of 13 members elected² by member countries in GA ensures that GA decisions are implemented. It supervises the management of the General Secretariat.

The General Secretariat (GS) is the permanent administrative and technical body through which Interpol operates. The GS performs following tasks, which are useful for our purposes: -

- (a) It directs and co-ordinates actions designed to combat international crimes.
- (b) It centralizes information on crime and criminals.
- (c) It maintains contact with national and international authorities.

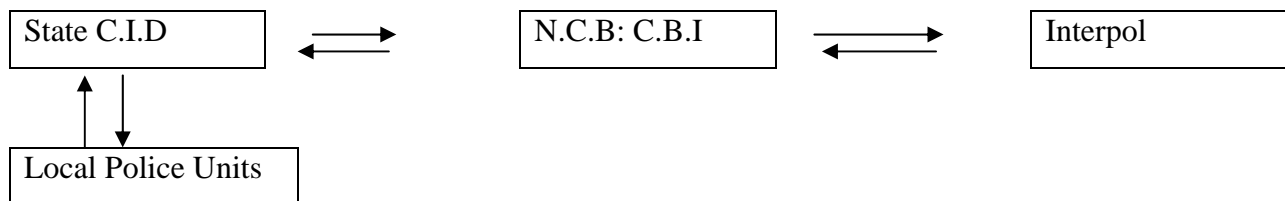
National Central Bureau (NCB): -What it is?

The NCBs are national bodies, which are responsible for liaison between the member countries and with the General Secretariat. In India CBI is designated as NCB.

Interpol Liaison Officers (ILOs): -

In turn the NCB-CBI has asked the Home Department of each state in India to earmark a small cell in particular police organization exclusively to deal with matters related to Interpol. In each State, normally the Crime Investigation Department has been asked to create the Interpol Cell and nominate an officer in the rank of S.P/D.I.G/I.G.P to co-ordinate the matters of Interpol interest-between the State and the NCB.

Therefore the channel of communication, to be followed is –



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1. The Executive Committee meets three times a year.
 2. The Executive Committee members are elected on the basis of equitable geographic distribution.

What Interpol can do for its customers?

As we have seen in preceding columns that Interpol has taken responsibility in 3 areas. In this section of this issue we will concentrate on its first work, which is most relevant and directly concerned with our requirement i.e., - directing and co-coordinating the actions designed to combat international crimes.

Our requirement from Interpol falls into 3 main categories –

1. Locating a fugitive wanted criminals if he has left our country
2. Locating missing persons, property, unidentified dead bodies etc.
3. Getting him back to the country where he is wanted for investigation and trial.

Tools of Interpol

To perform the first two tasks the Interpol has an elaborate system of sending information about the subject (human and material both) to all member countries. The Interpol has 7 types of ‘Notices’¹ covering different categories.

They are following: -

A Series - Red Notices ²	- for wanted criminals
B Series - Blue Notices	- for Information sought
C Series - Green Notices	- for warning
D Series - Black Notices	- for unidentified dead bodies
E Series - Stolen Property Notices	- for stolen property (antiques, valuable artifacts, Cultural property)
F Series - Yellow Notices	- for Missing persons
G Series - M.O.Sheets	- It is Modus Operandi Sheets.

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1. The notices A to G also are serial numbers. Instead of calling them by elaborate names we can call them A-series or B series or G series notices.
 2. These notices are easily identifiable by its colour – in the right corner of the notice – the logo of Interpol will be in same colour as the name prescribes.

For all these notices, there is a fixed proforma¹. Designed and prescribed by Interpol. If the notices are sent in this Performa, then only it will be accepted and further disseminated to other member countries through their co-coordinating agencies.

Let us know about these notices and their applicability

A Series – Red Corner Notices (RCS): -

These notices are also known as ‘wanted notices’ for the offenders wanted at international level. The publication of A-Series notice should only be requested if all the following conditions are fulfilled: -

1. The person against whom the notice is to be published has committed an offence against ordinary criminal law.
2. The offence is an ‘extraditable offence’ under the Indian Extradition Act 1962.
3. A warrant of arrest has been issued for his/her arrest.
4. Extradition will be requested on his apprehension.

