Records responsive to your request were previously processed under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. Enclosed is one CD containing 330 pages of previously processed documents and a copy of the Explanation of Exemptions. This release is being provided to you at no charge.

Documents or information referred to other Government agencies were not included in this release.

Please be advised that additional records potentially responsive to your subject may exist. If this release of previously processed material does not satisfy your information needs for this request, you may request an additional search for records. Submit your request by mail or fax to – Work Process Unit, 170 Marcel Drive, Winchester, VA 22602, fax number (540) 868-4997. Please cite the FOIPA Request Number in your correspondence.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). See 5 U.S. C. § 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV (2010). This response is limited to those records subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

For questions regarding our determinations, visit the www.fbi.gov/foia website under “Contact Us.” The FOIPA Request Number listed above has been assigned to your request. Please use this number in all correspondence concerning your request.

You may file an appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, Suite 11050, 1425 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP’s FOIAonline portal by creating an account on the following website: https://foiaonline.regulations.gov/foia/action/public/home. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within ninety (90) days from the date of this letter in order to be considered timely. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked “Freedom of Information Act Appeal.” Please cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so it may be easily identified.
You may seek dispute resolution services by contacting the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at 877-684-6448, or by emailing ogis@nara.gov. Alternatively, you may contact the FBI's FOIA Public Liaison by emailing foipaqustions@fbi.gov. If you submit your dispute resolution correspondence by email, the subject heading should clearly state “Dispute Resolution Services.” Please also cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so it may be easily identified.

Sincerely,

David M. Hardy  
Section Chief,  
Record/Information Dissemination Section  
Records Management Division

Enclosure(s)
SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

(b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;

(b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;

(b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;

(b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;

(b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;

(b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

(b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;

(b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or

(b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

(d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;

(j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;

(k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;

(k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;

(k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;

(k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;

(k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;

(k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service he release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;

(k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

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Page 362 ~ b6; b7C;
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Page 408 ~ b6; b7C; b7E;
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Page 410 ~ b6; b7C; b7E;
Page 411 ~ b6; b7C; b7E;
Page 412 ~ b6; b7C; b7E;
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SECTION 1 OF 2
CITE: //06077/
PASS: SUPERVISORY SPECIAL AGENT (SSA) _______ SQUAD C-4,
WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN FIELD OFFICE (WMFO); SSA _______
SQUAD C-4, MIAMI DIVISION; AND SENIOR SUPERVISORY RESIDENT AGENT
(SSRA) _______ WEST PALM BEACH RESIDENT AGENCY, MIAMI
DIVISION.

SUBJECT: "INDERS" GROUP; WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT - SEXUAL
EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE - PRELIMINARY
INQUIRY; 00; WMFO,
PAGE TWO DE RUCNFB 0179 UNCLAS

RE FBIHQ FACSIMILE TO MIAMI SSA DATED 10/27/93
AND TO MIAMI SSA DATED 10/28/93; AND FBIHQ SSA

TEL CALL WITH WMFO SSA ON 10/29/93.

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ) HAS REQUESTED THE FBI
CONDUCT A PRELIMINARY INQUIRY INTO ALLEGATIONS MADE BY

CONCERNING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE BY A GROUP KNOWN AS
THE "FINDERS," AND WHAT ROLE, IF ANY, WAS PLAYED BY THE UNITED
STATES INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

BY SEPARATE COMMUNICATION, WMFO WILL BE PROVIDED AVAILABLE
DOCUMENTATION RECEIVED TO DATE FROM DOJ, CONCERNING

ALLEGATIONS. UNITED STATES CUSTOMS SERVICE (USCS) SSA

USCS HEADQUARTERS, WASHINGTON, D.C.

ALSO POSSESSES DOCUMENTATION CONCERNING "FINDERS" WHICH IS TO BE
OBTAINED BY WMFO.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS BEING PROVIDED AS BACKGROUND IN
THIS MATTER FOR WMFO AND MIAMI:

IN 1987, WERE

CONVICTED OF SEXUALLY ABUSING CHILDREN, ONE OF THE CHILDREN WHO
ATTENDED THE SCHOOL DURING THE TIME OF THE ALLEGED SEXUAL ABUSE
WAS THE

DOING BUSINESS AS
AFTER THE IMPOSITION OF PRISON SENTENCES ON BOTH ____________, BECAME CONVINCED THAT NUMEROUS OTHER CHILDREN HAD BEEN ABUSED AND THAT THE ABUSE WAS PART OF A LARGE, WELL-ORGANIZED SCHEME. SUBSEQUENTLY, ____________, ATTEMPTED TO INTEREST CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS AND THE USCS IN HIS EFFORTS TO ENHANCE EFFORTS IN THE AREA OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND INVESTIGATING CLAIMS OF ORGANIZED SEXUAL ABUSE.

DURING OCTOBER 1993, ____________ MET WITH UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN ROSE (FLORIDA) TO DISCUSS ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING A GROUP KNOWN AS "FINDERS," ____________ CONGRESSMAN ROSE AND ____________ SUBSEQUENTLY PROVIDED INFORMATION CONCERNING THESE ALLEGATIONS TO DOJ.

AN FBIHQ INDICES SEARCH REVEALED A REFERENCE TO "FINDERS" IN FBIHQ FILE 7-HQ-20191. A REVIEW OF THIS FILE INDICATED THAT FBI JACKSONVILLE (JACKSONVILLE FILE 7-1248) AND FBI WMFO (WMFO FILE 7-1685) HAD CONDUCTED INVESTIGATION RESULTING FROM AN ARREST OF TWO INDIVIDUALS IN TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA, IN 1987.

ON 2/4/87, ____________ WERE ARRESTED BY THE TALLAHASSEE POLICE DEPARTMENT (TPD) ON
Misdemeanor Child Abuse Charges Resulting from a Complaint that Six Children Playing in a Park Were Unkept and Neglected.

The two subjects with the children, could not initially provide sufficient information as to their legal custody of the children and were uncooperative regarding their identity and the children's identity. As a result of information developed during these arrests, the TPD contacted the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), Washington, D.C., and provided information concerning [redacted] and their association with a group known as "Finders," based in Washington, D.C. On 2/5/87, the MPD executed search warrants, prepared by the United States Attorney's Office, District of Columbia, Washington, D.C., on two properties owned by the "Finders" in Washington, D.C. Special Agent (SA) [redacted] participated in these searches.

A joint investigation, conducted by the MPD and WMFO, lead to the identification and interview of the mothers of the six children, two of the fathers, and several other key members of the "Finders" group. On 2/18/87, WMFO presented the results of their investigation to Assistant United States Attorney [redacted] United States Attorney's Office for the District of...
COLUMBIA, WASHINGTON, D.C., WHO DECLINED PROSECUTION FOR VIOLATION OF TITLE 18, U.S. CODE, SECTION 1201 (KIDNAPPING) AND 2251 (SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN). WMFO SA _______ WAS THE WMFO CASE AGENT IN THIS MATTER.

DOJ REVIEW OF USCS DOCUMENTS INDICATES THAT DURING THE EXECUTION OF THE SEARCH WARRANTS BY THE MPD AT THE TWO "FINDERS" PROPERTIES, USCS SA _______ CLAIMS TO HAVE OBSERVED A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF COMPUTER EQUIPMENT AND DOCUMENTS PURPORTEDLY CONTAINING INSTRUCTIONS FOR OBTAINING CHILDREN FOR UNSPECIFIED PURPOSES. THE INSTRUCTIONS ALLEGEDLY INCLUDED THE IMPREGNATION OF FEMALE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY, PURCHASING CHILDREN, TRADING CHILDREN AND KIDNAPPING THEM. _______ CLAIMS
HAS ALLEGED THAT THE FINDERS ARE INVOLVED IN A WELL-ORGANIZED CHILD ABUSE SCHEME, AND THAT
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT, AND THE FBI'S FOREIGN COUNTERINTELLIGENCE SECTION, CONSPIRED TO COVER UP THOSE ABUSES.
USCS SA SHOULD BE CONTACTED BY WMF-0 TO OBTAIN COMPLETE USCS DOCUMENTATION CONCERNING "FINDER,S". INVESTIGATION BY WMF-0 IN THIS MATTER WILL ALSO INCLUDE THE INTERVIEW OF AND AND THE REVIEW OF ANY DOCUMENTATION IN THE POSSESSION OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT PASSPORT OFFICE, AND THE FOREIGN COUNTERINTELLIGENCE DIVISION, FBIHQ,

#0179

NNNN
UNCLASS

SECTION 2 OF 2

CITE:  //060777/

PASS:  SUPERVISORY SPECIAL AGENT (SSA)                                         SQUAD C-4,
WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN FIELD OFFICE (WMFO); SSA                                         SQUAD C-4, MIAMI DIVISION; AND SENIOR SUPERVISORY RESIDENT AGENT
( SSRA)  WEST PALM BEACH RESIDENT AGENCY, MIAMI
DIVISION,

SUBJECT:  "FINDERS" GROUP; WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT - SEXUAL
EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE - PRELIMINARY
INQUIRY; OO; WMFO,
IT IS NOTED THAT A MEMBER OF CONGRESS HAS INDICATED TO THE DOJ THAT DUE TO THE "FINDERS" INVESTIGATION, INVESTIGATION SHOULD BE CONDUCTED PROMPTLY IN THIS MATTER AND WMFO WILL SUBMIT RESULTS BY TELETYPE TO THE VIOLENT CRIMES/FUGITIVES UNIT, VIOLENT CRIMES AND MAJOR OFFENDERS SECTION, CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION, LEADS:

MIAMI DIVISION

AT STUART, FLORIDA

WILL LOCATE AND INTERVIEW THE DOING BUSINESS AS AND OBTAIN ANY RELEVANT MATERIAL IN HIS POSSESSION CONCERNING "FINDERS,"

WMFO

AT WASHINGTON, D.C.

1. WILL LOCATE AND INTERVIEW USCS SA WASHINGTON, D.C., # TO OBTAIN USCS DOCUMENTATION RELATING TO "FINDERS,"

3. WILL INTERVIEW WMFO SA TO OBTAIN DETAILS
OF THE WMFD INVESTIGATION PERTAINING TO "FINDERS,"

4. WILL REVIEW AVAILABLE DOCUMENTATION CONCERNING "FINDERS"
FROM ______ STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICE AND THE FOREIGN
COUNTERINTELLIGENCE DIVISION, FB HQ.

BY
#0180  

NNNN
ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:


THIS COMMUNICATION DESIGNATES WMFO AS OFFICE OF ORIGIN AND SETS SPECIFICS LEADS CONCERNING THE INVESTIGATION OF THIS PRELIMINARY INQUIRY.

ON 11/3/93, THIS MATTER WAS COORDINATED WITH UNIT CHIEF OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY (OPR) FBHQM, WHO OPINED THAT ABSENT ADDITIONAL FACTS BEING DEVELOPED, THERE IS NO OPR ISSUE INVOLVED IN THIS MATTER.

Drafted By: DRW\RDT Room/TL #: 5042 Phone No: 4294

COPY DESIGNATIONS:

1
1
1

1 - TICKLER
Memorandum

To: SAC, WMFO (31-WF-189911)
From: SAC, MIAMI
Subject: "FINDERS" GROUP

Date: 07/01/96

Enclosed are 2 items.

These items are forwarded to your office since file meets criteria for destruction.

Enclosures are described as follows:

☐ Original Notes.
☐ Original FD-302's.
☐ Laboratory and/or Technical Support.
☒ Miscellaneous Documents.

Enc. 2

NOTE: DO NOT BLOCK STAMP ORIGINAL ENCLOSURES.
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**Disposition:**
- b6
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**File No.:** BIC-WF-189911

**Title:** Finders Group

**Date:** NOV 09 1993

**Note:** Filled out and signed by L. J. on 11/23.
Universal File Case Number 314W-189911/1A-1
Field Office Acquiring Evidence WMFO
Serial # of Originating Document
Date Received 11/05/95
From
(Name of Contributor)

(Address of Contributor)

(City and State)
By SSA (Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☐ No
Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☐ No
Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e)
Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure ☐ Yes ☐ No

Title: FINDERS

Reference:

(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☐ Original notes re interview of

- PROVIDED CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION
Universal File Case Number 3IC-WF-18991-1A-2
Field Office Acquiring Evidence WMFO
Serial # of Originating Document
Date Received 11/5/93
From (Name of Contributor)
(Address of Contributor)
By SA (City and State) (Name of Special Agent)
To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☐ No
Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☐ No
Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e)
Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure ☐ Yes ☐ No
Title:

Reference: (Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☐ Original notes re interview of [Initial]
Universal File Case Number: 31C-UF-1899/11/1A-3

Field Office Acquiring Evidence: WMF

Serial # of Originating Document:

Date Received: 12/93

From:

(Name of Contributor)

(Address of Contributor)

By:

(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned: □ Yes □ No

Receipt Given: □ Yes □ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e)

Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure: □ Yes □ No

Title:

Reference:

(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: □ Original notes re interview of

USCS
Universal File Case Number 3IC-WE-18911-1A4
Field Office Acquiring Evidence WMPD
Serial # of Originating Document
Date Received 4/8/93
From
(Name of Contributor)
(Address of Contributor)
(City and State)
By
(Name of Special Agent)
To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☐ No
Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☐ No
Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e)
Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure ☐ Yes ☐ No
Title:

Reference: (Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☐ Original notes re interview of

□
Universal File Case Number 31C-WF-189911-AE8

Field Office Acquiring Evidence WMFO

Serial # of Originating Document ____________________________

Date Received 1/11/94

From _______________________________________________________

(Name of Contributor)

__________________________________________________________

(Address of Contributor)

By ________________________________ (Name of Special Agent)

(City and State)

To Be Returned □ Yes □ No

Receipt Given □ Yes □ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e)

Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure □ Yes □ No

Title:

Reference: ________________________________________________

(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: □ Original notes re interview of

Red: MPP
Universal File Case Number: 31-C-WF-189911-IA-4
Field Office Acquiring Evidence: WAFB
Serial # of Originating Document:
Date Received:
From: (Name of Contributor)
(Address of Contributor)
(City and State)
By (Name of Special Agent)
To Be Returned □ Yes □ No
Receipt Given □ Yes □ No
Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e)
Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure □ Yes □ No
Title:
Reference: (Communication Enclosing Material)
Description: □ Original notes re interview of

Universal File Case Number: 31C-WF-189911/1A-7

Field Office Acquiring Evidence: WMF

Serial # of Originating Document

Date Received: 5/13/94, 5/17/94, and 5/24/94

From
(Name of Contributor)

(Address of Contributor)

By
(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned:  ☐ Yes  ☐ No

Receipt Given:  ☐ Yes  ☐ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e)

Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure:  ☐ Yes  ☐ No

Title:

Reference:

(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☐ Original notes re interview of

CONCERNING NAME OF C/S
Universal File Case Number: 31C-WF-189911-149

Field Office Acquiring Evidence

Serial # of Originating Document

Date Received: 1/3/94

From: SA

(Name of Contributor)

(Address of Contributor)

El Centro, CA

(City and State)

By: SA

(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Receipt Given: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e)

Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Title:

Reference: ____________________________

(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☒ Original notes re interview of
Universal File Case Number 31C-UF-18991/1A

Field Office Acquiring Evidence WMFD

Serial # of Originating Document

Date Received 12/20/93

From

(Name of Contributor)

(Address of Contributor)

(City and State)

By SA [ ] (C-A)

(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned □ Yes □ No

Receipt Given □ Yes □ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e)

Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure □ Yes □ No

Title: "Fundates Group"

Reference:

(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: □ Original notes re interview of

AT USCS HQ
Universal File Case Number: 31-C-WF-189911

Field Office Acquiring Evidence: WMFO

Serial # of Originating Document:

Date Received:

From: (Name of Contributor)

(Address of Contributor)

By: (Name of Special Agent)

(City and State)

To Be Returned: □ Yes □ No

Receipt Given: □ Yes □ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure: □ Yes □ No

Title: "FINDERS GROUP"

Reference: (Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: [Box checked] Original notes re interview of

[Handwritten date: 12/21/93]
Universal File Case Number 31C-WF-189911/IA-1Z
Field Office Acquiring Evidence WMFO
Serial # of Originating Document
Date Received 12/20/93
From
USCS, HQ, 1301 Constitution Ave, NW
(Address of Contributor)
(City and State)
By SA (Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned □ Yes □ No
Receipt Given □ Yes □ No
Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e)
Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure □ Yes □ No
Title: "Finders" Group

Reference: (Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: □ Original notes re interview of
Photocopy of notes made by [Name]
1987 Investigation of the Finders
Photocopy of [Number] Memos to File or Finders
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<td>Original notes PS</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3/3/74</td>
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b6
b7C
Universal File Case Number 31 C UF 19911 - IA
Field Office Acquiring Evidence
Serial # of Originating Document
Date Received 1-24-94
From (Name of Contributor)
(Address of Contributor)
(City and State)
By (Name of Special Agent)
To Be Returned □ Yes □ No
Receipt Given □ Yes □ No
Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e)
Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure □ Yes □ No
Title:

Reference: (Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: Original notes re interview of
Universal File Case Number 31c WF 1991 - 19(2)

Field Office Acquiring Evidence

Serial # of Originating Document

Date Received 11-15-93

From

(Name of Contributor)

(Address of Contributor)

(City and State)

By

(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned □ Yes □ No

Receipt Given □ Yes □ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e)

Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure □ Yes □ No

Title:

Reference: ______________________ (Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: □ Original notes re interview of
**FBI FACSIMILE COVERSHEET**

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN FIELD OFFICE
SQUAD C-4 (202) 252-7844

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**To:** FBI HQ

**Date:** 11/3/93

**Facsimile Number:** ____________

**Attn:** SSA, UCH, CID

**From:** SAC, WMFO

**Subject:** "FINDERS" GROUP

WSTA - SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN;
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE - P.I
DO: WMFO

Special Handling Instructions: **PIS HAND CARRY TO SSA**
ATTACHED IS A MEMO LOCEATED IN THE WMFO FILE ON FINDERS DEALING WITH THE STATEMENT / MEMO OF CUSTOMS AGENT FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

**Originator's Name:** SA

**Telephone:** ____________

**Originator's Facsimile Number:** ____________

**Approved:** ____________

Confirmed by teleph. w/ SSA
Receipt of this on 11/3/93 at 1015 hrs.
MEMORANDUM

TO: SAC, WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE
    (7-1685) (P) (C-4)

FROM: SA

DATE: 3/9/87

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING
          00:WFO

On 2/18/87, the NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN (NCMEC), 1835 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. (WDC), Suite 700, provided the writer with the attached memorandum. The writer related she had received the memorandum from CUSTOMS, WDC.

A review of the memorandum reflects obvious observed and what was in fact recovered by the METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT (MPD) during the execution of search warrants at

On 2/28/87, this memorandum was brought to the attention of MPD, the handling captioned matter for MPD. Advised the writer that a thorough review of all evidence obtained at the two aforementioned

2 WFO
AV: rlwlv
(2)
locations did not produce any of the items described in the examples cited above by advised no evidence of child sexual exploitation, kidnapping or any related crimes was obtained, and that there were no computerized lists ordering children. A copy of the memorandum was provided to
Memorandum

To : SAC, WMFO (31C-WF-189911) (P) Date 11/4/93

From : SA [(C-4)]

Subject: "FINDERS" GROUP;
WSTA - SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN;
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE - PI;

Attached to this memo is material provided to WMFO by FBIHQ, CID, VCU at an 11/02/93 meeting concerning captioned matter held at FBIHQ. The following individuals were present at this meeting:

SSA FBAHQ
SSA FBAHQ
SSA WMFO
SA WMFO

SSA indicated that this investigation was to be a preliminary inquiry focusing primarily on the "FINDERS" Group. SSA stated that he, or another FBIHQ representative would arrange for review of files/documents in the possession of the State Department, and Intelligence Division FBIHQ, and advise WMFO accordingly.
To: Unit Chief

From: SSA

Subject: "Finders" - Preliminary Inquiry

On 11/2/93, met with SSA Division 5 Special Staff (ext 3951, Room 4127) and SSA Office of Liaison and International Affairs (OLIA, ext 4634), FBIHQ who is the FBIHQ liaison with the State Department. I had previously provided with a packet of documents concerning the "Finders" preliminary Inquiry. The three of them will determine the best manner to request the records checks by DOS for "Finders."

will conduct a search of Division 5 records to determine if there is any documentation concerning "Finders."
PRELIMINARY INQUIRY - ALLEGATIONS
OF ORGANIZED CHILD ABUSE BY A GROUP KNOWN AS "FINDERS"

♦ On 11/1/93, a representative from the Violent Crimes Unit (VCU), Violent Crimes and Major Offenders Section, Criminal Investigative Division (CID), prepared a packet of documents received to date in this matter for review by WMFO.

♦ On 11/1/93, a representative from the VCU contacted WMFO SSA [redacted] and scheduled a meeting between representatives of the Violent Crimes Unit, SSA [redacted] and the WMFO case Agent on 11/2/93.

♦ On 11/1/93, a representative from the VCU met with FBIHQ Office of Liaison and International Affairs SSA [redacted] (State Department liaison) and SSA [redacted] to discuss DOJ's request that the FBI review documents from the State Department Passport Office (DOS) and the [redacted] pertaining to "Finders." It is noted that the DOJ requested that an FBI Agent "review relevant documents firsthand, from the relevant intelligence agencies, as opposed to having to rely on the agency's summaries or review."

During a meeting at DOJ with Section Chief Bergasser and DOJ Attorney [redacted] on 10/28/93, it was pointed out that a written request from the FBI or DOJ would be required before any records could be obtained from DOS [redacted] for review by the FBI. During that meeting, Mr. Bergasser requested that the FBI prepare a communication to DOS and let him review it before it was sent to those agencies.
PRELIMINARY INQUIRY - ALLEGATIONS
OF ORGANIZED CHILD ABUSE BY A GROUP KNOWN AS "FINDERS".

On 10/28/93, a representative of the Violent Crimes Unit met with George Bergasser, Section Chief, and Attorney Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Department of Justice. Bergasser noted that DOJ had received a three-ring binder from Special Agent U.S. Customs Service (USCS). This binder contains USCS briefing material on "Finders." They requested that the FBI contact USCS to obtain a copy of the material contained in the three ring binder.

Bergasser noted that in 1987, in Stuart, Florida, a

Bergasser noted that during October 1993, met with United States Congressman Rose (Florida) to discuss allegations concerning a group known as "Finders". Both Congressman Rose and concerning these allegations to DOJ. He is concerned that several Congressional subcommittees may be looking at the "Finders" matter and that the TV documentary "48 Hours" plans to air a segment on it.
On 10/28/93, an FBIHQ indices search revealed a reference to "Finders" in FBIHQ file 7-HQ-20191. On 10/29/93, a review of this file indicated that FBI, Jacksonville (Jacksonville file 7-1248) and FBI, WMFO (WMFO file 7-1685) had conducted investigation resulting from an arrest of two individuals in Tallahassee, Florida in 1987.

File review of 7-HQ-20191 indicated that a joint investigation, conducted by the MPD and WMFO, lead to the identification and interview of the mothers of the six children, two of the fathers, and several other key members of the "finders" group. On 2/18/87, WMFO presented the results of their investigation to Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, Washington, D.C., who declined prosecution for violation of title 18, U.S. Code, Section 1201 (kidnapping) and 2251 (sexual exploitation of children). WMFO SSA was the WMFO case agent in this matter.

On 10/29/93 the information obtained at DOJ was discussed with WMFO SSA and Miami SSRA West Palm Beach RA, and a teletype was prepared designating WMFO as Office of Origin in this matter.
PRELIMINARY INQUIRY - ALLEGATIONS
OF ORGANIZED CHILD ABUSE BY A GROUP KNOWN AS "FINDERS"

On 10/27/93, an indices check by the Strategic Information and Operations Center (SIOC) identified four FBIHQ files (7-20191, 9-67521, 62-119517, and 66-19075) as having references to "Finders", and three FBIHQ files (87-0 serials 15124, page 1, and serial 15140; 157-370 and 157-1552) containing references to[ ] These files have been obtained and will be reviewed by the Violent Crimes Unit.

On 10/27/93, SIOC identified 16 articles in the Lexis-Nexis data base concerning "Finders". These articles indicate that on 2/4/87, the Tallahassee Police Department, Tallahassee, Florida conducted a traffic stop on a van containing two men and six small children. The two men were arrested and were each charged with one count of child abuse.

On 10/27/93, a lead was sent to the Miami Division to locate and interview[ ] The case Agent has known[ ] for approximately 15 years and will contact him 10/28/93 to schedule the interview with him.

On 10/28/93, the Correspondence Unit, FBIHQ advised that they had no reference in their files concerning "Finders" nor[ ]

On 10/28/93, FBIHQ OLIA was contacted concerning the review of[ ] State Department Office files pertaining to Finders. A written request in LHM format will be prepared to obtain this information.

On 10/28/93, Jacksonville (JK) SSA[ ] advised that JK was involved in an investigation with the group known as the "Finders" in 1987. This case involved the recovery of six children in Tallahassee, Florida who were traveling in a van with two grown males not related to them. The FBI had participated in the arrest of these two individuals who were each charged locally with one count of child abuse. SA[ ] advised that many allegations had been made regarding sexual abuse in this case, but none were proven. It appears that there was parental consent for the children to travel with these individuals. The children were subsequently returned to their parents and the subjects spent about ten days in the local jail and released. This investigation was conducted primarily by local authorities.

On 10/28/93, National Center for Missing & Exploited Children was interviewed concerning "Finders" and the two searches conducted in 1987 at the two Finders properties in Washington, D.C.
subsequent to the Tallahassee Police Department (TPD) making the traffic stop of the van, the TPD determined that these two men belonged to a group known as the Finders based in Washington, D.C.. As a result of information developed by the TPD during the traffic stop, the TPD contacted the Washington Metropolitan Police Department (WMPD). The WMPD developed information that was subsequently utilized to obtain a search warrant for a warehouse and a residence located in Washington, D.C. owned by the Finders. U.S. Customs and the WMPD participated in this search and noted that approximately seven computers and numerous computer floppy discs were seized during the search. He did not participate in any subsequent review of this material.

advised that the NCMEC has not developed any positive information that the Finders organization is involved in child sexual abuse.

also advised that he had been told that documentation had been located in the WMPD files to indicate that SGT. John Stycher (deceased), who had been his Sergeant during the Finders search, had been contacted by a who had told him to step away from the Finders case. Allegedly,

WMFO conducted investigation in this matter and this information will be subsequently reviewed.

On 10/28/93, George Bergasso, Section Chief, Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Department of Justice advised that the DOJ has a book of material on the "Finders" and additional material that will be made available for review by the FBI. Representatives of the Violent Crimes Unit will meet with him on 10/28/93.
FBIHQ FILE SUMMARY OF 7-20191
REFERENCE "FINDERS" GROUP

By Tallahassee Police Department (TPD) on misdemeanor child abuse charges. The two subjects were arrested after a complaint was made that six children were playing in a park seemed to be unkept and neglected. The two subjects with the children could not initially provide sufficient information as to their legal custody of the children and were uncooperative regarding their identity or the children identity.

After the subjects were arrested TPD obtained information from the children that they were from the Washington, D. C. area. TPD and FBI Jacksonville contacted the Youth Services Division in Washington, D. C. in an effort to further identify the children. The FBI got involved in the investigation at this time due to the possibility that the children had been kidnapped. The vehicle registration records for a van the men had in their possession when arrested reflected that it was

A joint investigation by the Washington Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation lead to the identification and interview of the mothers of the six children in question, two of the fathers, and several other key members of the "finders" group. All persons interviewed claimed their group consisted of an alternate communal type lifestyle made up of intellectuals who have chosen to live the way they do. The mothers were all aware that the children had been taken to Florida on a trip, they were familiar with and thoroughly trusted the men in whose care the children had been placed, and all insisted the children were well cared for.

On 2/18/87, The United States Attorneys Office, WDC, declined prosecution in this matter for the violation of USC, Title 18, Sections 1201 and 1251.

References of FBIHQ File 7-20191:
Serial #2 - Photos of subjects and children
" #9 - Teletype from WMFO to FBIHQ re "Finders", allegedly a
Serial #15 - Teletype from Jk to FBIHQ dated 2/7/87, synopsis of investigation to date.

Serial #16 - Teletype from FBI Richmond (166C-841) to FBIHQ dated 2/7/87, re results of search warrants on property owned by Virginia State Police. Search warrants did not produce evidence of Federal or State violations of the law concerning sexual exploitation of children, however it appears that the children found in Florida had lived at this location.

Serial #20 - Airtel from FBIHQ to Jacksonville dated 3/10/87, responding to indices check request.

Serial #24 - Teletype from WMFO to FBIHQ, re interview of provides info pertaining to "finders" group and explanation of incident in Florida.

Serial #26 - Airtel from WMFO to FBIHQ dated 4/1/87, advising that AUSA declined prosecution in this matter stating that there is no evidence of a Federal violation. No additional investigation in this case.
indices check

87-0 serial #15124 page 1 and serial # 15140 - Not identical

157-370 sub 61 serial 244 - does appear to be identical
Memo to FBIHQ from Mobile dated 2/16/68, member of KKK

157-1552 serial 214 - Memo to FBIHQ from Jackson dated 11/26/65, Klan news letter mentions favoring Blacks.

Indices Check "Finders"

7-20191 - See attached note

9-67521 - Complaint by is extorting him.

62-119517 serial #1 - Inquiry from Legat Panama Re "Finders" group soliciting banks in Panama to provide them with a news letter.

66-19075 serial #1418 - not related to "Finders" group related to Finders fingerprint readers.
10/28/93

To: L-1

From: L-2

Re: Finders

On 10/28/93, I spoke to SSA[_____] and SA[_____] Jacksonville Division (JK) regarding information they may have on a group known as the "Finders".

SSA[_____] advised that JK was involved in an investigation with a group known as the "Finders" in 1987. This case involved the recovery of six children in Tallahassee, Florida. The children were traveling in a beat up 1979 ford van with two grown males not related to them. The children were recovered in fairly good condition except that they were very dirty. On 2/20/92, a FOIPA request regarding this investigation could not provide additional information regarding the FOIPA request. SSA[_____] recommended that I speak with the Tallahassee RA case Agent[______].

SA[_____] advised that the FBI and local law enforcement participated in the arrest of two individuals who were traveling around the country with six young children not related to them. SA[_____] said that he was providing this information from memory, but advised that the media blew the case out of proportion. He advised that many allegations were made regarding sexual abuse in this case, but none were proven. It appears that there was parental consent for the children to travel with these individuals. The children were returned to their parents and the subjects spent about ten days in the local jail and released. This investigation was conducted primarily by local authorities. SA[_____] could not provide additional information in this matter.

notes:

JK case file 7-1248 consolidated to 62D-2214
WMFO case file 7-1685
FBIHQ case file 7-20191
JK indices negative for [_____]
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
JANUARY 25, 1993

HELP END CHILD PORNOGRAPHY AND EXPLOITATION

COSPONSOR THE LEWIS BILL TO REESTABLISH CHILD PORNOGRAPHY UNIT

Dear Colleague:

In February, 1991, U.S. Customs "integrated" their Child Pornography and Protection Unit into the Smuggling Investigations Division, Office of Investigative Programs. At the time, Customs stated that "these changes have in no way affected the manner in which child pornography investigations are being conducted by our field offices or the support that our headquarters staff provides."

I asked Customs to provide me with arrests, convictions and employee-hours spent on child pornography and protection. Customs own numbers show a dramatic and inexcusable decline.

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<th>CONVICTIONS</th>
<th>EMPLOYEE-HOURS</th>
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<td>106</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>54</td>
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<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>27,435</td>
</tr>
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As you can see, since the unit's heyday in 1990, arrests and conviction have been nearly halved, and employee-hours have been reduced to barely one-fourth of previous levels!!

Therefore, I am introducing a Concurrent Resolution calling on Customs to reestablish its Child Pornography and Protection Unit, and to equal or exceed its 1990 efforts.

It is clear Customs has given up most of their efforts to put an end to this reprehensible trade. It's time to make a permanent commitment to stopping those who prey on the most vulnerable members of our society. If you would like to cosponsor this Resolution, contact me, or Curt Hollmann of my staff at (202) 5792.

Sincerely,

Tom Lewis
Member of Congress

This Stationery Milled on Paper Made with Recycled Fibers
A formal report will be released when forensic tests are concluded.

**45 foot tunnel**
- 9 foot wide subterranean entrance found under west wall of the "Dog" room (Classroom 4, Ray Buckey's classroom).
- Avocado tree roots cut on both sides of the entrance.
- Disney bag, "Copyright 1982," found 4 1/2 feet below the classroom floor and 3" to 6" in from entrance and under foundation, Classroom 4.
- Tunnel proceeded south, then east 45 feet through Classrooms 4 and 3, and north, then east 10 feet within Classroom 4.
- Tunnels were 30" wide, 44" to 46" deep, with top of the tunnel 30" under the classroom floor.
- The footing between Classrooms 3 and 4 was arched where the tunnel passed underneath and 12" shorter in depth at this location than same footing 12 feet to then north.
  - Four large, upright containers were found in the tunnel under the arch, obviously hand placed.
- A 9 foot wide chamber was found along the tunnel under Classroom 4. Top of chamber and top of sections of the tunnel had layers of plywood covered with tar paper which had apparently been supported by cinder blocks and 2" x 2" and 2" x 4" wooden posts found underneath.
- Tunnel features made it evident that tunnel was hand dug.

**7 foot tunnel extending into the triplex next door**
- Tunnel extended from the bathrooms off the office and Classroom 1 to the front yard of the triplex next door. Front yard concealed from street by three-car garage.
- Children described entrance and exiting tunnel in triplex yard exactly where tunnel and exit were found.
- 1 39" x 41" area under a hole cut in this neighbor's bathroom floor had been excavated and subsequently filled.

**Other significant facts**
- A small, white plastic plate with three pentagrams hand drawn on top of light green paint was found by the archaeologists in the stratified dirt in the play yard.
  - Per historical archaeologist, pentagrams were hand drawn by an adult and not part of the manufacturer's design.
- Many other artifacts found, whose analyses will be released upon completion of tests.
- No doorknobs were on Classroom 3 door, only a dead bolt lock.
- Each classroom had on and off light switch labeled "Fire Alarm." System did not connect to fire station but was used as an alert within the school.
- More than 2000 artifacts were found under the school floor, including over 100 animal bones.

Due to severe time constraints our archaeology team was unable to further explore the extent of the tunnel networks. Above documented through photographs, notes, graphs, diagrams and charts. For more details call (213) 854-5172.
Mr. and Mrs.,

Dear Mr. and Mrs.,

Thank you for your letter dated September 13, 1991, expressing your concerns regarding the U.S. Customs Service Child Pornography Program.

The Child Protection Act of 1984 clearly defined the agency jurisdiction in this typically multidisciplined area of enforcement. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service has jurisdiction pertaining to the use of the U.S. mail to transport child pornography, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has jurisdiction over the interstate transportation of child pornography, and the U.S. Customs Service has jurisdiction over the interdiction and the international distribution of child pornography. The statute has created a close working relationship between the agencies at the field office and Headquarters level. The point of this is that the statute has permitted a clear definition of responsibility for the respective agencies.

Recently, the U.S. Customs Service Headquarters Office of Enforcement experienced a massive reorganization. This reorganization caused the Child Pornography and Protection Unit to be integrated into the Smuggling Investigations Division. The Child Pornography and Protection Unit was a part of the General Smuggling Branch which was a part of the Smuggling Investigations Division. All Units, Branches, and Sections were eliminated during the recent reorganization. The child pornography program is now headed by the National Child Pornography Program Manager, a Senior Special Agent assigned to the Smuggling Investigations Division, Office of Investigative Programs, at Headquarters. These changes have in no way affected the manner in which child pornography investigations are being conducted by its field offices or the support that the Headquarters staff provides to these field offices. The primary functions of the Unit remain the same, that is to coordinate investigations within the U.S. Customs Service and between the U.S. Customs Service and other agencies, as well as collect, analyze, and disseminate child pornography data.
Headquarters has established and still maintains working relationships with the Department of Justice through the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the FBI, the U.S. Postal Service, and various Military Investigation Commands. The Office of Enforcement also continues to work in conjunction with the Customs Office of Inspection and Control in seeking out and discovering new and unique methods of smuggling child pornography into the United States from other countries.

The aggressive approach that the U.S. Customs Service has demonstrated in conducting child pornography investigations within its jurisdictional area, has had an impact on both the violators and the distributors, and the methods of smuggling used by these individuals. The U.S. Customs Service will continue to target and investigate the importation of child pornography as aggressively as we have in the past. The ultimate effect is the enhancement on our part to prevent the sexual exploitation and abuse of children.

Should you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Finders/Chronology
(See previous material for dates)

- Contact of U.S. Customs by Tallahassee PD regarding discovery of unidentified children and adult male "guardians" in city park.

- Requested contact with Washington MPD for assistance in locating possible address and relatives of children.

- Address located with assistance of MPD Intelligence Division.

- Second address identified. One residence, one warehouse.

- Search warrants obtained by MPD Intel. Warehouse site of previous MPD Intel inquiry involving classified maps of underground tunnel/sewer system, Washington, DC.

- During search warrant staging, disclosure of pending search warrant execution made by Tallahassee PD to local media (Tallahassee, FL). Tallahassee Media representative contacted D.C. media for more details. D.C. media reps peruse public information at courthouse, are waiting at search warrant sites for MPD search teams.

- Search warrants executed with MPD and two U.S. Customs agents (one at each site). FBI not involved until walk through on following day.

- Seizure of numerous documents made to include passports, telexes, computer/electronic media, correspondence, et al. (See previous material for expanded description).

- After search warrant shut down on first day, news reports carried FBI press release announcing FBI as "lead investigating agency." Day after, once search resumed, FBI agent from Washington Field Office (WFO) makes walk through of warehouse, but does not examine any seized evidence.

- Additional search warrant executed on farm in rural Virginia with support by Virginia State Police. No federal involvement. Evidence of satanic/cult ritual discovered.

- Based on observed documents, Customs agent unsuccessfully attempts to gain access to evidence for detailed analysis for use in investigating possible export, neutrality act, mann act, and child pornography violations.
contacts MPD Intelligence and advised that all reports regarding Finders are to be classified at the Secret level. Also advised that no information was to be turned over to the FBI WFO for investigation, and that the WFO would not be advised of the involvement/contact.

Children discovered in Tallahassee were eventually turned over to individuals claiming to be parents or guardians. No further MPD, FBI or Customs involvement.

As far as is known, no details of involvement ever became public.
FBI FACSIMILE COVERSHEET

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN FIELD OFFICE
SQUAD C-4 (202) 252-7844

PRECEDENCE
☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION
☐ Top Secret
☐ Secret
☐ Confidential
☐ Sensitive
☐ Unclassified

Time Transmitted: 10:35
Sender’s Initials: 

Number of Pages: 8
(Including Cover Page)

To: FLSH (VCU)
(Name of Office)

Facsimile Number: 324-3089

Attn: SSA
(Name Room Telephone)

From: FBI UNRU WC
(Name of Office)

Subject: FINDERS GROUP, WSTA

Special Handling Instructions: PLS HAND CARR TO SSA

Originator’s Name: 

Telephone: 

Originator’s Facsimile Number: 

Approved: 

Date: 11/5/93
FM FBI WMFO (31C-WF-189911) (P) (C-4)

TO DIRECTOR FBI/PRIORITY/
FBI MIAMI/PRIORITY/
BT

UNCLAS

CITE: //3920//
PASS: CID, VCU, SSA

SUBJECT: "FINDERS" GROUP, WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT-SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE-PRELIMINARY INQUIRY; OO:WMFO.

