

MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE CENTRAL TASK FORCE HELD ON 13-11-1986.

The first meeting of the Central Task Force (CTF) was held on 13. 11. 86 at 11.00 A.M. in the Chamber of Member (Customs), National Board of Revenue and Convenor of the Central Task Force under his chairmanship.

The following officials attended:

1. Mr. M.M. Sharraf Ali, Additional Inspector-General of Police.
2. Brig. Mohammad Anwar Hossain, Deputy Director-General, BDR.
3. Mr. Md. Iqbal Hussain, Director, N.S.I.
4. Mr. M. Azizul Haq, DIG, Special Branch.
5. Mr. M.S.I. Choudhury, Director, Customs Intelligence and Investigation, Dhaka.
6. Major (Retd) Abdul Bari, Deputy Director, Ansar/VDP.

2. The Convenor welcomed the participants and read out the terms of references of C.T.F. A discussion followed to take stock of the present legal situation obtaining in the country after restoration of civil administration under the constitution. Now there is no bar on injunction prayers to Civil Courts or on Writ Petitions to High Courts. Under M.L. situation position was different. Strict watch would have to be kept on legal points so that raids and operations are not bogged down by litigations. The C.T.F. may need opinions on legal issues. For that purpose it was felt necessary to co-opt a senior official of the Law Ministry.

Regional Task Forces/teams to be effective participation of the Divisional Commissioners was thought essential on the ground that anti-smuggling operations will require active participation of District authorities and Magistracies. Deputy Commissioners of border districts are also heads of District Anti-Smuggling Committees.

3. After thorough discussion following decisions were taken:

(i) One Joint Secretary from the Ministry of Law is co-opted as a member of the CTF.

(ii) Four Regional Task Forces are formed as under:

Regional Task Force, Rajshahi.

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| 1. Commissioner, Rajshahi Division | - Convenor |
| 2. D.I.G. of Police, Rajshahi | - Member |
| 3. Secbr Commander, BDR, Rajshahi | - " |
| 4. Deputy Director, NSE., Rajshahi | - " |
| 5. Deputy Director, Ansar/VDP, Rajshahi | - " |
| 6. Assistant/Dy. Collector, Rajshahi | - " |
| 7. Assistant Superintendent of Police, Rajshahi | - " |

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Regional Task Force, Khulna.

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| 1. | Commissioner, Khulna Division | - | Convener |
| 2. | Commissioner of Khulna Metropolitan Police | - | Member |
| 3. | D.I.G. of Police, Khulna Range | - | " |
| 4. | Collector of Customs & Excise, Khulna | - | " |
| 5. | Sector Commander, BDR, Khulna | - | " |
| 6. | Deputy Director, NSI, Khulna | - | " |
| 7. | Deputy Director, Ansar/VDP, Khulna | - | " |
| 8. | Assistant Director, Customs Intelligence and Investigation, Khulna | - | " |
| 9. | Assistant Superintendent of Police, D.S.B. | - | " |

Regional Task Force, Dhaka.

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| 1. | Commissioner, Dhaka Division | - | Convener |
| 2. | D.I.G. of Police, Dhaka Range | - | Member |
| 3. | Collector of Customs, Custom House, Dhaka. | - | " |
| 4. | Circle Commander, BDR, Dhaka | - | " |
| 5. | Additional Commissioner of Police, DMP | - | " |
| 6. | Addl. Director, Customs Intelligence and Investigation, Dhaka | - | " |
| 7. | Deputy Director, NSI, Dhaka Division | - | " |
| 8. | Deputy Director, Ansar/VDP, Dhaka | - | " |
| 9. | Special Supdt. of Police, City Special Branch, Dhaka | - | " |

Regional Task Force, Chittagong.

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| 1. | Commissioner of Chittagong Division | - | Convener |
| 2. | Commissioner, Chittagong Metropolitan Police | - | Member |
| 3. | D.I.G. of Police, Chittagong Range | - | " |
| 4. | Collector of Customs & Excise, Chittagong | - | " |
| 5. | Collector of Customs, Custom House, Chittagong | - | " |
| 6. | Sector Commander, BDR, Chittagong | - | " |
| 7. | Additional Director, Customs Intelligence & Investigation, Chittagong | - | " |
| 8. | Deputy Director, NSI, Chittagong | - | " |
| 9. | Deputy Director, Ansar/VDP, Chittagong | - | " |
| 10. | Assistant Commissioner, City Special Branch, CMP., Chittagong | - | " |

(xi) The Regional Task Forces may immediately go into action.

