

Edinburgh dump reveals gossip on police records

THE DISCOVERY last week of a cardboard box containing police intelligence records on an Edinburgh rubbish dump demonstrates how easy it is to end up on police files.

The intelligence reports — headed 'Criminal Intelligence Information, 'C' Division' — are dated between June and September last year. One item for 3 August refers to a woman stopped and searched, allegedly for drugs. The search proved negative but, the report concluded, 'She was also (sic) in possession of a list of phone numbers which relate to the following . . .'. The names and addresses of five individuals are then detailed. No reason is given for their inclusion nor is there any reference to previous criminal convictions or police interest.

The documents give an insight into daily work practice and attitudes. Individuals are described as 'druggies', 'homosexual types' or 'those so inclined' and the names of people living at the same address are recorded. Details are given of the movements of the friends and families of convicted criminals and their 'associates', including for example a description and registration number of a new car belonging to Dr Sarah Boyle, the psychiatrist and wife of parolee Jimmy Boyle.

Amongst numerous references to persons being 'checked out as negative' is an entry for 1 July referring to two 16-year-old boys stopped in a main shopping area. 'Both are on summer leave from Wellington Farm' — a list 'D' (approved) school — 'and have been seen on numerous occasions in the town section'. It is recommended that 'they should be checked out at every possible occasion.' Information and names from 'prostitutes' and other undisclosed sources are also included.

Co-incidentally the find comes at a time when Lothian and Borders police are transferring intelligence data to the new 'Crime Information Computer'. It is known that the present manual intelligence system at police headquarters in Edinburgh holds information on over 80,000 persons (1 in 10 of the local population). As many as two thirds of these are said to have no criminal convictions. Additional intelligence is also held at divisional and sub-divisional stations, one of which would appear, to be the source of the document found on the tip.

Lothian and Borders Police have pioneered criminal intelligence collection. In addition to the new computer — purchase cost £1.35

million — and described as the most powerful local crime information computer in Britain — specialist squads of plain clothes 'Crime Patrols' have been introduced. Their specific task is the collection of low grade intelligence on the local population. As many as 40 officers from the four city divisions are on full-time secondment from beat work for this purpose.

Crime patrol officers describe

their favoured intelligence sources as shop-keepers, publicans, taxi-drivers and betting shop managers. There are other sources, however. It emerges from the reports that the Cross Winds Community Centre is frequented regularly by plain clothes officers for surveillance purposes.

Mr Stanley Pringle, the Deputy Chief Constable, this week described the documents as 'bread and butter stuff' and added there was 'nothing sinister' about them. An internal police investigation is being conducted by Detective Superintendent Charlie Boulton.

Richard Kinsey



Back-pack nuclear bomb for travelling terrorists

Have nuke, will travel

AMERICAN scientists and researchers have put together a unique catalogue which reveals, for the first time, the contents of the nuclear arsenals owned by the United States and its allies around the world. The first volume of a projected eight volume *Nuclear Weapons Databook* series will be published by the US Natural Resources Defense Council at the end of this week. The authors have assembled a unique collection of photographs illustrating the appearance of most current bombs and nuclear warheads. They range from heavyweight hydrogen bombs to a tiny 'backpack bomb' — an atom bomb small enough to be carried and used by one soldier.

Since August 1945, when American bombs destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the United States has designed and manufactured over 80 different types of hydrogen and atom bomb. All of Britain's

nuclear weapons are either obtained from the United States, or are manufactured or assembled in Aldermaston, Burghfield and Cardiff from copies or modifications of US bombs.

The most powerful American bomb still in use is design number 53. This is the B53 hydrogen bomb — 12 feet long and over four feet in diameter. It has a power of 9 Megatons — more than 600 times as powerful as the weapons used in the Second World War.

US bases in Britain are believed to store three different kinds of bomb, the largest of which is a 1 Megaton hydrogen 'B43' bomb for use by F-111 bombers, based at Lakenheath and Upper Heyford. These aircraft, and British Tornados, may also use a 'dial-a-yeild' atom bomb, the B61, which can be adjusted to provide an explosion ranging from 1 to about 20 times the power of the Hiroshima bomb.

Cruise missiles at Greenham Common use a warhead based on a high-yield modification of the B61 bomb.

The mini-bomb is the W54 'Special Atomic Demolition Munition'. Although its exact dimensions are still secret, this tiny bomb is no larger than an office typewriter, yet can release the explosive power of at least 250 tons of TNT. It weighs about 50 lb, and is designed for use either as an atomic land mine, or as a sabotage weapon for use behind enemy lines by guerrillas and SAS-type forces. One such mini-atom bomb left in Whitehall would demolish more than enough to satisfy any anarchist's wildest dreams.

Duncan Campbell

Nuclear Weapons Databook, Volume 1, US nuclear forces and capabilities, by Thomas Cochran, William Arkin and Milton Hoenig; Ballinger Publishing Co, USA.

Silence of dead men's unions

IT APPEARS unlikely that the families of two Scunthorpe steelworkers killed at the town's BSC works on New Year's Day will receive anything like adequate compensation, thanks to apparent indifference on the part of management and unions alike as to what caused the accident.

Edward Peace and Richard Simpson died in a reserve water tank 160 feet above ground level at BSC's Concast plant. According to the evidence so far elicited, first Peace and then Simpson collapsed immediately they entered the tank after a workmate became dizzy in it and dropped his torch. The theory put forward by BSC is that the atmosphere in the tank, about the same size as a largish living room, contained too much nitrogen, and the men died through oxygen starvation.

It is a theory that the unions will now have much difficulty in disputing, since they failed to turn up at the opening of the inquest last Thursday, 5 January when the Scunthorpe coroner gave authority for disposal of the bodies. He had considered retaining certain organs for further tests, 'but I am advised that no useful purpose would be served by holding up the funerals of the men. Representatives of the unions (the EETPU and ISTC) have been contacted and wish to make no representations to the contrary'.

Several representations should have been made. Nitrogen is in common use at the works in various cleaning processes and as a purifying blanket for water tanks etc. As a