REF: WMFO FACSIMILE TO FBIIHQ ON 11/3/93.

FOR INFORMATION OF FBIIHQ, REVIEW OF WMFO FIELD OFFICE FILES CONCERNING CAPTIONED GROUP REVEALED THE FOLLOWING:

WMFO OPENED A KIDNAPPING CASE (7-1685) ON 2/6/87, AS A RESULT OF A 2/4/87 ARREST OF TWO MEN IN TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA FOR CHILD ABUSE. THESE INDIVIDUALS,

Approved: __________________________ Original filename: KC4006W.309

Time Received: __________ Telprep filename: __________________

MRI/JULIAN DATE: _______________ ISN: __________________

FOX DATE & TIME OF ACCEPTANCE: _____________________________
WERE TRAVELLING IN A VAN WITH SIX MINOR CHILDREN. THE VAN UTILIZED BY THESE INDIVIDUALS BORE

THE TALLAHASSEE POLICE DEPARTMENT (TPD) CONTACTED THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT (MPD), WASHINGTON, D.C., TO GET INFORMATION ON THE CHILDREN, AS THEY HAD MADE STATEMENTS INDICATING A PRIOR RESIDENCE IN WDC.

ON 2/5/87, TPD CONTACTED THE LOCAL CUSTOMS OFFICE, WHICH SUBSEQUENTLY CONTACTED THE WDC AREA CUSTOMS OFFICE, WHICH IN TURN CONTACTED MPD. SPECIAL AGENT (SA) CUSTOMS, PROVIDED THE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ARREST OF TO MPD INTELLIGENCE AND THE INFORMATION ON THEIR WASHINGTON, D.C. ADDRESSES.

PRIOR TO 2/5/87, MPD HAD RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM A CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE, THAT A GROUP OF PEOPLE CALLING THEMSELVES, THE "FINDERS", WERE CONDUCTING BRAINWASHING TECHNIQUES AT THE SOURCE REPORTED
CHILDREN WERE USED IN RITUALS BY THE GROUPS, BUT REPORTED SOURCE NEVER OBSERVED ANY ACTUAL CHILD ABUSE.

BASED ON THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY TPD AND THIS SOURCE, MPD OBTAINED SEARCH WARRANTS AND EXECUTED THEM ON 2/5, 2/6/87 AT THE TWO WDC ADDRESSES. MPD SEIZED COMPUTERS, SOFTWARE, PHOTOGRAPHS, AND BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION CONCERNING THE FINDERS GROUP FROM THESE LOCATIONS. NO EVIDENCE OF CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, KIDNAPPING, OR ANY RELATED CRIMES WAS OBSERVED, OR OBTAINED FROM THIS SEARCH.

PRESENT AT THIS SEARCH WERE MPD DETECTIVES, FBI SA WMFO CASE AGENT AND CUSTOMS SA

A MEMO FROM SA DATED 3/9/87 WAS LOCATED IN THE
MEMO WAS SENT TO FBIHQ VIA FACSIMILE ON 11/3/93.

WMFO INVESTIGATION OF "FINDERS" GROUP REVEALED THROUGH A 2/7/87 INTERVIEW OF GROUP MEMBER THE FOLLOWING:

ADvised FINDERS was a group in 1972 with the idea of responding to people in emergencies. Advised that the group gathered information for people or companies. Advised that "FINDERS" was based out of WDC. Described the as mysterious, and related that no one usually knew where he was.

JOINT INVESTIGATION BY MPD AND WMFO LEAD TO THE IDENTIFICATION AND INTERVIEW OF THE MOTHERS OF THE SIX CHILDREN IN QUESTION, TWO OF THE FATHERS AND SEVERAL OTHER KEY MEMBERS OF THE SO-CALLED "FINDERS" GROUP. ALL PERSONS INTERVIEWED CLAIMED THEIR GROUP CONSISTED OF AN ALTERNATIVE LIFESTYLE, COMMUNAL-TYPE ASSOCIATION MADE UP OF INTELLECTUALS WHO HAVE CHOSEN TO LIVE THE WAY THEY DO. THE MOTHERS WERE ALL
AWARE THAT THE CHILDREN HAD BEEN TAKEN TO FLORIDA ON A TRIP, THEY WERE FAMILIAR WITH AND THOROUGHLY TRUSTED THE MEN IN WHOSE CARE THE CHILDREN HAD BEEN PLACED, AND ALL INSISTED THE CHILDREN WERE WELL CARED FOR, ALTHOUGH IN AN ALTERNATIVE MATTER. EVERYONE INTERVIEWED STATED EMPHATICALLY THAT NO ONE IN THEIR GROUP ENGAGED IN SEX WITH CHILDREN, THAT NO RITUALIZED ABUSE OCCURRED, THAT THE "FINDERS" ARE NOT A SATANIC CULT, AND THAT THE CHILDREN ARE IN FACT THE OFFSPRING OF THE MOTHERS INTERVIEWED. ALL OF THE MOTHERS AND THE THREE FATHERS INTERVIEWED AGREED TO BE POLYGRAPHED CONCERNING THEIR TESTIMONY.

ON 2/18/87, THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, WDC, DECLINED PROSECUTION IN CAPTIONED MATTER FOR VIOLATION OF UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 18, SECTIONS 1201 AND 2251.

WMFO FILES ALSO CONTAINED A 10/7/92 EXTORTION CASE (9A-WF-183055) WITH AND THIS CASE WAS OPENED AS A RESULT
THAT HE AND SEVERAL OTHERS OF THE "FINDERS" GROUP,

ADvised that he and his colleagues realized that

AND the others, at the
time, were in a custody battle over the group's property
assets.

purportedly resided at

VIRGINIA.
ON 6/14/93, THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DECLINED PROSECUTION OF THIS MATTER AND THIS CASE WAS CLOSED.

WMFO CONTACT WITH U.S. CUSTOM SERVICE, WDC, INDICATES THAT CUSTOMS SA WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW UNTIL MONDAY, 11/8/93.

WMFO IS SCHEDULED TO REVIEW THE MPD FILE CONCERNING "FINDERS" ON 11/4/93.

INVESTIGATION CONTINUES AT WMFO.

BT
FBI FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN FIELD OFFICE
SQUAD C-4 (202) 252-7844

PREDENCEx
Immediate
Priority
Routine

CLASSIFICATION
Top Secret
Secret
Confidential
Sensitive
Unclassified

To: FBI HQ - VCU
(Facsimile Number: 324-3089)
Attn: SSA

From: FBI, WMD (C-4)

Subject: Finders, Glen, USTA

Special Handling Instructions: PLS HAND CARRY TO SSA

Originator's Name: SA

Telephone:

Originator's Facsimile Number:

Approved:

Date: 11/5/93

Time Transmitted: 11:30

Sender's Initials:

Number of Pages: 
(Including Cover Page)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE: 02-03-2014 BY NSICG/F63M84K93

b6

b7C
Memorandum

To: SAC, WMFO (31C-WF-189911) (P)
From: SA (C-4)
Subject: "FINDERS" GROUP; WSTA - SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE - PI; CO: WMFO

Date 11/4/93

Attached to this memo are copies of METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT (MPD) investigative file reports of pertinent information obtained during writer's 11/4/93 review of the MPD case jacket on the FINDERS GROUP.

The MPD case jacket was made available for review by MPD Intelligence Division, 300 Indiana Avenue, NW, WDC.

The MPD case jacket did not contain a listing of specific items seized from the 2/5 - 2/6/87 searches of the FINDERS GROUP properties, In addition there was no indication of the present status of any items seized at these searches, or a listing of personnel present at the searches.

indicated that the MPD investigating Detective for this case was presently opined that could answer questions concerning the specifics of this search.

Signed WMFO
MDC: mdc

NOV 04 1993
INVESTIGATIVE INFORMATION REQUEST FORM

FBI, Savannah Information Technology Center
220 East Bryan Street
Savannah, Georgia 31401
> Commercial Telephone or FTS: (912) 944-0824 thru 0828
> FAX: (912) 231-1076 and (912) 231-0974
> Secure FAX & STU III: (912) 231-1075

TO: FBI, SAVANNAH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CENTER
Date: 11/8/93
Forfeiture/Seizure Related: ☑ FAX ☑ Telephone ☑ Mail
Requestor: FBI WMPD SQUAD C-4
Phone: ____________________________
Office/RA: FBI WMPD SQUAD C-4
Precedence: □ ROUTINE □ PRIORITY □ IMMEDIATE

NCIC Activity/Date: ____________________________
Off-Line Searcher Conducted: ____________________________
Driver's Lic. Conducted: ____________________________
State: ____________________________
Driver's License #: ____________________________
Subject: ☑ Yes ☑ No Vehicle: ☑ Yes ☑ No Driver's License: ☑ Yes ☑ No

SEARCH CRITERIA (Attach additional sheets if necessary)
Name - Last: ____________________________
Alias: ____________________________
Sex: ☑ M ☑ F DOB1: ____________________________
DOB2: ____________________________

RESIDENCE
Street Address: ____________________________
City/State: ____________________________ Zip: ____________________________ Phone: ____________________________

BUSINESS
Business Name: "FINDERS GROUP" Street Address: ____________________________
City/State: ____________________________ Zip: ____________________________ Phone: ____________________________ Business ID#: ____________________________

CHECK DESIRED SEARCH PARAMETERS (Please check only those that are needed)
☐ 1. Specific Information Desired [CONDUCT LEVIES/NEWS CHAUF FOR REFERENCES TO SUBJECT AND GROUP FINDERS IN MEDIA AND FAX RESULTS TO WMPD]
☐ 2. Determine All Individuals Associated with Social Security Number(s)
☐ 3. Report Validity of Social Security Number
☐ 4. Employment Report (subject to availability) INQUIRY WILL POST TO CONSUMER'S ACCOUNT
☐ 5. Determine Who is Associated with Telephone Number(s)
☐ 6. Determine Address of Business/Person (U.S. ____________________________, __ _______ State(s))
☐ 7. Determine Property Owned by Individual (U.S. ____________________________, __ _______ State(s))
☐ 8. Determine Who Owns Property Listed Above
☐ 9. Determine Who Resides at Address Listed Above
☐ 10. Determine Financial Background Info, Financial Associates/Institutions (NOT FULL CREDIT REPORTING)
☐ 11. Determine Corporate Business Info/Institutions Associated with: ____________________________

Return Reply To: FBI, Savannah Information Technology Center (SITC)

31C-WF 189911

Based on search criteria, marked records are attached:
☑ Possible Identifiable Records
☐ Other Identifiable Records
☐ Brief Synopsis of Information Found
☐ No Information Found

Based on search criteria, marked records are attached:
☑ Possible Identifiable Records
☐ Other Identifiable Records
☐ Brief Synopsis of Information Found
☐ No Information Found
Memorandum

To: SAC, WF (31C-WF-189911)
ATTN:  

From: SAVANNAH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CENTER
INVESTIGATIVE INFORMATION SERVICES

Date 11/3/93

Subject: 

Attached are copies of Investigative Information Services printouts setting forth results of inquiries conducted by Investigative Information Services. Also attached are two copies of an accomplishment/reply form. It is requested that you record the Investigative Information Services accomplishments on this form, return one copy to the Investigative Information Services, and maintain one copy together with the computer printouts as a serial in your case file.

Set forth below is a brief synopsis of results of inquiries.

[Blank] is utilized by the subject. Property data and tax assessor info is attached. All other searches were negative.

Should additional contact be necessary, this request was handled by Analyst [Blank]. Telephone [Blank].

1 - WF (Enc. 1)
Attn: Special Agent Supervisor
Note: Copy forwarded [Blank]
Via Mail [Blank]/Facsimile [Blank] X Date 11/3/93

1 - SVITC
(2)
NDB
**TRW ADDRESS UPDATE**

FBI - SAVANHA PUBLIC SOURCE INFORMATICA GROUP

**TE: 11-03-1993  TIME: 12:45:53  SUBJECT ID: ADDRESS UPDATE**

11/03/93 09:08:20 CP01 706 TVA1

********** NO RECORD FOUND **********

*TO BE USED FOR CREDIT GRANTING.*

*CONTAIN INFORMATION FOR MORE THAN ONE CONSUMER*

**TRW'S 93 EXTENDED ON-LINE HOLIDAY HOURS BEGIN NOV. 15 THROUGH JAN. 7.**

**NEW HOURS: UP MONDAY 2:00 A.M. THROUGH FRIDAY MIDNIGHT PST, UP SATURDAY 4:00 A.M. THROUGH SUNDAY 10:00 P.M. PST. SAME SCHEDULE APPLIES ON HOLIDAYS ALSO.**

**END**

*END OF REPORT ID: 11-03-1993/12:45:53 (ORN: 335)***

FULL NAME/ADDRESS:

ABBREVIATED NAME/ADDRESS:

NOT TO BE USED FOR CREDIT GRANTING
MAY CONTAIN INFORMATION FOR MORE THAN ONE CONSUMER

END -- TRW SOCIAL SEARCH

ANS UNION CREDIT REPORT

QHO2870232

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER TRACE *
NAME/SPOUSE
ADDRESS

END OF NETWORK TRACE**
COPYRIGHT 1993, TRANS UNION CORPORATION

* END OF REPORT ID: 11-03-1993/13:32:37 (ORN: 337) **
TRW ADDRESS UPDATE

FBI - SAVAN

PUBLIC SOURCE INFORMATION GROUP

SUBJECT ID: ADDRESS UPDATE

FILE IDENT: SS# IS

1 11/03/93 09:58:55 CL05 306 TMD2

DRESS LOCATED REPORT TYPE G
TO BE USED FOR CREDIT GRANTING.
CONTAIN INFORMATION FOR MORE THAN ONE CONSUMER
*TRW'S 93 EXTENDED ON-LINE HOLIDAY HOURS BEGIN NOV. 15 THROUGH JAN. 7.
*NEW HOURS: UP MONDAY 2:00 A.M. THROUGH FRIDAY MIDNIGHT PST, UP SATURDAY 4:00 A.M. THROUGH SUNDAY 10:00 P.M. PST. SAME SCHEDULE APPLIES ON HOLIDAYS ALSO.
---END

* END OF REPORT ID: 11-03-1993/13:36:28 (ORN: 339) ***
**METRONET IN-LINE INFORMATION SYSTEM**

- **OPTION:** A (E)DA (N)BRS (A)DDR (P)HN (Z)IP (C)ITY (S)TATE (U)S
  - (M)ENU (H)ELP (F)WD (B)ACK (W)METRO AREA (X)CLEAR
- **ELECTION:** FILE: R (R)ESIDENTIAL (B)USINESS

---

**RETURNED NAME/ADDRESS**

- **NAME:** [ ]
- **HOUSE#:** [ ]
- **STREET:** [ ]
- **ST:** [ ]
- **ZIP CODE:** [ ]
- **PHONE #:** ( )

---

**NEAREST HOUSE # FOUND**

(000) 000 0000

---

- **ENDER:** UNKNOWN
- **EDIAN INCOME:** 0211.0K
- **HOME OWNER PROB:**
- **EALTH RATING:** A
- **ATE OF BIRTH:**
- **HOME VALUE:** 0466.7K
- **HOME VALUE INDEX:** 255
- **DWELLING TYPE:** UNKNOWN

---

**NET.ASP** · ANSI · FDX · 2400 E71 · LOG CLOSED · PRINT OFF · ON-LINE
RETURNED NAME/ADDRESS

GLOBAL PRESS REVIEW
1307 4TH ST NE
WASHINGTON DC 20002 7001
(202) 546 - 9828
Front Footage : 0
Depth Footage : 0
Bldg Footage : 37,200
Pool : 0
# Units : 4
# Baths : 0.0
# Bedrooms : 0
Total Rooms : 0
Stories : 0.0
END OF DATA

Universal Directory of ALL Data for Washington DC
For: FINDERS GROUP
1 Tax Lien      DC - No Record on PH Online
2 Judgment      DC - No Record on PH Online
3 Bankruptcy   DC - No Record on PH Online
4 Environmental DC - No Record on PH Online
5 Tax Assessor Name  DC - No Record on PH Online
6 Grant Deed Name    DC - No Record on PH Online
7 Federal Aviation Admin. DC - No Record on PH Online
8 Watercraft    US - No Record on PH Online
END OF LIST
MAIL-IT REQUESTED: NOVEMBER 3, 1993

CLIENT: ASSETS
FILE: ALLOWN

YOUR SEARCH REQUEST AT THE TIME THIS MAIL-IT WAS REQUESTED:
3918 W/2 W AND DC

NUMBER OF RECORDS FOUND WITH YOUR REQUEST THROUGH:
LEVEL 1... 2

LEVEL 1 PRINTED

THE SELECTED RECORD NUMBERS:
1

DISPLAY FORMAT: FULL

SEND TO: SAVANNAH, # 5
FBI
220 EAST BRYAN STREET
SAVANNAH GEORGIA 31402FRANC

***************************************************************************03367***************************************************************************
LEVEL 1 - 1 OF 2 RECORDS

TRW REDI Property Data, Copyright (c) 1991

PROPERTY RECORDS FOR DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ESTIMATED TAX ROLL CERTIFICATION DATE July 31, 1991

Owner: [Redacted]

Mailing Address: [Redacted]

MUNICIPALITY: [Redacted]

****************************************************************************** LOCATION ******************************************************************************

Property Address: [Redacted]

Property Use (REDI): Apartment

Assessor's Parcel Number: 1315-0039

****************************************************************************** ASSESSMENT VALUES ******************************************************************************

Land Value: $173,725

Improvements: 170,515

Total Value: $344,240

Use Code: MULTI-FAMILY FLATS

Lot Size: 4,655 sq ft

Year Constructed: 1938

****************************************************************************** PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS ******************************************************************************

Units: 4

Stories:

Rooms: Heating: HOT WATER

Bedrooms: Cooling:

Bathrooms: Floor:

Fireplaces: Walls: BRICK

Pool: Const:
MAIL-IT REQUESTED: NOVEMBER 3, 1993

CLIENT: LIKELY変えられた？
LIBRARY: ASSETS
FILE: ALLOWN

YOUR SEARCH REQUEST AT THE TIME THIS MAIL-IT WAS REQUESTED:
1307 W/2 4TH OR 4 AND DC

NUMBER OF RECORDS FOUND WITH YOUR REQUEST THROUGH:
LEVEL 1... 3

LEVEL....1 PRINTER

THE SELECTED RECORD NUMBERS:
3

DISPLAY FORMAT: FULL

SEND TO: SAVANNAH, # 5
FBI
220 EAST BRYAN STREET
SAVANNAH GEORGIA 31402FRANC

***********************************************03418***********************************************
PROPERTY RECORDS FOR DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ESTIMATED TAX ROLL CERTIFICATION DATE July 31, 1991

Owner: 

Mailing Address: 

MUNICIPALITY: WASH DC

Property Address: 

Municipality: WASH DC

Property Use (REDI): Warehouse

Assessor's Parcel Number: PAR -0129-0027

------------------------------- ASSESSMENT VALUES -------------------------------

Land Value: $ 54,960

Improvements: 205,390

Total Value: $ 260,350

Use Code: WAREHOUSE-MULT-STORY

Lot Size: 5,496 sq ft

Improved Square Feet: 10,414 (building)

Year Constructed: 1931

------------------------------ PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS ----------------------------

Units: 
Stories: 
Heating: 
Cooling: 
Floor: 
Walls: BRICK 
Const: 

------------------------------
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Clue(s)</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>FINDERS GROUP</td>
<td>Officer of FINDERS' KEEPERS</td>
<td>OH-COR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>FINDERS GROUP</td>
<td>Officer FINDERS GROUP</td>
<td>OH-COR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>FINDERS GROUP</td>
<td>Officer of FINDERS GROUP</td>
<td>OH-COR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>FINDERS GROUP INTERNATIONAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>IL-COR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>IL-COR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>FINDERS GROUP LIMITED</td>
<td></td>
<td>CO-COR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>CO-COR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>CO-COR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key:**
- **b6** refers to an internal code or identifier.
- **b7C** refers to another internal code or identifier.

**Legend:**
- M = More Info
- N = New Search
- R = Revise State(s)
- S# = Save Clue
- E = Exit
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name: FINDERS GROUP</th>
<th>Owner(s): FINDERS GROUP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address: 629 OAK ST COLUMBUS 43215</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type: TRADE NAME</td>
<td>State of Origin: NOT AVAILABLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Filing: 01-03-1986</td>
<td>Status: CANCELLED ON 02-22-1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Expiration: 01-03-1991</td>
<td>State ID Number: RN88852</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*** History ***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Transaction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02-22-1991 CANCELLED BY OPERATION OF LAW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-01-1990 LETTER/RENEWAL NOTICE MAILED</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Date of Most recent Change in Capital: 04-13-1979

Tax Capital: 1,000
Total Capital: 1,000
08-29-86  TYPE: ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION  COMMENT: FINDERS GROUP LIMITED

3-NOV-1993  TYPE: 1993 CORPORATE REPORT MAILED 08/01/92  DUE 10/31/92

11/30/92  TYPE: 1993 CORPORATE REPORT SECOND NOTICE 11/30/92  SUSPENDED AFTER 01/31/93

12-15-92  TYPE: INTENT TO DISSOLVE  
Document No: 921119454

12-15-92  TYPE: DISSOLVED CORPORATION  
Document No: 921119455
INVESTIGATIVE INFORMATION SERVICES

In order to help us better serve your investigative needs, please complete the following and return to:

FBI, Savannah Information Technology Center
220 East Bryan Street
Savannah, Georgia 31401

SAVANNAH ITC RECORD #: [_____]  UCN#: 31C-WP-189911
ANALYST: [______]

Was the information provided helpful to your investigation?

☐ YES  ☐ NO

If NO, please let us know how we could be more helpful to your investigation:

__________________________________________________________________________________________

ACCOMPLISHMENT(S) resulting from information:
PERSON(S): (Enter total number applicable to each of the following)
____ FBI Fugitive(s) Arrested: ☐ FBI ☐ Local Date_______
____ Local Fugitive(s) Arrested: ☐ FBI ☐ Local Date_______
____ Subject(s) ☐ Arrested ☐ Located ☐ Identified
____ Witness(es) ☐ Located ☐ Identified
____ New Witness(es) ☐ Located ☐ Identified

BUSINESS(ES): (Enter total number applicable to each of the following)
____ New Business(es) Identified
____ New Business Associates/Associations Identified
____ Financial Audit Trail(s) Enhanced

ASSET(S): (Enter total number applicable to each of the following)
(TYPES: C = CASH  R = REAL PROPERTY  P = PERSONAL PROPERTY)
____ Asset(s) ☐ Located ☐ Identified [VALUE: _____ TYPE: ___]
____ Asset(s) Subject to Seizure/Forfeiture [VALUE: _____ TYPE: ___]
____ Potential Economic Loss Prevented [VALUE: _____ TYPE: ___]

OTHER: (Enter total number applicable to each of the following)
____ New Case(s) Initiated
____ New Lead(s) Generated

COMMENTS: ________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

1 - Case File
1 - SITC
FBI FACSIMILE
COVERSHEET

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN FIELD OFFICE
SQUAD C-4 (202) 252-7844

To: [Name of Office] [VC Y]
Facsimile Number: [blank]
Attn: [SSA]
From: [FBI UNNO (C-4)]
Subject: [findens]

Date: 11/8/93

Special Handling Instructions: [blank]

Originator's Name: [blank] Telephone: [blank]
Originator's Facsimile Number: [blank]

Approved: [signature]

Time Transmitted: 0900
Sender's Initials: [blank]
Number of Pages: [blank]

Precedence: [Immediate]
Classification: [Secret]

D-448 (Rev 6/1/91)
FM FBI WMFO (31C-WF-189911) (P) (C-4)

TO DIRECTOR FBI/PRIORITY/

BT

UNCLAS

CITE: //3920//

PASS: FBIHQ, TRAINING DIVISION, NCAVC/ISU FOR SSA

SUBJECT: "FINDERS" GROUP, WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT-SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE-PRELIMINARY INQUIRY; OO:WMFO

FOR INFORMATION OF NCAVC, CAPTIONED MATTER WAS OPENED ON 11/2/93 AS A RESULT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE'S REQUEST THAT THE FBI CONDUCT A PRELIMINARY INQUIRY INTO ALLEGATIONS MADE BY [Redacted] CONCERNING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE BY A GROUP KNOWN AS THE "FINDERS", AND WHAT ROLE IF ANY, WAS PLAYED BY THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

MDC: Kel. (R)

Approved: [Redacted]

Time Received: 11:20

MRI/JULIAN DATE: 11/8/93

ISN: 006

FOX DATE & TIME OF ACCEPTANCE: 11/8/93 11:20

Date 11/8/93
WITH U.S. CONGRESSMAN ROSE (FLORIDA) TO DISCUSS ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING A GROUP CALLED "FINDERS". BOTH ROSE AND PROVIDED INFORMATION CONCERNING THESE ALLEGATIONS TO DOJ.

WMFO INVESTIGATED A GROUP CALLED FINDERS IN FEBRUARY, 1987. FINDERS WAS AN ALTERNATE LIFESTYLE GROUP, LOCATED AT 3918/3920 W STREET, N.W., AND 1307 4TH STREET, N.E., WDC, THAT EVOLVED INTO A DATA GATHERING GROUP. THE GROUP WAS PURPORTEDLY HEADED BY A VIRGINIA, WITH THE LEADER IN THE WDC WMFO CLOSED THE CASE WHEN NO VIOLATIONS OF FEDERAL LAW, NO CHILD ABUSE, NO SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN WAS DETERMINED TO HAVE OCCURRED.
SA[ ] THE WMFO CASE AGENT FOR THE 1987 INVESTIGATION, ADVISED THAT THIS MATTER WAS BROUGHT UP AGAIN SOMETIME IN 1989, WHEN TV TALK SHOW HOST[ ] WAS PURPORTEDLY PLANNING TO AIR A SPECIAL EXPOSING FINDERS AS A SATANIC CULT. SA[ ] PROVIDED SSA[ ] OF NCAVC, QUANTICO WITH INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS INVESTIGATION. SA[ ] ADVISED THAT WHEN THE TELEVISION SPECIAL AIRED THERE WAS NO RESPONSE TO FINDERS.

LEADS:

TRAINING DIVISION, NCAVC, AT QUANTICO, VA.

REVIEW RECORDS CONCERNING THE FINDERS AT QUANTICO AND ADVISE FBIHQ, AND WMFO OF ANY REFERENCES TO FINDERS, SPECIFICALLY ADDRESSING THEIR CURRENT STATUS AND LOCATION IF KNOWN. ADDITIONALLY, REVIEW ALL REFERENCES TO FINDERS AND THE U.S. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY IN AN ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE IF ANY CORRELATION EXISTS.

BT
SUBJECT: "FINDERS" GROUP, WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT-SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE-PRELIMINARY INQUIRY; OOWMFO.

PLAYED BY THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

WITH U.S. CONGRESSMAN ROSE (FLORIDA) TO DISCUSS ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING A GROUP CALLED "FINDERS". BOTH ROSE AND [ ] PROVIDED INFORMATION CONCERNING THESE ALLEGATIONS TO DOJ.

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SA [ ] THE WMFO CASE AGENT FOR THE 1987
SUBJECT: "FINDERS' GROUP, WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT-SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE-PRELIMINARY INQUIRY; OO:WMFO.

RE: BUREAU TELETYPYE TO WMFO AND MIAMI, DATED 11/2/93, AND WMFO TELETYPYE TO BUREAU AND MIAMI DATED 11/6/93, BOTH CAPTIONED AS ABOVE.

REFERENCED BUREAU TELETYPYE ADVISED THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE REQUESTED THE FBI CONDUCT A PRELIMINARY INQUIRY INTO ALLEGATIONS MADE BY CONCERNING CHILD

MCS: SC
CM: 11/12
Approved: 11/12

Time Received: 9:07am
Telprep filename: SRG011SO.314

MRI/JULIAN DATE: 1232/314 1314
ISN: 033

FOX DATE & TIME OF ACCEPTANCE: 1314 Das 11/93
SEXUAL ABUSE BY A GROUP KNOWN AS THE "FINDERS", AND WHAT ROLE, IF ANY, WAS PLAYED BY THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

REFERENCED BUREAU TELETYPETE INITIATED SAID PRELIMINARY INQUIRY AND SET FORTH LEADS FOR WMFO AND MIAMI.

INVESTIGATION AT WMFO INDICATES THAT MATERIALS SEIZED DURING THE EXECUTIONS OF TWO FEBRUARY 1987 SEARCH WARRANTS OF "FINDERS" ADDRESSES IN WASHINGTON, D.C., WERE PROBABLY FORWARDED TO THE TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA POLICE DEPARTMENT (TPD) FOR INCLUSION IN THEIR "FINDERS" CASE.

LEAD:

MIAMI DIVISION AT TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

THROUGH LIAISON INTO THE TALLAHASSEE FLORIDA POLICE DEPARTMENT, REVIEW THEIR INVESTIGATIVE FILES CONCERNING THE "FINDERS". ASCERTAIN THE STATUS OF ANY PHYSICAL EVIDENCE MAINTAINED BY THE TPD, REVIEW SAME AND ADVISE FBIHQ AND WMFO. LOCATE INVOLVED TPD PERSONNEL TO INCLUDE THE THEN CHIEF OF POLICE, AND DETERMINE IF ANY OUTSIDE AGENCY (NOTIFICA FROM THE U.S. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY) ATTEMPTED TO INFLUENCE THE OUTCOME OF THEIR INVESTIGATION.
0077 MRI 01232
PP FBI WMFO
DE FBI WMFO #0033 5141842
2NR UUUUU
P 101830Z NOV 93
FM FBI WMFO (31C-WF-189911) (P) (C-4)
TO DIRECTOR FBI/PRIORITY/
FBI MIAMI/PRIORITY/
BT
UNCLASS
CITE: //3920//
PASS: CID, VCU, SSA

SUBJECT: "FINDERS' GROUP, WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT-SEXUAL
EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE-PRELIMINARY
INQUIRY; CO: WMFO,

RE: BUREAU TELETYPE TO WMFO AND MIAMI, DATED 11/2/93,
AND WMFO TELETYPE TO BUREAU AND MIAMI DATED 11/6/93, BOTH
CAPTIONED AS ABOVE,

REFERENCED BUREAU TELETYPE ADVISED THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF
JUSTICE REQUESTED THE FBI CONDUCT A PRELIMINARY INQUIRY INTO
ALLEGATIONS MADE BY [REDACTED] CONCERNING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE BY A GROUP KNOWN AS THE "FINDERS", AND WHAT ROLE, IF ANY, WAS PLAYED BY THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

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Memorandum

To: SAC, WMFO (31C-WF-189911) (P) (C-4) Date 11/12/93

From: SSA

Subject: FINDERS GROUP; WSTA-SEOC; OOJ-PI; OO:WMFO

On 11/9/93, SSA OLIA-FBIHQ was telephonically contacted re the status of his efforts to have both U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT queried re the FINDERS. SSA had previously been requested by SSA VCU-CID, to handle the inquiries on a headquarters level. SSA advised that he was drafting a letter for approval by the VCU which would be sent to the respective agencies. He further advised that SSA was assisting him in this effort.

SSA was requested to advise WMFO of the results of his efforts as soon as possible.

On 11/9/93, SSA advised that he was handling the review of any FCI files at FBIHQ and would advise WMFO of the results.
To: FBIHQ - VC4

Facsimile Number: ____________

Attn: SSA

From: FBI-UUMO (C-4)

Subject: FINDINGS - PI

Special Handling Instructions: FD: 302s of MPD CASE OFFICER + USCS SR AGENT

Originator's Name: ____________ Telephone: ____________

Originator's Facsimile Number: ____________

Approved: ____________

Date: 11/12/92
SUBJECT: FINDERS GROUP, WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT - SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE - PRELIMINARY INQUIRY; OO; WMFO.

RE WMFO TEL TYPE TO DIRECTOR AND MIAMI, DATED 11/10/93, FOR INFORMATION OF WMFO THE TALLAHASSEE RESIDENT AGENCY IS IN THE JACKSONVILLE DIVISION, REFERENCE TEL TYPE WILL BE FAXED TO THE JACKSONVILLE DIVISION,

BT

#0002

Nov 17 in 93
FM FBI WMFO (31C-WF-189911) (P) (C-4)

TO DIRECTOR FBI/PRIORITY/

BT

UNCLAS

CITE: //3920//

PASS: VCU-CID SSA

SUBJECT: "FINDERS" GROUP, WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT-SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE-PRELIMINARY INQUIRY; OO:WMFO.

RE BUREAU TELETYPE TO WMFO AND MIAMI DATED 11/2/93, AND WMFO TELETYPE TO BUREAU DATED 11/6/93, BOTH CAPTIONED AS ABOVE.

REFERENCED BUREAU TELETYPE ADVISED WMFO THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE REQUESTED THE FBI CONDUCT A PRELIMINARY INQUIRY INTO ALLEGATIONS MADE BY A CONCERNING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE BY A GROUP KNOWN AS THE

Approved: [Signature]

Time Received:

MRI/JULIAN DATE: 11/5/319

FOX DATE & TIME OF ACCEPTANCE: [Signature]
"FINDERS" AND WHAT ROLE, IF ANY, WAS PLAYED BY THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

TO DATE, WMFO HAS CONDUCTED THE FOLLOWING INVESTIGATION INTO CAPTIONED MATTER.

THE WMFO CASE FILE ON THE "FINDERS" WAS REVIEWED AND SUMMARIZED FOR FBIHQ IN REFERENCED WMFO 11/6/93 TELETYPE.

THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT (MPD) CASE FILE WAS REVIEWED BY WMFO ON 11/4/93. COPIES WERE MADE OF SIGNIFICANT DOCUMENTS AND SENT TO FBIHQ, VIA FACSIMILE ON 11/5/93. ON 11/9/93, A PHOTOCOPY OF THE ENTIRE MPD FILE WAS OBTAINED AND HAND CARRIED TO FBIHQ.


WMFO HAS NOT YET INTERVIEWED CUSTOMS SA[________] PER INSTRUCTIONS OF FBIHQ, BUT IS PREPARED TO DO SO UPON FBIHQ AUTHORIZATION.
WMFO HAS SET FORTH LEADS FOR THE BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE UNIT TO REVIEW ITS RECORDS FOR REFERENCES TO THE "FINDERS" AND FOR MIAMI TO REVIEW LOCAL POLICE RECORDS FOR SAME.

WMFO IS AWAITING THE RESULTS OF OLIA SSA Efforts to identify any pertinent files at either the U.S. State Department. If positive, the WMFO review of any identified files will be conducted as soon as arrangements are made.

WMFO CONTINUES TO RUN INDICES CHECKS AND REVIEW FILES FOR POSSIBLE CONNECTIONS TO CAPTIONED INVESTIGATION.

BT
FBI FACSIMILE
COVERSHEET

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN FIELD OFFICE
SQUAD C-4 (202) 252-7844

PRECEDEENCE  CLASSIFICATION
☐ Immediate  ☐ Top Secret  Time Transmitted: ______________
☐ Priority  ☐ Secret  Sender's Initials: ______________
☒ Routine  ☐ Confidential  Number of Pages: ______________
☐ Sensitive
☐ Unclassified

To: FBI HQ - VC4

Date: 11/22/93

Facsimile Number: ______________

Attn: SSA

From: FBI LMMRO

Subject: FOWERS

PI.

Special Handling Instructions: ______________

Originator's Name: ______________

Telephone: ______________

Originator's Facsimile Number: ______________

Approved: ______________
Who are these game players? And why did they become a national news story last year? Jon Cohen [8]
In Search of the FINDERS

Until February 1987, the FINDERS were invisible to all but a few friends, relatives, neighbors, police, and intelligence buffs.

The FINDERS liked it like that. Even those familiar with the group of 20 adults and six children had different notions of what the members were up to. The FINDERS liked that, too. The more disparate the images, the more invisible the group became.

It's camouflage theory. If you can't discern your threat, you make a poor target.

Friends of the FINDERS described them as '60s throwbacks who lived communally, ascribed to Eastern philosophies, played elaborate jacks using the globe as their board, and raised their children creatively. Relatives branded them a cult and charged that they were parents of their leader, Marion Portie Jr., a.k.a. the Game Caller, the Student, the Stroller.

Police followed leads alleging that the group was satanic and used the children in rituals. Intelligence buffs believed the technology-puffy bohemia to be a front for bizarre activity. How else could the FINDERS appear simultaneously with the Lindberghs' Eyewitness, the Clutter's Boys, and Martin and the Mole People?

On February 4, 1987, the Lindberghs' Eyewitness, the Clutter's Boys, and Martin and the Mole People ceased to exist.

Wednesday, February 4, 1987, the FINDERs begun to collide.

Shortly before 5 o'clock that afternoon a woman who lived near to Myers Park in Tallahassee, Florida, called police to report an odd sight: a man dressed in a coat and tie playing in the park with six unkempt children. When two patrol cars arrived at Myers Park the officers found two well-dressed men and six kids alongside a foul-smelling, blue Dodge van with Virginia plates. The kids, between the ages of 2 and 7, were bug-bitten, had scratches on their legs, and were wearing dirty clothes.

One officer interviewed the men, Michael Holwell, 23, and Douglas Ammerman, 27. The other questioned the children.

Had Holwell and Ammerman told the police they were from a D.C.-based commune, had they explained they were on a camping trip, had they reached in the glove compartment and forked over the letters of consent from the children's mothers, had they acted so evasive and weird, they well might have been thanked for their time and left alone. But there are too many warts in the FINDERS saga, too many chNodeId that could have been the last one.

Instead, what happened is this: Holwell and Ammerman were arrested on misdemeanor child-abuse charges. Within a day the national news rocket took off, fueled with the worst kind of off-the-record innuendos, misleading court documents, and wide-eyed pronouncements from officials working the case. If you believed the reports, Holwell and Ammerman were satanic D.C. cultists that snatched children from their parents, sexually abused them, and polluted kids porn across the globe.

The Washington Post ran Page One stories three days in a row. Washington TV stations dispatched reporters to Tallahassee to broadcast live remote. The Miami Herald quoted parents of FINDERS wondering if the group was going to pull a mass suicide, a la Jonestown. The said New York Times reported that "some have described [the FINDERS as] a bizarre cult of devil worshipers." Everyone got in on the act. There were stories broadcast by Rita Braver, Connie Chung, Larry King, CNN, even the BBC.

The law pulled out all the stops, too. The Tallahassee and D.C. Police hooked up with the FBI, the U.S. Customs Service, Interpol, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (an FBI-like unit), and police in Virginia, San Francisco, and New York.

Holwell and Ammerman sat in at Tallahassee's Leon County Jail and the state of Florida held the children in protective custody. Meanwhile, police raided FINDERS' homes in D.C. and Virginia, investigating everything from the men's sexual habits to their finances.

The only trouble was, they hadn't broken any laws. After six weeks in jail, the charges against the men were dropped and though the state kept some of the children from their mothers for months, eventually all of them were returned.

A year-and-a-half later, the FINDERS have quietly gone back to their own business. But some questions have yet to fade. How did the case get so whacked out of proportion? Why did it continue, week after week? And who are the FINDERS, anyway?

The Tallahassee Police Department responded to my Freedom of Information Act request by turning over most of their FINDERS file. Their cooperation was remarkable. The Washington Metropolitan Police Department, on the other hand, which searched two D.C. FINDERS' dwellings, refused to answer any questions for this story.

Said Holwell, "They're not the kind of people you explain to the police."

Officer Judy Suchocki, one of the arresting officers, guided her patrol car between stones of oak to a patch of dirt at Tallahassee's Myers Park. As her headlights illuminated webs of Spanish moss hanging from the tree, she tells the story of the arrest.