If any of these conditions are not satisfied, a B-Series Notice should probably be requested.

B-Series: Blue Notices

B-Series Notices are also called ‘Enquiry Notices’ and may be issued in order to have some one identify verified or obtain particulars of a person’s criminal record or locate some identified or unidentified international criminal, whose extradition may be requested.

All the information called for in the Performa must be properly filled up, and then only it will be accepted for further necessary action.

C-Series: Green Notices

The purpose of C-Series Notice is to give information about persons who have committed or are likely to commit offences affecting countries. This notice is sent to member countries to verify whether such offenders are present in their territory.

For Interpol purposes, an international criminal is some one who is known in his country as a habitual offender and operating in different countries or operating in at least two other countries. So, therefore, the request for publication of a C-Series Notice should be made only about important international criminals and not about any other criminal. The degree of gravity of their convictions and the nature of offences committed by them should be assessed. It should also be considered whether the criminal is or may be a member of a gang of international criminals.

1. The 7 performa are being put on the CID website.

D-Series: Black Notices

The D-Series notices are used to circulate information about unidentified dead bodies or deceased persons who were probably using false identities and are not identifiable with available records. A request for D-Series notices must be accompanied with: -

- Three copies of photographs of the entire body
- If possible, finger prints
- Date, Place and circumstances of recovery of the body
- Description of distinguishing features such as tattoos, dental chart etc.
- Description of clothes, objects worn or carried by the victim

E-Series: Stolen Property Notices

These notices are published with a view to circulate information about the stolen properties or about objects found in circumstances, which suggest that these may have been acquired illegally. Such objects may include cultural properties such as – Idols, antiquities, paintings etc. Publication of this notice only be requested if the stolen property has considerable cultural or commercial value and it can be satisfactorily identified from a description or a photograph or identification number or identification markings.

While requesting for such notices, the requisitioning unit must give as much information as possible in two areas – one, the modus operandi adopted in crime and the type of security system of the premises from where the property has been stolen and two, the detailed description of property with photographs or diagrams or particulars of the dimensions of the stolen properties.

F-Series: Yellow Notice

This notice is used to identify missing persons who are supposedly alive, but they are unable to identify herself/himself. It means that persons who are to be located through this notice are either insane or in all likelihood might have lost their memory. In this circumstance, it becomes very essential to furnish as much information as prescribed in the Performa to avoid any kind of miss-identification.

G-Series: Modus Operandi Sheets

This is a notice, which is circulated by IPOL, from compiled data from various countries. The purpose of modus operandi notices is to notify the NCBs and through them, their police forces and law enforcement agencies, of certain modus operandi procedures and hiding places used by criminals and to centralize information at the General Secretariat about similar methods used in different parts of the world and then circulate this information to the NCBs.

The police departments and other law enforcement agencies should inform the Interpol Wing of any interesting methods used by criminals that come to their notice during their investigations. The modus operandi should be completely described and photographs should be sent if they are useful.

Certain Salient points to be kept in mind while preparing the Notices: -

1. The performa prescribed and appended shall be thoroughly read and understood by Senior Officers.

2. The utmost care has to be taken in supplying required information and thorough eye for details of the wanted person/artifacts has to be there. Because a small difference in identity can stunt the total work. For example –

3. While describing about persons related to notices A to D, complete personal particulars of persons wanted/to be traced, minute descriptive particulars, three copies of photographs and finger prints must be sent (since photographs and finger prints cannot be reproduced satisfactorily unless they are of high quality resolution-it is better to send original photographs and finger prints – these will be returned back on request).

4. In case of stolen property/artifacts, it is very essential to give a good photograph or a clear diagram with particulars of dimension must be given. Particular care should be taken if there is a registered number inscribed on artifact or any other identification mark, which will be establishing the identity of the stolen property or artifact decisively.

Once you have prepared the notice, it should be sent to Interpol Liaison Officer at CID, Hyderabad for scrutiny. From there it will be sent to NCB-CBI, which will scrutinize it. It may ask for further information or it may further forward it to Interpol for further dissemination.

When the required notice is issued, the information will be sent to concerned unit.

When the wanted person/material is located, the information will come to wanting unit with advice for further required action.

In next issue, we will discuss about these actions to be taken and more.