

POLICE CIRCULAR ORDER NO. 196

Subject: —A new technique to aid the identification and tracking of suspects or missing persons by Identi-Kit-Systems.

It is our common experience that in some cases, the tracking and identifying of a person have to be undertaken on the strength of the verbal description of the wanted person by a lone witness or the victim only. The victim carries in his memory an image of the person he has observed and he attempts to bring out this image in words as per his description. The words will have to be observed with great accuracy and moreover the person who receives it, must also be able to recreate the image in his mind with the help of the verbal description. This presents certain difficulties as the same words may convey different meanings to the reader or the hearer. Thus there is a possibility that the mental image produced through the verbal description may differ from the mental image of the witness or victim. The Identi-Kit-System offers a very satisfactory solution to this problem. Here also the witness or victim, no doubt describes verbally only the wanted man but the operator of the Identi-Kit-System after hearing it prepares a composite picture of the person which the witness sees and satisfies himself that this tallies with his mental image. Once he approves of the composite picture as the closest to his mental image, there is no need at all of any verbal description to be communicated. Its place will be taken by the composite picture itself which can be printed or screened.

Identi-Kit is an invention of Mr. Hugh @ Macdonald who was working in the Los Angeles Bureau of Identification in U.S.A. The Identi-kit-unit manufactured by Townsaw Company, U.S.A. holds the world copyright of the system. The unit consists of 541 transparent slides, the great majority of which carry components of human face printed on them. The Identi-kit supports the well known principle that whatever the eyes sees, the mind records permanently.

The Identi-kit is capable of building 62 billions of faces from its 541 Slides.

An Inspector of C.I.D., Crimes Branch, Orissa, Cuttack has successfully completed the training course on Identi-kit and after experimenting with the building of composite pictures, it is felt that this system may be of considerable help in tracking the culprits.

All Superintendents of Police will please take advantage of this squad in Crime Branch and send requisitions to S.P., C.I.D., C.B. for the services of the Identi-Squad whenever necessary.

B. B. Mishra, I.P.
Inspector General of Police, Orissa, Cuttack.