Suchocki had responded to a Code 13D, suspicious persons, and arrived as the back-up to the first officer on the scene, Tony Mashburn. Mashburn questioned Holwell and Ammerman; Suchocki interviewed the four boys and two girls in the Dodge van.

"They were scared of us, which is not unusual for kids," says Suchocki.

"My first impression was that they were dirty, but I would not say that they were unusually dirty for kids," she says. "The van smelled like urine and there were blankets all over the back. They definitely were sleeping in the van. I asked the kids where they were from, why they were here, where they were going. Mary was the one who was talking. She was real talkative."

Mary, 7, said they went from Washington and she readied their Glover Park address and phone number. She gave all the kids' names and their ages: Max Livingston, 6; Benjamin Franklin, 4; Honey Bee, 3; John Paul Pope, her brother, 2; and B.B., 2.

They didn't go to school, though they had been taught how to read and how to play games. One of the two men was her daddy, Mary said, but they hadn't seen their mommies since before Christmas—which the FINDERS don't celebrate. She explained that they have lots of mommies and daddies and that the adults do what the Game Caller says. Right now, they were being "weaned" from their mommies and just "going different places," sleeping in campgrounds.

"I was worried about the kids being kidnapped," says Suchocki. "For her to tell me they were being weaned was odd."

After questioning the kids for 20 minutes, Suchocki compared notes with Mashburn. Ammerman and Holwell had told Mashburn they were D.C. teachers en route to Mexico where they were going to start a school for brilliant children. The kids' parents, they said, were back in Washington. Then Ammerman became evasive, refusing to claim any of the kids as his own, and Holwell clamed up entirely.

"I'm not sure what's going on," Mashburn told Suchocki. They raised their higher-ups.

By Jon Cohen
Waiting for their supervisor to arrive, Suckich continued his interview with the kids. "The Game Callers were a big hit for them on a potenti and these parents had kids. Mary said, Suckich began to think the kids had been brainwashed.

Mary Pt has read a secret most to above Anderson. They didn’t put enough sleep in the backyard and some of the siblings didn’t play. They said they received food in return for work, feed on a diet of raw vegetables and fruit, and hadn’t eaten since morning. As they talked, Mary took oranges and bananas from a box in the van and handed them to the other kids.

"I was the one who made me wonder if the men were taking care of the kids properly—even if they weren’t being kidnapped,” says Suckich.

Florida child-abuse laws make a mistake in arrest children of food, clothing, shelter, or medical care or to accuse them mentally. On arrival, Suckich and Marshburn’s supervisor decided, if nothing else, these laws had been broken and they had the officers to arrest the man.

Suckich didn’t put up any argument. "There was no way I was going to let these kids continue with the kids. It’s not only amazing," she says. "Can you imagine how I would have felt if I let them go and I learned later that these kids were kidnapped?""More than that, John Hamilton and James Michael Holsby.

"The kids were so extremely happy when the police arrived," officer Holsby said in interview. "The children appeared as if they hadn’t eaten in several days and most of them didn’t have any underwear. The children’s cheekbones were extremely thin and they had no distinct features."

The children appeared as if they were kidney. Hamilton and James Michael Holsby.

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In Search of the FINDERS

In Search of the FINDERS

took their mug shots after agents from Flori- 
doa's Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services arrived to remove the kids in protective custody.

Investigator Weigand phoned the D.C. Metropoli- 
tan Police Department and explained the situa-
tion, giving them the Glover Park phone 
number and directions to the warehouse. The D.C. Police reported back to Weigand, saying they had reached an answering machine with a "wrong" message on it, some kind of biblical passage. D.C. said it was going to send a 
renderer by the house. Tallahassee didn't hear 
from D.C. until the next day.

A FINDERS traveled the country and the 
world, they communicate with fellow 
members via electronic mailboxes, such as MCI Mail. No matter where they may be 
receive or transmit a message with a 
Touch Tone phone, a computer, a modem, 
and the mailbox password.

The day after Tallahassee Police arrested 
Ammerman and Holwell, a Finder named SS 
(Susan Silverstone-they typically use 
last name Silverstone) heard from them last night and said she would be there to assist. 

"This is to testify that you are 
my source," a voice whispered into the mailbox.

"This source is true, it is not 
my source," the voice whispered back.

"This source is true, it is not 
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The voice was fleeting, but she was there.

SS checked the mailbox again and 
listened until the next day for more.

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In Search of the FINDERS

author's can be seen scribbling madly as she peers through a jam-packed plastic bag a cup buses away.

The Tallahassee Democrat's Page One story quoted Officer Scott Hunt, "It is our belief these kids were kidnapped. We've got every reason to believe they were given to them because one of the cases of passage into this sadistic organization is that you have children, and that the leaders of this organization can do what they want with your children."

In the Tallahassee Democrat's Page One story, Hunt was quoted, "As far as we're concerned, this goes from coast to coast and from Canada to Mexico. It's no doubt in our mind that this will have at least national, if not international, repercussions.

The FBI had joined the case to look into the "transportation of children across state lines for immoral purposes or kidnapping." U.S. Customs was contributing its experience and pornography expertise. Interpol was investigating a report about Holmwell.

The Tallahassee Police Department was given access to the media files. "I had 75 reporters waiting for me in the lobby," said Hunt. "We kept a 450-person team on it in two days. They were bringing in overtime to help take messages." Hundreds of calls were made from parents and friends. The nation's kids' parents were the National Conference on Children, the Florida State Department of Law Enforcement, Child Find, Children's Clearing House, the National Child Welfare Association, the Florida Office of Missing Children. Aside from a bomb threat phoned to the house holding the kids, there were reports that the girls were being held by as many as 15 people.

Friday, January 3, 1986

In Search of the FINDERS

The Sunday Washington Post ran two Page One stories on the Finders, one headlined "Child Member Defends 2 Men in Child Abuse Case."

The other story was in the state right now where we are. "We've been made almost dysfunctional by the reports," Terrell told the Post in an interview. Terrell described the "b Midst of ritual" as the slaughter of two goats kept on a farm. The kids were fed to the goats, then killed for food, he said, and the kids had watched it. N. China. As an educational experiment.

The Post's conversation with Terrell came shortly after police raided five Finders' properties in the small Virginia town near Old Rag Mountain, Eltan and Nethers. Again, the Post satisfied the readers' longing to peer behind the facade of the lives the kids might be living.

"The door of one cabin was open today, revealing large amounts of food, clothing, sleeping bags, books and pamphlets from

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The Post's conversation with Terrell came shortly after police raided five Finders' properties in the small Virginia town near Old Rag Mountain, Eltan and Nethers. Again, the Post satisfied the readers' longing to peer behind the facade of the lives the kids might be living.

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Friday, January 3, 1986

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In the aftermath of the events that led to the sageness of the case, the families of the children involved are struggling to come to terms with the traumatic experience. The children, who were taken from the care of their parents, are now the subjects of intense media scrutiny. The children's parents, who are still reeling from the shock of the event, are finding it difficult to articulate their thoughts and emotions.

The case has also sparked a national debate on the rights of parents and the role of law enforcement in such situations. The public has been left to wonder about the moral implications of the situation and the potential for such incidents to occur again.

The families of the children involved are calling for greater transparency and accountability in the handling of such cases. They are demanding that the authorities provide clear answers and accountability to the public.

The case has also raised questions about the adequacy of current laws and policies in protecting children in similar situations. The families of the children involved have called for the strengthening of laws and policies to ensure the safety and well-being of children in similar situations.

The families of the children involved are currently working with legal experts to ensure that their voices are heard. They are calling for greater support and resources to help them navigate through this difficult time.

The families of the children involved are also calling for greater awareness and education on the importance of protecting children in similar situations. They are calling for greater resources and support to help families in similar situations.

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Hers diet's a real killer.

She thinks she's found the perfect diet. The perfect way to control her weight.

She may eat very little. Almost nothing. Nearly starving herself at every meal.

Or, she may eat huge amounts of food. Then purge: And start all over again.

Either way she's in trouble. The diet she thinks is controlling her weight, is really controlling her. And

Once upon a case, says publicity meant power-money-promotion to some on the staff. Others, like Hunt, had personal motives. "They were like, wow, we may be the ones to impress down pulpmedia all over the world. We're the ones at the top of the mountain. Maybe we can do some good." But Hunt didn't believe this was a credible case.

"They had no experience dealing with a case of this sensitivity," Huffman says. "They were going along circumstantial evidence in the media.

Huffman was particularly rankled by the allegations of sexual abuse.

"I told them, You people are dealing with fire. For you to mention possible sexual harassment to the public, they don't hear 'possible.' You are proposing the idea. This is where the inexperience hurts them. They should have personally gone to the doctor and had a good studio before going to go with this. If the doctor said we had seen sexual on the girl, they should have dropped. Well, did you find a little? A hop, Where do you find it? If it was inside the vagina it would be different on the foot."

"I just think we jumped to conclusions." The ordinarily coolheaded Frank Ochundah, Joseph Lalib, was critical of his paper's Finders coverage. He jumped into his colleagues. "The news stories were laced with unmarked sounds about the people who could be the victims. "Facts were in short supply, but space in The Post wasn't.

I spoke to the Washington Journalism Review Finders critique, the news director of WRC-TV was asked if his reporters were too quick to trust the authorities. "I didn't know your source," he said, "as long as you repeat it as such you're reporting a news story..." I mean, we're not as investigative agency. We're journalists...Maybe police did jump the gun, I don't know. These things tend to look very different in hindsight.

Getting last straight in tough, as I showed for City Paper, I incorrectly reported that the man had sexual abuse charges. I incorrectly used their band, and I incorrectly said they were arrested. February 5. And I only faced a weekly deadline.

Inquirer reporter Jan Pudlow, who did some of the best reporting on the group and stuck with it thru the end of his group, and said the group had to shoulder some of the blame for the media's focus.

"If you're looking at the media's responsibility to capture the truth about these people, I've got to admit, I've put a little bit of bitterness lingering because these people did not make it easy for reporters to tell the truth about them," says Pudlow. "You know what they call win and humor? I was part of their win and humor. The win is being beautiful and downright lying and what they say humor isn't real funny.

"I've been in the business about 10 years and I realize that when you interview somebody, everybody uses a little manipulation. We all knew that. But I have never been so blatantly manipulated as by this group.

Pudlow, the first reporter to interview the mothers when they came to Tallahassee, says, "If the Finders told me today that they were coordinating the second coming of Christ and there was Jesus at their right hand, still, I wouldn't want to get a quote from them."

First called the Glover Park home in late June, deciding one of the many Finders phone numbers listed in the Tallahassee Police Department documents, "Gooten tag," said the answering machine. "Hi! Have, Kandi?" I didn't leave a message. "And then called the Northeast warehouse and group member Bob Mayer answered. I requested a group interview and told Mayer I had the police records. I dropped a detail to Mayer that not many people knew. When they arrived in Tallahassee to claim Sheldrick the Finders mothers told police the group did

was the name of a business the group no long

er ran. That's right," Mayer said, laughing. As we spoke, I could hear the buzzing of some kind of computer keyboard. Was Mayer keeping or turning our conversation?

Because the Finders refer to themselves as both the "Finders" and the "so-called Finders," I call them the Finders throughout the article for uniformity's sake.

I offered to send the group clips, including my press critiques. A few days later, July 2, they left a message on my home answering machine. I had not given Mayer my home number, though it is listed.

"Hello," the message began. "This is the so-called Finders calling for Jon Cohan on Saturday at 6:30 in the evening. Sorry we didn't get through to you. Maybe we'll get together later.

I called them back at the warehouse to see about an interview. I got a chattering message that went something like this:

Could we bolt another year. Our wildest expectation has turned. Would make us meet. Be quick then. As our Lord requests. A truthful fool of win and nest

We bid thee speak

I left a message.

With City Paper's receptionist buzzed me and said Steve Udlin was here to see me. Since I didn't recognize the name, I asked to put him on the phone. "This is Steve Udlin from the so-called Finders," he said. I ran downstairs.

Udlin, demurely and dressed in a conservative coat and tie, was maybe in his mid-20s. I told him I was surprised and asked if we could meet the next day.

"I don't know," he said.

"I'll come to your office at eight and wait in the office all day," I said vaguely.

"Don't do that for me," he said. I don't think I could.
In Search of the FINDERS

"Well, I'll be here," I said.
"Not on my account, I hope," Usdin said.
There was more sincerity than sternness in his voice.
He took out a reporter's notebook and asked me for my phone number.
"You already have them," I said.
"Oh yes," he answered. "Well, I look forward to making this work." That was the last I saw of Usdin for a month.

On the weekend of July 16, the Finders, hand-delivered an envelope to City Paper's office. Inside was a photocopied note that read:

TO: JON COHEN
FR: M.D. (last name inked out)
RE: FINDERS
DT: 17 JULY 1988

If you want to do an in-depth study of the Finders, it would be best to do an in-depth study of the Troubodouns, troubouses, and similar movements, or you won't understand what we're talking about.

The Finders often use the Encyclopedia Britannica as a source book. The 1877 edition of the Britannica describes troubadours and troubouses as clearly related lyric poets-emusicians who traveled through France, Spain, and Italy in the 12th and 13th centuries. Adored by the courts, their verses typically explored love.

Their poetry also set up lyrical conversations about "matters of a religious, metaphysical, or moral nature.

The word troubadour, from Britannica, "is a French form derived from the Occitanian verb, to find,' to invent.'"

On July 19, I left another message on the warehouse answering machine. Later that day, Kristin Knaulh, whose son Ben Franklin was held in Tallahassee, called me back.

"Two people are in Atlanta covering the convention, you see, in Japan, and we had to go to San Francisco on an emergency," Knaulh said. "Can we meet later?"

On July 26, I called the warehouse yet again and asked for Steve Usdin.

Bob Meyer answered and said Usdin wasn't there. Since Meyer was the first person I spoke with a month before, I asked him what he was going to do to arrange an interview.

"Is there a time that's best for you?" he asked.

I told him my schedule and he assured me he'd do what he could.

Two days later, Kristin Knaulh called me.

"We have an information gift for you," Knaulh said. She invited me to pick it up at the Glover Park house.

"Can we meet for an interview?" I asked.

"After you read this, you'll probably have more questions," she said.

When I arrived at the Glover Park house, Knaulh led me to a lounge that has a world map covering one wall and made me a cup of tea. She was kind enough, talking me as more nervous than friendly-like. She reminded me of an actress doing an improvisation who was trying a little too hard to maintain a character.

I was nervous, too. In all fairness, I was also in character and trying hard to maintain it. From my readings and dealings with group members, I know that she intended to interview me and then surprise her editor. Her goal was to regulate what I said, but to blather on to ease the tension.

I took out a stack of papers from a package she handed me; any information gift. The first page cracked me up:

To: Jon Cohen
Fm: M.D. ([last name inked out])
Dt: 20 July 1988
Re: Mutual Benefit

Enclosed are some information gifts. I am planning to do an in-depth study of Jon Cohen, his associates and his relatives. How do you suggest I go about it?

I told Knaulh I didn't think they needed my help to do an in-depth study of the Troubodouns, Troubouses, and similar movements being their specialty. I quickly flipped through the other pages as we chatted. Along with what are essentially book reports, there was a smattering of electronic mail dispatches from members working in Japan, at the Democratic National Convention in Atlanta, and San Francisco. A blurb in one of the group memos caught my eye:

"On participatory journalism I have heard mentioned in conjunction with 'new journalism' of the Tom Wolfe/Hunter Thompson variety [sic] where the journalist becomes an actor in the drama he or she is reporting on. But what the student means by it is hard to say—maybe one tenant is Marx's 'No investigation, no right to speak' or I'll quit guessing.'

Knaulh proceeded to win the upper hand in the interview game, offering no information yet, but teasing to talk.

Before I left, I told her I was running out of time and if I was allowed to speak with her it would have been sooner rather than later. She said Usdin would be the best one to speak with me and that he'd be back from San Francisco in a few days.

"Hes welcome to call me at home," I said.

"You already gave him the number?" she asked.

"No," I said. "But he has it."

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On August 2, Steve Usdin came by my office for the second time.

"I'm here because our elected leader for the day told me to come down here," Usdin said.

I asked him if he could tape record the conversation and he said I was welcome to, but he hadn't come here to give an interview.

"Then why are you here?" I asked.

"I don't know. Ouro, to tell you we'll answer all your questions. Two, we like. We think you're a kind soul. We thought there might be something bigger we could do together."

"Like what?" I asked.

"I don't know," said Usdin. "Maybe start a paper together."

Usdin told me that he was a reporter, too, and that he covered the Democratic Convention for a Japanese TV station. I later checked this out and it was true. We joked about the Tallahassee case a little.

"You knew that Pru story "Police Say Finders Odd. Not Criminal," right?"

"Police Criminal, Not Odd."

Then Usdin said that he never understood what went after the Tallahassee story. "Basically, they're going collectively for a socialist, saying they thought some devils were worshiping in that witch's house."

"Not that I'm a socialist," he said. "I'm not. I'm interested in actual issues and the Democratic Convention. Actually, I'm more interested in the Democratic Convention because I'm the first one there at the State Farm." Usdin said he was in Moscow when the story broke and first heard about it on a seven-minute tape. "It took 15 minutes of tape multiplied by five, ten, 15 times."

At the end of the tape, Usdin asked if I could speak with Steve Brandt and asked if we could answer my questions.

"I don't see why not," said Usdin. "He speaks to me and I'm a reporter."

"I'd also like to hear what you dig up in your investigation of me," I said.

Usdin smiled widely. "Maybe we'll write a story about you," he said.

"What were the main results; what were the games?"

"We're looking for the man who plays the game of games."

"Sometimes they act like nice guys or they're a bit better."

But before it MEP change the games that's why it works so well."

"Opening and closing stories from the Finders' song, The Ballad of Belfast, sung to the tune of OK, Sunshine."

RGTAD. Ready to go in any direction. It's a culmination or a closing found on most every Finders' report, and it's the essence of the group.

If you aren't RGTAD, you can't play the game calls. And with the Finders, everything is a game. The sorts, the diet, the wear, the travel, marriage, divorce, pregnancy, child-rearing, pranks, investigations—even calling games can be a game calling. And many people have suggested that the whole United States was a game call. The point of all this fun and games: Every game that they're ahead in, which means being better to the Student, Marain Pettie, so they can call better and better games."

"It's hard to lead a gaming life—in this society, at least—without raising eyebrows."

While the Florida press focused the Finders on the highest degree of the game, it was not the first time outsiders had tried to understand the group and its motives. At College Park, Pettie retired from the Air Force as a master sergeant in 1956, he re
erected his hippie area, his home town. One of Pettie's sons told the Washington Post that during the '60s his father spent his days at the library near Pettie Farm, the family's 90-acre playground by Old Rag Mountain, and became "a student of the world." In the late '60s-early '70s, Pettie Farm was known for its free organic meals and philosophical pronouncements on the front porch. Pettie's son told the Post that his father began a new life around 1971 when he started a commune with his followers in the Glover Park house.

Today, members look much more yuppier than hippy, a turn about that started in the early '80s. Though they have changed with the times, they still don't blend in. They've turned heads in rural Culper, where they often show up at town meetings in business suits. John Davies, a Culper attorney who represented a former group member in a divorce proceeding five years ago, says they never ask a thing but always take notes. "From my perspective, they can have a significant impact on a community like Culper," says Davies. "I think part of their goal is taking control of the local government." As evidence, Davies says he knows of a stockbroker running for local office with whom they tried to invest $25,000. And they're all over the map.
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In Search of the FINDERS

that Petie had a background in military intelligence. An FBI document, said to have been left in Air Force Intelligence and commented on by his intelligence agency before the war years, when the FINDERS story was WUSA reported that a police source claimed Petie’s deceased wife worked for the CIA.

Call That Kill author Larry Johnson, who has many sources in the FBI and Washington Metropolitan Police, says he was told the FINDERS once did database training for the CIA.

“I don’t think you have to read anything deep and dark into this,” says Johnson. “The interesting part about the FINDERS is that they like to play games with law enforcement officials. That’s their stuff. As you’ll notice in The Thorn, they did indeed exist there. It may have been one of their games.”

None of the Tallahassee Police I spoke with knew much about the FINDERS or even if an intelligence operation. But they all had a similar response to Investigator Clark’s story: that the usual level of commitment, I had that with 20 people.”

Paul Arico has lived the godgame. “The best of them is not to expect too much,” Arico says. “It’s hard to have that. And in a group like ours, where everyone was committed to working it out. If you’ve ever had that come-out relationship with another person where there’s the level of commitment, I had that with 20 people.”

Paul Arico nearly spins up her food

laughing when I tell her people suggest

that the FINDERS may be spokesmen.

Arico and I are eating at a restaurant in Tallahassee. She resisted here after the juvenile

court finally deemed her fit to raise Mary and

John Paul. “That’s their model, so pretend they’re CIA,” says Arico, who was in the group for 8 years and now works as a bookkeeper for a progressive construction company.

This is one of the few times in our many

talks that Paula calls the group the “they.”

That’s left the FINDERS more than a year ago, it’s still “we this” and “we that.” She also still speaks lovingly—oh, similarly—of Petie.

“The rest of us are just dead between the ears compared to him,” says Arico.

Arico has a theory for why the FINDERS gather myths of information. “We want to be the best at everything, and you can’t be the best in anything if you don’t have information about what the best is,” she says. “So getting your information-gathering skills together is the first thing you have to do.”


“It’s a mystery why things are of interest to Petie, but he’s not able to call complete
games if he doesn’t have complete information.”

“Our don’t know what game Petie has in

mind to call tomorrow. He already has it in

mind. He’s in mind based on the information you’re bringing him right now.”

This sounds like slight deviation,

rephrasing, but ultimately the labels

all stick if any group defines it’s the

FINDERS. They’re constantly changing, in-venting themselves, drafting new “Constitu-
tions,” setting new rules—FRIDAYS.

“A taste of FINDERS can be found in

John Powers’ novel The Magnus, in which

Maurice Conroy (conscience—get it?) bedazzles the protagonist with a troop of acro-
nomens—seekers playing the “godgame.”

As one of The Magnus’ characters says, “If the godgame we start from the premise that in reality all is fiction, yet no single fiction is necessary.”

Paul Arico has lived the godgame. “The best of them is not to expect too much,” Arico says. “It’s hard to have that. And in a group like ours, where everyone was committed to working it out. If you’ve ever had that come-out relationship with another person where there’s the level of commitment, I had that with 20 people.”

“Very, very 20 people.” I ask.

“For the time that I did,” she replies. “I got my eyes opened pretty quickly in about three months. I was on to it by then, yeah, I had implicit trust, because we were all committed to Petie’s dream. His dream was our dream.”

On the day of the arrest, Paula Arico was working temp jobs in San Francisco, sharing an apartment with a single mother not in the group. It was part of a “women’s game” that had been underway for the past 26 years, and Arico was having a blast. For a long time, the 26-year-old woman had wanted the men to do more child-

raising and it was finally happening. She was sure Mary and John Paul were in good hands.

“I can’t describe the feeling for those kids,” says Arico. “They were the future of the tribe. We are all fucked up. No amount of game playing has managed to straighten us out. Some people have been in the group for 30 years and are still fucked up. It’s the new generation that’s going to bring the new age in.” She notes that she doesn’t think people in the group are any more fucked up than non-

FINDERS.

Arico didn’t get wind something was wrong until Friday morning. “I was getting ready to
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The mother-child reunion took place at the court-sanctioned, one-hour meeting between the mother and kids. A dozen HRS officials showed up to watch. "We would not leave," says Arico. "We told them that they would have to physically take the children away from us. We were not going to get up and walk away from our children.

"John Paul is in my arms and he's saying, 'But I want to go home with you.' And I'm saying, 'Well, I want you to go home with me, too.' I just sat there with him crying my eyeballs out, and he's crying his eyeballs out, and they came and took him away from me."

During the next few weeks, the Finders settled into the media saddle and displayed what may be their finest wit and humor of the affair. But it ultimately drove Arico and two other mothers from the group.

A memo addressed to "M.D. Pettie" delivered to the Tallahassee Democrat said he was resigning as leader of the Finders—a position he said he didn't know he held. "I thought I was just a consultant on Wit and Humor," the memo said. "If ever was the leader, I hereby resign to devote myself full-time to Zen Walking."

The Finders also started publishing a newsletter, The Daily Finder, in which they announced that they were all moving to Tallahassee. "The Finders are always looking for signs and symbols," they wrote. "So far, February 4, Florida has been sending signals that they want to keep some Finders members, so the rest are coming."

Another issue of The Daily Finder, "Come to Tallahassee," invited friends to come join the drama and featured the song, "Old Tallahassee:"

Well I came to Tallahassee
In a van so full of glee
They put me in the jailhouse
With a chain upon my knee

You get the idea.

Before the trial, Ammerman and Holwell spoke freely with Walborsky, who was assisted by several Finders men. "They all had handlebar mustaches and dressed alike," Walborsky says.

"I sent them to FSU library to get me books for the case to explain their philosophy. They came back with books on psychology, India, American Indians, Samoan tribes, Chinese philosophy."

Juvenile court was packed with onlookers and media on the first day of the custody battle. Witnesses Holwell and Ammerman showed up in prison garb and shackles. "Talk about a circus," says Walborsky. "We could have sold tickets."

Right before the hearing, Walborsky learned that the Finders men she had been working with had left town and were replaced by Steve Usdin. She also got the news that Pettie had put a gag order on Ammerman and Holwell and that she was going to be fired.

"I said ooooh-hay. The First Amendment issues haven't even been argued and they stand up and fire me," she says.

In court Steve Usdin delivered a proclamation from Pettie. Our interests and the state's interests are the same, he said, so we don't need counsel. "Some people practice law 20 or 30 years and never get on television," Walborsky joked.

Pettie's strategy of nonresistance split the mothers. Knauth and Livingston gave Walborsky the boot, as instructed, while Arico, Evans, and Usdin retained her. Arico describes the behind-the-scenes drama of that morning.

Livingston had called Pettie. "She begged him to tell her what to do," says Arico. "He said, "Fire your attorney. If you called him and begged him and he told you to do it, you can't say no. She was in agony. She really loves her son and she knew what would happen if I fired my attorney—it wouldn't be in the best interest of the children."

Arico understood Pettie's logic. If you're in a confrontational situation, in some ways, you're creating it. Do what Gandhi and Ammerman and Holwell and others have done when attacked: Don't fight.

On another level there were the teachings of Lao Tzu, Planning, Strategy, Tactics, Loyalty. "Those ideas are really the crux of the group," says Arico, "and they are what keep the group functioning at the high level that it does." Pettie wanted them to go before the judge and tell him in unison that he could end all this right now, he could be the game caller. "Think if you were a judge, and there were five women in your courtroom, and in all of your experiences with them you knew that they really loved their kids and were trying to do the right things," says Arico.

"That's the position Pettie wanted the judge put it."

Arico couldn't accept Pettie's advice. "The group told me to choose between Pettie and..."
my kids, I chose my kids.”

The hearing lasted until Wednesday. Walborsky hammered on the constitutional issues and appealed to the judge’s experience. “This is a judge who has seen thousands of juvenile cases,” Walborsky says. “I told him if the walls could talk they would cry. This wasn’t the real thing. Essentially that’s what he said in the end. He praised the efforts to raise the kids correctly. He was only concerned about their educational backgrounds.

John Paul, B.B., and Honeybee, the three youngest children, were returned to their mother—Arico, Said, and Evans. The judge didn’t free the older three because he wanted their mothers to demonstrate that they would adequately educate them.

Arico agreed to cross every t and dot every i, and after two months of state supervision, she was given full custody of Mary. Livings­ton and Kaush’s children were put in foster homes, but the state finally relinquished cus­

tody to the mother that August.

Hours after the March 18 juvenile case ended, the Finders announced to the press that they had disbanded. It wasn’t true, of course. But it did signal the end of Arico, Said, and Evans’ membership in the group.

Arico cites many personal reasons for leaving the group that have little to do with the Florida incident. A few years before, she says, “I saw the writing on the wall, but I didn’t read it.”

She spoke with attorneys about suing the authorities and decided there were too many obstacles. “I would have had to put my child­ren into therapy immediately to prove that

they had both traumatized. As far as I’m con­

cerned, whatever trauma there was, they’ve

basically gotten over it now.” Another hurdle

would be proving wrongful intent. “Every­

thing they did was within the limits of the law,” she says.

Arico’s final analysis of what went wrong:

“You just can’t have a highly disciplined life­

style and have kids. You just can’t. It just
doesn’t work.”

Make no mistake, though. She loved being a Finder. “It’s a very magnetic situation,” she

says. “But the mystery’s gone now, the whole

mystique that nobody knew what we really
did.”

CP

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26 August 11, MAGAZINE PAPER
**IMPORTANT MESSAGE**

**FOR:** Chief

**DATE:** 9-21

**TIME:** 3:28 A.M.

**OF:** Washington Times

**PHONE:** 800-433-6804 CT

**FAX:**

**MOBILE:**

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**MESSAGE:**

Re: Finders Case

3600 NY Ave NW

Washington DC 20002

Attn: Nat Desk

Signed:

Sent 9-22-93
September 16, 1993

Chief Mel Tucker
Tallahassee Police Department

Dear Chief Tucker:

As an associate producer of CBS News/48 Hours, I would like to request that, under Florida Chapter 119, you make available all files and materials associated with your investigation into the Finders organization that took place in 1987.

I will be in your city sometime in the middle of next week and would like to examine the records in person; if there is a copying fee, CBS News would reimburse you your costs.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Best regards,

CBS NEWS
524 West 57 Street New York, NY 10019 (212) 975-4848
**IMPORTANT MESSAGE**

**FOR:** Chief Tucker  
**DATE:** Sat 5  
**TIME:** 1035 AM  
**OF:** CBS NEWS 48 HRS.

**PHONE**  
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- PLEASE CALL ✓

**CAME TO SEE YOU**  
- WILL CALL AGAIN ✓

**WANTS TO SEE YOU**  
- FAX

**RETURNED YOUR CALL**  
- WILL FAX TO YOU

**MESSAGE:** Please call

**SIGNED**
In furtherance of its legislative and oversight responsibilities under the rules of the House, the Committee on House Administration is conducting an investigation into an organization known as the "Finders". In order to examine the credibility of certain allegations against the Finders organization the Committee must obtain all relevant documentation.

It has come to my attention that your office may have certain information which will further this investigation. Accordingly, I am requesting under Chapter 119 of the Florida Public Records Law that you provide the Committee with all reports in your possession concerning the organization known as the "Finders".

Please address your response to [name of my staff]. Should you have any further questions [name can be reached at [phone number]].

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Charlie Rose
Chairman
Committee on House Administration
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (ATTN: CID-VCU, SSA)
FROM: SAC, JACKSONVILLE (31C-WF-189911) (TRA) (RUC)
SUBJECT: "FINDERS" GROUP;
WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT - SEXUAL
EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN;
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE -
PRELIMINARY INQUIRY;
OO: WMFO

Re WMFO teletype to the Bureau, dated 11/10/93.

Enclosed for WMFO are following items received from
TALLAHASSEE POLICE DEPARTMENT Chief MELVIN TUCKER:

1. Complete TALLAHASSEE POLICE DEPARTMENT case file
   concerning the FINDERS;

2. A letter from Congressman CHARLIE ROSE to
   Tallahassee Police Chief MELVIN TUCKER, dated 9/15/93;

3. Copy of a letter to Chief TUCKER from 48 HOURS,
   dated 9/16/93;

4. A TALLAHASSEE POLICE DEPARTMENT memorandum to
   Chief TUCKER from concerning being
   interviewed by a U.S. CUSTOMS Agent concerning an FBI
   the captioned matter;

2 - Bureau
(2) - WMFO (Enc. 0)
1 - Jacksonville
MMP/sdh
(5)
5. Two memos purportedly authentic U.S. CUSTOMS' memos concerning the FINDERS case; and

6. A copy of an article from the "city paper" concerning the FINDERS case.

Also enclosed for WMFO is a copy of Jacksonville's complete investigative file regarding this matter, to include copies of the I A and 1B sections.

On 11/16/93, contact with Tallahassee Police Chief MEL TUCKER revealed that there was never any outside agency either in or outside the United States intelligence community who contacted anyone in his department with an attempt to influence in any way their investigation of the FINDERS GROUP. All evidence in the case that was obtained was either returned to its owners or otherwise destroyed.

Chief TUCKER advised that he has been contacted by a number of individuals recently concerning the FINDERS case. One was Congressman CHARLIE ROSE, Chairman, Committee on House Administration, who both telephonically and in writing expressed an interest in the facts and circumstances surrounding the FINDERS case in Tallahassee, Florida. Additionally, Chief TUCKER was contacted by
For the information of the Bureau, Tallahassee SSRA

Tallahassee portion of the investigation, and also resolve whether there was any improper influence by any agency brought to bear on the TPD in the performance and reporting of their investigation. The bottom line was that the Tallahassee investigation was not impeded/influenced in any way by any agency or improper considerations.

This matter is considered RUC by Jacksonville Division.
On 11/10/93, the following names were searched in WMFO indices at the request of SSA FBIHQ, CID, VCU.

Finders
Finders Transnational
Finders Transnational Ragged Mountain
Womens Network Service
General Scientific Corporation

Isabelle Pettie
Future Enterprises

Attached to this insert are the results of this query.
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File Revision Symbols:
- I: Incomplete
- N: Not Applicable
- H: Not Available
- U: Unavailable reference
To: Office Services Manager  

Requested by: [Signature]  
Ext. 1772  
Squad: T-4  
File No. 31C-WF-19911  

Social Security Account #:  

Subject: GENERAL SCIENTIFIC CORP

Aliases: 

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□ Albany  
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□ Bonn Germany  
□ Boston  
□ London England  
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□ Newark  
□ Paris France  
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□ Rome Italy  
□ All above  

Mid-Atlantic  

□ Atlanta  
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□ Norfolk  
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File Review Symbols:  

I - Identical  
NI - Not Identical  
? - Not identifiable  
U - Unavailable reference  

Consolidated by:  

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File Review Symbols

D - Defective
E - Edible
I - Inedible
U - Uncertain reference
To: Office Services Manager

Subject: WOMENS NETWORK SVC

Aliases

- Birth Date
- Birth Place
- Race
- Sex

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<td>Main Security (if no Main, list all Security References)</td>
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- Date: 11-10-93

- OCIS: 1-12-93

- ELSUR Indices: NEG POS

- FOIMS: NEG POS

- GLOBAL: NEG POS

- ISIS: NEG POS

- IIS: NEG POS

- MICRO: NEG POS

- REGIONAL: NEG POS

Place an 'X' by the Field Office(s) to Query for Regional Searches.

Northeast

- Albany
- Bern Switzerland
- Bonn Germany
- Boston
- London England
- Mexico City Mexico
- New York City
- Newark
- Paris France
- Philadelphia
- Rome Italy
- All above

Mid-Atlantic

- Atlanta
- Baltimore
- Birmingham
- Charlotte
- Jackson
- Knoxville
- Memphis
- Mobile
- New Orleans
- Norfolk
- Quantico
- San Juan
- Savannah
- Washington Field
- All above

Central

- Buffalo
- Chicago
- Cincinnati
- Cleveland
- Dallas
- Denver
- Detroit
- El Paso
- Houston
- Indianapolis
- Kansas City
- Little Rock
- Louisville
- Milwaukee
- Minneapolis
- Oklahoma City
- Omaha
- Pittsburgh
- San Antonio
- Springfield
- St. Louis
- All above

Western

- Albuquerque
- Anchorage
- Butte
- Honolulu
- Las Vegas
- Los Angeles
- Phoenix
- Portland
- Sacramento
- Salt Lake City
- San Diego
- San Francisco
- Seattle
- All above

File & Serial Number

- Remarks

- File & Serial Number

- Remarks

UCFN

GENERAL INDICES

AUTOMATIC SEARCH

MANUAL SEARCH

Reviewed by

Consolidated by

File Review Symbols

I - Identical
NI - Not Identical
U - Unavailable reference

- Not identifiable
Indices Search Slip
FD-160 (Rev. 7-28-89)

To: Office Services Manager

Address

- Birth Date
- Birth Place
- Sex
  - Male
  - Female

D Exact Spelling
D All References
D Main References Only
D Main Security Case Files Only
D Restrict Locality of

D Main Security (if no Main, list all Security References)
D Main Criminal (if no Main, list all Criminal References)

D ISIS:
D NEG
D POS

D OCIS:
D NEG
D POS

D IIIS:
D NEG
D POS

D MICRO:
D NEG
D POS

D ELSUR Indices:
D NEG
D POS

D FOIMS:
D NEG
D POS

D GLOBAL:
D NEG
D POS

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<th>Mid-Atlantic</th>
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File & Serial Number | Remarks | File & Serial Number | Remarks |

File Review Symbols:
- I - Identical
- NI - Not identical
- U - Unavailable reference
- ? - Not identifiable

Reviewed by

Date

Consolidated by

Date

File: 31C-WF-109911

Social Security Account #

Date: 11/1/93

Requested by:

Ex: 792 Squad: C-4

Date: 11/29/89

Consolidated by:

Consolidated by:

Date: 4

Date: 4

File: 31C-WF-109911

SERIALIZED INDEXED

Find:

Reid, N. C.

File:

WASH METRO FIELD OFFICE

Date:

FBI WASH METRO FIELD OFFICE

Date:

File: 31C-WF-109911

SERIALIZED INDEXED

Find:

Reid, N. C.

File:

WASH METRO FIELD OFFICE

Date:

FBI WASH METRO FIELD OFFICE

Date:
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- Signature
- Not Data
- Not Known
- Undisclosed Reference
To: Office Services Manager

Subject: ISABELLE PETTLE

Address

- Birth Date
- Birth Place
- Sex
  - Male
  - Female
- Main Criminal Case Files Only
- Criminal References Only
- Main Security Case Files Only
- Main Criminal (if no Main, list all Criminal References)
- Main Security (if no Main, list all Security References)

File & Serial Number

Remarks

File & Serial Number

Remarks

UCFN □ Pos □ Neg SEARCHED BY:

GENERAL INDICES:

Automated Search DATE:

Manual Search POSITIVE RESULTS REVIEWED BY:

Consolidated by

Reviewed by

File Review Symbols

- I - Identical
- NI - Not Identical
- U - Unavailable reference

CONSOLIDATED

REVIEWED

SYMBOLOG

DATE
Indices Search Slip
FD-160 (Rev. 7-28-89)

To: Office Services Manager

Subject: FINDERS

Alias: FINDERS TRANSNATIONAL

Address: FINDERS TRANSNATIONAL RACED MOUNTAIN

Birth Date: Birth Place: Race: Sex:

- Exact Spelling
- All References
- Main Criminal Case Files Only
- Criminal References Only
- Main Security Case Files Only
- Main Security (If no Main, list all Security References)
- Security References Only
- Main Criminal (If no Main, list all Criminal References)

Place "X" by the Field Office(s) to Query for Regional Searches.

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File & Serial Number | Remarks | File & Serial Number | Remarks

CFA CONFIDENTIAL INDICES SEARCH

SEARED BY: 
DATE: 11-22-93

NEGATIVE RESULTS

REVIEW INSTRUCTIONS

Consolidated by

Reviewed by

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N1 - Not Identical
U - Unavailable reference
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File Review Symbols

- = Known
- = Not Known
U = Unclassified reference

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To: Office Services Manager

Subject

Aliases

Address

Birth Date/Place Sex

Race

Sex

Main Criminal Case Files Only

Main Security Only

Main Criminal (If no Main, list all Security References)

Security References Only

Restrict Locality of

Main Security Case Files Only

Main Criminal References Only

Search by

Date

ISIS:

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NEG

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FOIMS:

NEG

POS

NEG

POS

GLOBAL:

NEG

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REGIONAL:

NEG

POS

NEG

POS

Date

Date

Date

Date

Date

Date

Date

Date

Place an "X" by the Field Office(s) to Query for Regional Searches.

