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Officer in Charge,
Investigations Section,
SOUTH COAST L. S. A.

Subject: Requested report re finalisation of Operation Deny

Reference: Operation Deny – investigation into an international paedophile ring

1. On 11th May, 1993 I was given the task of investigating an alleged paedophile ring that was brought to light by David Kellett, an investigative journalist with Channel 9 News service in Adelaide. I attended Darlington CIB (as it was called then) and there I was handed a wooden box containing numerous rolls of undeveloped and developed film and a transcript of a conversation Kellett had recorded with an informant. I later had the rolls of film processed and printed. It was obvious on viewing the photographs that I was dealing with a group of paedophiles as a number of male adults were seen involved sexually with the boys in the photographs.
2. The investigation was given the title of 'Operation Deny' and I was assigned as the primary, and only, investigator. Vicki Sherlock (now Vicki Ramm {sister-in-law} of B. C. I.) was assigned to assist me in the intelligence role. No victim's identities were known at the commencement of the investigation. As the investigation proceeded 12 victims were positively identified and over 50 other children were identified as victims, but were never identified.
3. In October of 1993 I had communication, via Interpol, with Detective Constables Phippin and Morrell of Kent County Constabulary, England that resulted in the investigation being broadened as it was established that copies of some of the photographs in my possession had been located in England. The photographs were located amongst over 60 letters written and posted from South Australia by a person signing his name as Rob. This was later established to be Robert Kingsley Hawkes. The letters and photographs seized in raids in England were conveyed to me via Interpol through diplomatic bag due to the nature and sensitivity of the contents of the material. It was obvious that I was dealing with an international paedophile ring.
4. Investigations revealed that the S.A. connection in the international ring involved centred around Hawkes. Other persons identified in S. A. were Geoffrey Paul Barton, Brian Bertram Morris Perkins, and Kenneth William Glencross. Another person identified was **REDACTED** **REDACTED** of Sydney, N. S. W. Other associates were also identified in other Australian States and Territories, but no criminal offences could be established against them.
5. Having identified a number of victims and obtaining statements I put together an operation to simultaneously apprehend all persons involved in the ring in S. A. and N. S. W.. As a result I liaised with N. S. W. Detectives Pagano and Geber. Vicki Sherlock (Ramm) and I developed target packages for each of the 5 arrest team and provided each team with all evidentiary materials required for their specific target arrest file.
6. On Friday 10th September, 1993 the plan was enacted and all 5 targets were arrested. A substantial amount of material was seized from the 5 targets' home addresses and all were arrested **REDACTED**. **REDACTED** was reported for firearms offences even though he was in possession of child pornography, as at that time it was not a criminal offence in N. S. W. to possess that type of material. Photographs and letters seized from **REDACTED** **RE** were later conveyed to S. A. under a warrant issued, on my application, under the Criminal Investigations (Extraterritorial Offences) Act, 1984. This material further expanded the connection of South Australian paedophiles with the international paedophile network and identified Robert Kingsley Hawkes as the central figure within the Australian network.

