

EXAMPLE 3: FBI INTERNSHIP

On September 14, 1997, the body of a French National is found in a parking garage in Firs Lane, London. The victim has been shot twice in the head at short range with an automatic firearm. Witnesses saw the body dragged from a BMW and dropped in the garage. The vehicle was later found burning near an abandoned wharf in Middlesex, England. The suspect is Turkish National Anil Mumin.

Several thousand miles away in Washington, D.C., I sit behind my computer at the U.S. National Central Bureau headquarters of the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) and study the facts of the case. Working in the Alien/Fugitive division at the direction of Federal Agents from the U.S. Marshals Service, FBI and INS, I compile all known suspect information and learn that Mumin has family in the United States and may attempt to enter the country illegally. In an attempt to locate and arrest Mumin, I immediately send out a broadcast message to the 177 different Interpol Bureaus throughout the world using a highly secure international network of communications systems.

The thrill, excitement and gratification of coordinating the arrest of an elusive international criminal is like no other experience of which I have been a part. This inspiring feeling, combined with the necessary knowledge of state, federal and international regulations, gives concrete reality to a goal I have always had: a career in federal law enforcement. Yet it was not until my experiences at Interpol that I truly understood the purposeful motivation surrounding my interest in law.

Everyday at 6 p.m. on my way home as I pass through security and leave Interpol's Washington, D.C. office, I experience a feeling of accomplishment. Today, technology, computers and human dedication have once again combined to make the world a safer place. Yet while I am content and proud, a continuous sense of curiosity plagues my thoughts. Throughout the day, questions concerning international law, criminal law, human rights and extradition treatise constantly challenge my limited knowledge. I ponder these issues daily as I disappear into the Washington rush-hour crowds.

When I arrive home, I make note of my questions, hoping to get them answered in the following days. Yet, the more questions I ask, the more questions arise. And it is not until near the end of my internship that I begin to understand the importance of what is occurring. It is, in fact, not the answers that are important. Rather, it is the fact that I am developing an increasing interest in and curiosity for legal issues and concerns. It is the fact that I now clearly understand what the next step must be in reaching my career goals: a legal education.

While answers to perplexing legal questions may not always be readily apparent, solutions to complex cases may be simpler than previously believed. Upon my request for more information about Anil Mumin, Interpol Germany had e-mailed a set of fingerprints taken from the suspect on October 19, 1979. Similarly, Interpol Turkey e-mailed the suspect's known aliases and a list of distinguishing characteristics. With direction from supervisors, I compiled the known information and sent out an

international all-points-bulletin requesting the temporary detainment of the suspect. Eight hours later, a tip was received from Interpol Madrid, and less than 24 hours after the original call had been placed from Interpol London to Interpol Washington, Anil Mumin was arrested in New York by INS officials as his plane arrived from Spain.

The world was safer as a result of the work I had done that day.