Northeast

Mid-Atlantic

Central

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Albany

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Chicago

Anchorage

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Charlotte

Cleveland

Butte

London England

Jackson

Dallas

Baltimore

Mexico City Mexico

Jacksonville

Denver

Birmingham

New York City

Kansas City

Denver

Newark

Los Angeles

Memphis

Las Vegas

Miami

Los Angeles

Midland

Miami

Little Rock

Milen,

Mobile

Minneapolis

Mobile

Chicago

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Minturk

Nashville

Tampa

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File Revision Symbols

- I: incorrect
- N: Not identifiable
- O: Not original
- U: Unavailable reference
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File Review Symbols
- LO: Known
- LK: Known
- M: Data Available
- MN: Data Available
- U: Unknown Reference

Page 1/2
The following files were reviewed on November 22 and 23, 1993, as a result of listings in WMFO manual general indices. Listed below are the results of that review:

Indexed to Finders, Finders Group, Finders Transnational, and Finders Transnational Ragged Mountain:

9-5009 extortion case opened on 7/14/83 by Alexandria Division against [blank]. Subject [blank] was described as a W/M born approx. [blank]. Victim [blank] advised that he was a member of this cult, headed by [blank], which was also known as FINDERS. He described the cult as an alternate lifestyle group, and related an incident detailing the death of a member, BARBARA MATEJA. WMFO contacted MPD, and was advised that MATEJA had died as a result of refusing medical attention for religious reasons, and that no homicide investigation had been conducted. File reflected that the case was closed as the AUSA for Alexandria would not consider any prosecution.

Indexed to [blank]: no references.

9-5009 same as detailed above.
9B-665 file destroyed on 4/2/69.
190-136 FOIPA file that could not be located.

Indexed to Isabelle Pettie: no references.
Indexed to Women's Network Service:
no reference.

Indexed to General Scientific Corporation:
105-2574 file could not be located.

Indexed to Future Enterprises:
The following files were reviewed on November 22 and 23, 1993, as a result of listings in WMFO FOIMS indices. Listed below are the results of that review:

Indexed to Finders:

and were members of his group.
The case was closed upon resolution by interview.

Indexed to General Scientific:

Indexed to same information as detailed above.

Indexed to same information as detailed above.

190-C0000001-E request for FOIPA information by dated 9/9/87.

190-Z0000001 FOIPA file that has been destroyed.
Indexed to Future Enterprises:

lead on Philadelphia Division 3/3/88

investigation of
Memorandum

To : SAC, WMFO (31C-WF-189911) (P) Date 11/23/93

From : SSA_____(C-4)

Subject: FINDERS GROUP;
WSTA-SEOC;
OOJ-PI;
OO: WMFO

On 11/23/93, SSA______ VCU-CID advised that based on recent discussions with VCU Unit Chief ______ and Section Chief ______ the interview of U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE SA______

It is noted that as of 11/23/93 the formal written request from FBIHQ to both ______ and the USDOS had not been sent out of FBIHQ.
**FBI FACSIMILE COVERSHEET**

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN FIELD OFFICE  
SQUAD C-4 (202) 252-7844

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**To:** FBI HQ - VC4  
(Name of Office)  
Date: 11/24/93

Facsimile Number: 324-3089

Attn: SSA  
(Name Room Telephone)

**From:** FBI UNMRO (316-UNR 189411) (PC-4)  
(Name of Office)

**Subject:** FINDERS UNMRO

**Special Handling Instructions:**

**Originator’s Name:**  
(Telephone: )

**Originator’s Facsimile Number:**

**Approved:** [Signature]

SEARCHED *** INDEXED***  
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Memorandum

To : SAC, MIAMI (145-0) (P)  
From : SA (FPRA)  
Date 10/26/93

Subject: UNSUBS; ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING POSSIBLE CHILD ABUSE & CHILD PORNOGRAPHY, STUART, FLORIDA AREA

Attached to this memo are copies of letter from LARRY A. POTTS, Assistant Director, Criminal Investigative Division, dated 7/21/93, and letter from LARRY A. POTTS, Assistant Director, Criminal Investigative Division, dated 9/20/93. Further attached is a copy of a dated 9/14/93.

The purpose of this memo is to address allegations or potential allegations concerning child abuse in the Stuart, Florida area.

During the period of August through September, 1992, 

Subsequent to this request, SA at his offices. It should be noted that identified as one of those assaulted. proceeded to advise SA of much of the information as he related in the letter to on 7/21/93. While not going into as much detail as is set forth in the letter, did allude to U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE not following through on investigation. He did mention allegations of computer chips being planted in children's heads, an organization in Stuart, Florida involved in Satan worship and possibly child abuse, and the fact that individuals involved in such activities were at the highest levels of government. When pushed for any substantive evidence concerning these allegations, could not provide any and

2 - Miami (Enc.2)
MJM/jah
(2)
alluded to the fact that no one could be trusted in this matter including SA[________] was advised by SA[________] that if he obtained any evidence or witnesses concerning child abuse or any other evidence to substantiate his allegations, he should contact SA[________] To date, he has not done so.

At the time of the contact with[________] no documentation of this meeting occurred by SA[________] due to the fact that SA[________] felt his allegations to be extremely broad, far-fetched and unsubstantiated in any way. It should be noted

During the Summer of 1993, rumors again surfaced in the Stuart, Florida area concerning Satanic worship and child abuse and thereafter, the attached letter was received.

On 10/16/93, [________] Fort Pierce, Florida was contacted and advised his office had conducted the investigation and prosecution of sexual abuse case. Since that time, he advised, [________] has maintained contact with him up to the recent past and continued to make allegations of further sexual abuse, none of which are substantiated. According to [________] admitted to him he had found no connection to date between [________] actions and any nationwide organizations or activities. [________] did provide the attached copy of a communication concerning the FINDERS, which [________] had provided to him on 9/14/93. He advised [________] is now claiming a group called the "FINDERS", which was part of the Washington, D.C. Intelligence community, had a splinter group which was involved in child sexual abuse. One of the members of this group supposedly resides in [________]

[________] was provided with a copy of page #2 of a letter to [________] dated 7/21/93, which he read and advised that this was misleading and certain statements [________] made were in fact

advised the STATE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE investigation did not uncover others having been involved than were charged.
located no hard evidence of any organized sexual abuse in the area, but noted there is a similarity in sexual abuse cases that have occurred in different parts of the country. did not volunteer, but when asked admitted he was looking into a group called the "FINDERS"; however, he did not have any confirmed criminal activity at this time.

On 10/21/93, operates a day school from which, during the past year, he advised numerous parents have withdrawn their children. According to occurring at or being done by individuals at the JENSEN BEACH PRE-SCHOOL. concerning the JENSEN BEACH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, where parents also withdrew their children from attendance.

stated that he himself did extensive checking of the school and found absolutely no indication of any child abuse. He further advised that those espousing targeting Martin County.
On 10/22/93, [ ] JENSEN BEACH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, was contacted. [ ] advised that in the past year, three to five families had withdrawn their children from the JENSEN BEACH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL based on rumors of cult activities and child abuse involving employees at her school. [ ] stated she did extensive work to attempt to substantiate these rumors with negative results. She advised that

On 10/22/93, [ ] was contacted and advised that he and the school are aware of individuals within the Stuart and Port St. Lucie, Florida areas involved in Satan worship. To date, he advised, neither he nor anyone else to his knowledge has revealed any evidence that these practices are in any way related to sexual child abuse.

All individuals contacted above were advised that were they to obtain any information concerning sexual abuse of children, they should immediately report it to the authorities. In view of the lack of any evidence of, or substantiation of, [ ] allegations as set forth in the attached letter as they relate to the Stuart, Florida area, no further inquiries are being made concerning this matter at this time.
September 20, 1993

Department of Justice  
Washington, D.C.

Dear

Thank you for your letter of August 20, 1993, in which you forwarded two sets of correspondence dealing with child sex abuse allegations you had received from

A copy of correspondence has been forwarded to our Atlanta Office for review. The Criminal Investigative Division (CID) has thoroughly reviewed and discussed correspondence with the FBI, Macon, Georgia. Resident Agency (RA). The Macon RA is well aware of

From the review of available material to date, there appears to have been medical evidence to indicate that one or more children were molested; however, the joint investigation in this matter by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) and the Macon Police Department (MPD) did not determine who was responsible. Although the information reviewed to date does not appear to indicate a Federal violation, our Atlanta Office has been instructed to further review reports concerning the joint GBI/MPD investigation to determine if an FBI investigation is warranted.

1 - Atlanta - Enclosures (4)
Attention SAC: This matter is referred for appropriate action.

0 - Miami - Enclosures (10)
Attention SAC: This matter is referred for appropriate action.

SS/RA

SEP 27 1993
A copy of correspondence has been forwarded to our Miami Office for review.

Any future inquiries in this matter can be referred to Violent Crimes and Major Offenders Section, Criminal Investigative Division.

Sincerely yours,

Larry A. Potts
Assistant Director
Criminal Investigative Division
TO: SAC, WMFO
FROM: SAC, MIAMI (31C-WF-189911) (FPRA) (RUC)

SUBJECT: "FINDERS GROUP";
WHITE SLAVE TRAFFICK ACT - SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN;
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE - PRELIMINARY INQUIRY;
OO: WMFO

Re Bureau teletype to WMFO and Miami on 11/2/93 and
WMFO teletype to the Bureau and Miami dated 11/10/93 with lead
inadvertently sent to Miami for Jacksonville Division at
Tallahassee, Florida.

Enclosed for information of WMFO is one copy of
memo of SA [ ] dated 10/26/93, involving
captioned matter with attachments and copy of FD-302
concerning interview of [ ] on 11/15/93.
Attached for the information of Jacksonville is one copy of
FD-302 concerning interview of [ ] on 11/15/93.

For the information of WMFO, enclosed memo and
attached information was investigation conducted prior to
Bureau teletype November 2, 1993, which is self-explanatory.
This investigation was conducted in response to allegations
put forth within the Stuart community by [ ] and others
as to sexual abuse of children within the area.

2 - WMFO (31C-WF-189911) (Enc 2)
2 - Jacksonville (Enc 1) (Info)
1 - Miami
MJM: bsb
(5)
In response to Bureau teletype 11/2/93 request for interview of [ ] he was interviewed on 11/15/93 with results set forth. As this interview reflects, WMFO should note that during interview of [ ] he advised he would provide on the following day November 16, 1993, the FINDERS' location in Washington, D.C. To date he has not provided this information. Further, he initially was reluctant to discuss the matter with SA [ ] until it was pointed out to him that if he was withholding information concerning child abuse, he himself might have some criminal liability.

In view of the fact that no investigation remains outstanding, Miami is considering this matter in an RUC status.
The USCS informed the MPD that they were unsure if the six children had been kidnapped from their parents, and that they had attempted unsuccessfully to contact representatives of the Finders at 3918-3920 W. Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. They feared that other children were being abused at that address.
FM FBI WMFO (31C-WF-189911) (P) (C-4)
TO DIRECTOR FBI/PRIORITY/BT
UNCLAS
CITE: //3920//
PASS: VCU-CID FOR SSA

SUBJECT: "FINDERS" GROUP, WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT-SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE-PRELIMINARY INQUIRY; OO:WMFO.


REFERENCED WMFO TELETYPE OUTLINED THE RESULTS OF WMFO'S PRELIMINARY INQUIRY CONCERNING CAPTIONED GROUP.
WMFO HAS COMPLETED ALL REQUESTED INTERVIEWS AND FILE REVIEWS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE ABOVE CITED MATTERS.

BT
To: SAC WMFO

Date: 12/6/93

Facsimile number: 202-863-1786

Attn: SSA

From: DIRECTOR FBI CVIIDENT CRIME UNIT

Subject: PRELIMINARY INQUIRY

Special Handling Instructions: PLEASE HAND DELIVER TO SSA

Originator's Name: SSA

Telephone: 202-324-3589

Approved: LAP/OW

Please read and contact

By WMFO
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REMARKS

DO NOT use this form as a RECORD of approvals, concurrences, dispositions, clearances, and similar actions.

By: FROM: (Name, org. symbol, Agency/Post) 
John C. Keeney 
Deputy Assistant Attorney General 

Room No.—Bldg. 
Phone No. 

OPTIONAL FORM 41 (Rev. 7-76) 
Prepared by BAA 
PPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.208
Memorandum

To: ADIC, WMFO (31C-WF-189911) (P)  Date: 12/13/93

From: SA (C-4)

Subject: "FINDERS" GROUP;
WSTA - SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN;
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE - PI;
OO: WMFO

Attached to this memo is material provided to WMFO by SSA VCU, CID, FBIHQ at a December 10, 1993 meeting concerning captioned matter. This meeting took place at The Department of Justice's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Unit, 1001 G Street, NW, Washington, D.C. The following individuals were present at this meeting:

SSA FBIHQ
SSA WMFO
SA WMFO
MR DOJ
MR. GEORGE BURGASSER, DOJ

SSA provided an update on the above captioned matter to the DOJ representatives.
PRELIMINARY INQUIRY - ALLEGATIONS
OF ORGANIZED CHILD ABUSE BY A GROUP KNOWN AS "FINDERS"

♦ U.S. Customs Service (USCS) Special Agent has not been interviewed by the FBI as of this date. He has been interviewed by USCS. During interviews with USCS.

♦ An FBIHQ indices search determined that FBI Jacksonville and FBI Washington Metropolitan Field Office (WMFO) had conducted investigation resulting from an arrest of two individuals associated with the "Finders" in Tallahassee, Florida, in 1987. On 2/4/87, were arrested by the Tallahassee Police Department (TPD) on misdemeanor child abuse charges resulting from a complaint that six children playing in a park were unkept and neglected. the two subjects with the children, could not initially provide sufficient information as to their legal custody of the children and were uncooperative regarding their identity and the children's identity. As a result of information developed during these arrests, the TPD contacted the Washington Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), Washington, D.C., and provided information concerning and their association with a group known as "Finders," based in Washington, D.C. On 2/5/87 and 2/6/87, the MPD executed search warrants, prepared by the United States Attorney's Office, District of Columbia, Washington, D.C., on two properties owned by the "Finders" in Washington, D.C. FBI Special Agent (SA) WMFO case Agent, and USCS SA participated in these searches.

♦ Investigation conducted by the MPD and WMFO, lead to the identification and interview of the mothers of the six children, two of the fathers, and several other key members of the "Finders" group. On 2/18/87, WMFO presented the results of their investigation to Assistant United States Attorney United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, Washington, D.C., who declined prosecution for violation of Title 18, U.S. Code, Section 1201 (kidnapping) and 2251 (sexual exploitation of children).

♦ In March 1987, the TPD and the State of Florida

♦ On 11/9/93 the MPD provided a copy of the MPD investigative case file concerning the FINDERS. The case file did not contain a listing of items which had been seized during the MPD execution of search warrants on 2/5-6/87 on the two FINDERS properties, 1307 4th Street, NE, and 3918/3920 W Street,
NW, Washington, D.C. In addition, there was no indication of the present status of any items seized at these searches, nor a listing of personnel who had been present during the execution of these search warrants. The [MPD] Detective that had been assigned to this case was [WMFO SA] interviewed on 11/8/93, and [MPD] was interviewed on 11/10/93, concerning their knowledge of the "FINDERS investigation, to include any information they might possess concerning child abuse/exploitation by the FINDERS as well as any knowledge concerning the alleged involvement by the Department of State (DOS) and the FBI. They both denied any direct knowledge of any evidence indicating child abuse/exploitation or interference from any U.S. Intelligence agency. Both advised that they were aware of allegations suggesting child exploitation and associations by the FINDERS property in 1987.

[SA] was present during the execution of the [MPD] search warrant at the warehouse owned by the FINDERS. She observed computer equipment, and records, but she observed no evidence of child sexual exploitation, child abuse, or child pornography. Subsequent to the execution of the search warrants, [SA] had obtained a copy of a memorandum, prepared by [USCS]

the DOS or any other intelligence organization or entity. [SA] stated that at no time did any individual or agency intervene or attempt to influence the outcome of her investigation.

A review of the [WMFO] case file revealed a memo from [SA] dated 3/9/87 which addressed misstatements and discrepancies contained in an attached 2/7/87 memorandum from [USCS SA]. In this memo, [SA] documented the fact that she had discussed [SA] memo with [MPD]
Sergeant John Stitcher (deceased) had contacted concerning the FINDERS and had obtained this information. had nothing to do with the children or his investigation into the alleged child abuse. stated that he was never instructed by anyone from FBI, State Department, or any other organization to end the FINDERS investigation, and that his investigation ran its normal course without interference.

related that his investigation was not able to develop any evidence that the children associated with the FINDERS had been abused in any way.

On 11/12/93, WMFO interviewed USCS SA who provided information concerning the USCS 1993 response to on USCS's child exploitation investigations. He had interviewed USCS SA on 9/3/93 and 9/16/93 during which

advised that he had reviewed USCS files and interviewed USCS Agents and Supervisors concerning the FINDERS investigation. related that the Customs file on the FINDERS case in 1987 consisted of only one report, that of SA indicated that his review of USCS files revealed no evidence of any FINDERS involvement with child abuse, child sexual exploitation, or child pornography. He indicated that he could find no evidence of any Customs violation of any kind located within the file.

related that his review of USCS files located no references to or any other intelligence organization have been involved for making inquiries concerning the FINDERS investigation. He advised that his review of the MPD files on the FINDERS did reveal two references to one in a report written by a Sergeant Stitcher, and the other in a report written by
On 11/19/93, WMFO obtained a copy of the Washington Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) investigative file concerning FINDERS.
Memorandum

To: ADIC, WMFO (31C-WF-189911) (P)  
From: SA (C-4)  
Subject: "FINDERS" GROUP;  
WSTA - SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN;  
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE - PI;  
CM: WMFO

Date 12/14/93

Attached to this memo are photocopies of two UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT search warrants and returns made by SA on 12/14/93 at the UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, 3rd Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C.

These documents are further described as follows:

Search warrant case number 87-0077M-01, executed on 2/5/87 at 3918-20 W Street, NW, Washington, D.C.

Search warrant case number 87-0076M-01, executed on 2/5/-2/6/87 at 1307 4th Street, NE, Washington, D.C.

WMFO

MDG: mdc

[Handwritten notes: 12/14/93 was requested to determine whether MPD has any records further describing the property or setting forth disposition of same. Opinion was that records are normally destroyed.]

[Stamp: 31C-WF-189911 1/2 FM 1/13 1993]
United States District Court

In the Matter of the Search of

(Name, address or brief description of person or property to be searched)

1307 4th Street, N.E., described as a warehouse

SEARCH WARRANT

CASE NUMBER: 87-0076M-01

TO: Chief of Police and any Authorized Officer of the United States

Affidavit(s) having been made before me by who has reason to believe that on the person of or on the premises known as (name, description and/or location)

1307 4th Street, N.E., Washington, D.C., described as a warehouse.

in the District of Columbia there is now concealed a certain person or property, namely (describe the person or property)

any and all minor children present who not under direct parental or legal guardianship supervision or who being kept under unsafe circumstances and all documents, papers, tapes, films, photographs, computers, computer data, clothing and any items related to or evidence of kidnapping or any related offenses as described in attached affidavit.

I am satisfied that the affidavit(s) and any recorded testimony establish probable cause to believe that the person or property so described is now concealed on the person or premises above-described and establish grounds for the issuance of this warrant.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to search on or before the person or property specified, serving this warrant and making the search (in the daytime — 6:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M.) (at any time in the day or night as I find reasonable cause has been established) and if the person or property be found there to seize same, leaving a copy of this warrant and receipt for the person or property taken, and prepare a written inventory of the person or property seized and promptly return this warrant to as required by law.

DOES NOT EXCEED 10 DAYS

Date

(1987) at Washington, D.C.

City and State

Name and Title of Judicial Officer

Signature of Judicial Officer
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEMS LEFT WITH INVENTORY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IBM Compt. Computer (Omni Cron x Turbo ROM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitor x Tron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macintosh + Computer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compaq Computer 286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assorted Software &amp; manuals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assorted personal papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Fax Data Transfer Machine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assorted papers, photos &amp; documents throughout the warehouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAULT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitchen Closet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CERTIFICATION**

I swear that this inventory is a true and detailed account of the person or property taken by me on the warrant.

Subscribed, sworn to, and returned before me this date.

[Signature]

U.S. Judge or Magistrate

Date: 6 FEB 1997
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE
Room No. 1476
U.S. District Court Building
Washington, D.C.

Please issue ________________ (search) ______________________

warrant for 1307 4th Street, N.E., Washington, D.C.

Violation: __________________; U.S.C.; Title 18

Sections: 1201

Assistant/United States Attorney  2/5/87

Bond: _____________________________
United States District Court

APPLICATION AND AFFIDAVIT
FOR SEARCH WARRANT

CASE NUMBER: 87-0076-M-01

In the Matter of the Search of
(Name, address or brief description of person or property to be searched)

1307 4th St. N.E.
Washington, D.C.

I am a(n) [ ] Metropolitan Police Dept., Washington, DC. and have reason to believe that [ ] on the person of or [ ] on the premises known as

1307 4th St. N.E.
Washington, D.C.

in the District of Columbia there is now concealed a certain person or property, namely

SEE ATTACHED SEARCH WARRANT & AFFIDAVIT

which is

See attached Affidavit

in violation of Title [ ] United States Code, Section(s) [ ]

The facts to support the issuance of a Search Warrant are as follows:

SEE ATTACHED AFFIDAVIT

Continued on the attached sheet and made a part hereof.

Sworn to before me, and subscribed in my presence,

FEB 05 1987

JEAN F. DWYER
O. S. MAGISTRATE FOR D. C.

Date

Name and Title of Judicial Officer

City and State

Signature of Judicial Officer
AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF A UNITED STATES MAGISTRATES SEARCH WARRANT FOR THE ENTIRE PREMISES (2) KNOWN AS 3918-20 W STREET NORTHWEST WASHINGTON D.C., DESCRIBED AS TWO 2 STORY BRICK STRUCTURES WITH AN ENTRANCE BETWEEN THE ADDRESSES CONNECTING THE TWO STRUCTURES. THESE PREMISES ARE OCCUPIED BY NUMEROUS SUBJECTS WHO CALL THEMSELVES THE FINDERS. THE SECOND ADDRESS, ENTIRE PREMISES IS KNOWN AS 1307 4TH STREET N.E. WASHINGTON, D.C., DESCRIBED AS A WAREHOUSE UTILIZED BY MEMBERS OF THE FINDERS.

Prior to February 5th, 1987 your affiant, ________________________________________________, received information from a confidential source of information. This source ...

On February 5, 1987 your affiant received information from the United States Custom Service that the Tallahassee, Florida police department had received a call from an unidentified woman in Tallahassee who stated that two (?) men were keeping six (6) children in the back of a van in a specific location in Tallahassee, Florida. The police in Tallahassee responded to the location of the van in the evening hours of February 4, 1987 and located the children and arrested two male subjects later identified as ________________________________________________ and another subject who refused to give his name to the police in Florida. Both subjects were charged with child abuse and according Tallahassee P.D. Juvenile/Sex Branch, recommendations will be made to the States Attorney to charge the subjects with aggravated child abuse due to the condition of the children. ________________________________________________.

were all dirty, unkept, hungry, disturbed and agitated and had been living in the rear of the van for sometime. ________________________________________________

also stated that the children were all examined for sexual abuse at a hospital in Tallahassee, but the results of the examination were not available at this time. When the children were interviewed they were unable to tell investigators who their parents were, where they lived or where they had come from. One of the children stated that they were on their way to Mexico. On February 5, 1987 an investigator with the Tallahassee police who is the case agent stated that she interviewed the children who stated that ________________________________________________.
Lastly, the source in this investigation told your affiant that information concerning this "cult" is kept in computers stored at the addresses listed in this affidavit. The Tallahassee police advised that they recovered a computer in the van that was seized in Florida along with disk's. The Florida authorities are attempting to obtain a search warrant for the information on the disk's and in the computer. The two defendants are currently being held on $50,000.00 cash bond under the direction of Florida States attorney Fordham.

Based on the information contained in this affidavit your affiant requests the issuance of two search warrants for the entire premises known as 3918-20 W Street N.W. Washington, D.C. and 1307 4th Street N.E. Washington D.C. so that we may go forth and seize all evidence of kidnapping which is a violation of the United States Code Title 18 section 1201, including but not limited to records, files, computer software and hardware and any instrumentalities of a criminal offense.

On December 15, 1986, responded to the area of Glover Park in the rear of the 3900 Block of W Street, N.W. observed a clearing approximately seventy yards behind the house and several stumps surrounding the open area. Several round stones had been gathered near the circle, this practice is sometimes used in Satanic rituals, and evidence that several persons had gathered in the clearing recently. The rear of the residence is covered from the alley by heavy bamboo growth, save a small entrance to the rear yard. In the rear yard was a small very ornate gravestone propped up against the support pillar for the porch.

Sworn before me this 5th day of February 1987

Metropolitan Police Department

United States Magistrate

FEB 05 1987
In the Matter of the Search of

(Name, address or brief description of person or property to be searched)

3918-20 W Street, NW, known as 2 2-story brick structures with an entrance between the addresses connecting the two structures

SEARCH WARRANT
CASE NUMBER: 87-0077M-01

TO: Chief of Police and any Authorized Officer of the United States

Affidavit(s) having been made before me by Affiant who has reason to believe that □ on the person of or □ on the premises known as (name, description and/or location)
3918-20 W Street, N.W., known as two two-story brick structures with an entrance between the addresses connecting the two structures.

in the District of Columbia there is now concealed a certain person or property, namely (describe the person or property)

any and all minor children present who not under direct parental or legal guardianship supervision or who being kept under unsafe circumstances and all documents, papers, tapes, films, photographs, computers, computer data, clothing and any items related to or evidence of kidnapping or any related offenses as described in attached affidavit.

I am satisfied that the affidavit(s) and any recorded testimony establish probable cause to believe that the person or property so described is now concealed on the person or premises above-described and establish grounds for the issuance of this warrant.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to search on or before 24 hours Date
(not to exceed 10 days) the person or place named above for the person or property specified, serving this warrant and making the search (in the daytime — 6:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M.) (at any time in the day or night as I find reasonable cause has been established) and if the person or property be found there to seize same, leaving a copy of this warrant and receipt for the person or property taken, and prepare a written inventory of the person or property seized and promptly return this warrant to as required by law.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to search on or before 24 hours Date
(not to exceed 10 days) the person or place named above for the person or property specified, serving this warrant and making the search (in the daytime — 6:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M.) (at any time in the day or night as I find reasonable cause has been established) and if the person or property be found there to seize same, leaving a copy of this warrant and receipt for the person or property taken, and prepare a written inventory of the person or property seized and promptly return this warrant to as required by law.

U.S. Judge or Magistrate

FEB 05 1987 4:05 p.m. at Washington, D.C.

Date and Time Issued

JEAN F. DWYER
J. S. MAGISTRATE FOR D. C.

Name and Title of Judicial Officer

Signature of Judicial Officer

City and State
I swear that this inventory is a true and detailed account of the person or property taken by me on the warrant.

Subscribed, sworn to, and returned before me this date.

U.S. Judge or Magistrate

Date
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE
Room No. 1476
U.S. District Court Building
Washington, D.C.

Please issue (arrest) (search) warrant for 3918-20 W Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Violation: [redacted]; U.S.C.; Title 18
Sections: 1201

Assistant United States Attorney 2/5/87

Bond: ____________________________

DATE
In the Matter of the Search of
(Name, address or brief description of person or property to be searched)

3918-20 W STREET N.W.
WASHINGTON D.C.

APPLICATION AND AFFIDAVIT FOR SEARCH WARRANT

CASE NUMBER: 87-0077M-01

being duly sworn depose and say:

that □ on the person of or □ on the premises known as (name, description and/or location)

3918-20 WST NW, WASHINGTON DC

in the (describe the person or property)

District of COLUMBIA

there is now concealed a certain person or property, namely (give alleged grounds for search and seizure under Rule 41(b) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure)

(See attached Search Warrant & Affidavit)

which is in violation of Title 18—United States Code, Section(s) 1201

The facts to support the issuance of a Search Warrant are as follows:

(See attached Search Warrant & Affidavit)

Continued on the attached sheet and made a part

Sworn to before me, and subscribed in my presence

FEB 05 1987

Date

JULY T. DWER

Signature of Judicial Officer

Name and Title of Judicial Officer

City and State
To: FBI HQ, CFD, VCY  
Facsimile Number:  
Attn: SSA  
From: ADIC, WMFO  
Subject: "Finders" Group  
Special Handling Instructions: HAND CARRY TO SSA  
Attached are the infamous results of the Finders search warrants  
Originator’s Name: SA  
Telephone:  
Originator’s Facsimile Number:  
Approved: 

FBI/DOJ
CIA tied to cult accused of abuse

Justice probes links to Finders

By Paul M. Rodriguez

A Justice Department special task force is investigating whether the CIA used a cult called the Finders as a front organization to provide computer training to intelligence agents in the 1980s.

The task force is also trying to determine whether the CIA — in an effort to hide any links with the Finders — impeded local law enforcement probes of the Washington-area communal group for child abuse in 1987.

"The central question being asked is: Did the CIA have an association with this group and did it try to shut down their [state and local officials'] investigations of child abuse for purposes of protecting one or more of its operations?" said a senior federal law enforcement official familiar with the probe.

A senior CIA official yesterday denied that the agency was involved with the Finders or tried to impede police probes of the cult.

"Most days we expect our share of unusual questions, but this one is clear off the wall," a CIA spokesman told The Washington Times.

"Any claim that we obstructed justice in this case is nuts," the spokesman said.

"In fact," he said, reading from a prepared statement, "we cooperated with law enforcement authorities when questions arose in 1987."

A Washington computer-training company that employed Finders members said it trained CIA personnel, but the firm's president denied it was owned by the Finders. He said he was unaware of any use of the training for covert activities.

Justice officials have declined to discuss what, if anything, their probe has uncovered. "We are still in the review process," a senior official said.

The Finders, a group that has dwindled from about 40 members to fewer than a dozen, made front-page see CIA, page A21
news in February 1987 when two of its members were arrested in Tallahassee, Fla., on charges of child abuse.

The case received close media scrutiny partly because of accusations that the group was involved in satanic rituals, but the charges were dismissed by a Florida judge.

The Justice Department formed the task force in mid-November after several members of Congress received copies of previously confidential U.S. Customs Service records suggesting a cover-up in the Finders case to protect the CIA.

The Times has obtained these customs records and documents from both federal and local law enforcement agencies and the intelligence community that chronicle the investigation of the Finders.

One of the key documents that have prompted the Justice Department and members of Congress to question what happened six years ago is a report dated April 13, 1987, that was written by a junior Customs Service agent who was on the original team that raided Finders property in Washington and Virginia.

"The investigation into the activity of the Finders had become a CIA internal matter.... [The Metropolitan Police Department] report has been classified Secret and not available for review," the agent wrote in his memo to superiors.

"I was advised that the FBI had withdrawn from the investigation several weeks prior and that the FBI Foreign Counter Intelligence Division had directed MPD not to advise the FBI Washington Field Office of anything that had transpired," the memo says.

"No further information will be available. No further action will be taken."

Other Customs Service documents and records from the FBI and Metropolitan Police provide indications that the CIA had links to the Finders or at least to some of the group's members.

A Metropolitan Police document dated Feb. 19, 1987, quotes a CIA agent as confirming that his agency was sending its personnel to "a Finders Corp., Future Enterprises, for training in computer operations."

And a later Customs Service report says that the CIA "admitted to owning the Finders organization as a front for a domestic computer training operation but that it had 'gone bad.'"

A senior Customs Service official confirmed the content of the memos and said the agency "only had a small role in the case."

A CIA official who asked not to be named confirmed that the agency had sent personnel for computer training to a company called Future Enterprises Inc. But he cautioned, "I'm not sure if that was a Finders organization" as suggested by the Metropolitan Police and Customs Service reports.

Joseph Marinich, the president of Future Enterprises Inc., said he once had a contract to train CIA employees in computers.

But he denied that he or his firm had any involvement with the Finders or acted as a front company for the cult on behalf of the CIA. "I'm shocked and appalled that our company's name exists in any" law enforcement files.

Mr. Marinich said that when the news reports on the Finders broke in February 1987, he discovered that his tax accountant, R. Gardner Terrell, was a member of the group.

"It was a total surprise to us," said Steve Uzdin, a freelance writer associated with the Finders. "But we're not criminal."
Memorandum

To: ADIC, WMFO (31C-WF-189911) (P)
From: SA (C-4)

Subject: "FINDERS" GROUP;
WSTA - SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN;
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE - PI;
OO: WMFO

Date 12/20/93

On 12/14/93, writer was advised by Senior Special Agent of the U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE Headquarters that on that date a meeting had transpired between a Affairs office at Customs Headquarters.

advised that was inquiring into captioned matter, and stated that he knew the FBI was conducting an investigation into the "FINDERS" Group. stated that he provided writer's name to as the FBI point of contact for this investigation.

Writer briefed SA WMFO media representative, SSA WMFO C-4, and SSA FBIHQ, CID, VCU concerning this.

On 12/15/93, writer was telephonically contacted by who inquired as to the status of captioned investigation. Writer referred to the WMFO media representative, and provided him with no information.

On 12/15/93, writer briefed SA and SSA concerning this media inquiry.
Through a glass, very darkly

Cops, spies and a very odd investigation

The case is almost seven years old now, but matters surrounding a mysterious group known as the Finders keep growing curiouser and curiouser.

In early February 1987, an anonymous tipster in Tallahassee, Fla., made a phone call to police. Two "well-dressed men" seemed to be "supervising" six diseased and hungry children in a local park, the caller said. The cops went after the case like bloodhounds—at least at first. The two men were identified as members of the Finders. They were charged with child abuse in Florida. In Washington, D.C., police and U.S. Customs Service agents raided a duplex apartment building and a warehouse connected to the group. Among the evidence seized: detailed instructions on obtaining children for unknown purposes and several photographs of nude children. According to a Customs Service memorandum obtained by U.S. News, one photo appeared "to accent the child's genitals."

The more the police learned about the Finders, the more bizarre they seemed: There were suggestions of child abuse, Satanism, pornographic and ritualistic animal slaughter.

None of the allegations was ever proved, however. The child abuse charges against the two men in Tallahassee were dropped; all six of the children were eventually returned to their mothers, though in the case of two, conditions were attached by a court. In Washington, D.C., police began backing away from the Finders investigation. The group's practices, the police said, were eccentric—not illegal.

Questions. Today, things appear to have changed yet again. The Justice Department has begun a new investigation into the Finders and into the group's activities. It is also reviewing the 1987 investigation into the group to determine whether that probe was closed improperly. Justice officials will not elaborate, except to say the investigation is "ongoing" and that it involves "unresolved matters" in relation to the Finders.

One of the unresolved questions involves allegations that the Finders are somehow linked to the Central Intelligence Agency. Customs Service documents reveal that in 1987, when Customs agents sought to examine the evidence gathered by Washington, D.C., police, they were told that the Finders investigation "had become a CIA internal matter." The police report on the case had been classified secret. Even now, Tallahassee police complain about the handling of the Finders investigation by D.C. police. "They dropped this case," one Tallahassee investigator says, "like a hot rock." D.C. police will not comment on the matter. As for the CIA, ranking officials describe allegations about links between the intelligence agency and the Finders as "hogwash"—perhaps the result of a simple mix-up with D.C. police. The only connection, according to the CIA: A firm that provided computer training to CIA officers also employed several members of the Finders.

The many unanswered questions about the Finders case now have Democratic Rep. Charlie Rose of North Carolina, chairman of the House Administration Committee, and Florida's Rep. Tom Lewis, a Republican, more than a little exercised. "Could our own government have something to do with this Finders organization and turned their backs on these children? That's what all the evidence points to," says Lewis. "And there's a lot of evidence. I can tell you this: We've got a lot of people scrambling, and that wouldn't be happening if there was nothing here."

Perhaps. But the Finders say there is nothing there—at least nothing illegal. The Finders have never been involved in child abuse, pornography, Satanism, animal slaughter or anything of the kind, says the group's leader, Marion David Pettie. Pettie, too, says the group has never been connected to the CIA. In an interview with U.S. News, Pettie described the Finders as a communal, holistic-living and learning arrangement. The group numbers some 20 members, Pettie says; they do freelance journalism, research and "competitor intelligence" for a variety of mostly foreign clients. The Finders work for no foreign governments, Pettie says. Their duplex, in a residential Northwest Washington neighborhood, is decorated with global maps and bulletin boards. Residents of Culpeper, Va., 90 minutes from Washington, say the Finders have operated an office there, too, from time to time. That office contained computer terminals and clocks reflecting different time zones around the world.

CIA officials say they referred all matters concerning the Finders and the police investigation to the FBI's Foreign Counterintelligence Division. FBI officials will not comment. Law enforcement sources say some of the Finders are listed in the FBI's classified counterintelligence files.

None of this fazes Pettie. He says the CIA's interest in the Finders may stem from the fact that his late wife once worked for the agency and that his son worked for a CIA proprietary firm, Air America. Overall, says Pettie, "we're a little scared of that. When you don't do much of anything, and you don't explain, people start rumors about you." To judge from the latest case, some of the rumors can last an awfully long time.

By Gordon Witham and Peter Cary

With Allen Marden

FM FBI WMFO (31C-WF-189911) (P) (C-4)

TO DIRECTOR FBI/PRIORITY/
LEGAT BRUSSELS/PRIORITY/
BT
UNCLAS
CITE: //3920//
PASS: VCU-CID FOR SSA

SUBJECT: "FINDERS" GROUP; WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT-SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE-PRELIMINARY INQUIRY;

FOR INFORMATION OF LEGAT BRUSSELS, THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ) HAS REQUESTED THE FBI CONDUCT A PRELIMINARY INQUIRY INTO ALLEGATIONS MADE BY A

CONCERNING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE BY A GROUP KNOWN AS THE "FINDERS", AND WHICH ROLE, IF ANY, WAS PLAYED BY THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY DURING THE INVESTIGATION OF SAME.
THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PROVIDED AS BACKGROUND FOR LEGAT BRUSSELS:

IN 1987, the children who attended the school during the time of alleged sexual abuse was

has attempted to interest congressional members and the U.S. Customs Service (USCS) in his effort to enhance efforts in the area of child sexual abuse, and investigating claims of organized sexual abuse.

During October 1993, met with Congressman Rose (Florida) to discuss allegations concerning a group known as "Finders".

alleges that the Finders are involved in a well organized child abuse scheme and that in conjunction with the State Department, and the FBI's Foreign
COUNTERINTELLIGENCE SECTIONS, CONSPIRED TO COVER UP THOSE ABUSES.

THE "FINDERS" GROUP CAME TO PUBLIC LIGHT IN FEBRUARY 1987 WHEN TWO MEMBERS, [REDACTED], WERE ARRESTED BY THE TALLAHASSEE POLICE DEPARTMENT (TPD) ON MISDEMEANOR CHILD ABUSE CHARGES RESULTING FROM A COMPLAINT THAT SIX CHILDREN UNDER THEIR SUPERVISION WERE UNKEMP AND NEGLECTED. INFORMATION DEVELOPED SUBSEQUENT TO THE ARRESTS LINKED THESE INDIVIDUALS TO TWO LOCATIONS IN THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA. THE TPD CONTACTED THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT (MPD), WASHINGTON, D.C. AND PASSED ON THIS INFORMATION.