- 7 I was the arresting officer for Hawkes and the matter slowly proceeded through the Court system with the D. P. P handling all prosecutions in relation to Operation Deny. Of those arrested Hawkes was the only one to be sentenced to imprisonment. Hawkes was sentenced in the District Court on 12/10/1994 to 39 months imprisonment with a non parole period of 9 months. The charges laid by the D. P. P. related to only 4 victims.
- 8 On 10/7/94 whilst awaiting trial I again arrested Hawkes and charged him with Send Letter Threatening to Accuse a Person of an Infamous Crime and Attempting to Prevent a Person From Giving Evidence based on the correspondence seized in N. S. W. [REDACT]. The D. P. P. subsequently withdrew the charges.
- 9 The charges against Geoffrey Paul Barton were withdrawn by the D. P. P. after making a confidential deal with the D. P. P.. To this day I have been unable to ascertain what the deal entailed other than information was provided by Barton to the D. P. P. and the D. P. P. refuses to divulge the details.
- 10 Brian Bertram Morris Perkins was released on bail in 1993 and fled interstate. In 1999 I located the whereabouts of Perkins in Ayr, Queensland. I made an application for extradition that was declined on the basis that the victims relating to Perkins outstanding charges were all mentally impaired and the likelihood of a successful prosecution after 5 years was unlikely. Perkins remains the only one of the identified Australian section of the group not to be prosecuted.
- 11 Kenneth William Glencross was jointly charged with Hawkes and on Glencross's appearance in the Adelaide Magistrates Court the matters were dismissed by Mr. Brown, SM citing that the prosecution did not prove that Glencross incited or procured the victims to remove their clothing or perform any sexual acts. This was despite the photographs tendered in evidence clearly showed 3 partly dressed victims inside his house and 1 victim sitting on his lap being cuddled by him. Oral evidence given at trial from all victims supported the charges. Glencross then moved interstate to reside in Port Fairy, Victoria.
- 12 At this time it was considered that Operation Deny was all but over although some charges were never proceeded with due to age of the victims and they not being able to stand the trauma of giving evidence. In mid 1995 I was contacted by the D. P. P. and informed that the many exhibits relating to Operation Deny could be collected. I conveyed the exhibits to the Christies Beach C. I. B. Child Abuse Investigation Unit where I secured them in a locked cupboard. I considered that there was a chance that further prosecutions could eventuate over time.
- 13 As a result in April 1998 I was contacted by Sexual Assault Section (S. A. S.) and advised that a victim, [REDACTED], had attended S. A. S. and completed a statement that he partially gave in 1993 to Detective Wally Conte, of Holden Hill C. I. B.. The statement implicated Glencross and Hawkes in sexual offences against [REDA] when aged 14 years at Glencross's house at Klemzig. As Conte was on extended leave I was given the file to complete being the primary investigator of Operation Deny. I searched through the exhibits that I had maintained in storage at Christies Beach and I put together a file for consideration by the D. P. P. re the likelihood of prosecution. This resulted in approval to extradite Glencross from Victoria. On 15th June, 1998 I attended Portland, Victoria where I successfully applied for extradition of Glencross to S.A. on charges of 4 counts of Unlawful Sexual Intercourse, 3 counts of Gross Indecency and 1 count of Indecent Assault. Glencross was allowed bail and returned to Victoria on condition he return to S.A. for all Court proceedings.
- 14 In late February, 2000 the matter went to trial in the District Court and resulted on the last day of the trail being declared a mistrial due to a person in the public gallery making comments in an outburst in Court in front of the jury. On 4th July, 2000 the matter was retried and resulted in the conviction of Glencross on 2 counts of Unlawful Sexual Intercourse, 2 counts of Procuring a Child to Commit Gross Indecent Acts and 1 count of Indecent Assault. On 11th July, 2000 Glencross was sentenced to 6 years imprisonment with a non parole period of 2 years and 6 months to be served from 11th July, 2000.

- 15 The 'Operation Deny' investigation resulted in the setting up of 'Operation Torpedo' (a full time specialised paedophile investigation unit) within SAPOL. This later led to the implementation of the Child Exploitation Unit that is now staffed by a Detective Sergeant, 3 Detective Investigators and a full time Intelligence Analyst.
- 16 As a result of enquiries conducted as part of Operation Deny persons were identified in other countries as being part of the international paedophile network. This information was circulated to the various countries in question through Interpol. The result of this was that persons in the U. S. A., Spain, Portugal, Nepal, Denmark, England, and Wales were investigated and some prosecutions took place. On 16/9/1993 I was advised via fax from Interpol that the information sent to England identified the ring leader (Clive Thompson) of a paedophile ring operating throughout the United Kingdom and Europe who the Kent County Constabulary had been trying to identify for over 12 months. The information supplied by Vicki and myself led to his whereabouts being identified and his subsequent arrest that enabled the English police to close down a large paedophile network. The English police operation was code named 'Operation Red Tag'.
- 17 This report forwarded for information on the finalisation of Operation Deny.

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