

VIOLENCE IS 'A PROBLEM FOR ALL'

THE AFP's growing role as an investigating body has made critical the need to monitor investigation of criminal activity in Australia, according to former Chief Superintendent Alan Morley.

Mr Morley, formerly Commander Southern Region in Melbourne and an AFP Cyprus Contingent leader, was speaking at his retirement recently.

"Unless you have a common pool of intelligence, you cannot orchestrate what is going on in the national law enforcement arena," he said.

"I believe that recent problems in the Commonwealth area of policing — such as drug importation rackets and violence directed at Family Law Courts and their judges — should not be portrayed as 'problems for the police' as implied by some members of the community.

"Rather, it's a problem for the whole community, and a lot of others have to contribute towards a solution to these problems if the police are to be in a position to do something about," he said.

Alan Morley has had more than 30 years on which to base his views. Those 30 years have been spent in most areas of federal police work and give him a sound insight into many of the problems.

"There's a great deal of spade-work to be done," he said. But then spade-work is something of which he has had his share, both in Australia and overseas.

Alan Morley joined the North Riding Police in Yorkshire, UK, in 1948 after a period in the armed services.

He came to Australia and joined the then Commonwealth Peace Officer Corps in 1953. His first station was Woomera, in South Australia, in desert country far remote from the green countryside of his native Yorkshire.

"It took some adjustment but I grew to enjoy desert life," he said.

His job was to help guard installations being used there to test weaponry and he was present at Emu Claypans near which the first British atomic bomb was tested on the Australian mainland.

As a sergeant in the then Commonwealth Police, he was seconded to the Indian Ocean island territory of Christmas Island — a stark contrast to his desert life.



• Mr Morley . . . a need for a common pool of intelligence.

His association with Southern Region began in 1968 when he was attached as an inspector. His work included protective service, OIC muster rooms, and four years as OIC Melbourne airport.

After that, he served two years as Commander Central Region, based in Adelaide. When he returned to Melbourne he became crime co-ordinator, and co-ordinator of various groups carrying out investigations and intelligence work, as well as assisting the commander of the region and relieving him in his absence. Alan took over as Commander in May 1983.

His final tour in Cyprus he likened to his terms on Christmas Island.

"They were experiences I thoroughly enjoyed and where I was able to help an island community," he said. "The Australians have a very high standing on Cyprus. This is supported by the fact that both Greeks and Turks — on opposite sides there — have blood ties with Australia through migration of relatives.

"A more important reason is the effort Australians have put into the non-policing public relations role, for example, in lending a helping hand, perhaps to give swimming lessons to local children. It's because of this PR role that the AFP takes the selection of people to go there very seriously," he said. "The people who do go there must have the capacity to maintain the great goodwill already built up."

His retirement on 12 December brought tributes from many colleagues in the AFP and other enforcement agencies.

DILIGENCE REWARDED

DILIGENCE and a sense of responsibility have earned a Commissioner's Certificate for Senior Constable Nanette Cribbes, of ACT Region.

Senior Constable Cribbes was off duty at the time of the incident. She was at a Canberra suburban shopping centre when she saw a man assault two women inside a Commonwealth Bank. The man ran off.

Senior Constable Cribbes telephoned for assistance and then went in search of him. She located him at the rear of nearby premises where he was emptying

the contents of a garbage can onto the roadway.

Senior Constable Cribbes approached the man and a struggle began during which she had to dodge a number of punches before subduing him. A patrol arrived shortly after. One of the women attacked in the incident required medical treatment for injuries to the face.

In presenting the award to Senior Constable Cribbes the Commissioner said her actions were particularly noteworthy because of the fact that she was off duty at the time and took all the necessary action without assistance.



• Senior Constable Nanette Cribbes