ON 2/5/87, MPD EXECUTED SEARCH WARRANTS ON TWO PROPERTIES OWNED BY THE "FINDERS" IN WASHINGTON, D.C. SPECIAL AGENT [REDACTED] USCS WAS ALONG AS AN OBSERVER DURING ONE OF THESE SEARCHES.

A JOINT INVESTIGATION, CONDUCTED BY MPD AND FBI, LED TO THE IDENTIFICATION AND INTERVIEW OF THE MOTHERS OF THE SIX CHILDREN, TWO OF THE FATHERS, AND SEVERAL OTHER KEY MEMBERS OF THE "FINDERS" GROUP. THE RESULTS OF THIS INVESTIGATION WAS
PRESENTED TO THE USAO, FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ON 2/18/87, WITH PROSECUTION DECLINED FOR VIOLATION OF TITLE 18, USC SECTION 1201 (KIDNAPPING) AND 2251 (SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN). THE "FINDERS" WERE DETERMINED TO BE AN ALTERNATE LIFESTYLE GROUP, BUT GUILTY OF NO VIOLATION OF FEDERAL LAW.

DURING THE EXECUTION OF THE SEARCH WARRANTS BY MPD AT THE TWO "FINDERS" PROPERTIES, USCS SA
WMFO HAS INTERVIEWED MPD AND FBI PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN
THE "FINDERS" INVESTIGATION AND TO DATE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO
LOCATE ANYONE WITH KNOWLEDGE OF THE DOCUMENTS CLAIMS
TO HAVE SEEN OR, EVIDENCE OF ANY OUTSIDE INQUIRIES /
INTERFERENCE IN THE CONDUCT OF THE 1987 FINDERS INVESTIGATION.

THE WMFO INVESTIGATION DID REVEAL THAT WAS
CONFRONTED BY THE WMFO CASE AGENT ON 2/19/87, CONCERNING THE
ITEMS HE CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN. CONTENDED THAT HE
BELIEVED HE DID SEE THE ITEMS, AND STATED THAT HE WOULD
CONTACT MPD CONCERNING THEM. THE WMFO CASE AGENT CONTACTED
THE MPD DETECTIVE ASSIGNED THE CASE, WHO ADVISED THAT NONE OF
THE ITEMS MENTIONED BY EXISTED IN THE ITEMS SEIZED BY
MPD. THE DETECTIVE RELATED THAT WAS WITH HIM AT THE
SEARCH SITES, AND IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE THAT SUCH ITEMS WERE
MISSED. THE DETECTIVE ALSO ADVISED THAT HAD NOT
CONTACTED MPD IN AN ATTEMPT TO VIEW THE SEIZED ITEMS.

WAS INTERVIEWED BY WMFO ON 12/20/93 AT USCS
HEADQUARTERS.
ADVISED THAT AT THE TIME HE WAS ASSISTING MPD ON THE "FINDERS" INVESTIGATION HE WAS ASSIGNED TO THE USCS OFFICE HE INDICATED THAT USCS NEVER OPENED A CASE ON "FINDERS" AND THAT HIS INVESTIGATIVE EFFORTS WERE CONTAINED IN AN ADMINISTRATIVE FILE.

FORWARDED TO CUSTOMS HEADQUARTERS, WITH NO RESPONSE RECEIVED.

LEAD:

LEGAT BRUSSELS AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY,

CONTACT AMERICAN EMBASSY,
SUTEL RESULTS TO FBIHQ, CID, VCU, ATTN: SSA AND WMFO. FORWARD FD-302'S TO WMFO VIA FACSIMILE AT

BT
SUBJECT: "FINDERS" GROUP WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT-SEXUAL EXPLORATION OF CHILDREN; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE-PRELIMINARY INQUIRY; O0:WMFO.

ROLE, IF ANY, WAS PLAYED BY THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PROVIDED AS BACKGROUND FOR SAN DIEGO:

IN 1987, IN STUART, FLORIDA, THE CHILDREN WHO ATTENDED THE SCHOOL DURING THE TIME OF ALLEGED SEXUAL ABUSE WAS [ ]

[ ] HAS ATTEMPTED TO INTEREST CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS AND THE U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE (USCS) IN HIS EFFORT TO ENHANCE EFFORTS IN THE AREA OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE, AND INVESTIGATING CLAIMS OF ORGANIZED SEXUAL ABUSE.

DURING OCTOBER 1993, [ ] MET WITH CONGRESSMAN ROSE (FLORIDA) TO DISCUSS ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING A GROUP KNOWN AS "FINDERS".

[ ] ALLEGES THAT THE FINDERS ARE INVOLVED IN A WELL ORGANIZED CHILD ABUSE SCHEME AND THAT [ ] IN CONJUNCTION
WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT, AND THE FBI'S FOREIGN COUNTERINTELLIGENCE SECTIONS, CONSPIRED TO COVER UP THOSE ABUSES.

THE "FINDERS" GROUP CAME TO PUBLIC LIGHT IN FEBRUARY 1987 WHEN TWO MEMBERS, ____________________________ WERE ARRESTED BY THE TALLAHASSEE POLICE DEPARTMENT (TPD) ON MISDEMEANOR CHILD ABUSE CHARGES RESULTING FROM A COMPLAINT THAT SIX CHILDREN UNDER THEIR SUPERVISION WERE UNKEPT AND NEGLECTED. INFORMATION DEVELOPED SUBSEQUENT TO THE ARRESTS LINKED THESE INDIVIDUALS TO TWO LOCATIONS IN THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA. THE TPD CONTACTED THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT (MPD), WASHINGTON, D.C. AND PASSED ON THIS INFORMATION.

ON 2/5/87, MPD EXECUTED SEARCH WARRANTS ON TWO PROPERTIES OWNED BY THE "FINDERS" IN WASHINGTON, D.C. SPECIAL AGENT ____________________________ WAS ALONG AS AN OBSERVER DURING ONE OF THESE SEARCHES.

A JOINT INVESTIGATION, CONDUCTED BY MPD AND FBI, WMFO LEAD TO THE IDENTIFICATION AND INTERVIEW OF THE MOTHERS OF THE SIX CHILDREN, TWO OF THE FATHERS, AND SEVERAL OTHER KEY
MEMBERS OF THE "FINDERS" GROUP. THE RESULTS OF THIS INVESTIGATION WAS PRESENTED TO THE USAO, FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ON 2/18/87, WITH PROSECUTION DECLINED FOR VIOLATION OF TITLE 18, USC SECTION 1201 (KIDNAPPING) AND 2251 (SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN). THE "FINDERS" WERE DETERMINED TO BE AN ALTERNATE LIFESTYLE GROUP, BUT GUILTY OF NO VIOLATION OF FEDERAL LAW.

DURING THE EXECUTION OF THE SEARCH WARRANTS BY MPD AT THE TWO "FINDERS" PROPERTIES, USCS SA
Agent was present at one of the search locations, and could possibly corroborate the existence of the documents in question.

WMFO has interviewed MPD and FBI personnel involved in the "Finders" investigation and to date has been unable to locate anyone with knowledge of the documents claims to have seen or, evidence of any outside inquiries/interference in the conduct of the 1987 Finders investigation.

The WMFO investigation did reveal that was confronted by the WMFO case agent on 2/19/87, concerning the items he claimed to have seen. Contended that he believed he did see the items, and stated that he would contact MPD concerning them. The WMFO case agent contacted the MPD detective assigned to the case, who advised that none of the items mentioned by existed in the items seized by MPD. The detective related that was with him at the search sites, and it was not possible that such items were missed. The detective also advised that had not
CONTACTED MPD IN AN ATTEMPT TO VIEW THE SEIZED ITEMS. WAS INTERVIEWED BY WMFO ON 12/20/93 AT USCS HEADQUARTERS.

USCS FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA OFFICE

FLORIDA OFFICE.

LEADS:

AT: MIAMI DIVISION, WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

CONTACT USCS WEST PALM BEACH, 100 S. DIXIE HWY, RM 300, WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA, TELEPHONE NUMBER REGARDING HIS KNOWLEDGE OF FINDERS, SPECIFICALLY ADDRESS ANY ROLE MIGHT HAVE HAD (IF ANY) IN THE USCS INVESTIGATION OF FINDERS, HIS CONTACTS WITH
CONTACT SUTEL RESULTS TO FBIHQ, CID, VCU ATTN: SSA AND WMFO. FORWARD FD-302S TO WMFO VIA FACSIMILE AT:

AT: SAN DIEGO DIVISION, EL CENTRO, CALIFORNIA

CONTACT USCS AGENT

USCS HEADQUARTERS COULD PROVIDE ONLY THIS TELEPHONE NUMBER BUT ADVISED THE USCS INTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICE LOCATED AT 1681 W. MAIN ST., EL CENTRO, CALIFORNIA, TELEPHONE NUMBER COULD LOCATE SPECIFICALLY ASCERTAIN ROLE IN THE 1987 FINDERS INVESTIGATION, THE CONDUCT OF THE TWO MPD SEARCHES, WHAT SPECIFICALLY WAS SEEN BY AT THE SITES, WHAT EFFORTS MADE TO OPEN A USCS CASE ON FINDERS, AND HIS KNOWLEDGE OF THE FORWARD RESULTS AS OUTLINED ABOVE.

BT
TRANSMIT VIA: AIRTEL
CLASSIFICATION: ______________________ DATE: 12/27/93

FROM: Director, FBI
TO: AD, WMFO (31C-WF-189911) (C-4)

"FINDERS" GROUP, WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT -
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE
PRELIMINARY INQUIRY

Re WMFO teletype to Bureau dated 11/8/93.

Supervisory Special Agent (SSA) has been assigned to the Behavioral Science Services Unit (BSSU), FBI Academy, Quantico, Virginia, and specializes in training, research and case consultation in the area of sexual victimization of children.

The following are the best recollections of SSA concerning his involvement in captioned matter:

From 2/9-13/87, the BSSU sponsored an Advanced Sexual Exploitation of Children Seminar held at the Xerox Training Center in Leesburg, Virginia, for approximately 50 state and federal investigators. Special Agent (SA) U.S. Customs, Reston, Virginia, was one of several U.S. Customs Agents who attended.

SA discussing the role of U.S. Customs in the investigation of sexual exploitation of children. Because one of the topics discussed during the seminar was allegations of ritual child abuse, SA and other law enforcement attendees, his recent involvement with the execution of a search warrant on property in Washington, D.C., occupied by a group called the Finders. SA
Airtel to AD, WMFO
Re: "Finders" Group, White Slave Traffic Act -
Sexual Exploitation of Children; Obstruction of Justice
Preliminary Inquiry
00:WMFO

Shortly thereafter, SSA_______ was telephonically contacted on several occasions by FBI agents and supervisors from FBIHQ, WMFO and the Tallahassee Resident Agency seeking advice and guidance concerning the FBI’s involvement in the investigation of the Finders. The primary guidance sought concerned the interview of the children identified in Tallahassee, Florida, as potential victims of members of the Finders. Eventually it was decided that because the children in question did not appear to have been kidnapped in violation of federal statutes, the interviews of the children would be conducted by local police from Washington, D.C. and Florida.

Sometime in the months after the investigation began in February 1987, during an unrelated conversation, SA_______ mentioned to SSA_______ that the investigative reports on the Finders case_______

On another occasion in the same general time frame SA_______ WMFO, briefed SSA_______ at Quantico, Virginia, concerning the FBI investigation of the Finders. At no time during this discussion did SA_______ indicate that her investigation was hindered or disrupted in anyway by any alleged connection between the Finders briefly discussed the fact that SA_______ seemed to be the only investigator who observed certain items of alleged evidence discussed in his memo.

During the years following the to time February 1987, investigation, SSA_______ has from time heard rumors from the media and others that there was some connection between the Finders _______ has no first hand knowledge of such a connection. More importantly, SSA_______ is aware of no evidence to indicate that allegations of sexual exploitation of children in the Finders case were not thoroughly and properly investigated in spite of alleged connections to_______

In summary because of his expertise concerning sexual victimization of children, SSA_______ briefly consulted with investigators involved in the Finders case back in 1987. He himself, however, conducted no investigation in captioned case.
SUBJECT: "FINDERS" GROUP; WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT - SEXUAL
EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE - PRELIMINARY
INQUIRY; CD; WMFO.

RE WMFO TELETYPE 12/22/93.

IN CONTACT WITH U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE ATTACHE, [redacted]
U.S. EMBASSY, THE HAGUE, 12/28 AND 12/30, IT WAS
DETERMINED THAT HE VAGUELY REMEMBERED THE CASE INVOLVING
CAPTIONED GROUP BUT, GIVEN THE TIME LAPSE, WAS UNCLEAR ON ANY
SPECIFIC DETAILS,

ADvised however that he did not recall any
allegations of

or FBI involvement in any cover up of the
investigation.

A more detailed interview of

will occur on his
return from leave in mid-January, 1974.

By

#0002
FBI FACSIMILE COVERSHEET

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN FIELD OFFICE
SQUAD C-4 (202) 252-7844

PRECEDEENCE
□ Immediate
□ Priority
□ Routine

CLASSIFICATION
□ Top Secret
□ Secret
□ Confidential
□ Sensitive
□ Unclassified

To: FBI HQ - VCU
(Name of Office)

Facsimile Number: 324-3085

Attn: SSA
(Name Room Telephone)

From: FBI, WAPF
(Name of Office)

Subject: "Finders" Group

Time Transmitted: __________

Sender's Initials: __________

Number of Pages: 10
(Including Cover Page)

Special Handling Instructions: PLS HAND COPY TO SSA
ATTACHED IS SAN DIEGO DIVINION FD 302 REFLECTING INTERVIEW OF RETIRED USSC AGENT

Originator's Name: SA

Telephone: ________

Originator's Facsimile Number:

Approved: AED/1ED

FBI/DOJ

31C UW-18991/4
Memorandum

To : ADIC, WMFO (31C-WF-189911)

From : SSA (C-4)

Subject: FINDERS GROUP; WSTA-SEOC; OOJ-PI; OO:WMFO

Date 1/7/94

On 1/7/94, Property Division, MPD-DC telephone was advised of the ongoing effort by WMFO to ascertain the disposition of evidence seized by MPD in February, 1987. Advised he would attempt to determine from a review of all property receipts for 1987 whether any information remains within MPD records. He expected this effort to take one week.
TO : SAC, WMFO (31C-WF-189911)

FROM : SAC, SAN DIEGO (31C-WF-189911)(P)

SUBJECT : "FINDERS" GROUP;
WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT-
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN;
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE-PRELIMINARY INQUIRY;
OO: WMFO

Reference the January 3, 1994 teletype from WMFO to the Director, Miami, and San Diego; and the January 5, 1994 teletype from San Diego to the Director and WMFO.

Enclosed for WMFO are the original and one copy of one FD-302 detailing the results of the interview of and one 1A envelope containing the original interview notes.

As requested in the January 3, 1994 teletype from WMFO, retired United States Customs Service (USCS) Agent was interviewed on January 3, 1994. The results of the interview were provided to WMFO via teletype on January 5, 1994. The FD-302 recording the interview of was telefaxed to WMFO, as requested, on January 6, 1994. The original and one copy of the FD-302 recording the interview of and the original interview notes are enclosed.

San Diego will recontact on January 28, 1994 to determine if he has located any personal notes concerning captioned matter.

1*
Memorandum

To: ADIC, WMFO (31C-WF-189911) (P)  Date: 1/13/94

From: SA (C-4)

Subject: "FINDERS" GROUP;
WSTA - SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN;
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE - PI;
OO: WMFO

On 1/13/94, writer met with SSA VCU, CID, FBIHQ, concerning the status of captioned investigation.

Attached to this memo are the following items provided to writer by SSA:

1. SSA memo dated 12/21/93 detailing the results of FBIHQ indices checks.
2. AD POTT'S 12/22/93 request and USDS to query their records for references to captioned matter.
3. SSA memo dated 1/7/94 detailing the results of the Division 5 (FCI) indices checks.
4. FBIHQ routing slip dated 1/13/94 detailing the results of FBIHQ informant file searches.

Writer briefed SSA concerning the status of WMFO'S investigation. SSA and writer concurred that the following represented the balance of outstanding leads concerning captioned matter:

1. Interview of lead sent to Legat Brussells.
2. Interview of lead sent to Miami Division.
3. Interview of WMFO.
4. Interviews with MPD concerning evidence disposition.
5. Review of USDS files. - FBIHQ request made.

2-WMFO
MDC: mdc
To: Unit Chief
From: SSA
Subject: Finders

A search of FBIHQ indices was conducted for

File reviews were conducted on indices references identified by the indices search as follows:

1. This is a main file concerning the investigation in 1987 where two men were arrested by the Tallahassee Police Department, Tallahassee, Florida and charged with misdemeanor child abuse. A review of this file is as follows:

On 2/4/87, two men were arrested by Tallahassee Police Department (TPD) on misdemeanor child abuse charges. The two subjects were arrested after a complaint was made that six children were playing in a park seemed to be unkept and neglected. The two subjects with the children could not initially provide sufficient information as to their legal custody of the children and were uncooperative regarding their identity or the children identity.

After the subjects were arrested TPD obtained information from the children that they were from the Washington, D. C. area. TPD and FBI Jacksonville contacted the Youth Services Division in Washington, D. C. in an effort to further identify the children. The FBI got involved in the investigation at this time due to the possibility that the children had been kidnapped. The vehicle registration records for a van the men had in their possession when arrested reflected that it was registered to a

A joint investigation by the Washington Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation lead to the identification and interview of the mothers of the six children in question, two of the fathers, and several other key members of the "finders" group. All persons interviewed claimed their group consisted of an alternate communal type lifestyle made up of intellectuals who have chosen to live the way they do. The mothers were all aware that the children had been taken to Florida on a trip, they were familiar with and thoroughly trusted the men in whose care the children had been placed, and all insisted the children were well cared for.

On 2/18/87, The United States Attorneys Office, WDC, declined prosecution in this matter for the violation of USC, Title 18, Sections 1201 and 1251.
Subjects were released from the custody of the TPD on 3/17/87, and all charges against them were dropped.

References of FBIHQ File

Serial #2 - Photos of subjects and children

" #9 - Teletype from WMFO to FBIHQ re results of search warrants of property owned by Virginia in Washington, D.C.

Also, #9 - Teletype from WMFO to FBIHQ, re interview of "finders" group and explanation of incident in Florida.

Serial #15 - Teletype from Jk to FBIHQ dated 2/7/87, synopsis of investigation to date.

" #16 - Teletype from FBI Richmond (166C-841) to FBIHQ dated 2/7/87, re results of search warrants on property owned by Virginia State Police. Search warrants did not produce evidence of Federal or State violations of the law concerning sexual exploitation of children, however it appears that the children found in Florida had lived at this location.

Serial #20 - Airtel from FBIHQ to Jacksonville dated 3/10/87, responding to indices check request.

" #24 - Teletype from WMFO to FBIHQ, re interview of "finders" group and explanation of incident in Florida.

" #26 - Airtel from WMFO to FBIHQ dated 4/1/87, advising that AUSA declined prosecution in this matter stating that there is no evidence of a Federal violation. No additional investigation in this case.

2. 190-HQ-60055-serial # 3 is an airtel dated 2/20/92 from Director, FBI to SAC, Jacksonville. This airtel enclosed original Jacksonville files sent to FBIHQ for duplication and FOIPA processing. The subject was "The Finders" and the requestor was. There is no other information concerning this case.

3. 190-2-122278 (section 1253)-serial 122278 is an FBIHQ Records Management Division response dated 5/19/87 to in response to an FOIPA request from. This response "revealed no information in addition to that furnished to you by letters dated September 11, 1985, and November 6, 1985."
4. 190-HQ-6932

This file deals with a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request from

- Serial #1 is a letter from Isabelle M. Pettie to the Records Management Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation. This letter notes that Isabelle Pettie

-The letter notes that her request to for any information concerning him in their files.

- Serial #2 is a letter from Isabelle Pettie to Mr. Clarence Kelly, Director, FBI concerning his FOIA request. This letter noted that

- Serial #4x2 is an undated letter from concerning a FOIA request. This letter notes that he was born Virginia, and that he was retired from the

-This letter noted that he was currently Washington, D.C. This document is undated, however, it is block stamped 2/15/85.

- Serial #11 is a letter dated 9/19/85 from the USAF concerning an attached record concerning This serial had attached a copy of an airtel dated 7/8/83, and marked SECRET, from SAC, Alexandria (file #9B-665) to Director, FBI. This airtel noted that subject is a white male.

-This location initially drew the interest of local police authorities and military intelligence agencies due to the subject's alleged narcotic activities and his self proclaimed connection with

-A number of surveillances were conducted jointly by Virginia State Police and the military intelligence agencies, however, no arrests were made."

-Serial #16 is a communication dated 8/26/87 to thru The communication is five pages in length and contains various data on personal, political and economic information on individuals and organizations as described by The letter opens with the remark

A copy of this communication is attached.

5. This file contains two serials and the subject of the file is Finders; Finders Transnational; Ragged Mountain Research Center; - Victim; Extortion;
An airtel dated 5/12/83 from SAC, Alexandria to Director, FBI enclosed an LHM which provided information received from an attorney in Culpepper, Virginia that "a cultist group, known as the Finders and..." is presently headquartered at [ ] The group maintains a warehouse at [ ] Washington, D.C. and a 600-acre farm near Nethers, Virginia...

An airtel dated 7/8/83 from SAC, Alexandria to Director, FBI noted that the AUSA, Alexandria, Virginia would not consider prosecution and no further investigation was conducted.

6. [ ] is a memorandum dated 10/29/71 from SAC, Richmond to Director, FBI. The subject of this file was Security Matter-Anarchist: OO: Baltimore."

This communication reported that [ ] which may in be part both in Madison County and Rappahannock County, Virginia, in that [ ] VA..." There is no other reference to [ ]

7. 62-0-83025 (section 372)-

8. 62-HQ-115530-serial 31X is a memorandum dated 3/31/75 from Director, FBI to the "Director of Special Operations, Headquarters Office of Special Investigations, Department of the Air Force, Washington, D.C." concerning a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request from the U.S. Air Force who were attempting to respond to a FOIA that they had received from [ ]
Date: December 22, 1993

To: Secretary of State
Attention: Office of the Legal Advisor

From: Larry A. Potts, Assistant Director
Criminal Investigative Division
FBI Headquarters

Subject: "FINDERS" GROUP

Enclosed are 2 copies of a Letterhead memorandum regarding the "Finders" Group.

The enclosed memorandum details the investigation of the "Finders" Group by the U.S. Customs Service and the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department.

Recently, the Department of Justice undertook a review of the 1987 investigation and determined that additional investigation is warranted. Specifically, the Department of Justice requested that the FBI conduct a preliminary inquiry into the allegations made concerning child sexual abuse by the group known as the "Finders" and what role, if any, was played by the United States Intelligence community.

The FBI therefore requests that you search all records of your agency regarding the following individuals and/or entities:

1. "Finders" or "Finders" Group
2. Finders Transnational
3. Finders Transnational Ragged Mountain Ranch Research Center
4. General Scientific Corporation, Rockville, Maryland
5. The Information Bank, 1307 4th Street, N.E., Washington, D.C.
6. Future Enterprises
7. Women's Networking Service
8. [Blank]
Secretary of State
Attention: Office of the Legal Advisor

9. Isabelle Pettie, aka. Isabelle M. Pettie
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16. Diane Sherwood
17. Barbara Sylvester

Should you identify records or files containing information, please notify the FBI and arrangements will be made to review this information. In the event that there is no record of the "Finders," please advise as soon as possible.

Your point of contact is Supervisory Special Agent (SSA)

FBI Headquarters, telephone:

Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

Enclosures (2)
Date: December 22, 1993
To: Secretary of State
   Attention: Office of the Legal Advisor
From: Larry A. Potts, Assistant Director
       Criminal Investigative Division
       FBI Headquarters
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5. The Information Bank, 1307 4th Street, N.E., Washington, D.C.
6. Future Enterprises
7. Women's Networking Service
8. [[Edited for privacy]]

1 - Mr. Potts
1 -
1 -
1 -
1 - 31C-WF-189911
JDS: mrg (9) (See Note on Pages 2-3)
Secretary of State
Attention: Office of the Legal Advisor

9. Isabelle Pettie, aka, Isabelle M. Pettie
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16. Diane Sherwood
17. Barbara Sylvester

Should you identify records or files containing information, please notify the FBI and arrangements will be made to review this information. In the event that there is no record of the "Finders," please advise as soon as possible.

Your point of contact is Supervisory Special Agent (SSA)

FBI Headquarters, telephone:

Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

NOTE: During the week of November 1, 1993, SSA
Violent Crimes Section, conferred with SSAs
Office of Liaison and International Affairs
(OLIA), Domestic Liaison Unit (DLU), regarding the appropriate method of approach to the U.S. Department of State (USDS) and the
was advised that due to the nature of the request, the proper entities within the USDS
process this request is the Office of General Counsel and that the FBI's request should be in letterhead memorandum format.

The OLIA, DLU, volunteered to reduce the documentation provided by SSA to LHM format suitable for dissemination to the USDS and are to be delivered by liaison.

On 12/8/93, Unit Chief, Violent Crimes Unit, Violent Crimes and Major Offenders Section, Criminal Investigative Division, discussed with Deputy Assistant Attorney General (DAAG) John Keeney the FBI's concern in requesting the Department of State (DOS) to conduct a search of their records for the "FINDERS" when they could potentially be
Secretary of State
Attention: Office of the Legal Advisor

subjects in the preliminary inquiry concerning the "FINDERS." DAAG Keeney stated words to the effect that "...we must rely on the integrity of [ ] and the DOS to conduct a thorough records check...," and he stated that he concurred with the submission of these letters by the FBI to [ ] the DOS.

This matter was coordinated between SSAs [ ], OLIA, and SSAs [ ] and [ ] CID.
The following excerpts include information contained in an undated memorandum from Acting Chief George C. Burgasser to Acting Assistant Attorney General John C. Keeney, Criminal Division, Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. and information obtained from the records of the Washington Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), and the U.S. Customs Service (USCS). These excerpts provide the details of this investigation and are the basis of the Department of Justice's request that the FBI conduct a preliminary investigation to determine if more comprehensive investigation is warranted.

On February 4, 1987, the Tallahassee Police Department (TPD), Tallahassee, Florida, responded to a complaint that a well-dressed white male was seen in a park with several unkempt children. The TPD spoke with the adult male who told them that he was a Washington, D.C., school teacher who together with another adult male was in the process of taking the children to Mexico. The purpose of the trip was to set up a school for brilliant children in Mexico. The male refused to provide additional information about the children, and the second male refused to provide any information about himself. The Police arrested the two men after they determined that the children seemed neglected and the two men could not provide sufficient information as to their legal custody of the children. The two men were subsequently identified as

The TPD contacted U.S. Customs (USC) and continued their investigation by attempting to ascertain whether a van in which the two men and children were travelling could provide any additional leads as to the identities of the men or children. On February 5, 1987, a U.S Customs Special Agent (USCSA) in Tallahassee, Florida, called USC Headquarters (USCHQ) asking if they could assist in contacting an appropriate local police agency to coordinate a child abuse investigation with the TPD. Additionally, several names, addresses, and a vehicle identification number were checked through the USC child pornography database, as there was some suspicion of the two males being involved in supplying children for the production of child pornography. The computer checks by USC were negative.
Subsequently, USCHQ, Washington, D.C., contacted Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), and determined that they were interested in the information, and that search warrants were being considered for two addresses in the District of Columbia. MPD invited the USC to observe the execution of the search warrants in the event that evidence of USC violations was recovered.

Search warrants were prepared by the United States Attorney's Office, District of Columbia, for both the warehouse and residence. A USCSA participated in the execution of the search warrant at the 3918/3920 W Street address, where he claims to have seen the following:
On February 6, 1987, the USCSA met with representatives of the MPD at the 4th Street address and examined the warehouse. During

On March 31, 1987, the USCSA contacted representatives of the MPD to review the evidence seized during the February search warrants. A meeting was scheduled for the second or third of April. On April 2, 1987, when the USCSA arrived to meet with MPD, the MPD Detective was not available. A "third party" MPD Officer advised the USCSA that he was willing to talk to him "off the record." The USCSA claims that the MPD officer told him that all

During a USC review of the "Finders" investigation, USC representatives noted that an MPD report, dated February 19, 1987,
Future Enterprises operates out of the warehouse at 1307 4th Street N.E.

MPD investigation revealed that the "Finders" had at one time attempted to infiltrate General Scientific Corporation, Rockville, Maryland. During an interview, Diane Sherwood, and Barbara Sylvester had been the original founders of the "Finders."
Memorandum

To: ADIC, WMFO (31C-WF-189911) (P)  Date: 1/13/94

From: SA (C-4)  

Subject: "FINDERS" GROUP; WSTA - SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE - PI;  

OO: WMFO

On 1/13/94, writer met with SSA VCU, CID, FBIHQ, concerning the status of captioned investigation.

Attached to this memo are the following items provided to writer by SSA:

1. SSA memo dated 12/21/93 detailing the results of FBIHQ indices checks.

2. AD POTT'S 12/22/93 request USDS to query their records for references to captioned matter.

3. SSA memo dated 1/7/94 detailing the results of the Division 5 (FCI) indices checks.

4. FBIHQ routing slip dated 1/13/94 detailing the results of FBIHQ informant file searches.

Writer briefed SSA concerning the status of WMFO'S investigation. SSA and writer concurred that the following represented the balance of outstanding leads concerning captioned matter:

1. Interview of lead sent to Legat Brussells.
2. Interview of lead sent to Miami Division.
3. Interview of WMFO.
4. Interviews with MPD concerning evidence disposition.
5. Review USDS files. - FBIHQ request made.

2-WMFO
MDC: mdc
F1 - NAME SEARCH

* Summary Exact - This will perform an exact name search on the name the user enters. Will output the name, per-no, nam-no and the oo file number.
* Summary Phonetic - Performs a phonetic search on the name entered. Will output the name, per-no, nam-no and the oo file number.

F2 - DATE OF BIRTH SEARCH

Input a date in MM-DD-YYY order (ie.07-29-1966) Will output everyone in IIIA with that date of birth. Outputs the name, dob, nam-no, per-no.

F3 - PHONE NUMBER SEARCH

Input a domestic or a foreign phone number area-code phone-number foreign-number

Will output all the names and places that are
To: Unit Chief
From: SSA
Subject: Finders

A search of FBIHQ indices was conducted for the following:
1. 
2. Diane Sherwood
3. Barbara Sylvester
4. 
5. The Information Bank, 1307 4th Street, NE, Washington, D.C.
6. Sergeant John H. Stitcher, Jr., Washington Metropolitan Police Department
7. 
8. Future Enterprises, Inc.

File reviews were conducted on indices references identified by the indices search as follows:
1. there was no record in indices.
2. Diane Sherwood

190-HQ-60055-serial #3 is an airtel dated 2/20/92 from Director, FBI to SAC, Jacksonville. This airtel enclosed original Jacksonville files sent to FBIHQ for duplication and FOIPA processing. The subject was "The Finders" and the requestor was There is no other information concerning Diane Sherwood.

Diane Sherwood; Information Concerning."

190-39048- Serial #1 is a FOIA request form dated 12/21/82 from Diane Elizabeth Sherwood, DOB 12/2/36 at Chicago, Illinois. Sherwood listed a passport number of 23458000.

-Serial #3 is a form 4-824 dated 2/2/83 from FBIHQ Records Management Division to Ms. Diane Elizabeth Sherwood, 3918 Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007.

190-2-87621 (section 905)—this serial is a letter dated 2/24/83 from FBIHQ Records Management Division to Ms. Diane Elizabeth
Sherwood, 3918 Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007 and is a response to Ms. Sherwood's FOIA request concerning Barbara F. Sylvester.

3. Barbara Sylvester
190-2-87619 (section 905)—this serial is a 4-837 FOIA request dated 2/3/83 from Ms. Diane Elizabeth Sherwood, 3918 W S., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007. This form listed the subject of the request as Barbara Sylvester, Date of birth 12/9/36 at Chicago, Illinois.

105-0-7171 (section 139)—not identifiable as Barbara Sylvester DOB 12/9/36. This serial is a memo dated 3/8/60 to Director, FBI from SAC, New York and is captioned Security Matter; IS-PO; Miscellaneous Information Concerning."

4. serial #29—this is a teletype dated 2/7/87 from FBI, Jacksonville to Director, FBI and summarizes investigation to date. The information concerning is the same as information contained in serials #11 and #15.

serial #24—Teletype from WMFO to FBIHQ. re interview of This communication provides information pertaining to "Finders" group and explanation of incident in Florida.

serial #15—Teletype from Jk to FBIHQ dated 2/7/87, synopsis of investigation to date. This teletype repeats information concerning as found in serial #11.

serial #11—this is a teletype dated 2/9/87 from SAC, Tampa to Director, FBI and reported that a associated with two women was

serial #9—this is a teletype from WMFO to FBIHQ re reported results of search warrants of property owned by in Washington, D.C. was identified as having been

serial #1—this is an airtel dated 2/13/87 from SAC, Jacksonville to Director, FBI which enclosed a list of names which had been recovered from subjects when arrested in Tallahassee, Florida by the Tallahassee Police Department. name was listed along with the remarks "Redirect phone line Hold on for 5 seconds till you hear the message"

5. The Information Bank, 1307 4th Street, NE, Washington, D.C. — there was no record in indices.
6. Sergeant John H. Stitcher, Jr., Washington Metropolitan Police Department

1-HQ-30106-This file is captioned "John Henry Stitcher, Jr., Sergeant, Metropolitan Police Department, Washington, D.C.; Applicant 51st Session, FBI National Academy" and concerns his nomination to attend the FBI National Academy.

7. □□□□there were no indices references to □□□□

8. Future Enterprises, Inc.-there were two indices references.

----------page 3-this is an airtel dated 2/13/87 to Director, FBI from SAC Jacksonville, which enclosed a two page list of names and addresses which had been recovered from subjects time they were arrested and booked into the Leon County Jail, Tallahassee, Florida by the Tallahassee Police Department. The listing contained the notation "Future Enterprises, Inc. 662-7676 662-7616 night." There was no further description or information concerning Future Enterprises, Inc. in this serial.

----------this is a memorandum dated 2/27/87 from the □□□□ to the Director, FBI.
Date: December 22, 1993
To: [Blank]
   Attention: Office of the General Counsel
From: Larry A. Potts, Assistant Director
       Criminal Investigative Division
       FBI Headquarters
Subject: "FINDERS" GROUP

Enclosed are 2 copies of a Letterhead memorandum regarding the "Finders" Group.

The enclosed memorandum details the investigation of captioned group by the U.S. Customs Service and the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department.

Recently, the Department of Justice undertook a review of the 1987 investigation and determined that additional investigation is warranted. Specifically, the Department of Justice requested that the FBI conduct a preliminary inquiry into the allegations made by [Blank] concerning child sexual abuse by the group known as the "Finders" and what role, if any, was played by the United States Intelligence community.

The FBI therefore requests that you search all records of your agency regarding the following individuals and/or entities:

1. "Finders" or "Finders" Group
2. Finders Transnational
3. Finders Transnational Ragged Mountain Ranch Research Center
4. General Scientific Corporation, Rockville, Maryland
5. The Information Bank, 1307 4th Street, N.E., Washington, D.C.
6. Future Enterprises
7. Women's Networking Service
8. [Blank]
Attention: Office of the General Counsel

9. Isabelle Pettie, aka, Isabelle M. Pettie
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16. Diane Sherwood
17. Barbara Sylvester

Should you identify records or files containing information, please notify the FBI and arrangements will be made to review this information. In the event that there is no record of the "Finders," please advise as soon as possible.

Your point of contact is Supervisory Special Agent (SSA) FBI Headquarters, telephone: 

Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

Enclosures (2)
Date: December 22, 1993

To:       
Attention: Office of the General Counsel

From: Larry A. Potts, Assistant Director
       Criminal Investigative Division
       FBI Headquarters

Subject: "FINDERS" GROUP

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2. Finders Transnational
3. Finders Transnational Ragged Mountain Ranch Research Center
4. General Scientific Corporation, Rockville, Maryland
5. The Information Bank, 1307 4th Street, N.E., Washington, D.C.
6. Future Enterprises
7. Women's Networking Service
8. 

1 - Mr. Potts
1 - 
1 - 
1 - 31C-WF-189911
JDS:mrg (9) (See Note on Pages 2-3)
Attention: Office of the General Counsel

9. Isabelle Pettie, aka, Isabelle M. Pettie

10. 

11. 

12. 

13. 

14. 

15. 

16. Diane Sherwood

17. Barbara Sylvester

Should you identify records or files containing information, please notify the FBI and arrangements will be made to review this information. In the event that there is no record of the "Finders," please advise as soon as possible.

Your point of contact is Supervisory Special Agent (SSA) 

FBI Headquarters, telephone:

Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

NOTE: During the week of November 1, 1993, SSA Violent Crimes Section, conferred with SSAs Office of Liaison and International Affairs (OLIA), Domestic Liaison Unit (DLU), regarding the appropriate method of approach to the U.S. Department of State (USDS) and was advised that due to the nature of the request, the proper entities within the USDS and to process this request is the Office of General Counsel and that the FBI's request should be in letterhead memorandum format.

The OLIA, DLU, volunteered to reduce the documentation provided by SSA to LHM format suitable for dissemination to the USDS and and are to be delivered by liaison.

On 12/8/93, Unit Chief Violent Crimes Unit, Violent Crimes and Major Offenders Section, Criminal Investigative Division, discussed with Deputy Assistant Attorney General (DAAG) John Keeney the FBI's concern in requesting the Department of State (DOS) to conduct a search of their records for the "FINDERS" when they could potentially be
Attention: Office of the General Counsel

subjects in the preliminary inquiry concerning the "FINDERS." DAAG Keeney stated words to the effect that "...we must rely on the integrity of the DOS to conduct a thorough records check...," and he stated that he concurred with the submission of these letters by the FBI to the DOS.

This matter was coordinated between SSAs, OLIA, and SSAs and CID.
DIS-NO: 13587

FACILITY: GENERAL SCIENTIFIC CORP
DIVISION: 
COMPANY TYPE: UNK

STREET ADDRESS: 1684 EAST GUDE DRIVE
CITY: ROCKVILLE
STATE: MD
ZIP: 20850

PHONE NUMBER: 301 340-2773
ZIP EXT: 
COUNTRY: US

DCASR CODE: 9999
STATUS CODE: 1
CLEARANCE: 1

ESTABLISH DATE: 07/27/83
LAST ACTION DATE: 09/01/87
CLEARANCE DATE: 07/26/83
VALIDATION DATE: 09/01/87

ACT/HIST FLAG: H

PHONE NUMBER: 301 340-2773
ZIP EXT: 
COUNTRY: US

DCASR CODE: 9999
STATUS CODE: 1
CLEARANCE: 1

ESTABLISH DATE: 07/27/83
LAST ACTION DATE: 09/01/87
CLEARANCE DATE: 07/26/83
VALIDATION DATE: 09/01/87

ACT/HIST FLAG: H
CONTACT INFORMATION

DATE: 10/28/83   TYPE: INITIAL    NO BRIEVED: 1

NAME: ____________

POSITION: SO

AGENT NAME: ____________

AGENT FO: BA

CLASS: 134    CASE: 5267

PHONE NUMBER: ____________

AGENT SQUAD: 3

SERIAL NO: 0000
SECRET

CONTACT INFORMATION 3

DATE: 01/12/87  TYPE: INITIAL  NO BRIEVED: 1

NAME: _______________________

POSITION: SECURITY

AGENT NAME: _______________________

AGENT FO: BA

CLASS: ______  CASE: ______

PHONE NUMBER: _______________________

AGENT SQUAD: 13

SERIAL NO: _______________________

SECRET

ENTER---PF1-----PF2-----PF3-----PF4-----PF5-----PF6-----PF22-----PF23-----PF24---
NEXT  HELP  BACK  PRINT  SUMMARY  RERUN  SERCH  OPTNS  RETRV  CEASE

4F  NUM  #06.
To: Unit Chief
From: SSA
Subject: Finders

The attached items were received from Special Staff, Division #5 on 1/7/94 in response to a request related to the Finders preliminary inquiry.

