

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
CRIME.

(Thru) Officer in charge,
ELIZABETH C.I.B.

SUBJECT: PAEDOPHILE TASK FORCE - Creation of in South Australian Police Department.

1. I have been a member of the South Australian Police Force for over 30 years. I have been a member of the Criminal Investigation Branch for 22 years. I have been a Detective Sergeant for 4 years. During the past 12 years I have had a serious interest in child abuse investigations and have strived to improve the manner in which investigations are made. I was the instigator and officer in charge of "Operation Keeper", a child abuse operation in the Elizabeth C.I.B. area. I was also given the task of assessing investigations made by members of "Operation Deny", a recent paedophile group investigation, by Mr WATKINS. As a result of my interests in this field of investigation I feel that the Police Department is severely lacking when investigations are made into multi-victim offenders and paedophile groups.
2. The South Australian Police Department has no permanent child mistreatment/paedophile task force to investigate hard core multi-victim offenders. When a report of this nature is made or when police discover these type of offenders, a team from the Organised Crime Task Force or a composite team of secondments from various areas are given the investigation to undertake. I am of the opinion that this approach to the problem has many areas of fault.
3. During "Operation Keeper" a number of hard core paedophiles were uncovered that Police had no knowledge of. A request was made at this time that these persons should be targeted and investigated. This task was given to a team of Detectives in Organised Crime Task Force. The team worked on some of these offenders for a 3 month period without result. Due to the networking developed by members of "Operation Keeper" with Family and Community Services, Education Department and Hospitals Department members, further investigations were carried on by members of "Operation Keeper" at the end of the 3 month period resulting in the arrest of a paedophile involving 360 separate offences. This was achieved due to the constant liaison between the above mentioned government bodies. This liaison does not occur overnight but takes time to develop. I am not being critical in relation to the investigators from Organised Crime Task Force in relation to their investigations but it is obvious that success came as a result of investigations by a group of selected investigators who had been working as a team in this area of crime for about 9 months.
4. Also during "Operation Keeper" a persistent paedophile named HAWKES emerged as a serious problem. When HAWKES was nominated to be targeted by Organised Crime Task Force, nobody appeared concerned about him. Some two years later a member of the public approached a news media person with photographs and video tapes of HAWKES and his associates committing pornographic acts on children. This resulted in the creation of "Operation Deny", a special policing operation to investigate HAWKES and his associates. The investigators were taken from the child abuse investigation teams from Christies Beach C.I.B., Darlington C.I.B., Holden Hill C.I.B and Elizabeth C.I.B. areas. The investigations made in my opinion left a lot to be desired. A task force at least should have been set up PRIOR to any arrests being made. Four offenders were arrested for various child abuse offences. Of these one has been convicted, one has been acquitted, charges against one were dropped so that he could give evidence to convict another and the fourth offender has decamped and a warrant is in existence for his arrest. All these offenders would have been convicted of serious offences if a paedophile task force had been given the investigation of the offences. The investigation by these officers resulted in their local child

abuse investigations being severely hampered and delayed due to preparation of court files for offenders of "Operation Deny".

5. "Operation Patriot" is a permanent task force to investigate prostitution. I am of the opinion that child abuse caused by hard core paedophiles is far more serious than prostitution. I have spoken to various members who have served on "Operation Patriot" and I have learned that numerous hard core paedophiles have been uncovered by them. Due to their specific duties in relation to prostitutes they have been unable to investigate these matters and in fact have discussed this problem with Commissioner HUNT on an occasion when he visited "Operation Patriot". The information gathered by Operation Patriot members concerning these offenders is passed to B.C.I. and is recorded at that section.

6. I could continue with many examples as described above which would illustrate the necessary and basic need to create a permanent Task Force (similar to "Operation Patriot") to investigate multi-victim child abuse offenders and paedophile groups operating in South Australia. This task force should be made up of specially selected trained officers networking with other Government and Non Government bodies in a centralised area.

7. I am of the opinion that a Task Force set up as follows could quite ably solve the present problems:

7.1. Detective Senior Sergeant - Administration.

7.2. 2 Detective Sergeants - Field supervisors and senior investigators.

7.3. 6 Detectives - Investigators.

7.4. 2 Police officers seconded from Sexual Assault Section

(This would allow for two investigation teams to work on alternate shifts)

8. I am of the opinion that this task force should be set up in a centralised location and could serve the whole of the State. For example, if a paedophile (for instance OSHEA) shifted to Port Lincoln or Port Augusta, a team could travel to that location and conduct all investigations proficiently and professionally.

9. If consideration is given to the setting up of a task force of this nature I suggest it be situated at Thebarton Barracks working alongside Operation Patriot as constant contact and information from members of that Operation may assist investigations being made by a Paedophile Task Force.

10. I realise that the Department is facing severe budget restraints but I feel that the damage caused to victims in both the short and long term periods from the affects of the these offences show s an urgent need for a task force of this nature to be formed.

11. Report forwarded for your information and consideration.



J.B. BEAN

Detective Sergeant 1179/2

ELIZABETH C.I.B.

16/10/94