

International Report

Independent Review Panel Staff Report

By Dr. Eduardo I. Diaz, Executive Director
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The International Network for Independent Oversight of Policing (INIOP), www.ipcc.gov.uk/international, is emerging from the work of an “inception group” that has now met twice, functioning as an ad hoc steering committee pending the establishment of a formal steering committee, expected early in 2007. The first meeting was hosted in London, May 16th, 2006, by the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC), www.ipcc.gov.uk, which also volunteered to serve as secretariat for the new effort, INIOP.secretariat@ipcc.gsi.gov.uk. John Wadham, IPCC Deputy Chair, serves as Chair of the inception group with primary staff support from Mark Hines. They are the primary contacts for status updates on documents and meetings.

The second INIOP business meeting was hosted by the Canadian Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (CACOLE), www.cacole.ca, in Vancouver, October 5th, 2006. A full day of the CACOLE Conference, October 3rd, was devoted to international presentations and most will shortly be available on the CACOLE website. Immediate Past President of CACOLE and British Columbia’s Police Complaint Commissioner, Dirk Ryneveld, dryneveld@ipcc.bc.ca, has been a prime mover in these developments and has now been designated by CACOLE as an official representative to INIOP.

At these business meetings, NACOLE has been, at times, represented by President Pierce Murphy, Past President Barbara Attard, President Elect Eduardo Diaz and Board Member Phil Eure. INIOP proponents are trying to avoid over-identification with North America and NACOLE participation is limited to no more than three representatives; limitations that are also imposed on CACOLE and European Partners Against Corruption (EPAC), www.epac.at, the EU's National Police Monitoring & Inspection Bodies and Anti-Corruption Agencies. The intent is to reach out to Africa, Asia, South America, and all other loci of emergent Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement efforts, with meetings held up to three times per year in different countries.

EPAC will hold a conference in Hungary this November and it is expected that group will consider endorsing the INIOP concept and it’s launching as early as January 2008, if the steering committee can complete formalizing the organization by then. This is very much a work in progress and membership, funding and governance issues are in the process of being resolved. Canadian volunteers are working on suitable membership categories and European volunteers will draft a “constitution” for INIOP steering group consideration.

It is too early to predict what the end product is going to look like but a worldwide network is a worthy cause and international events and sessions are encouraged during NACOLE, CACOLE and EPAC conferences.

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