A review of these materials and discussion with to date found no documentation indicating that any agency interfered with or covered up the FINDERS investigation.
1. "Finders" or "Finders" Group.
2. Finders Transnational
3. Finders Transnational Ragged Mountain Research Center
4. General Scientific Corporation, Rockville, Maryland
5. The Information Bank, 1307 4th Street, N.E., Washington, D.C.
6. Future Enterprises
7. Women's Networking Service
8. [Blank]
9. Isabelle Pettie, AKA, Isabelle M. Pettie, Christine Isabell Pettie,
   further description available.
16. Diane Sherwood, AKA, Diane Elizabeth Sherwood, female, DOB
    12/2/36, U.S. Passport number 23458000.
17. Barbara Sylvester, AKA, Barbara F. Sylvester, white female,
    DOB 12/9/36.
18. John H. Stitt Jr., W/M, DOB 8/27/43,
    SSN 220-38-0629, Sergeant,
    Washington Metropolitan Police Dept.
12/10/93

To: Unit Chief
From: SSA
Subject: Finders

A search of FBIHQ indices was conducted for

File reviews were conducted on indices references identified by the indices search as follows:

1. Serial 3 is an investigative report from SAC, Baltimore dated 10/26/70 and concerns The case involves the "SM-SDS;RM-BPP" which stands for "Security Matter-Students for a Democrat Society; Racial Matter-Black Panther Party." This indices reference does not appear to be identical with

190-HQ-60055, Serial 3, page 1
This serial is an airtel dated 2/20/92 from Director, FBI to SAC, Jacksonville. This airtel enclosed original Jacksonville files sent to FBIHQ for duplication and FOIPA processing. The subject was "The Finders" and the requestor was There is no other information concerning

This is a main file captioned Kidnapping; OO: Jacksonville." The file consists of 31 serials and concerns the investigation of two individuals who had been arrested in Tallahassee, Florida in 1987 and charged with child abuse. These two individuals were identified as belonging to a group based in Washington, D.C. known as the FINDERS.

On 2/4/87, were arrested by Tallahassee Police Department (TPD) on misdemeanor child abuse charges. The two subjects were arrested after a complaint was made that six children were playing in a park seemed to be unkept and neglected. The two subjects with the children could not initially provide sufficient information as to their legal custody of the children and were uncooperative regarding their identity or the children identity.

After the subjects were arrested TPD obtained information from the children that they were from the Washington, D. C. area. TPD and FBI Jacksonville contacted the Youth Services Division in Washington, D. C. in an effort to further
identify the children. The FBI got involved in the investigation at this time due to the possibility that the children had been kidnapped. The vehicle registration records for a van the men had in their possession when arrested reflected that it was registered to a

A joint investigation by the Washington Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation lead to the identification and interview of the mothers of the six children in question, two of the fathers, and several other key members of the "finders" group. All persons interviewed claimed their group consisted of an alternate communal type lifestyle made up of intellectuals who have chosen to live the way they do. The mothers were all aware that the children had been taken to Florida on a trip, they were familiar with and thoroughly trusted the men in whose care the children had been placed, and all insisted the children were well cared for.

On 2/18/87, The United States Attorneys Office, WDC, declined prosecution in this matter for the violation of USC, Title 18, Sections 1201 and 1251.

Subjects were released from the custody of the TPD on 3/17/87, and all charges against them were dropped.

Included in this file are the following:

Serial #2 - Photos of subjects and children

" #9 - Teletype from WMFO to FBIHQ re

in Washington, D. C.

Serial #15 - Teletype from Jk to FBIHQ dated 2/7/87, synopsis of investigation to date.

" #16 - Teletype from FBI Richmond (166C-841) to FBIHQ dated 2/7/87, re results of search warrants on property owned by Virginia State Police. Search warrants did not produce evidence of Federal or State violations of the law concerning sexual exploitation of children, however it appears that the children found in Florida had lived at this location.

Serial #20 - Airtel from FBIHQ to Jacksonville dated 3/10/87, responding to indices check request.

" #24 - Teletype from WMFO to FBIHQ, re interview of provides info pertaining to
"finders" group and explanation of incident in Florida.

26 - Airtel from WMFO to FBIHQ dated 4/1/87, advising that AUSA declined prosecution in this matter stating that there is no evidence of a Federal violation. No additional investigation in this case.

190-HQ-60055, Serial 3, page 1

This serial is an airtel dated 2/20/92 from Director, FBI to SAC, Jacksonville. This airtel enclosed original Jacksonville files sent to FBIHQ for duplication and FOIPA processing. The subject was "The Finders" and the requestor was There is no other information concerning.

This is a main file captioned Kidnapping; 00: Jacksonville." The file consists of 31 serials and concerns the investigation of two individuals who had been arrested in Tallahassee, Florida in 1987 and charged with child abuse. These two individuals were identified as belonging to a group based in Washington, D.C. known as the FINDERS. See additional write-up above.

file on locate.
FBI FACSIMILE
COVERSHEET

CLASSIFICATION

PRECEDENCE
☐ Immediate
☒ Priority
☐ Routine
☐ Top Secret
☐ Secret
☐ Confidential
☐ Sensitive
☐ Unclassified

To: SAC, WMFO
(Name of Office)

Facsimile number: __________________________

Attn: __________________________
(Name
Room
Telephone No.)

From: PALM BEACH COUNTY RA
(Name of Office)

Subject: "FINDERS" GROUP:
WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT - SEXUAL EXPLOITATION
OF CHILDREN:
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE - PRELIMINARY INQUIRY

Special Handling Instructions: __________________________

Originator’s Name: SA (FPRA) Telephone: __________________________

Originator’s Facsimile Number: __________________________

Approved: __________________________

FBI / WASH. FIELD OFFICE

JAN 28 1994

31C-WF-189911 61

SEARCHED  INDEXED  SERIALIZED FILED

FD-448 (Rev. 5-23-90)
TO: DIRECTOR FBI  
FROM: LEGAT, BRUSSELS (31C-WF-189911) (RUC)  
SUBJECT: "FINDERS" GROUP; WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT - SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE - PRELIMINARY INQUIRY;  
OO: WMFO  

Re BL tel dated 1/3/94. Enclosed for WMFO is an FD - 302 which reflects interview of U.S. Customs Attache office Customs Agent.  

In view of the fact that no additional investigation remains, Brussels considers this matter RUC.

3 - Bureau  
(1 - LIAS, FLU 1)  
(2) - WMFO (31C-WF-189911) - Enc. 1 - Direct via DHL  
1 - Brussels (31C-WF-189911)  
ROL: pmw (6)
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1401497-0

Total Deleted Page(s) = 86
Page 4 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 5 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 6 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 7 ~ b6; b7C; b7E;
Page 8 ~ b6; b7C; b7E;
Page 17 ~ Duplicate - Serial 64 pgs 4-6;
Page 18 ~ Duplicate - Serial 64 pgs 4-6;
Page 19 ~ Duplicate - Serial 64 pgs 4-6;
Page 20 ~ Duplicate - Serial 64 pgs 4-6;
Page 21 ~ Duplicate - Serial 64 pgs 4-6;
Page 22 ~ Duplicate - Serial 64 pgs 4-6;
Page 29 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 30 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 31 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 36 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 37 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 38 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 39 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 40 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 41 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 42 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 43 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 44 ~ Referral/Consult;
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Page 55 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 56 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 57 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 58 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 59 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 60 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 61 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 63 ~ b6; b7C; b7E;
Page 64 ~ Duplicate - Serial 75, pg 60;
Page 65 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 66 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 67 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 68 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 69 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 70 ~ Referral/Consult;
FAX COVER SHEET

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

DATE: 2-1-94

TO: WMFO ATTN: C&G UCU ATTN: SSA

FROM: FBI, FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA RA
407/461-6142
407/461-6241 (FAX NUMBER)(AUTOMATIC)

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES BEING FAXED INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET 4

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Per instructions of WMFO Teletype to direct reply 1-3-94
TO: SAC, WMFO (31C-WF-189911)
FROM: SAC, SAN DIEGO (31C-WF-189911) (RUC)

SUBJECT: "FINDERS" GROUP;
WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT-
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN;
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE-PRELIMINARY INQUIRY;
OO: WMFO

Reference the January 6, 1994, airtel from San Diego to WMFO in the captioned case.

As specified in the referenced airtel, Retired United States Customs Service Agent was recontacted on January 11, 1994, February 11, 1994, and February 17, 1994, to determine whether could locate any personal notes concerning his involvement with the search warrants executed in 1987 in the "FINDERS GROUP" matter. No personal notes could be located.

In that all requested investigation has been completed, San Diego considers this matter RUC'd.

1*

RMS/jmn

(4)
FBI FACSIMILE
COVERSHEET

CLASSIFICATION

PRECESSION

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☑ Routine

☐ Top Secret
☐ Secret
☐ Confidential
☐ Sensitive
☐ Unclassified

Time Transmitted: 3:38
Sender's Initials: P.O.K.
Number of Pages: 24

To: FBI, WMFO
(Name of Office)

Date: 1/26/94

Facsimile number: ____________________________

Attn: ____________________________
(Name Room Telephone No.)

From: FBI HQ Violent Crimes Unit
(Name of Office)

Subject: "Finders" Group; White Slave Traffic

Act-SEQ:

OO: WMFO

Special Handling Instructions: Hand carry

Originator's Name: ____________________________ Telephone: ____________________________

Originator's Facsimile Number: ____________________________

Approved: ____________________________
FM FBI MIAMI (31C-WF-189911) (FPRA) (P)
TO FBI DIRECTOR/PRIORITY/
FBI WMFO/PRIORITY/
BT
UNCLAS
CITE: //3460:1225//
PASS: ATTN: SSA________________ VCU-CID.

SUBJECT: "FINDERS" GROUP; WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT - SEXUAL
EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE - PRELIMINARY
INQUIRY; CC: WMFO.

RE WMFO TELTYPE TO DIRECTOR AND OTHER OFFICES, DATED

ON JANUARY 26, 1994, ___________________________________ RESIDENT
AGENT IN CHARGE, U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE (USCS), WEST PALM BEACH,
FLORIDA, WAS CONTACTED PER REFERENCED REQUEST. _________

ADVISED FROM 1985 TO 1988, HE HEADED THE USCS CHILD
PORNORAGHY UNIT IN WASHINGTON, D.C., WHICH DID NOT ACTUALLY
CONDUCT INVESTIGATIONS, BUT RATHER GATHERED AND DISSEMINATED
INFORMATION CONCERNING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY. SA
WAS ASSIGNED TO THE UNIT FOR APPROXIMATELY SEVEN MONTHS AND
THEN REASSIGNED TO THE USCS, RESTON, VIRGINIA OFFICE.

IN EARLY 1987, __________ ADVISED HE BECAME AWARE OF THE
"FINDERS" GROUP WHEN THE RESTON OFFICE AND __________ BECAME
INVOLVED IN THE SEARCHES. HE CLAIMS NOT TO KNOW ALL THE
DETAILS OF THIS SEARCH OR INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED BY USCS AND
__________ FURTHER, HE STATED __________ TOLD HIM HE PURPOSELY
HAS KEPT __________ OUT OF THE MATTER, BUT HE, __________ HAS
TOLD USCS COMMISSIONER GEORGE J. WEISE EVERYTHING.

DURING THE PERIOD OF THE 1987 SEARCHES, __________ RECALLED
__________ ASKED HIM IF HIS UNIT
HAD RECEIVED ANY PAPERWORK CONCERNING THE "FINDERS" AND WHEN
HE REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE, HE WAS TOLD BY __________ TO KEEP IT
THAT WAY. IT WAS __________ UNDERSTANDING THAT INFORMATION
1992, and at that time, they inquired as to information available from USCS concerning the time, contact with USCS SAC William P. Rosenblatt.

Agents who had been in the Child Pornography Unit. At that time, he recalled appeared to have considerable knowledge of the unit. Denied any knowledge of how
DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF ORGANIZED CHILD ABUSE IN THE STUART, FLORIDA AREA, OR ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN THE "FINDERS" AND RECENTLY,

MIAMI WILL FAX PD-302 OF INTERVIEW TO SSA VCU-CID.
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
(ATTN: VCU-CID, SSA)

FROM: SAC, MIAMI (31C-WF-189911)(FPRA) (RUC)

SUBJECT: FINDERS GROUP;
WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT -
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN;
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE -
PRELIMINARY INQUIRY
O0: WMFO

Re Miami airtel to WMFO dated 11/19/93, WMFO teletype
to the Director dated 1/3/94, and Miami teletype to WMFO and
the Director 1/27/93.

Enclosed for WMFO are original and one (1) copy of FD-
302 concerning interview of ____________

As referenced teletype 1/27/94 indicates, ____________
Resident Agent in Charge, U.S. CUSTOMS OFFICE, West
Palm Beach, Florida was interviewed on 1/26/94 and results of
interview set forth in enclosed 302.

Of note for WMFO and FBIHQ, during interview of

2 - Bureau
2) - WMFO (C-4)(Enc.2)
1 - Miami
MJJM/jah
(5)

Approved: __________________________________________
Transmitted (Number) (Time) ____________

FBI
advised that any information he received in the future concerning THE FINDERS would be brought to the attention of either SA or other law enforcement officials. At that time, also advised SA who conducted the interview, that he would be providing on that day or the following day, 11/16/93, the address of THE FINDERS in Washington, D.C.

As of 1/28/94, has not contacted the FBI concerning THE FINDERS location in Washington, D.C. nor reported this most recent supposed contact.

In view of the fact that no investigation remains outstanding, Miami is considering this matter on an RUC status.
of the Washington METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT's (MPD) Property Division, advised Special Agent (SA) [ Redacted ], FBI, Washington Metropolitan Field Office (WMFO) that his office was unable to locate any records relating to evidence obtained by MPD concerning the investigation of the "FINDERS" Group.
PM FBI WMFO (31C-WF-189911) (P) (C-4)

TO DIRECTOR FBI/ROUTINE/

BT

UNCLAS

CITE: //3920//

PASS: VCU-CID FOR SSA

SUBJECT: "FINDERS" GROUP; WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT-SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE-PRELIMINARY INQUIRY; OO: WMFO.

RE WMFO FACSIMILES TO FBIHQ ON 1/31/94 AND 2/14/94, CAPTIONED AS ABOVE.

FOR INFORMATION OF FBIHQ, WMFO HAS COMPLETED ALL INVESTIGATION OF CAPTIONED MATTER EXCEPT FOR REVIEW OF AND UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE (USDS) RECORDS.

Date 3/7/94

Approved: ____________________________

Time Received: ____________________________

MRI/JULIAN DATE: 99/067

ISN: 7

FOX DATE & TIME OF ACCEPTANCE: 048 MTN
WMFO WILL REVIEW THESE RECORDS UPON NOTIFICATION FROM FBIHQ.

BT
FBI FACSIMILE COVERSHEET

CLASSIFICATION

PRECEDENCE

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

Classification

☐ Top Secret
☐ Secret
☐ Confidential
☐ Sensitive
☐ Unclassified

Time Transmitted: 06/25
Sender’s Initials: 2
Number of Pages: 2

To: SAC W M FO
Date: 5/10/94

Facsimile number: __________

Attn: SSA

From: DIRECTOR FBI (VIOLENT CRIMES UNIT, VCMOS)

Subject: Fivers;
D.W. info

Special Handling Instructions:
Please Hard Carry to SSA

Originator’s Name

Telephone:

Approved: LAP/02

Please note attached which I just received. Please have SA contact FBI CoJ for the remaining items he had requested. Thank.

MAY 10 1994
Facsimile Coversheet

Precedence: Immediate

Classification: Unclassified

Time Transmitted: __________

Sender’s Initials: cjr

Number of Pages: 5

To: ADIC, INFO

Date: 05/18/94

Facsimile number: _____________________________

Attn: _____________________________

From: MIAMI Division o Palm Beach County RA

File Number: 3IC-WF-189911

Subject: "FINDERS" GROUP;

WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT - SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE - PRELIMINARY INQUIRY

Special Handling Instructions: _____________________________

Originator’s Name: SA

Telephone: _____________________________

Facsimile Number: _____________________________
FM FBI MIAMI (31C-WF-189911) (FPRA) (RUC)
TO DIRECTOR FBI (31C-WF-189911)/PRIORITY/
FBI WMFO/PRIORITY/
BT
UNCLAS
CITE: //3460:1225//
PASS: FBIHQ, SSA VIOLENT CRIMES UNIT.

SUBJECT: "FINDERS" GROUP; WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT - SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE - PRELIMINARY INQUIRY; CO: WMFO.

RE BUREAU TELETYPE TO MIAMI AND WMFO, DATED 5/12/94.

ON 5/16/94, WAS CONTACTED

OF THE FORT PIERCE RESIDENT AGENCY. FURNISHED

1 - 31C-WF-189911
JTM/jah

Approved: Original filename:

Time Received: Telprep filename:

MNR/JULIAN DATE: ISN:

FOX DATE & TIME OF ACCEPTANCE:
THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

OCCURRING AT THAT INSTITUTION DURING THE 1980's. HE NOTED THE
WAS PROSECUTED AND
IS CURRENTLY INCARCERATED SERVING A LENGTHY SENTENCE IN THE
FLORIDA PRISON SYSTEM.

BECAUSE

AWARE OF INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE "FINDERS" GROUP. HE STATED
THAT DURING FEBRUARY, 1987, SEARCH WARRANTS WERE EXECUTED BY
THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE U.S.
CUSTOMS SERVICE AT THE WASHINGTON OFFICES OF THE "FINDERS"
GROUP.
TO THE BUREAU'S INQUIRIES INTO THE MATTER, IN PARTICULAR WITH REGARD TO THE ATTITUDE OF [REDACTED] OF THE BUREAU'S BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE UNIT.

IN VIEW OF [REDACTED] CONTENTION THAT HE IS FURNISHING INFORMATION DIRECTLY TO DOJ ATTORNEY RE CAPTIONED MATTER, MIAMI IS CONSIDERING THIS MATTER RUC'D.

BT
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, MIAMI (31C-WF-189911)(FPRA) (RUC)
SUBJECT: "FINDERS GROUP";
WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT - SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN;
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE - PRELIMINARY INQUIRY
OO: WMFO

Re Bureau teletype to Miami and WMFO, dated 5/12/94; telcall of SSA FBIHQ, Violent Crimes Unit, to SA 5/18/94.

Enclosed for WMFO is the original and one (1) copy of FD-302's reflecting interviews with . Enclosed for the Bureau are two (2) copies of the same FD-302's.

For information of the Bureau and WMFO, the enclosed FD-302 with reflects the specific results of investigation requested by the Bureau in referenced Bureau teletype. The enclosed FD-302 with reflects an inquiry made with U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE, Fort Pierce, Florida regarding their possession of toll records furnished by that agency.

In view of the fact no investigation remains outstanding within the Miami Division regarding this matter, it is being considered RUC'd.

2 - Bureau (Enc.4)
2 - WMFO (Enc.4)
1 - Miami
JTM/jah (5)

Approved: 5/18/94

UCFN

GENERAL INDICES:

- Automated Search
- Manual Search

WF: Pos Neg AX: Pos Neg

Transmitted (Time)
**TRANSMIT VIA:**

- [ ] Teletype
- [ ] Facsimile
- [X] AIRTEL

**PRECEDENCE:**

- [ ] Immediate
- [ ] Priority
- [ ] Routine

**CLASSIFICATION:**

- [ ] TOP SECRET
- [ ] SECRET
- [ ] CONFIDENTIAL
- [X] UNCLASSIFIED
- [ ] UNCLASS

**Date:** 6/10/94

---

**TO:** DIRECTOR, FBI (31C-WF-189911)

**ATTN:** CID, VCU, SSA

**FROM:** ADIC, Washington Field Office (31C-WF-189911) (C)

**SUBJECT:** "FINDERS" GROUP;
WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT - SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN;
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE - PRELIMINARY INQUIRY;

**OO:** WMFO

Reference FBIHQ teletype to WMFO dated 5/12/94, WMFO teletypes to FBIHQ dated 5/16/94 and 5/25/94, and WMFO facsimile to FBIHQ on 6/9/94, all captioned as above.

Enclosed for FBIHQ are the following:

1. One copy each of an FD-302 detailing the results of the interview of

2. One copy each of an FD-302 detailing the results of a reinterview of

3. One copy each of three documents obtained from the along with one copy of an FD-302 documenting their origin.

The enclosed material was requested by FBIHQ in referenced teletype and represents the last outstanding investigation required of WMFO. As such, WMFO is closing this case.

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Approved: Transmitted

(Number) (Time)
FROM: Director, FBI (Violent Crimes/Fugitive Unit, Violent Crimes and Major Offenders Section) 
TO: SAC, Washington Metropolitan Field Office (31C-WF-189911) (Attention: SSA Squad C-4) 

"FINDERS" GROUP; WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT - SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE - PRELIMINARY INQUIRY; 00: WMFO 

Enclosed for Washington Metropolitan Field Office (WMFO) is a copy of a Washington Metropolitan Police Department (WMPD) P.D. 854 investigative file report, date 2/19/87 stamped "Confidential" and "Do Not Disseminate," and an undated handwritten note from Department of Justice (DOJ) Attorney General on 9/23/94. 

On 9/23/94, Deputy Assistant Director (DAD) Jim Frier, Acting Section Chief Violent Crimes/Fugitive Unit (VC/FV) Unit Chief Supervisory Special Agent (SSA) and WMFO SSA met at the DOJ Conference Room 2108, Main Justice Building, with Deputy Assistant Attorney General (DAAG) Kevin DeGregory, Criminal Division, DOJ, to discuss captioned matter. Also in attendance were George Burgasser, Section Chief, and Attorney both from the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Criminal Division, DOJ. During this meeting, the results of this investigation to date were discussed by the FBI, and upon completion of this review, DAAG DeGregory stated that it did not appear that there was any additional investigation remaining to be conducted by the FBI. However, DAAG DeGregory noted that he had recently been contacted by Congressmen who had requested a meeting with DAAG DeGregory, and that he would not meet with the Congressman until after he had further reviewed this matter.

Enclosure

1 -  
1 - Tickler (31C-WF-189911) 

DRW: cjg (6)
Airtel to SAC, Washington Metropolitan Field Office from Director, FBI
Re: "Finders Group;
White Slave Traffic Act - Sexual Exploitation of Children;
Obstruction of Justice - Preliminary Inquiry;
00: WMFO

On 12/13/94, DOJ Attorney advised that DAAG DeGregory had completed his review of captioned matter, and he had requested that additional investigation be conducted. He noted that a WMPD report, dated 2/19/87, indicated that one of the Finders.

The WMPD report indicated that WMPD DeGregory requested that the FBI determine the following:
(1) Did the WMPD provide to FBI, WMFO a
(2) 
(3) 

On 12/20/94, attached communication was received from DOJ Attorney which requested that additional investigation previously noted be conducted in this matter.

FBI, WMFO will conduct appropriate investigation, and advise FBIHQ, VC/FU of results by Letterhead Memorandum suitable for dissemination to DOJ.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
INTERSTATE THEFT/GOVERNMENT RESERVATION CRIMES UNIT
FACSIMILE COVERSHEET

PRECEDENCE
- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION
- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Unclassified

Time Transmitted:
Sender's Initials: [Signature]
Number of Pages: Cover+

To: ADIC, WMFO

Date: 1/27/95

Facsimile number:

Attn: SSA

From: SSA

Subject: FINDERS' Group

Originators Name: SSA

Originator's Facsimile Number:

Approved: WSE/OM

WSE/OM posted calls 1/25 and 1/27/95. Finders please see attached 1/24/94 Finders Meet. I know you're busy with FBI/DOJ affairs. My (HA) but ADIC as do want to keep those bills. I must have your help.
To: FBI HQ
Facsimile Number: 
Attn: SSA VCU, CID
From: ADIC, WMF (31C-WF-18991)
Subject: "FINDERS" GROUP

Special Handling Instructions: PLS HAND COPY TO SSA
Be your request attached are both
Interview to 302's

Originator's Name: SSA
Originator's Facsimile Number: 
Approved: AED/14D
Memorandum

To: SAC, WMFO (31C-WF-189911) (C)  
From: SA (C-4)  
Subject: "FINDERS" GROUP; WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT - SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE - PRELIMINARY INQUIRY; OO: WMFO

Captioned matter was reopened at the request of FBIHQ, CID, VCU SSA on 1/27/95.

All investigation requested by FBIHQ with the exception of one reinterview had already been completed by WMFO prior to 6/10/94.

This one reinterview was conducted by WMFO with the respective FD-302 forwarded to FBIHQ, SSA via facsimile on 1/31/95.

On 5/9/95, writer contacted SSA to ascertain the status of this investigation. SSA indicated that the matter remains open at FBIHQ, pending a decision from the Department of Justice. SSA advised that there were no new, or outstanding leads for WMFO.

Based upon the above, WMFO is closing this case.
Serials in this file have been automated thru Serial 92.

Thanks

No serial can be placed, changed or inserted prior to above serial.
Enclosed are 6 items.

These items are forwarded to your office since file meets criteria for destruction.

Enclosures are described as follows:

☐ Original Notes.
☒ Original FD-302's.
☐ Laboratory and/or Technical Reports.
☒ Miscellaneous Documents.

NOTE: DO NOT BLOCK STAMP ORIGINAL ENCLOSURES.
FBI FACSIMILE COVERSHEET

PRECEDEENCE      CLASSIFICATION
☐ Immediate       ☐ Top Secret       Time Transmitted: 1:30 pm
☐ Priority        ☐ Secret
☒ Routine         ☐ Confidential
☐ Sensitive       ☐ Unclassified

To: FBI HQ
(Name of Office)                    Date: 11-29-95

Facsimile Number:

Attn: SSA

From: FBI, WMFO
(Name of Office)

Subject: “Finders” Group:
White Slave Traffic Act - Sexual Exploitation of Children;
Obstruction of Justice - Preliminary Orgy;
DO: WMFO

Special Handling Instructions: Mark copy to SSA

Originator’s Name: SSA
Telephone

Originator’s Facsimile Number: 31C - WF - 189911

Approved: 

SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED FILED FBI/DOJ

NOV 29 1995
FBI - WASH. FIELD OFFICE
Memorandum

To: SAC, WMFO (31C-WF-189911) (C)

From: SA (C-4)

Subject: "FINDERS" GROUP;
WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT -
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN;
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE - PRELIMINARY INQUIRY;

Date 5/9/95

Captioned matter was reopened at the request of FBIHQ,
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This one reinterview was conducted by WMFO with the respective FD-302 forwarded to FBIHQ, SSA via facsimile on 1/31/95.

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Based upon the above, WMFO is closing this case.

WMFO
MDC: mdc

CLOSED 8/10

SEARCHED
INDEXED
SERIALIZED
FILED

MAY 10 1995
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Page 81 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;
Page 82 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;
Memorandum

To: SAC, WMFO (31C-WF-189911) (P)  Date 11/8/93

From: SA (C-4)

Subject: "FINDERS" GROUP;
WSTA - SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN;
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE - PI;
OO: WMFO

Attached to this memo are copies of materials relating to captioned group provided to writer on 11/08/93 by Senior Special Agent United States Customs Service, Customs Headquarters, 1301 Constitution Ave, NW, Washington, D.C.

This information is further described as listed below:


2. Copy of SA memo to file dated 2/7/87.


4. Copy of a NEXUS report prepared by U.S. Customs.

5. Copies of 2/7/87, and 4/13/87 memos with names removed together with a "FINDERS" chronology provided to U.S. Customs by a of the Tallahassee, Florida Police Department.

6. Copies of Tallahassee Police Department Reports concerning the 2/5/87 and subsequent "FINDERS" group investigation.


9. Copy of a magazine article titled "In search of the Finders".

WMFO
MDC: mdc
"FINDERS"

On August 23, 1993, I was advised by agents from the SAC/Miami office that they had interviewed per request of SAC/Miami. They listened to reiterate the information he provided earlier to RAC/Ft. Lauderdale and Postal Inspectors and in his letters to various members of the legislature. Upon departure regarding a group called the "Finders", inquired if the agents were aware of this case and suggested they make themselves knowledgeable of its details. provided no further information. At that time I queried the name "Finders" and "The Finders" in the CPPU database and was able to locate a record under each title. These records revealed that an investigation had occurred at the RAC/Tallahassee and RAC/DC. A brief statement regarding the initiation of the case was included in one CPPU database entry. Neither entry mentioned child pornography. I queried the case number in and determined that a case had been open and closed by Special Agent on February 12, 1987. No
further information was located. This information was
provided to SAC/Miami agents. It should be noted that
from the Customs Service. A copy
of the CPPU records and the record are attached as
number 17.

Inquiries regarding this matter with Division Director, Smuggling Investigations Division,
revealed that the Finders incident was investigated by
Special Agent when he was assigned to what
was then the RAC/DC.

On September 3, 1993, I spoke with Special Agent
who is currently assigned to Headquarters,
Internal Affairs. was the agent who participated
with the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) during the
initial stages of their investigation of the "Finders".
provided two "Memo to File" reports, one dated
"2/7/87" and the other "4/13/87". Copies of these memos are
attached as number 18.

in initial
establishment of the Child Pornography and Protection Unit
at the request of then Commissioner Von Raab. Upon final
staffing of the unit, to the RAC/DC where
he was assigned to work among other things, child
pornography cases.

advised that the reason the Tallahassee Police
Department (TPD) had contacted Customs was due in part

stated that contacted Special Agent
RAC/DC, who was duty agent, because the TPD was
requesting assistance in contacting Washington DC area law
enforcement agencies that could help follow up on leads that
they had developed. Subsequently, Customs was able to
assist in this matter by arranging contact between the TPD
and the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), Washington DC.

stated that he originally got involved with
the MPD in this matter because there were suspicions
that the children involved had been sexually exploited
or abused and there was talk of taking them to Mexico.
said that when children were sexually
exploited, they were then usually involved with child pornography.

 stated that he accompanied MPD in the search of one location while accompanied MPD in the search of a second location. During the search of one location, no child pornography was located. At the second location, 

 was asked about what if any FBI involvement occurred during the execution of the warrants. stated that Special Agent, Washington Field Office, had been assigned to the case. said that 

 advised that after the search warrants were executed, he tried several times to contact (MPD) to attempt to review the documents he had reportedly seen. These attempts were unsuccessful until March 31, 1987 when met with Sgt. John Stitcher. It should be noted that Sgt. Stitcher is now deceased.

 On September 14, 1993, I spoke with the Office of Congressional Affairs to discuss this issue. This meeting was a result of Congressman Rose's questions to the Commissioner about this matter. At that time, all available information regarding Customs involvement on this issue was provided to A copy of the memorandum dated September 9, 1993, from Assistant Commissioner, Congressional Affairs, to the Assistant Commissioner, Enforcement, requesting this information is attached as number 19.

 On September 14, 1993, I met with National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). advised me that he had been a MPD
that while the whole matter was bizarre, he did not notice any child pornography. He then provided me with some UPI news articles he had obtained from NEXIS. None of these articles mentioned involvement. The articles are attached as number 20.

On September 16, 1993, Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Enforcement, Ed Logan requested me to develop more information pertaining to this matter.

On September 16, 1993, I contacted RAC/Tallahassee. He advised that he had been contacted by SAC/Miami agents for any information regarding the "Finders". He stated that he had requested the TPD to provide any information they might have on the incident that occurred in 1987. The officer he spoke with provided him with all police reports and a newspaper article that pertained to this subject. The requested that provide me with the same information as well as any Customs case reports. He advised that after the initial opening report, the investigation revealed no Customs violations and the matter was closed. It should be noted that both the TPD police reports and the news article reported the incident as being bizarre. At no time did either report mention child pornography or any other violation that would fall within Customs jurisdiction nor did either report mention The TPD report and news article are attached as number 21. The RAC/Tallahassee case report is attached as number 22.

On September 16, 1993, I contacted ASAC SAC/Baltimore office. He was the acting RAC/Reston on February 5, 1987. He stated that from what he could remember of the incident, he had cautioned about getting involved in the matter, as he suspected that there were no Customs violations at that time. He stated that
On September 16, 1993, I contacted Special Agent [redacted] FBI, Washington Field Office. [redacted] was the FBI case agent who handled matters regarding child pornography. [redacted] stated that the "Finders" was a very bizarre communal group who got their name based on the fact that they could "find" any type of information that was requested of them. [redacted] stated that MPD became very contained in various news stories. She said that during that period of time, the subject of child pornography and child sexual abuse was in the limelight of media attention because of the Meese report and the passing of the Child Protection Act. As a result, she stated that this case started a media frenzy. She also advised that it appeared to her that [redacted] and the MPD investigators were trying to said that no evidence of child sexual exploitation, child pornography, or kidnapping was obtained.

In a memorandum dated March 9, 1987.
of the "Finders" during her investigation. She said the group was a bizarre and abnormal cult that lived a different type of lifestyle. At no time did she uncover any evidence of any federal violations. She further stated that she had never heard about any State Department and was never instructed by to discontinue her investigation.

On September 17, 1993, I contacted Freedom of Information Offices in both Headquarters and the Southeast region. I inquired as to whether there were any records of FOIA requests from This met with negative results.

On September 17, 1993, I contacted SAC/DC and requested that they provide me with the investigative case file regarding this matter. An examination of the case file revealed no mention of child pornography. A copy of this case file is attached as number 23.

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On September 17, 1993, I contacted SAC/DC and requested that they provide me with the investigative case file regarding this matter. An examination of the case file revealed no mention of child pornography. A copy of this case file is attached as number 23.

On September 17, 1993, I interviewed Division Director, Smuggling Investigations Division. He stated that recalls the incident but does not remember any fax being sent to him, however, he did not deny receiving the fax. stated that during that time, Customs Headquarters had no line authority over field offices, and therefore he was not in a position to dictate what action was appropriate. stated that he does not recall any conversations between himself and regarding this matter and certainly does not recall any discussion of
13 of the 30 presumed members of a religious sect arrested amid allegations linking the church to sexual activity involving children have been released from custody, a judge said Saturday.

Although many adults enjoy healthy friendships with teenagers, psychologists warned Friday that parents should be alert for signals of potential child sexual abuse.

The British branch of a religious cult under investigation in Argentina claims the organization is the target of persecution and says it is "deplorable" to link the group with child abuse, prostitution, begging and kidnapping.

Argentine investigators will wait until next week to review pornographic material seized and question sect members arrested in a raid in which 268 children were taken into custody, officials said Friday.

lice searched several residences Wednesday and took about 300 children away from members of the outlawed Children of God religious group, a cult accused of promoting indiscriminate sex.
The fate of the largest sunken treasure in American history worth about $1 billion is going to the Supreme Court, where an armada of lawyers will argue the legal virtues of finders-keepers.

Authorities dropped child abuse charges against two members of the Finders commune who were arrested last month when police found them with six hungry and dirty young children in a city park.

Police Lt. Roy Dickey said prosecutors and defense attorneys agreed to the dismissal late Tuesday and Michael Hollwell and Doug Ammerman were promptly released from jail.

"They did not find that the original probable cause was invalid, but upon further investigation they found that the facts were different than they originally appeared to the officers that originally made the arrest," Dickey said.

Hollwell and Ammerman were arrested Feb. 4 in a park when they could not explain where they and the six children with them were going or identify the youngsters' parents. The suspects and the children, age 2-6, were subsequently linked to the Finders communal organization of Washington D.C.

Four of the children were released to their parents, Dickey said, but was unsure of the status of the two other children.
Child abuse charges were dismissed Tuesday against two members of the Finders commune who were arrested last month after being found with six dirty and hungry young children in a city park.

Tallahassee Police Lt. Roy Dickey said prosecutors and defense attorneys agreed to the dismissal.

"They did not find that the original probable cause was invalid, but upon further investigation they found that the facts were different than they originally appeared to the officers that originally made the arrest," Dickey said.

Michael Hollwell and Doug Ammerman were arrested in a Tallahassee park Feb. 4 when they could not explain to police where they and the six dirty, 

...
Defense attorney Paul Walborsky called Cawthon ruling a victory. "I feel their right to be different has been vindicated," she said.

She said the other three children will most likely be returned to their parents after a hearing later this month. She said close state supervision of their upbringing probably also will be ordered.

The six children were discovered playing in a Tallahassee park Feb. 4. They were in the company of James M. Holwell, 23, and Douglas Ammerman, 27.

Holwell and Ammerman were arrested on misdemeanor charges of child abuse and are being held in the Leon County Jail pending their trial.

Hours after the court ruling, Robert G. Terrell, also known as Genghis K. Plato, said his secretive organization's experiment with "group work" had failed and is being dismantled after 17 years.

"This is farewell from The Finders. We're breaking up," Terrell said. "You won't be hearing from The Finders again until Hong Kong is being run by the Chinese and the Panama Canal is being managed by the Panamanians in other words, at least until the year 2000."

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Total charges thus far: $61.00
->
A judge Friday released five of six children found dirty and hungry in a park with two members of a communal organization to the temporary care of their mothers pending a custody hearing.

"The mothers have obtained separate places of residence in Leon County," said state attorney C.L. Fordham. "Each of the children will stay with a family."

The mother of the sixth child has returned to her Washington, D.C., home and 3-year-old Benjamin Franklin will remain in a Health and Rehabilitative Services foster care home until the permanent custody hearing March 6.

Leon County Judge Victor Cawthon ordered the release in a closed press (return) to continue...
hearing. Cawthon refused to allow reporters into the hearing because HRS officials said it could include discussion of possible sexual abuse of the children. State law prohibits releasing any information about a sexual abuse case.

"I can assure you arrangements have been made for the protection of the children's interest," HRS spokeswoman Connie Ruggles said. She refused to elaborate.

Fordham also said he expected to resolve the fate of the two men, members of the Finders communal organization, arrested for child abuse while watching over the children by Monday. Fordham suggested that the two men Doug Ammerman and Michael Holwell might agree to plead guilty to lesser charges of child neglect.

Holwell and Ammerman were arrested in a Tallahassee park Feb. 4 when they could not explain to police the dirty appearance of the children, or say who or where the children's parents were.

Both men were charged with one count of child abuse. Holwell was also charged with one count of resisting arrest without violence.

On Nov. 14, five women claiming to be the mothers of the children arrived in Tallahassee. Kristin Knauth, Judy Evans, Paula Arico, Carolyn Said and Patricia Livingston have said Ammerman and Holwell had taken the children on a Florida vacation with their knowledge and consent.

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Bond was reduced for two members of the Finders communal organization facing child abuse charges, but the judge ordered the men to stay away from six children being held by the state pending a custody hearing.

Judge George Reynolds III reduced bond Wednesday from $100,000 to $20,000 each for Michael Holwell and Doug Ammerman and issued his stay-away order in the event the men are released from jail.

The men were arrested in a Tallahassee park Feb. 4 when they could not explain to police where they and the six dirty, hungry children with them were going, or who the children belonged to. The group has since been tied to the Washington D.C.-based Finders communal organization.
the parents of three of the children. Paula Arico and Pat Livingston said they let their children go on vacation with Ammerman and Howell and had "full faith" in them.

