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NOTE

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from : the Irish Presidency

to : Police Co-operation Working Party

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Subject : Lawful interception of telecommunication systems provided outside national borders

- Information from the Expert Sub Group of ILETS (International Law Enforcement Telecommunications Seminar)

# ILETS

## Information from the Expert Sub Group (Technical)

### FOREWORD

It had always been our intention to send a quarterly letter for information to the Members of ILETS on developments in Telecommunications that are deemed to be of pressing concern. However, in our particular sector, the problems seems to come thick and fast and we seem to have been particularly busy, individually, since the Canberra conference. In response to a request from the European Commission at the last Police Cooperation Working Group we have collected together a few items of interest from various contributors.

In order to ensure a timely issue and in view of the holiday period it has not been possible to discuss the contents with all the members of Expert Sub Group.

### A. SIGNIFICANT MILESTONES

#### 1. Liaison with the satellite operators.

1.1 The three major operators (IRIDIUM, ICO and GLOBALSTAR) are all now in the process of preparing interception plans. These are based initially on the International Requirements Document with the proviso that the present legal restrictions on cross border warrants and handling of product may be changed by bi-lateral and multi-lateral agreements.

1.2 The discussions have produced some interesting questions such as what should be done when the target sets up a call divert outside the country in which he is operating and being targeted. Another difficulty concerns the circumstance in which several countries (as distinct from several agencies in one country) seek an intercept on the same target.

#### 2. Meeting with Legal Groups.

2.1 We have been able to brief the Mutual Legal Assistance Group on the problem and as a result a small seminar of legal and technical experts will take place in the Netherlands in mid September to increase mutual understanding of the issues and identify the key legal problems to be addressed.

2.2 The Mutual Legal Assistance Group is a working Group of EU states under Steering Group 3 in Pillar III of the European Union. It is examining a range of mutual legal assistance issues for example extradition, cross border actions and now interception.

### 3. Technical Standards

#### 3.1 ETSI and GSM

3.1.1 ETSI STAG have an ad hoc group preparing a standard on Legal Interception. This standard will be available both to ETSI Technical Committees (so that interception can be incorporated into other standards eg satellites, switching etc) and to the Industry generally. The Definition document is expected to be available in September and work has now started on the Network Requirements.

3.1.2 ETSI STAG have a second ad hoc group preparing a standard on Trusted Third Party which will define the service and the interworking interfaces. This is in anticipation of the provision of encryption on public networks.

3.1.3 ETSI STAG have also prepared a Guide to the Legislative and Regulatory Environment.

3.1.4 ETSI SMG Security Group are working with the GSM MoU Security Group (now SMG10). They are producing a formal ETSI specification for the X interface which will involve manufacturers and operators. A draft specification has been prepared for passing to other ETSI groups dealing with protocols, switching and various elements of GSM infrastructure so that they may reflect the requirements in their standards.

#### 3.2 GSM MoU Security Group.

3.2.1 The GSM MoU Security Group have produced a Requirements Document which has been endorsed by the GSM MoU and presented to the ETSI SMG Plenary as a potential work item (para 3.1.4 above).

#### 3.3 ITU-T

3.3.1 At the recent ITU-T Telecommunications Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) there was a proposal from Australia that TSAG invite all ITU-T Study Groups to consider the International Requirements documents and to identify any relative work items at their meeting last July. Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons, this proposal was not formalised. We expect this to be an essential item at ILETS '97.

## B. CURRENT ISSUES

### 4. Numbering

4.1 Developments in numbering continue to cause concerns but also to provide opportunities.

4.2 As far as we are aware the ITU-T have accepted the proposal that the major satellite (S-PCS) operators will have a common access number followed by a system identifier and then a country and service provider identifier.

## 5. Pre-Paid Mobile Phones

5.1 This is a move by some of the GSM/cellular operators to overcome fraud by selling pre-paid phones or cards to subscribers. At first sight this will provide a degree of anonymity to the user but it raises problems for the operator regarding malicious calls and emergency service location. The operators say they are considering modifying their proposals in order to obtain the identity of the purchaser of the card but this will not stop the card being sold on (see IMEI below).

5.2 This is a further move which will distance the subscriber details from the telephone number. Work is in hand in Europe to mitigate the effects of these proposals however these schemes are commercially driven and are likely to spread world-wide. The Expert Group would be grateful for feedback from readers on whether any pre-paid schemes for mobiles are already available in their country or are anticipated together with views on remedial action taken or planned. (see also IMEI below).

## 6. Short Message Service (SMS) on GSM

6.1 There are indications that the SMS is accessible through the INTERNET and therefore from an anonymous source.

## 7. IMEI on GSM

7.1 The original intention was that all mobiles would have an equipment identifier. However, many manufacturers are either giving all their mobiles the same number or providing equipment to change the numbers. The GSM MOU Security Group is discussing ways of encouraging manufacturers to cooperate in providing unique IMEI.

## 8. Optimal routing on GSM

8.1 This is a logical development by the operators to use the PSTN more effectively but which will have implications for interception. Briefly, if a roamer initiates a call to the country in which he is roaming it is presently routed by his home country. In future, the system will arrange for the routing to be made direct although, of course, the call details will be passed back to the home system.

## C. OTHER MATTERS UNDER REVIEW

9. Readers may wish to consider prioritising critical emerging technologies for example -

The internet  
voicemail/faxmail/sms  
isdn  
intelligent networks and personal numbering services  
virtual private networks and Centrex  
ATM and other packet services

These could be considered further at ILETS '97 in Dublin.

## D. Stop Press

10. We understand that Mannesman mobilfunk GmbH have indicated that they propose to take legal action against the German Government regarding the costs of providing the interception capability on their network.