They may co-opt such member/members as deemed fit. Each RTF will organise at least two raids/operations during November and reports of such raids will be communicated to the Member, Customs, MBR and Convener of the Central Task Force Segunbagicha, Dhaka by 31 December, 1986.

Sent: 11/12/86

(iv) The Regional Task Force will after thorough scrutiny prepare a list of veteran smugglers of their localities for watching and actions. Heads of Anti-Corruption and Special Branch of Police may be helpful for the purpose apart from other organisations like customs, police and BDR.

(v) Ministry of Finance be requested initially for Taka 2 lakhs for the purpose of conducting raids and anti-smuggling operations for labour and transportation charges.

4. The following will be the terms of references for the Regional Task Forces:

- (a) The RTFs will plan, organise and co-ordinate in respective Divisions anti-smuggling operations of various agencies, raids at points of entry and places of storage and disposal of smuggled goods.
- (b) The RTFs may organise local task forces/teams for carrying out anti-smuggling raids as frequently as deemed fit to make smuggling an unprofitable venture and issue appropriate instructions to them from time to time.
- (c) The RTFs will be competent to seek cooperation and assistance from any law enforcing agency as well as the district administration in order to make the anti-smuggling operations effective and successful.
- (d) The anti-smuggling operations/raids of regional and local task forces will be in addition to the activities of the departments/organisations engaged in anti-smuggling functions as a part of their normal duty.
- (e) NSI and SB will cooperate and assist the convenors/leaders of the Regional and local task forces with necessary intelligence about smugglers, their financiers/accomplices, their modus operandi, places of storage and disposal of smuggled goods etc.
- (f) For raids, special attention and intensive action has to be given to certain areas/markets of Chittagong, Comodpur, Khulna, Jessore and Dhaka.

- (g) Checks and raids should be done on railway stations and platforms. It is preferable that the smuggled goods are detected before such goods enter the trains. However, in case of definite information of large-scale smuggling, checks may be done in running trains. It should be ensured that there is minimum disruption to the train services or inconvenience to the passengers.
- (h) All smuggled and seized foreign cigarettes, liquor and drugs are to be destroyed by burning. However, such destruction is to be carried out in presence of three Class-I officers (one from Customs Department, one Magistrate and a representative from police/BDR/armed forces) who will jointly sign a certificate of destruction. Customs Department may form district and local-level Disposal Committee in this respect.
- (i) Some extracts from the minutes of the National Anti-Smuggling Committee's meeting held on 28-10-86 are enclosed for information of the RTFs.

5. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.

Encls: 2 sheets.

(Tabarak Ali)
Member (Customs), NBR
&
Additional Secretary to the Govt.
&
Convener of Central Task Force.

Dated the 18th November, 1986.

C.No, 4(73)Cus.8/82/214-29
Copy for information to:-

1. The Chairman, National Anti-Smuggling Committee.
2. The Secretary, Cabinet Division, Dhaka with the request to kindly advise the Regional Commissioners to act as Conveners of the Regional Task Forces as ordered by the CTF.
3. The Secretary, Ministry of Law & Justice. He is requested kindly to nominate one Joint Secretary to act as a member of the CTF.
4. Mr. M.M. Shareef Ali, Additional Inspector-General of Police, Dhaka.
5. Brig. Mohammad Anwar Hossain, Deputy Director-General, BDR.
6. Mr. M. Azizul Haq, D.I.G., Special Branch, Rajarbagh, Dhaka.
7. Mr. Md. Ismail Husain, Director, N.S.I. Dhaka.
8. Mr. M.S.I. Choudhury, Director, Customs Intelligence & Investigation, Dhaka.
9. Major (Retd) Abdul Bari, Deputy Director, Ansar/VDP, Khilgaon, Dhaka.
10. Mr. Mohammad Ismail Hossain, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs and Member-Secretary to the National Anti-Smuggling Committee.
11. Divisional Commissioners and Conveners of Regional Task Forces, Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi.
12. Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Finance Division, Bangladesh Sectt. Dhaka.
13. Secretary, IRD & Chairman, NBR.

(Tabarak Ali)
Member (Customs), NBR.
&
Additional Secretary to the Government.
&
Convener of Central Task Force.

18.11.86