Reynolds also heard brief testimony from the parents of Ammerman and Howell. Ammerman's father, University of Florida agriculture professor Renee Ammerman, said he did not see his son frequently, but that Doug Ammerman had come to his Gainesville home Jan. 20.

Holwell's father, New York high school math teacher James Holwell, said he had contact "on and off" with his son, his daughter-in-law Paula Arico, and their two children.

Holwell originally identified himself as Michael Houlihan, but was indicted as Holwell. Prosecutor C.L. Fordham said Holwell has refused to answer questions since his arrest and frequently goes "into a trance" when questioned.

Public defender Michael Minerva told Reynolds his clients are the center of a national controversy simply because they have an unusual lifestyle. But Fordham countered that the unusual case is far from settled.

"We've had a lot of roadblocks in this investigation," Fordham said. Press (return) to continue...->

"There are still so many unanswered questions. It may all turn out to be really innocuous, but at this point I'm just not comfortable saying this is all we're going to have. We don't feel we have enough of a picture to let them waltz out of here."

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State officials told five women they will have to prove they are the mothers of six dirty, hungry children found in a park with two members of a communal organization before the issue of custody can be decided.

"It's not that we necessarily disbelieve these people are the mothers, but we need them to prove that," Connie Ruggles, a spokeswoman for the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, said Monday. "Anybody could just walk in here and claim to be the parents."

Ruggles said the women claiming to be the children's mothers met with HRS District Two chief administrator John Awad Monday morning and discussed what they needed to do to regain custody of the children.

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psychological evaluation.

Ruggles said Cawthon also could postpone a ruling while he seeks additional information.

In making his decision, she said, Cawthon will consider a report on conditions at the children's alleged home in Washington, D.C., to be prepared by HRS' sister agency in Washington.

The six children, dirty and hungry, were taken into state care Feb. 4 after their two adult companions were arrested in a Tallahassee park on child abuse charges. The men identified themselves as Douglas Edward Ammerman and James Michael Houlihan.

The group, and the five women, have been linked to the Finders, a Washington-based communal organization. Houlihan and Ammerman are currently being held in Leon County Jail on $100,000 bond, awaiting trials on March 30 and March 31.

Ruggles did not have the names of the women involved. A copyright story Press (return) to continue...->
published by the Tallahassee Democrat newspaper on Sunday identified four of the women as Kristin Knauth, Judy Evans, Paula Arico and Carolyn Said.

Ruggles said Awad told the five women they would have to conclusively prove they are the mothers as the first step in gaining custody of the children. She said HRS would call in law enforcement officials to evaluate any proof presented by the women.

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Heading # 39
0336212
SECTION: General news
STORY TAG: children
BY: McCLELLAND, MICHAEL
DATELINE: TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (UPI) February 16, 1987
TIME: 14:03ps CYCLE: am
PRIORITY: Regular WORD COUNT: 0413

Five women claiming to be members of the Finders organization met with state officials Monday in an attempt to gain custody of six children found dirty and hungry in a park with two other members of the group.

The women met with John Awad, chief administrator of the Health and Rehabilitative Services District Two, and discussed what the women needed to do to regain custody of the children, HRS spokeswoman Connie Ruggles said.

Ruggles did not have the names of the women involved. A copyright story published in Sunday's Tallahassee Democrat identified four of the women as Kristin Knauth, Judy Evans, Paula Arico and Carolyn Said.

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The six children were taken into state care on Feb. 4 after their two adult companions were arrested in a Tallahassee park on child abuse charges. The men who have identified themselves as Douglas Edward Ammerman and James Michael Houlihan were arrested because the children were dirty, hungry and the men could not explain who the children belonged to.

The group has since been linked to the Finders, a Washington, D.C.-based communal organization. Houlihan and Ammerman were being held in Leon County Jail on $100,000 bond. The children were in a foster care facility undergoing evaluation by HRS psychologists.

Awad told the five women they would have to prove conclusively that they are the mothers as the first step in gaining custody of the children, Ruggles said. She said HRS would call in law enforcement officials to evaluate any evidence presented by the women.

"It's not that we necessarily disbelieve these people are the mothers, but we need them to prove that," Ruggles said. "Anybody could just walk in here and claim to be the parents."

The women will have a chance to claim the children in a juvenile court hearing scheduled for March 9, when Circuit Court Judge Victor Cawthon will hold an adjudication hearing on HRS request for custody of the children, Ruggles said. Cawthon could either give custody to the mothers, to HRS, or postpone a ruling while he seeks additional information, Ruggles said.

Members of a bizarre Washington commune, whose rituals were initially feared to be satanic, portray themselves as unconventional but legal, a definition that puzzled police may soon come to accept.

When two members of The Finders were arrested in a Tallahassee, Fla., park Feb. 4 and charged with child abuse, the unusual group was thrust into the national spotlight.

Police pronounced them satanic and their rural Virginia retreat was scrutinized for human remains.

The sensationalism unraveled, first with Florida police recanting their final suspicions that the men and children were involved in satanic rituals. Then, District of Columbia and Virginia police said their
Tallahassee police announced early in the investigation of the men that they were believed to be part of a Devil worshipping cult based in the nation's capital that demands that members surrender their children.

"It is our belief these kids were not kidnapped but that their parents gave them away because one of the rites of passage into this satanic organization is that you have to give up your rights to your children," the police said.

But as more became known about the group, Tallahassee police backed off Press (return) to continue...->
on the alleged satanic link. Police also said it was unclear whether initial reports that least one of the children had been sexually abused could be substantiated.

Meanwhile, other law enforcement agencies came up with evidence of plenty of odd doings, but no illegality.

Finally, district Police Chief Maurice Turner, whose detectives had been investigating the group since December, said the commune members pose "threat to themselves more than anything else."

The children, ages 2 to 7 and giving such names as Honey Bee, John Paul Pope and Benjamin Franklin, have remained in foster homes since the men were arrested. The men still face child abuse charges and the parents a custody battle over the children.

They are waiting out what has evolved into a bizarre fairytale whose chapters include white-robed men at a goat-slaying ceremony in Virginia with youngsters holding goat fetuses.

A Finders spokesman, who met with reporters while wearing a Ronald Reagan mask over the back of his head, said the investigation, from the outset, was a mixup.

"Reasonable people ... will realize a mistake has been made and it was blown way out of proportion and that it's gone much too far," said Robert Terrell.

Asked how he would characterize the Finders, Terrell said, "We are on the cutting edge of the wit and humor movement."

Reports of satanism surfaced when police seized pictures taken of a ceremony held on what appeared to be the Etlan, Va., farm. A goat's head, skins and a scrapbook titled "The Execution of Henrietta and Igor" were confiscated.

Some pictures showed three men wearing white robes dismembering two
Terrell, saying the ceremony was held for the children, said it was meant to be an educational experience so they could see the insides of the goats. Robes were worn to make an impression on the youngsters, he said, to bring home the seriousness of killing an animal that was slaughtered for its meat.

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Members of a bizarre Washington commune, with rituals initially feared to be satanic, portray themselves as unconventional but legal, a definition that puzzled police may soon come to accept.

Two men, who said they were members of The Finders, were arrested in a Tallahassee, Fla., park Feb. 4 with six children. The men were charged with child abuse and police pronounced the group satanic. The group's rural Virginia retreat was scrutinized for human remains.

The sensationalism unraveled, first with Florida police recanting their original suspicions that the men and children were involved in satanic rituals. Then, District of Columbia and Virginia police said their investigations would not yield any criminal charges.

Still, the group seems bizarre. But one mother in The Finders describes herself and others as "perfectly good people."

"Granted, we have an alternative lifestyle," said the woman, who refused to give her name. "We're different from Mr. and Mrs. America next door. But we love our children and we're trying to lead a healthy, happy life. And to have this incredible barrage of attention and negativity toward us is really an awful feeling."

Tallahassee police announced early in the investigation that they believed the arrested men to be part of a devil-worshipping cult based in the nation's capital that demands that members surrender their children.

"It is our belief these kids were not kidnapped but that their parents gave them away because one of the rites of passage into this satanic organization is that you have to give up your rights to your children," the police said.

But as more became known about the group, Tallahassee police backed off that statement. Police also said it was unclear whether initial reports that at least one of the children had been sexually abused could be substantiated.
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Some pictures showed three men wearing white robes dismembering two goats. Another picture showed at least one child showing a goat fetus to someone behind a hand-held camera.

Terrell, saying the ceremony was held for the children, said it was not to be an educational experience so they could see the insides of the goats. Robes were worn to make an impression on the youngsters, he said, to bring home the seriousness of killing an animal that was slaughtered for its meat.

Former members of the group said "game-playing" was the mainstay of their philosophy. They say it was often difficult to determine if group members were serious or if they were acting out a fantasy.

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Heading # 42

0335544
SECTION: General news
STORY TAG: children
DATELINE: TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (UPI) February 12, 1987
TIME: 05:07ps CYCLE: pm
PRIORITY: Deferred WORD COUNT: 0401

Agents have contacted the parents of six children found in a park two men linked to the mysterious Finders organization, but interviews revealed no illegal activity by the parents, authorities said.
We have uncovered nothing that would point to illegal activity by the parents, Sheppard said, but he declined to discuss the interviews.

Tallahassee police ended daily briefings on the arrest last week of two who were found in a city park with six young children described by police as filthy and covered with insect bites and scratches.

The men, who gave their names as Doug Ammerman and Michael Houlihan, were linked to the Finders, a Washington-based group police originally characterized as a satanic cult. Police subsequently backed off that description and now refer to the Finders simply as an organization.

Parents of the children being held in Florida talked publicly in Washington about the ordeal and their lifestyle on Wednesday.

"We are perfectly good people," said one mother, who appeared on CBS but refused to give her name. "Granted, we have an alternative lifestyle. We're different from Mr. and Mrs. America next door. But we love our children and we're trying to lead a healthy, happy life. And to have this incredible barrage of attention and negativity toward us is really an awful feeling.

Ammerman and Houlihan were arraigned Wednesday on one count each of misdemeanor child abuse charges. Houlihan also was arraigned on a single count of resisting arrest without violence.

Leon County Judge George Reynolds III refused to reduce the $100,000 bond set for the two men, but did not immediately set a trial date.

The children were turned over to the state Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services and are being interviewed by a child psychiatrist.
Six children taken from followers of the Finders group remained in state custody today and two men charged with abusing them entered pleas of innocent at their arraignment.

The two men, who have given their names as Doug Ammerman and Michael Houlihan, were arrested on Feb. 4 after they were spotted in a city park with six children described by arresting officers as filthy and covered with insect bites and scratches.

They have since been tied to the Washington, D.C.-based Finders organization.

Both men appeared in court today and were ordered held on a single count of child abuse not the six counts police earlier said had been filed. Neither man would speak with reporters.

State authorities indicated they were unsure the children had been abused at all.

Dr. Nauman Greenberg of Chicago, hired by the state Health and Rehabilitative Services Department, spent four hours with the children Tuesday.

Greenberg said the children seemed troubled but that he was not immediately sure whether the problem was caused by the children's upbringing or by their current circumstances.

The children, taken a week ago, will remain in state custody at least until Feb. 26, when state officials will go before a judge to recommend what should be done with the youngsters.

"Some of their problems were the kind you might see in children who had been institutionalized," Greenberg said. "The real casual contact they would have with adults reminded me of young children who had been on a 'tardic ward for a long, long time."

The children seemed physically healthy but showed signs of being
The state took custody of the children last Wednesday when police arrested Ammerman and Houlihan watching over the di youngsters in a city park.

The men were being held in lieu of $100,000 bond.

Health officials could not confirm statements made by Tallahassee police that two of the children were sexually abused.

John Award, the department administrator, said a doctor's report found a possibility of sexual abuse but no conclusive evidence.

"Our information does not substantiate that or unsubstantiate that," Awad said. "We are still in the process of looking at that, but we have come to no definitive conclusions."

In a related development, police in Etlan, Va., said they found no evidence of criminal activity in a search of a farm owned by Finders leader Marion Pettie and a house owned by his apparent sons, George and David Pettie.

Virginia police spokesman Charles Vaughan said officers seized "a computer, software, a couple of goatskins, a goat head and some papers and various documents, writing and cards."

The $100,000 bond for two Finders group members facing misdemeanor child abuse charges is justified by the mystery surrounding the case and six children found with the men, the prosecutor said Wednesday.

The men, who have given their names as Doug Ammerman and Michael Houlihan, were arraigned on one count each of child abuse. Houlihan also was arraigned for a single misdemeanor count of resisting arrest without violence.

Public defender Michael Minerva asked Leon County Judge George Reynolds III to reduce their bond, but Reynolds said a special hearing is required on that issue.

"It may be an unusually high bond, but it's an unusual case," said state attorney C.L. Fordham. "The bond is based more on the questions than
lives of six children," the prosecutor said.

Reynolds' entered pleas of innocent for both men and said they would receive a jury trial. The men will remain in the Leon County Jail pending a trial. No court date was set.

Houlihan and Ammerman were arrested Feb. 4 after they were spotted in a city park with six children described by police as filthy and covered with insect bites and scratches. The men have since been linked to the Finders, a Washington, D.C., group police originally called a satanic cult. Police later backed off that description and now refer to the Finders simply as an organization.

Houlihan has given several names to investigators and he was arraigned as "Michael Holwell."

Houlihan appeared before Reynolds dressed in jail-issue blue pants and shirt, white socks, sandals and leg shackles. He seemed nervous, often hesitating before answering questions and speaking in clipped, strained sentences.

Scott Hunt, Tallahassee police spokesman, said Tuesday both men had been charged with six counts of child abuse, but Fordham said papers sent by police listed only the single child abuse charge, plus the resisting charge against Houlihan.

Fordham said each charge is for the abuse of all six children, rather than a single count for abuse of a specific child. The men face up to one year in jail and up to a $1,000 fine on each count.

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Health and Rehabilitative Services district administrator John Awad said a physicians report found "a possibility" of sexual abuse, but no conclusive evidence.

"Our indications does not substantiate that or unsubstantiate that," Awad said. "We have come to no definitive conclusions."

Police in ETLAN, Va., meanwhile, dug a 30-foot trench on a farm owned by Finders leader Marion Pettie looking for what an unidentified source imed were "buried remains."

Virginia State Police spokesman Charles Vaughan said no remains human or animal were found. The unidentified source told police there were two
Tallahassee police had said last week that two or more of the children taken into state custody had been sexually abused.

HRS 'took custody of the children last Wednesday after police arrested two Finders watching over six filthy children in a Tallahassee city park. Men, who identified themselves as Michael Houlihan and Doug Ammerman, were charged with six counts of child abuse and were being held in lieu of $100,000 bond.

Meanwhile, the HRS, under the supervision of Chicago child psychiatrist Nauman Greenberg, has begun interviewing the six youngsters. Greenberg said his preliminary interviews suggested the children had a living arrangement that was "probably not very healthy."

"Some of their problems were the kind you might see in children who had been institutionalized," Greenberg said. "The real casual contact they would have with adults reminded me of young children who had been on a pediatric ward for a long long time."

The children are being kept at a secret location because of phone threats.

Police in Washington raided two buildings belonging to the Finders last Thursday and found numerous pictures, including some of nude children and children taking part in animal sacrifices.

Greenberg said he had not discussed animal sacrifice or sexual abuse in his initial talks with the children because he did not want to traumatize them immediately by forcing them to deal with possibly painful subjects.

The children will remain in HRS care until at least Feb. 26, when the must go before a circuit judge to recommend what should be done with them. That recommendation could include more time in state care.

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Heading # 46

0334776
SECTION: General news
STORY TAG: children
DATELINE: TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (UPI) February 09, 1987
TIME: 02:42p CYCLE: pm
PRIORITY: Deferred WORD COUNT: 0490

There is evidence of sexual abuse involving more than one of the six children found hungry and dirty in a park last week with two apparent members of a mysterious cult, police said.

"We now know more than one child was abused," police spokesman Scott Hunt said Sunday. "How many we are not going to say, in what manner we are going to say and how recently we are not going to say."

The children, aged 2 to 6, are in the custody of state health officials and under police guard following the arrest last Wednesday of the two men,
A letter sent to news organizations in Washington from a man who identified himself as R. Gardner Terrell said the children were not mistreated and received adequate care and were taken "on a vacation-camping trip to the warmer climate of Florida with the full applause and approval the children's mothers."

The letter claimed the men and the children went to Berea, Ky., to help in construction of "New Hope," a retirement community organized by Rev. Jim Wyker, but the project was not ready for their help.

Wyker and Willis B. Hunting told The Miami Herald the men and children arrived at the community last month in a van.

"The kids had lots of clothes and lots of food and they were wonderful, healthy and vigorous," Wyker told the newspaper. "They weren't dominated. They weren't reticent, but they weren't aggressive, either."

Hunting, who along with his wife Lucile runs a Montessori school near Wyker's property, said that when he asked the men about the children's parents, they told him the parents were members of "The Finders" cult.

Authorities say "The Finders" is a mysterious cult based in the Washington area that may have ties to satanism. Washington police have found pictures of the children in ceremonies involving the bloodletting of animals.

The authenticity of the letter and its claims could not be confirmed and Washington police said they had not yet formally received a copy.

Two police detectives from Washington arrived in Tallahassee Sunday to question the children and possibly talk to the suspects, who are charged with aggravated child abuse and resisting arrest without violence. They are being held in lieu of $100,000 bond each.

The children identified in the letter as Mary Arico, John Paul Arico, Max Berns, Ben Knauth, Honeybee Evans and Bebe Said are believed to be the sons and daughters of cult members and not kidnap victims, authorities said.

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made nationwide headlines Thursday.

"What really breaks your heart is the call you get from the sincere mother from somewhere out in the Midwest saying, 'My daughter was kidnapped two years ago, I'm sure the picture I saw was her, I need to come down here, I want my daughter back,'" Hunt said. "You try not to build up any hope in them, so that when we find out the identities of the children, if it's not her daughter, then this lady isn't suffering again."

Hunt said authorities had "tentative" identifications of the children, but refused to release those names until they are confirmed. He said he believes the children eventually will be shown to be children of Finders members, and not runaways or kidnap victims.

The children have been in state care since Wednesday, when police arrested their two adult companions for child abuse after they were spotted watching over six filthy children in a city park. State officials said they determined at least two of the children had been sexually abused.

The men, who identified themselves as Michael Houlihan and Doug Ammerman, have since been linked to the Finders, a Washington D.C.-based cult. They are being held in the Leon County jail in lieu of $100,000 bond.

Washington police, acting on information supplied by Tallahassee officers, raided two buildings belonging to Finders' members in the District of Columbia. They found numerous pictures in those raids, including pictures of nude children and children taking part in animal sacrifice.

Hunt said his office received about 450 calls from reporters between Saturday and Sunday and took about 50 more by noon Monday. Calls about the children multiplied after pictures of the youngsters, supplied by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, were published in newspapers and televised.

Hunt said authorities released the pictures in hopes of finding relatives, even though it meant public exposure of sexually abused children. He noted authorities have not said which of the children had been sexually abused, and added the pictures resulted in many new leads.

Hunt said authorities also are investigating a possible Finders presence in Gainesville, Fla., but could offer no specifics.

"We believe there was a Gainesville connection, either they've traveled to there, they've stayed there or were planning to go, exactly what the connection was we don't know," Hunt said.

Hunt said two Washington police investigators were still in Tallahassee, but had not yet spoken to the children. He said Tallahassee police would concentrate on determining the children's identity, including checking all calls from potential relatives.

Hunt said the FBI would handle the investigation of a memo delivered the weekend to Washington police from Robert Gardner Terrell, the Finders member who owns the two buildings raided by police. In the memo,
Terrell told CBS affiliate WUSA-TV the group never abused children.  

"We never touch a child except with love," Terrell said. "We're allowing the children to grow up in touch with their own intuition, to run at their own speed, to learn how to walk and to talk when they surely feel that it's time to learn to walk and talk and read."

Terrell said the children's parents had not come to claim them for fear they would be arrested.

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Meanwhile, a man claiming to be a member of the group, in a letter sent to news organizations in Washington, defended the two men in police custody in Florida and said the children had been properly treated.

In Tallahassee, police spokesman Scott Hunt said, "We now know more than one child was abused. How many we are not going to say, in what manner we are not going to say and how recently we are not going to say."

Two police detectives from Washington arrived in Tallahassee Sunday to question the children and possibly the suspects, who are charged with aggravated child abuse and resisting arrest without violence and being held in lieu of $100,000 bond each.

The two men, who identified themselves as Michael Houlihan, 23, and Douglas Ammerman, 27, were arrested Wednesday after they were seen in a Tallahassee park with the six filthy, poorly dressed children.

Authorities said the men are members of "The Finders," a mysterious cult based in the Washington area that may have ties to satanism. Washington police have found pictures of the children in ceremonies involving the bloodletting of animals.

The letter sent to news organizations, from a man who identified himself as R. Gardner Terrell, said the children traveled with their mothers' approval from Washington to Berea, Ky., in January, and then to Florida.

The letter said the children were not mistreated and received adequate care, and were taken "on a vacation-camping trip to the warmer climate of Florida with the full applause and approval of the children's mothers."

The document claimed the men and the children went to Berea to help in...
Wyker, reached by telephone in Berea, confirmed that the men and the children visited him in January and said the youngsters were in "excellent" shape. But Wyker, who said he never practiced as a minister, refused to give details about himself or his relationship with the cult members.

The authenticity of the letter and its claims could not be confirmed and Washington police said they had not yet formally received a copy.

The children identified in the letter as Mary Arico, John Paul Arico, Max Berns, Ben Knauth, Honeybee Evans and Bebe Said are believed to be the sons and daughters of cult members and not kidnap victims, authorities said.

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Police said six filthy and confused young children taken from two men charged with child abuse have been given away by their parents as part of a satanic cult ritual.

Authorities in Tallahassee and Washington were trying today to learn the identities of the six children, locate their parents and learn more about an unidentified "satanic cult" apparently based in Washington.

Meanwhile, two men who identified themselves as Michael Houlihan and Doug Ammerman names police believe are phony were being held in lieu of $100,000 bond on child abuse charges.

The men were arrested in a city park Wednesday after someone called police about two well-dressed men in a blue van watching over six "filthy" children.

"It is our belief these kids were not kidnapped, but that their parents gave them away because one of the rites of passage into this satanic organization is that you have to give up your rights to your children, and that the leaders of this organization can do what they want to with your children," police spokesman Scott Hunt said Friday.

"I believe what you're going to find when this all shakes down is that kids' parents belong to this organization."

"Until we can figure out where everything is, we can't say a whole lot," said Walt Ferguson, a police spokesman in Washington.
An investigation into the alleged abuse of six children found with two men in a Tallahassee, Fla. park appears to be leading authorities toward a "satanic organization" based in and around the nation's capital.

The men, identifying themselves as Michael Houlihan and Doug Ammerman, were arrested Wednesday in a city park after an anonymous caller told
The children are suspected of being victims of a cult that requires members to give away their children, police spokesman Scott Hunt said.

"It is our belief these kids were not kidnapped but that their parents gave them away because one of the rites of passage into this satanic organization is that you have to give up your rights to your children, and that the leaders of this organization can do what they want to with your children," Hunt said.

District of Columbia police, based on information found in the van, have searched a house on W Street, NW, and a warehouse on Fourth Street, NE, linked to a group called "the Finders," a 1960s-style commune described in a court document as a "cult" that allegedly conducted "brainwashing" and used children "in rituals."

A Washington Post report Saturday quotes police sources as saying some of the items seized from the two district locations showed pictures of children engaged in what appeared to be "cult rituals."

U.S. Customs Service officials, called in to aid in the investigation, said the material seized includes photos showing children involved in bloodletting ceremonies of animals and one photograph of a child in chains.

Customs officials said they were investigating whether a child pornography operation was being conducted.

The Finders are the remains of a popular 1960s hippie refuge that evolved into a satanist group dedicated to communalism and to studying the "--- (return) to continue...-->

ure, according to court documents.

The leader of the group is Marion Pettie, a retired military man, according to U.S. District Court documents in Washington.

In addition to the Washington locations, the group is also linked to a farm in Etlan, Va.

FBI agents and Virginia State police Friday night were expected to get search warrants for two cabins on the farm allegedly used by the group to forcibly separate children from their parents who were members of the cult.
A half dozen threats were received Thursday evening at the police department and the foster home where two of the children were being kept, police spokesman Scott Hunt said. The location of that foster home had been kept secret and Hunt said he did not know how the caller got the phone number.

At the request of the FBI, Hunt refused to elaborate on the calls. But he said the calls dealt with the children's safety.

The six children, ages 2 to 6, are in the custody of state health officials following the arrest of their two adult companions Wednesday. State health officials, police and the FBI are all attempting to determine the children's real names and relatives.

The two men, who identified themselves as Michael Houlihan and Douglas Ammerman, were arrested after they were seen in a park with the six filthy, poorly dressed children. Both are being held on $100,000 bond.

Police said one of the children, a 6-year-old girl, had been sexually abused. The two men and the youngsters have been linked to "The Finders," a mysterious cult in Washington D.C. Police suspect the children were turned over to the cult as part of their parents' initiation.

Evidence was seized and would be analyzed, but, "no obvious new evidence of criminal activity was found," Virginia State Police Lt. J.P. Henries said.

The Washington Post reported a police search of a Washington warehouse linked to the group turned up large numbers of photographs, slides, and photographic contact sheets. Some of the photos, the Post reported, were of children, some of them nude.

The Post cited police sources who said some of the pictures were of children engaged in what appeared to be "cult rituals." U.S. Customs officials said the confiscated material included pictures of children involved in bloodletting ceremonies of animals and there was one photograph of a child in chains.
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Officials Weigh Future of Finders' Children

Two Members Plead Not Guilty to Misdemeanor Neglect Charges in Florida

By Marc Fisher and Victoria Churchill

Washington Post Staff Writers

As police wind down their investigations of the Washington-based Finders commune, the process begins to determine the future of the six children found unkempt and hungry in a van with two Finders members in Florida last week—a process that experts said yesterday is likely to be long and complex.

The children, who range in age from 2 to 7, will remain in emergency shelters until a March 9 hearing at which child advocates will argue that the youngsters should be declared dependents of the state, said Connie Ruggles, spokeswoman for the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services in Tallahassee.

While Florida law requires that the state try to reunite families, the state's neglect law may prevent that. And cases in other states provide precedent for dramatic state intervention in child-rearing by religious or communal groups.

The two Finders members found with the children, Douglas Ammerman, 27, and Michael Holwell, 23, pleaded not guilty yesterday to a misdemeanor charge of child neglect in Tallahassee.

Prosecutor C.L. Fordham told Leon County Judge George Reynolds III that the $100,000 bond set for each of the two Finders members is justified by the mystery surrounding the case. Reynolds appointed a public defender to represent the men, who previously said they had a private attorney. Ammerman and Holwell have refused to answer questions.

The Finders, a secretive group of about 20 people who lived communally, generally refuse to talk about the group to outsiders. Their leader, Marion Pettie, advocates a philosophy of "falling limp," both physically and mentally, in the face of opposition. During his arrest last week, Holwell pretended to faint and had to be carried to a police car, police said.

The Finders' failure to seek custody of the children has puzzled Florida authorities. While spokesmen for the group in Washington say the mothers want their children back, no one from the Finders has contacted state officials, Ruggles said.

"We don't even know who the parents are," she said.

But a spokeswoman for the group said last night that the five mothers were already on their way to Tallahassee to reclaim their children.

"They waited to finish the FBI interviews first before they went to Tallahassee," said Diane Sherwood, who said the women were in San Francisco Feb. 4 when the men were arrested.

"The mothers wanted to go right to Tallahassee, their first instinct was to go right, for the children..." [but] the FBI was asking them to come to Washington, so it seemed like the thing to do. We thought there'd be papers here, a subpoena or something. We didn't really know where to go first."

Sherwood said the mothers were not aware of the arrests until two days later. A Finders spokesman said previously that communication among group members had been fragmented by police seizures here of sophisticated computer hookups and long-distance telephone numbers.

A Finders member reached at the group's warehouse said yesterday the "father of record" of each child is not necessarily that child's biological father.

"We don't consider fatherhood to be a healthy concept," said the man, who spoke on condition that he not be named. "We're all fathers of all the kids and any man who has a good relationship with the child is the father."

Sherwood ridiculed the accusations of abuse, "A hundred thousand dollars bond for a misdemeanor? What were the charges—diary faces and mismatched clothes?..." If...
There was a mistake in judgment, it was a mistake in judgment; it's not child abuse."

Nevertheless, Sherwood said, the mothers felt that if they had been left in charge of the children, there would have been no allegations of abuse.

"Despite the Finders' unorthodox child-rearing philosophy, Ruggles said "an alternative life style is not automatically neglect. But if the parents come forward and object to state custody, we would investigate the home situation."

Under Florida's neglect law, children can be taken by the state if the parents deprive children—or "allow children to be deprived"—of food, clothing, shelter or medical treatment. The Finders say children should be weaned from their mothers and reared by the group with little adult supervision.

Similar cases have pitted governments against groups with unusual beliefs. In 1984, police and welfare authorities in Vermont raided the Kingdom Community Church and rounded up 112 children after an investigation found that children were sometimes whipped with branches or rods for crying, daydreaming or fibbing. Criminal abuse charges were eventually dropped and prosecutors are now seeking a ruling on whether church members must send their children to school, said Vermont Attorney General Jeff Amestoy.

In another case, involving a radical New York commune called the Fourth Wall Repertory Company, member Marice Pappo said commune leaders took her infant from her because she and the child had grown too attached. Harold Mayerson, Pappo's lawyer in a custody suit, said the group denied children their right to bond with parents. But Martin Stolar, attorney for Pappo's husband, said the state "has to be very careful about what it determines is a fit environment."

Some psychiatrists argue for state protection of children living in cults and cult-like settings. David Halperin, a psychiatry professor at Mount Sinai Medical School in New York City, said members of some such groups often profess to take care of their children, but in fact ignore them.

"Within these groups, the parents tend to focus on their own state of being and children tend to be seen as an impediment," he said. "A group cannot relate to a child the same way a parent can relate to a child."

This is not the first time the Finders' child rearing has attracted government attention. A grandmother of one of the children now in Florida said her grandson and other Finders' children have been sheltered by the District twice in recent years. In October 1985, D.C. police picked up two children they found wandering "cold and hungry" near the group's warehouse, the grandmother said. A D.C. government source confirmed that the children were held "for several days" before being released.

One year earlier, District police detained a Finders member who refused to leave the house where she lived with her mother, the grandmother said. That woman's child also was placed in a city shelter temporarily.

Finders spokesman Robert Gardiner Terrell confirmed both incidents, explaining that Finders children are allowed to roam freely in the country but are supervised in the city.

Staff writer Ed Bruske contributed to this report.
No evidence found of wrongdoing by ‘Finders’ group

By Matt Neufeld and Linda Miller Terman
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Police in Virginia and the District said yesterday they have uncovered no evidence of satanic practices, cult rituals, child pornography or any other criminal wrongdoing associated with the communal group known as the Finders.

The statements by police appear to clear the Finders of several allegations that were raised against the group in a Metropolitan Police affidavit filed Thursday in support of two search warrants.

The warrants were served and two properties owned by the Finders in the District were searched Thursday. Papers, passports, computers, photographs, computer software, tapes, film and a telephone-answering machine belonging to the group were seized by police.

The seizures followed the arrest Wednesday in Tallahassee, Fla., of two male members of the group on charges of felony child abuse. The six children, ranging in age from 2 to 7 years old, were reportedly dirty and hungry when they were found by Florida police. They now are in foster care.

"At this point, the Metropolitan Police Department has not found any materials among the seized documents or records that would initially corroborate allegations made by an informant that the organization is a cult and that its activities involve satanic rituals," said police Chief Maurice T. Turner Jr. at an afternoon press conference.

A Virginia State Police spokesman said yesterday that officers had found no evidence of any criminal activity among the materials seized at rural Madison County properties owned by Finders member G. Marion Pettie.

"My information at this point is that there isn’t anything (criminal)," Charles Vaughan, a State Police spokesman, said yesterday. Police were continuing to sift through the material taken from the rural properties where Finders members are known to have lived, he said.

Meanwhile, Tallahassee Police spokesman Scott Hunt said yesterday that "more than one" of the Finders children taken into custody last week "showed evidence of sexual abuse," but that police had no evidence linking the alleged sexual abuse to the men in custody. Mr. Hunt declined to elaborate.

The two men, identified as Douglas Ammerman, 27, and James Michael Holwell, also known as Michael Houlihan, 23, are being held in jail in lieu of posting $100,000 bonds each on the child abuse charges. No hearing dates have been set for either man, he said.

Tallahassee police had not confirmed the identities of the children or any of the claims made by hundreds of people who have called in the past few days saying they were related to the children. Mr. Hunt said.

FBI spokeswoman Sue Schnitzer said yesterday the bureau is continuing to investigate whether any federal crimes were committed in relation to the six children taken into custody in Florida, but refused to discuss further details of the probe.

Ms. Schnitzer did say the FBI, like Florida police, had received hundreds of calls on Friday from people claiming to be relatives of the children. The FBI had not determined whether anyone was in fact related to them, she said.

Chief Turner said police began surveillance of two Finders’ residences — a warehouse in the 1300 block of Fourth Street NE and an apartment building in the 3900 block of W Street NW — in December after receiving a tip from an anonymous source that satanic rituals were being practiced by group members and children were being abused.

He defended the police investigation and the subsequent seizures of property owned by the Finders, saying it was justified by the seriousness of the allegations made against the group.

"We were investigating to find if..."
there was child abuse or sexual abuse," Chief Turner said. "We will continue to do that until we assure ourselves that is not the case."

Metropolitan Police Inspector David Faison, head of the department's intelligence division, said seized pictures that showed children watching the slaughtering of animals on a Madison County, Va., farm were not part of a satanic ritual or pornography. He also said police have found no pictures in the Finders' residences that would be considered pornographic.

David Hoover, a spokesman for the U.S. Customs Service, said yesterday his agency was called into the investigation of the Finders by Metropolitan Police because it was suspected that some of the material confiscated during Thursday's raids might be pornographic. Customs agents have expertise in child pornography investigations, Mr. Hoover said.

Mr. Hoover said he understood that Metropolitan Police had not finished analyzing the material seized in last week's raids. Customs agents could not complete their own probe until the District police did, Mr. Hoover said.

"There has been an awful lot of material seized. It's going to take a number of days to sift through this. I think it would be premature to think we're [Customs] out of it [the investigation]," Mr. Hoover said.

"The lifestyle of the so-called Finders organization may differ from the societal norm, but so far the Metropolitan Police Department has not uncovered any evidence of criminal wrongdoing by members of the group," Chief Turner said. "However, we are still involved in an extensive and detailed review process of the documents and records seized."

Chief Turner said he does not consider the Finders a threat to society or a dangerous group. He said three or four members of the Finders have agreed to grant interviews to investigators and that police were seeking the assistance of other Finders members.

Yesterday afternoon R. Gardner Terrell, a senior member of the Finders, said in an interview at the Finders' Northeast Washington warehouse that he was "exhilarated" at "the good news we're not a satanic cult."

In an interview with reporters, Mr. Terrell wore a plastic Ronald Reagan mask on the back of his head and said he had been chosen to be the "leader" of the Finders for yesterday. He also denied that the seven child members of the Finders have ever been abused by the 21 adult group members.

Mr. Terrell denied the six children recovered in Tallahassee were abused in any way by the two men taken into custody. He said in the hierarchy of the Finders, children are first, women are second and men are third.

"These children always had food available," he said. "The children were not hungry. There was food in the van [used to transport the children that was recovered by police]."

Mr. Terrell said the mothers of the six children were in the District yesterday and had talked to police.

He also explained why police found photos of children watching animals being slaughtered. The Finders bought two goats last spring and kept them through the summer, he said. As winter approached, the animals were slaughtered in front of the children and other Finders members as a "learning experience."

"We butchered them and ate them, like you would on any farm. We did it when the children were present and thought it would be a good learning experience."

A tour of the Finders' warehouse yesterday afternoon revealed rooms that resembled the average college dormitory room. Most of the rooms in two second-story lofts contained blankets, pillows, cushions, televisions, radios, magazines, books and newspapers. On the first level was an extensive library, with hundreds of books, magazines and newspapers. Also on the first floor was a hot tub room, a meeting room, a living room and a kitchen.

"We're just a group of people who like to practice the art of living," Mr. Terrell said. "We look at the past and the future. We try to live a zesty and adventurous life. We're on the cutting edge of the wit and humor movement."

Mr. Terrell said the Finders' first priority is to get their children back in their custody. But according to a Florida social services official, it may be some time before the group can regain their children.

On Sunday, Merrill Moody, a district administrator for Florida's De-
Cult Member Defends 2 in Child Abuse Case

By Victoria Churchville
and Martin Weil
Washington Post Staff Writers

A man identifying himself as a member of the group that includes the two men arrested in Florida last week on child abuse charges came forward last night to identify the children with whom the men were found and to defend the men against the charges.

In a printed statement and a telephone interview, Robert Gardner Terrell, 50, who said he owned the Washington house said to be a base for the Finders, the group to which the two belong, gave detailed explanations for the group's practices and activities, which have been characterized as unusual or bizarre.

Asserting that the six children found in Tallahassee with the men had been formally placed in the care of at least one of the man by the "adoptive mother," he denied that the children had been abused or neglected. Tallahassee police said six disheveled and hungry children were found in a downtown park with the men.

Affidavits filed in U.S. District Court here in support of search warrants executed last week at a Northwest duplex and a Northeast warehouse owned by Terrell described "satanism" and "rituals" associated with the "cult."

"We are all in a state right now where we are afraid. We've been made almost dysfunctional by the reports," Terrell said in a lengthy telephone interview last night. He said he released the statement to police and news organizations "to establish some kind of credibility that we are rational people, not devil worshipers or child molesters."

"Certainly anything we've done is based on the desire for the children to have the richest life they could have," Terrell continued. "Children always come first in our organization."

Terrell's statement was delivered last night to The Washington Post only hours after police seized materials at five rural Virginia locations as part of an expanding investigation touched off by the arrests of the two men in Tallahassee on Wednesday.

In addition, authorities were searching throughout the Southeast yesterday for a van believed to be carrying associates of the two men. Law enforcement officials were also sifting through mountains of materials previously seized in raids on Washington locations linked to the group.

In his typed statement, Terrell, a private accountant and former employee of the Internal Revenue Service, said two men and six children from the group left Washington early last month for Berea, Ky., where they were to work on a retirement community. After finding that the site was not ready for groundbreaking, the men took the children on a vacation and camping trip to Florida with the children's mothers' approval, he said.

Other men went to Florida to help care for the children, and three had left for the day to look for accommodations when two of the men were arrested, the statement said.

"I consider that the authorities have mistakenly incarcerated these men and children," Terrell said in the statement, which he said he circulated last night "in the hope that it will clear up some misunderstanding."

Of the six children taken into custody by authorities Wednesday, when the investigation began, one showed signs of sexual abuse, Tallahassee police said, but none provided a full account of what was believed to be their journey from Washington to Florida.

In response to the suggestion of sexual abuse, the man who identified himself as Terrell said last night that it might have occurred after the children were taken from those assigned to care for them. It "might have happened after she was out of our control," he said. He said the children were healthy and well nourished.

Police said they received several calls from grandparents and other relatives claiming some of the children. One Washington area man told the FBI he was on his way to Tallahassee to claim his grandson. But police said they will not release any of the children without a court order.

The discovery of the children and the arrest of the two men led D.C. authorities to search a Northeast Washington warehouse and a Glover Park apartment building where several Finders members lived. D.C. police yesterday sifted through extensive computer records and color slides and photographic contact sheets removed by authorities.

U.S. Customs agents who saw some of the photos Friday said they appeared to involve sexual activities between adults and children, according to Customs spokesman David Hoover. "We're not saying that it's pornography, but it has all the earmarks," Hoover said.

However, D.C. police sources characterized the pictures as "ritualistic" and not pornographic. One police source said that the photos were "no more pornographic than what you find in the average home." They said the pictures of naked children were innocent, but there were some showing children in "ritualistic" ceremonies including the bloodletting of animals.
In the telephone interview late last night, Terrell described the so-called bloodletting as the slaughter of two goats kept on a farm in Virginia "for the kids to play with." At the end of the summer, he said, members decided it would be more humane to slaughter and eat the animals rather than to let them starve in their pen.

He said the slaughter was intended as an educational experience. "I don't see why it's so bizarre," he added, "but it's been seized on by the authorities."

Based on interviews and on items seized in the raids, law enforcement sources said that the group does not appear to be engaged in the child pornography industry or in kidnapping and said they do not fully understand the group.

"These people are not into hurting the children physically," said one law enforcement source. "They're into molding them mentally."

Among the items seized in the Friday raids were computerized messages concerning what the group called the proper "programming" of the children and how they are "demagnetized," the law enforcement source said.

Other items seized included financial records indicating that the group has substantial assets, including bank accounts, the source said.

Other seized documents include files showing the organization has researched numerous industries, such as the fast food industry, and papers suggesting that the group operates a wide network of corporations, the source said.

Other files seized showed that some members of the group have worked in low-level jobs in the federal and District governments, the source said.

In Etlan, Va., about 100 miles southwest of Washington, state police said they found "several items of evidentiary nature" after yesterday's 2:30 a.m. search of properties reportedly owned by Marion Pettie, leader of the Finders.

Virginia and Madison County authorities would not describe what they found at two farms, one near Etlan and the other a few miles away in a hamlet called Nethers. A house and at least three cabins on the land were unoccupied, and police said much of the property appeared not to have been inhabited for some time.

The door of one cabin was open yesterday, revealing large amounts of food, clothing, sleeping bags, books and pamphlets from groups such as the World Future Society. A plastic bag containing hundreds of neckties and several pairs of panty hose were on the floor, along with boxes of diapers.

In the woods outside the cabin, badly weathered tents and sleeping bags were scattered on the ground. Next to a swing set made of rope and milk cases. Neighbors in the remote farming community have said they routinely saw as many as several dozen people, including large groups of children, riding to the farms and hiking and camping in the nude during the summer. Some neighbors spoke highly of Pettie, saying he traveled often and was often helpful to local residents.

Meanwhile, the FBI and Tallahassee police said leads on a white van that police said Wednesday. Police said the two vans may have been in radio contact. Witnesses told police that the white van was occupied by two well-dressed men and two children. It has not been seen since.

Law enforcement agencies throughout the Southeast United States were asked yesterday to look for the white van and Tallahassee police said they were examining leads reported by Miami and Gainesville, Fla., police.

Miami police searching computer intelligence files reported two vehicles, a white 1985 Dodge with Virginia tags and a white 1982 Dodge van with Virginia tags. Gainesville police reported a sighting two days ago of an older model—late '60s or '70s—green Chevy Suburban or Chevy International van occupied by several well-dressed men and several children. Hunt would not comment further on the sightings.

Hunt said police do not know when the two men and six children in the blue van left the Washington area or how long they had been on the road. One of the youngsters told police that the children last saw their parents in Washington around Christmas and that while traveling they had been camping out in tents at campgrounds. Police said they found no bedding or camping equipment in the van. The van was heavy with the smell of unwashed clothes and rotting fruit and vegetables, police said.

The two men arrested Wednesday, identified as Douglas Ammerman, 27, and James Michael Holwell or Michael Houlihan, 23, have been charged with aggravated child abuse and resisting arrest without violence, both misdemeanors in Florida. They were held on being held in lieu of $100,000 bond.

Houlihan is the father of one of the children and stepfather of another, according to police and former members of the Finders. Houlihan told police late Friday that he wanted to talk to a detective, but when police sent an investigator, Houlihan had changed his mind, police said. Police said that this could
be another of the games that the Finders are said to play.

Authorities said they have not interviewed the children since they were found Wednesday. Lt. Michael Langston said last night that social workers are awaiting the arrival of counselors from the FBI. No timetable has been set for the interview, which will be videotaped.

Meanwhile, District police theorize that members of the commune were tipped off to the impending raid on their Washington bases when Tallahassee police called the W Street house sometime Wednesday, seeking information about the children. "That alerted them to what was going on," a District police source said. "That's why we didn't find anything anywhere."

Former members of the group said the Finders routinely practiced leaving their house on short notice.

In his printed statement, Terrell said that Ammerman was one of the two men who originally left Washington with the six children. He listed in the statement names for all six children, and identified their mothers. At least five of the women have been identified by other sources as members of the Finders.

Terrell said that Ammerman and another man took the children to Florida and that afterward, Michael Holwell, also known as Michael Houlihan, and four other men, including Terrell himself, went to Florida to care for the children.

Terrell said that he and another man left Florida after being satisfied that the children were well cared for.

He said the children's mothers are in San Francisco, "working in business offices" to earn money to help pay for the Kentucky project.

Identifying himself as the owner of both the Glover Park apartment building and the Northeast Washington warehouse used by the Finders, Terrell said he could not return home because he feared that based on news reports "the police would arrest me."

*Staff writers John Ward Anderson, Ed Bruske, Marc Fisher, John F. Harris, John Mintz and Linda Wheeler contributed to this report.*
Officials Describe ‘Cult Rituals’ in Child Abuse Case

Photos of Youngsters Seized At D.C. Warehouse, Probers Say

By Saundra Saperstein and Victoria Churchville

WASHINGTON POST Staff Writers

Authorities investigating the alleged abuse of six children found with two men in a Tallahassee, Fla., park discovered materials yesterday in the Washington area that they say points to a 1960s-style commune called the Finders, described in a court document as a “cult” that allegedly conducted “brainwashing” and used children “in rituals.”

D.C. police, who searched a Northeast Washington warehouse linked to the group, removed large plastic bags filled with color slides, photographs and photographic contact sheets. Some photos visible through a bag carried from the warehouse at 1307 Fourth St. NE were wallet-sized pictures of children, similar to school photos, and some were of naked children.

D.C. police sources said some of the items seized yesterday showed pictures of children engaged in what appeared to be “cult rituals.” Officials of the U.S. Customs Service, called in to aid in the investigation, said that the material seized yesterday includes photos showing children involved in bloodletting ceremonies of animals and one photograph of a child in chains. Customs officials said they were looking into whether a child pornography operation was being conducted.

According to court documents, computers and software were seized from the warehouse, from a Glover Park apartment building and from a van that was recovered in Tallahassee along with the children.

Yesterday’s disclosures about the mysterious group grew out of an investigation that was set in motion Wednesday by an anonymous call to Tallahassee police about two “weld-dressed men” who were “supervising” six disheveled children in a neighborhood park. The men were arrested and charged with child abuse, according to Tallahassee police.

Their links to the D.C. area have led authorities into a far-reaching investigation that includes the Finders—a group of about 40 people that court documents allege is led by a man named Marion Pettie and their various homes, including the duplex apartment building in Glover Park, the Northeast Washington warehouse and a 90-acre farm in rural Madison County, Va.

Tallahassee police, who arrested and charged men identified as Douglas E. Ammerman and Michael Houlihan with child abuse, contacted D.C. police Thursday in an attempt to establish the identities of the children. They learned that D.C. police had heard of the Finders group, according to Tallahassee police spokesman Scott Hunt.

No other member of the group had been located last night, police sources said.

According to U.S. District Court records in Washington, a confidential police source had previously told authorities that the Finders were a “cult” that conducted “brainwashing” techniques at the warehouse and the Glover Park duplex at 3918-20 W St. NW.

The source told of being recruited by the Finders with promises of “financial reward and sexual gratification” and of being invited by one member to explore “satanism” with them, according to the documents.

According to the affidavit, the source told authorities that children were used “in rituals” by the members, and though the source had never witnessed abuse of the children, the source said the children’s grandparents feared for their safety.

On Wednesday, a D.C. police detective observed a clearing in the rear of the 3900 block of W Street NW where “several round stones had been gathered” near a circle, as well as evidence that people had gathered there, according to the document, which stated that “this practice is sometimes used in satanic rituals.” Armed with that information and the report from Tallahassee police of the allegedly abused children, D.C. police sought search warrants for the Glover Park residence and the warehouse.

Meanwhile, authorities in Florida attempted to learn more about the six small children—described by a police spokesman as “hungry and pretty pathetic”—who had set the investigation in motion.

By Saundra Saperstein and Victoria Churchville

WASHINGTON POST Staff Writers

THE WASHINGTON POST

The children, identified in a court document only by the first names of Honeybee, John, Franklin, BeeBee, Max and Mary, were described as “dirty, unkempt, hungry, disturbed and agitated.” They had been living in the rear of the van for some time, the document said.

Yesterday, police spokesman Hunt said one of the children, a 5-year-old girl, “showed signs of sexual abuse,” but that an examination by a local doctor showed none of the children as being ill.

Five of the children were uncommunicative, according to police, and none seemed to recognize objects such as typewriters and staplers.

However, the oldest was able to give investigators some information. She said that the two men “were their teachers,” according to Hunt. She was not sure where they had been recently or where they were going. But until recently, they had been living in the District in “a house with other children and adults.” They lived mainly on a diet of raw fruit and vegetables, she said.

The girl told the police that while they were in the District, the children received instruction from “a man they called a Game Caller or a Game Lender,” according to Hunt.

According to the D.C. court document, a Tallahassee police investigator identified this man as Marion Pettie, who the confidential police source “also identified as the Stroller, leader of this ‘cult.’ ”

The children have been placed in emergency shelters in Tallahassee, according to Merrill Moody of the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services. He said officials were trying to identify them.

Neighbors of the W Street house last night identified the photographs of two of the children as residents of the house.

Before their arrests in the park, Ammerman and Houlihan had told police that they were teachers from Washington “transporting these children to Mexico and a school for brilliant children,” according to Hunt. When police asked the men where the children’s mothers were, “they said they were being weaned from their mothers.”
Yesterday, U.S. Attorney Joseph E. diGenova said that authorities were investigating "the crime of kidnaping" but that the investigation "is not limited to that as the evidence evolves."

George Wisnowsky, spokesman for the FBI in Jacksonville, said the FBI was "checking the transportation of children across state lines for immoral purposes or kidnaping."

Authorities in Florida, who searched the van, found 20 floppy computer discs and a device Hunt said could be used to hook into a computer in another location by telephone. He said D.C. police have obtained evidence that a computer linked to the group received a call from Tallahassee late this week.

Meanwhile, authorities in Washington were busy searching the warehouse and the Glover Park residence, side-by-side brick apartment buildings that, according to neighbors, stood out in the neighborhood because of a hot tub and satellite dish on the roof. Only women and children lived there, though men visited regularly, according to neighbors.

One woman from the neighborhood said the children from the house were "easy to spot because they were so dirty," adding that adults with them "seemed not to care." She said the group from the house reminded her of "leftover hippies."

But another neighbor, college professor John Matthews, who said he had lived at 3918 W St. for a short time while looking for an apartment, said the residents were "a close-knit group" of feminists who liked to help people and were not a cult. "The neighborhood talks about them because of their life style," Matthews said.

The Fourth Street warehouse, which authorities said also was used as a residence, had windows that were boarded shut. One wall was covered with a huge map of the world, lit by floodlights. Upstairs, mattresses were flung on the floors of various rooms.

Staff writers Joseph E. Bouchard, Ed Bruske, John Harris and Linda Wheeler contributed to this report.
Finders Group Has Roots
In Popular '60s Hippie Refuge

By Marc Fisher and John Mintz
Washington Post Staff Writers

The Finders—about 40 people who lived in a Glover Park house, a Northeast Washington warehouse and a farm in rural Virginia—are what remains of a popular 1960s hippie refuge that evolved into a society dedicated to communalism and to studying the future, according to court documents, experts on cults and law enforcement officials.

A fragmentary sketch of the Finders emerged yesterday as investigators, cult experts, neighbors and social workers scrambled to figure out whether children of group members were mistreated and who the Finders are.

Wherever outsiders had contact with the Finders, they considered the group odd. There was talk of houses segregated by sex, children separated from their parents, vans that came and went, and a mysterious guru who called himself the Stroller and fancied himself a seer and a political powerhouse.

Before yesterday, police had had little contact with the group. One complaint five years ago prompted an investigation that found no evidence of criminal activity, a District police source said. And in December, District police found an ornate tombstone and round stones gathered near a circle about 70 yards behind the Glover Park house. Such stones are often used in satanic rituals, experts said.

Neighbors have complained only rarely and then simply about the noise. And some people who visited or stayed at the commune said they met intelligent, interesting people who showed no signs of odd behavior or mistreatment of children.

As long ago as 1968, hippies and peace activists in Washington often visited Pettie Farm, a 90-acre property in Madison County, Va., near Shenandoah National Park. Four people who visited The Farm, as it was known, between 1968 and 1973 said yesterday it was a place where anyone could get an organic meal without charge, without questions. They recalled a leader in his forties, a charismatic and wealthy man named Marion Pettie.

About five years ago, neighbors of the farm said, the hippie followers of Pettie were replaced by men in business suits and women in professional clothes.

Pettie and his followers had a house at 3920 W St. NW, Glover Park, where members of the group lived until recent weeks, neighbors said. The house consists of two attached red brick buildings, each with four apartments.

There, female members of the Finders lived with children in apartments with no locks on the doors. The group occasionally distributed fliers offering shared rooms for as little as $5 a night.

"I noticed the children often went without clothes in the summer," said Gerald Salzman, a neighbor. "I thought it was cute and natural." Still, Salzman said he once called police to tell them about a child who was screaming for more than an hour.

Another neighbor, who asked not to be identified, said she once asked the mother of a 6- or 7-year-old child who lived in the Finders house why the girl didn't go to school.

"She said that the child was taught at home," the neighbor said.

George Pettie, son of Marion Pettie, said that the group is like an extended family largely made up of people who have dropped out of professional careers and are under his father's sway.

"The binder is they have a father now, and they get to play fun games," said George Pettie, who owns a Northern Virginia home inspection business and said he hasn't talked to his father in two years.

"They're the kids, and they're obedient. They like to do what the father says to do."

George Pettie said that he doesn't know of any group members practicing satanism or abusing children. But he said the lives of the children is unpleasant because group members rear them collectively. Frequently, Marion Pettie, now 66, would assign a follower to a

CONT.
“game” or “adventure” overseas or in another city, and the group member would not see his children for months.

George Pettie said the group engaged in “constant baby sitting . . . . I wouldn’t want to be a child there, without a reliable day-in-day-out parent figure.” He said of the children found in the van in Florida, “I bet you a buck, you’ll find their biological mothers live at W Street, and if they’re not there now, they’re off on some adventure.”

Marion Pettie continually sent his followers on what he called “adventures” to teach them about themselves, his son said. If someone had some character weakness, the leader would send him or her away to say, Hawaii to work, then return to describe his lesson to other members.

The members support themselves in temporary office jobs in Washington, George Pettie said. He described his father as charismatic and perceptive, having “a keen sense of what people need that they don’t even know themselves.”

Marion Pettie retired from the Air Force in 1956 as a master sergeant, and has done little formal work since then, his son said. In the 1960s, he was a “student of the world” who would spend the whole day in the library near the family farm, said his son. Then around 1971 he gathered his followers in the W Street house.

“That was the beginning of a new life for him,” George Pettie said. “They found in their communal life style a more adventurous life.”

Marion Pettie has long had a consuming interest in the future, and futurism is a major component of the group’s philosophy, according to cult experts. Originally he based his teachings on Carlos Castaneda’s popular 1960s chronicles of mystic self-exploration, a precursor of the New Age movement of the 1970s.

Edwin Morse, a Wisconsin psychologist who works with cult members, said he has tracked the Finders for five years, interviewing several members. He said the members are well-educated, secretive people who have “no clear parental kind of responsibility as we know it,” instead sharing responsibility for the children. He said most of the children who lived with the group were born to members.

In the summer, neighbors saw as many as a dozen children at the Madison County farm. “There was always hollering and screaming going on,” said Wilma Richards: “They were always hollering about Momma and Daddy. One time I heard one say ‘I want milk.’ Another person said, ‘Shut up, you ain’t gonna get it.’”

Another neighbor of the farm said he spoke to an 11-year-old boy who said the children didn’t go to school because no adults told them to.

“They always talked ‘60s jargon, ‘Do your own thing’ stuff,” the man said. He said members of the Finders appeared to hold jobs in computer businesses.

The group split its membership by sex some time ago, leaving the women to live in the Glover Park house while the men moved into the warehouse at 1307 Fourth St. NE, McArthur said.

Cult experts said the past few years they have seen increased interest among such groups in Satanism and witchcraft. The circle of stone District police reported finding behind the Glover Park house in December is typical of witchcraft ceremonies, said Richard Stephens a sociology professor at George Washington University.

Staff writers John Ward Anderson, Linda Wheeler and John F. Harris contributed to this report.
Officials delve into mystery of found children

By Rosalind Bentley

Police in Tallahassee and Washington, D.C., late Thursday were still trying to determine the identities of six children found with two men in Myers Park on Wednesday afternoon, authorities said.

The men, identified as Michael Houlihan, 28, and Douglas Edward Ammerman, 27, both of Washington, were charged with child abuse and were being held in the Leon County Jail on $100,000 bond each, Tallahassee police spokesman Scott Hunt and jail officials said.

The children were in the custody of the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services.

Police got an anonymous call late Wednesday afternoon about two well-dressed men standing in Myers Park with six unkempt children, Hunt said.

When police arrived they found the men standing near a foul-smelling blue Dodge van with Virginia license plates. The children, ages 2 to 6, were playing on the playground, Hunt said.

Houlihan and Ammerman told Officer Tony Mashi-burn that they were the youngsters’ teachers and were taking them to Mexico to establish a school for “brilliant children,” Hunt said. They responded evasively when Mashi-burn asked them other questions, Hunt added.

Authorities said the children — a 6-year-old boy and girl, a 4-year-old boy, two 2-year-old boys and a 3-year-old girl — were filthy. Insect bites and scratches covered their bodies, most were not wearing underwear and they looked as though they had not bathed in days, Hunt said. Officer Judy Suchocki tried to talk with the children but only one, the 6-year-old girl, was very responsive, Hunt said.

The girl told Suchocki that she and one of the 2-year-old boys were the children of Houlihan. The girl also told Suchocki that they all used to live together in a house in Washington, but that they had been traveling for a while.

Both Houlihan and Ammerman denied having any blood relationship to any of the children, Hunt said.

Because police have not been able to determine any legal or blood ties between the men and the children, Ammerman and Houlihan were charged with child abuse instead of child neglect, Lt. Colon Benton said.

None of the children knew where they were supposed to be going, only that they had stopped at “different places,” and slept in the van and in tents in campgrounds along the way. The girl also told Suchocki that none of them have seen their mothers since before Christmas and that they were being “weaned” from them, Hunt said.

The children also said they didn’t go to school but were taught by Houlihan and Ammerman. Benton said the children seemed unfamiliar with common office equipment such as telephones and staplers.

See CHILDREN, 5A

According to police, the children said they were hungry and had not eaten since Wednesday morning. But the children said they had to work for their food by doing such tasks as cleaning the van. Even then, they were given raw fruits and vegetables to eat as “rewards,” Hunt said.

Police said they found a Washington telephone number inside the van. When investigators called it, they got a recording that quoted Scriptures and had other religious messages, Hunt said.

Detectives from the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington are conducting an investigation there to determine whether or not the children and the men were ever in the nation’s capital, Metro police spokesman Capt. William White III said. Police there are also trying to determine whether the men were involved in any criminal activities, White said. He declined, however, to give any further details.

“We are still in the very early stages of the investigation,” White said Thursday night.

But Hunt said Washington authorities have verified an address thought to be where the children and the two men were living. Local police were planning to send photographs and fingerprints of the children to Washington for tracking.

HRS officials took custody of the children Wednesday night and put them in an emergency shelter, said Debra Ervin, HRS administrative services director.

On Thursday, the six children were examined by a child-protection team to determine whether they have been abused or neglected, Ervin said. Results of the exams were not immediately available.
Memorandum

To: SAC, WMFO (31C-WF-189911) (P)
From: SA (C-4)
Subject: "FINDERS" GROUP;
WSTA - SEXUAL Exploitation of CHILDREN;
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE - PI;
OO: WMFO

Attached to this memo is a photocopy of the Washington Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) case file concerning captioned group. This material was provided to writer and SSA on 11/09/93 by MPD Intelligence Division, room 5067, 300 Indiana Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C.
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PATROL OPERATIONS BUREAU | |
ASSISTANT CHIEF | Attend |
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BUREAU | |
ASSISTANT CHIEF | Call Me |
TECHNICAL SERVICES BUREAU | |
ASSISTANT CHIEF | Comment |
INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES BUREAU | |
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL | Consideration |
OFFICE OF FINANCE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT | Contact Writer |
OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND MEDIA PRODUCTIONS | Disapproved |
EXECUTIVE PROTECTION UNIT | Expedite |

Signature of Sender: [Signature]

REMARKS:

[Signature]
DATE: OCTOBER 19, 1993
CLIENT: [Redacted]
LIBRARY: NEXIS
FILE: PAPERS,MAGS

"YOUR SEARCH REQUEST IS:
FINDERS ORGANIZATION"

NUMBER OF STORIES FOUND WITH YOUR REQUEST THROUGH:
LEVEL 1... 7

[Redacted]

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10-19-93
HEADLINE: PROBE CAN'T PROVE CHILD ABUSE BY CULT

An investigation begun last year into the mysterious Finders communal group, linked to six disheveled children found in Florida, failed to substantiate allegations of child abuse, District of Columbia police said Monday.

Police Chief Maurice Turner Jr. said an anonymous informant's allegations that the Finders are "a cult and that its activities involve Satanic rituals" were not borne out by police stakeouts in December or by evidence seized at two Finders' homes last week.

Turner said "we want to assure ourselves" that the children were not abused. "We have not assured ourselves at this point in time," he said at a news conference.

"The lifestyle of the so-called Finders organization may differ from the societal norm," but no evidence of criminal wrongdoing has been uncovered, he said.

The children, ranging in age from 2 to 7, remained in temporary shelters in Tallahassee, Fla. The two men who had custody of the children when they were discovered last Wednesday are under arrest on child abuse charges.

Police in Tallahassee have said that more than one of the children showed signs of sexual abuse. They did not elaborate.

Tallahassee police spokesman Scott Hunt said Washington detectives, who traveled to Florida to interview the children, were assisting in trying to identify the children.

The FBI, the U.S. Customs Service and police in Virginia also were assisting with the investigation.

"They're doing fine," Hunt said of the children. "They've been fed well, they've been clothed well and they're eating and sleeping."

Turner said that the mothers of the children still had not come forward and that police had not yet identified them.

A spokesman for the Finders group, Robert Gardner Terrell, said Monday that the children's mothers "are here in Washington. There already have been conversations" with police. He spoke at a small news conference at the group's warehouse, sitting with his back to cameras with a Ronald Reagan mask on the back of his head.
Terrell said the organization's first priority is getting the children back.

"It's a relief and I'm exhilarated to hear we are not a Satanic cult," said Terrell. "However, we are still involved in an extensive and detailed review process of the documents and records seized."

TERMS: CULT; CHILD; ABUSE; PROBE
D.C. Police: Finders Odd, Not Criminal; FBI, Virginia and Florida Expand Probes

BYLINE: Victoria Churchville, Marc Fisher, Washington Post Staff Writer

A District police investigation begun in December into allegations of child abuse and satanic rituals involving the Finders, a group linked to six ragtag children found last week in Florida, has produced evidence that the practices of the group were odd but not criminal, D.C. Police Chief Maurice T. Turner Jr. said yesterday.

"The lifestyle of the so-called Finders organization may differ from the societal norm, but so far the Metropolitan Police Department has not uncovered any evidence of criminal wrongdoing by members of the group," Turner said at a news conference. He added, however, that documents and records seized last week are still being reviewed.

But even as police in the District softened their statements about the Finders group, the FBI and police in Virginia and Florida widened their investigation into the activities of the Washington-based commune of 20 to 40 adults and seven children.

Two of the six children, whom police said they found dirty and hungry in a Tallahassee park with two well-dressed men, showed indications of possible sexual abuse, according to an affidavit filed in Madison County, Va., where the group has two farms.

The men, Douglas E. Ammerman, 27, and James Michael Holwell, 23, who gave police the name Michael Houlihan, were arrested and charged with six counts each of child abuse. Florida authorities said yesterday that the two men, who are in jail in lieu of $100,000 cash bond, have refused to talk with police.

Meanwhile, FBI agents in Washington yesterday interviewed Kristin Knauth, a woman associated with the group. She is said to be the mother of Benjamin Franklin Knauth, 4, one of the children found in Florida. Kristin Knauth could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Chief Turner said the D.C. investigation began in mid-December after an unnamed informant alleged that children were being physically and sexually abused at the group's house and that the group engaged in satanic activities.

He said those allegations have not been substantiated by police surveillance or by review of materials seized at the group's properties last week, nor has examination of those materials substantiated allegations of child pornography. No children have been at the Finders' residence since the investigation began,
Turner said. He said that as yet police "have not assured" themselves that children in the group have not been abused.

In an interview, Robert Gardner Terrell, a key member of the group, said that the children have been traveling in Virginia, Kentucky and Florida since before Christmas with men in the group while their mothers were in San Francisco on "an earning and learning adventure." He said a seventh child, an infant, has been in Boulder, Colo.

"We've received hundreds and hundreds of calls about the children," Tallahassee police spokesman Scott Hunt said yesterday. "They're doing fine now. They're well fed and they're clothed and they're in shelter."

Virginia state police said yesterday that they found goat skins and a goat's head in their search of the Finders' rural lands over the weekend. Spokesman Charles Vaughan said police also found computer equipment and documents, but he did not comment on the significance of the material.

In an affidavit supporting the search, Virginia authorities included photographs showing three white-robed Finders men and several children dismembering two goats. The photographs were in a scrapbook titled "The Execution of Henrietta and Igor." In one picture, a crying child looked at a decapitated goat. Another photo was captioned, "Ben finds Henrietta's Womb." Three pictures showed children playing with goat fetuses.

Carl Shapley, a Washington educator who said he worked closely with Finders leader Marion Pettie during the past year, said the group's ceremonies involved the slaughter of goats, but he warned against associating such activities with Satanism or pagan rites.

"They believe in games and this was just good fun, a very Alice-in-Wonderland kind of fun, dressing up in white robes or whatever," he said.

Even as Shapley and others rose to defend the Finders, calling them an odd but entirely benign group of intellectual explorers and social adventurers, former members of the group came forward to relate tales of being harassed by the Finders.

A lawyer in Culpeper, Va., said the Finders sent him profane letters and slashed his car's tires when he represented a former member in a divorce case three years ago. John Davies, the lawyer, said the harassment stopped only after he obtained a court order prohibiting members of the group from contacting him.

Staff writers John F. Harris and John Mintz contributed to this report.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH
Local police officials announced here today that six children found last week in Florida had apparently not been kidnapped and that there was no evidence to show that the secretive group that has been raising them is a cult involved in child abuse.

The statement from the Metropolitan Police Department conflicted with accounts from the police in Tallahassee, Fla., where the children were found, unwashed and hungry, last week. Officials there said this morning that at least two of the children had signs of sexual abuse.

But late today, the Police Chief in Washington, Maurice T. Turner Jr., said at a news conference that there was no evidence of criminal activity by the communal group known as The Finders. However, he said the investigation would continue.

Two Men Were Arrested

Chief Turner's announcement was another confusing twist in the investigation that began last Wednesday when the children and two men were found in a Tallahassee park. According to the Tallahassee police, the children could not identify themselves and said the two men were teachers. The men were arrested and charged with child abuse.

Law-enforcement officials suggested that Chief Turner was attempting to end recent speculation that the group was involved in satanic rituals at a Washington home.

After the children were found last week, the police searched the home and a warehouse in the northwest section of Washington, and seized photographs and documents that one source in Florida originally said were "consistent with a satanic cult."

Statements by Finders Spokesman

The Washington police said that the children, two girls and four boys who ranged in age from 2 to 7 years, were apparently the offspring of members of the Finders, which the police said was a secretive group in which the sexes are separated and children are raised communally. Acknowledging that the group's practices were unusual, the officials said it had not engaged in criminal
practices.

Robert Gardner Terrell, a spokesman for the Finders, said his group had cooperated with the police and that the mothers of the children had spoken with the authorities, according to an Associated Press report.

Mr. Terrell, who appeared at a news conference wearing a mask bearing President Reagan's image, said the organization's first priority was getting the children back.

''We've been in constant contact with the authorities,'' he said. ''It hasn't been on the basis of interrogation. It's been in terms of cooperation. Sooner or later we knew people in Tallahassee would recognize their mistake.''

Photographs of Goats

Officials confirmed that photographs found in buildings used by the Finders showed children watching goats being slaughtered. But they indicated that the activity was not illegal, nor did it suggest pornography.

''There was apparently the killing of goats and some type of blood,'' Chief Turner said, adding that it appeared the children did not participate in the killing. Other police officials suggested that the goats were actually butchered for meat, not for some sort of satanic animal sacrifice.

''A photograph can paint 1,001 pictures,'' Chief Turner said.

''The life style of the so-called Finders organization may differ from the societal norm,'' he added, ''but so far, the Metropolitan Police Department has not uncovered any evidence of criminal wrongdoing by members of the group.

''At this point the Metropolitan Police Department has not found any materials among the seized documents or records that would initially corroborate allegations made by an informant that the organization is a cult and that its activities involve satanic rituals.

Documents Being Reviewed

''However, we are still involved in an extensive and detailed review process of the documents and records seized,'' he added.

Asked if the group was dangerous, Chief Turner replied: ''I don't really believe so. If they are a danger, from what I an see, they would be a danger to themselves.''

Chief Turner said he had no evidence that any of the children had been molested and referred questions about physical abuse to the Florida officials.

Officials say the Finders apparently is a remnant of a 1960's counterculture movement created by Marion Piette, a charismatic leader who urged his followers to study a doctrine that stressed self-exploration and futurism.

Children Allowed to Travel
"Apparently it's an organization that started in the late 60's," Chief Turner said. "If you went back to that point in time there were a lot of communes and a lot of hippies, and I think it was a way of life for them. From that way of life it has escalated to what we have today as the Finders."

Members of the group, the police said, apparently permitted their children to travel to Florida for a time while they remained behind to work.

The two men arrested in the case were identified as Douglas Ammerman, 27 years old, and James M. Holwell 23. They were charged with aggravated child neglect, a misdemeanor, and held on $100,000 bond.

SUBJECT: CHILD ABUSE; LOST, MISSING AND RUNAWAY CHILDREN

ORGANIZATION: FINDERS (ORGN)

NAME: SHENON, PHILIP

GEOGRAPHIC: WASHINGTON (DC); FLORIDA
Police seized computer records, color slides and photos at five rural Virginia locations linked to the Finders, reported to be a satanic cult, as authorities searched throughout the Southeast for a van they believed was carrying associates of the two group members arrested on child abuse charges in Tallahassee, Fla. Virginia authorities searched cabins and outbuildings in the mountainous Nethers and Etlan area of Madison County. Meanwhile, the six children found dirty and hungry in the van in Tallahassee were moved out of emergency shelters after threatening phone calls were received by police.

TYPE:
Brief

SUBJECT:
CULTS; FINDERS (ORGANIZATION) ; CHILD ABUSE; OCCULT SCIENCES
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Douglas Ammerman, left, and Michael Holwell during appearance in Florida courtroom yesterday. Each is being held in lieu of $100,000 bail.

Officials Weigh Future of Finders' Children

George Washington's Birthday

Sports

IRVING'S SHO

The Washington Post
2/13/87

Staff writer Victoria Churchville contributed to this report.
Finders Say They Fear For Children

Five Women Seek Custody of Minors

By Victoria Churchville
Washington Post Staff Writer

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Feb. 14—
Five women who belong to the Finders group and described themselves as the mothers of six children now in Florida state custody said today they fear the children have been traumatized by their separation from the group, and they vowed to fight to win back the children.

"I'm very concerned that the experience of being picked up by police, being interviewed by strangers, being cared for by strangers has been a very traumatic experience from the start for all the children," said Judith Evans, 31. She said her 3-year-old daughter Honey Bee "does not look happy in the media pictures I've seen. My major objective is to get all our children back."

The children were taken into state custody Feb. 4 after police here found them in a park with two members of the Finders group, a mysterious Washington area commune. The men, Douglas E. Ammerman, 27, and Michael Holwell, 23, each were charged with one count of child abuse. Authorities described the children as unkempt and hungry.

The women said they were in San Francisco at the time of the incident and that they immediately began taking steps to return. Authorities have said the women's struggle to regain custody of the children could be a protracted one.

"We started the process as soon as we heard. It's been a very long process," said Pat Livingstone, mother of 6-year-old Max, one of the children taken into custody.

"If the FBI had said we're bad guys, everybody else would have, too. Now that they've said we're good guys, other authorities are saying they'll have to consider our case in turn," Livingstone said.

The women displayed little emo-
Finders Get 6 Children

Temporary Custody Granted to Mothers

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Feb. 27—The mothers of six children found at a city playground with two men belonging to a Washington-based communal group called the Finders have been awarded temporary custody of the children until a court hearing next week.

Leon County Judge Victor Cawthon ruled in a closed hearing today that the four boys and two girls found Feb. 4 could stay here with women Finders members who identified themselves as their mothers until a final custody hearing Friday. Until then, the state Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services is to exercise formal custody of the children.

The children, ranging in age from 2 to 7, were taken into protective custody when their two adult male companions were arrested on child neglect charges.

County prosecutor C.L. Fordham objected to today's ruling, arguing that it was "premature at this point to give the children back to the mothers because of the many lingering questions of impact of [the Finders'] life style on the children."

Fordham said he was not yet sure if he would object during the Friday hearing to giving the mothers full custody.

Connie Ruggles, spokeswoman for the social services agency, said state law prohibited her from commenting, and Paula Walborsky, attorney for the women, did not return a call to the Associated Press.

Meanwhile, the two men arrested Feb. 4 remained jailed on child neglect charges. Douglas Ammerman, 27, and James Holwell, 23, are being held in lieu of $10,000 bail each on one count of child neglect. Trials are scheduled for March 30 and 31.
D.C. Police: Finders Odd, Not Criminal

FBI, Virginia and Florida Expand Probes

By Victoria Churchville and Marc Fisher
Washington Post Staff Writers

A District police investigation begun in December into allegations of child abuse and satanic rituals involving the Finders, a group linked to six ragtag children found last week in Florida, has produced evidence that the practices of the group were odd but not criminal, D.C. Police Chief Maurice T. Turner Jr. said yesterday.

"The lifestyle style of the so-called Finders organization may differ from the societal norm, but so far the Metropolitan Police Department has not uncovered any evidence of criminal wrongdoing by members of the group," Turner said at a news conference. He added, however, that documents and records seized last week are still being reviewed.

But even as police in the District softened their statements about the Finders group, the FBI and police in Virginia and Florida widened their investigation into the activities of the Washington-based commune of 20 to 40 adults and seven children.

Two of the six children, whom police said they found dirty and hungry in a Tallahassee park with two well-dressed men, showed indications of possible sexual abuse, according to an affidavit filed in Madison County, Va., where the group has two farms.

The men, Douglas E. Ammerman, 27, and James Michael Holwell, 23, who gave police the name Michael Houlihan, were arrested and charged with six counts each of child abuse. Florida authorities said yesterday that the two men, who are in jail in lieu of $100,000 cash bond, have refused to talk with police.

See CHILDREN, D5, Col. 4
A warehouse in Northeast Washington, believed to have been occupied by the Finders, a little-known cult.

Inquiry Spreads on 6 Children and Cult

By RICHARD HALLORAN
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7 — Police officials here said today that six dishhevelled children found in Tallahassee, Fla., might be the offspring of members of a little-known cult, but the officials said they had not ruled out the possibility of kidnapping.

Capt. William White 3d, a spokesman for the District of Columbia Police Department, said, "At this point, it appears that those children are the children of members of this group." He was referring to members of a cult known as the Finders, who have occupied farms and homes.

But Captain White added, "We have not ruled out any possibilities."

Children Found in Florida

He declined to speculate on what the possibilities might be but other police officials said they included kidnapping or some type of international market for children.

The children, two girls and four boys 2 to 6 years old, were discovered in a Tallahassee playground on Thursday. Two men, Douglas Edward Zimmerman, 27 years old, and Michael Houlihan, 28, were arrested in the case and charged with child abuse.

Subsequently, the police here obtained warrants to search a house in Northwest Washington and a warehouse in Northeast Washington, both believed to have been occupied by the Finders. Captain White said they had seized boxes of records, documents and computer programs.

"I have a very long, tedious process of reviewing this material ahead of us," the captain said. Detectives in the investigation said the review would require the weekend at least. The detectives said they had begun to doubt that child pornography was involved but that they had seen evidence that children were involved in rituals. They declined to comment on reports that the Finders were worshipers of the devil.

Pet Food Spoon Wins An Invention Contest

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7 (AP) — A 6-year-old Oklahoma girl has come up with a solution to a problem that has vexed some pet owners for years: how to feed a cat or dog without having to wash the messy spoon afterward.

The solution devised by the girl, Suzanna Goodin, was to shape a pet cracker into an edible spoon that could be broken up into the pet's food after serving.

Her "edible pet food server" won her a grand prize today in an invention contest sponsored by The Weekly Reader, a school publication. More than 200,000 children participated in the contest.

Suzanna, a first-grader from Hydro, Okla., was cited for the best idea submitted by children in kindergarten through the fourth grade.

In neighboring Virginia, the authorities said they had completed their part in the investigation by searching five places in Madison County where members of the group were said to have occupied farms and homes.

Lieut. J. P. Henries of the Madison County Sheriff's Office said, "No obvious new evidence of criminal activity was found."

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has also been called into the case. Police officials here suggested that whatever legal action might arise from the case would be in Federal rather than in local courts because it appeared that the children had been transported across state lines in possible violation of Federal laws.

Captain White said that the district police had been unable to identify the children or their parents. "We're trying to find the parents," he said.

Captain White added that people who might be related to the children were also being sought but he declined to give details.

The Police Department spokesman said that no further arrests were expected. "At this stage," he said, "we have not uncovered anything that would cause us to anticipate arrests, at least not in the near future."

With an air of frustration perhaps reflecting the bafflement of the police department, however, he added, "No one knows what tomorrow holds."

Police officials also raised the question of whether children other than the six found in Florida might be involved in the case.
Police Link Cult to Case Of Unidentified Children

By JON NORDHEIMER

Special to The New York Times

MIAMI, Feb. 6 — The authorities in several states today sought to identify six young children who the police said were apparently taken from their parents by two Washington, D.C., men and enlisted in what was described as a bizarre cult of devil worshipers.

Known to one another by such names as "Benjamin Franklin," "John Paul Pope" and "Honeymoon," the children were taken into protective custody Thursday by the police in Tallahassee, Fla. After they were found, unwashed and hungry, in a city park. The children, ranging in age from 2 to 7 years, were with two men driving a van with Virginia license plates.

Acting on information supplied by detectives in Tallahassee, the police in Washington today searched a house and a warehouse in the northwest section of the District of Columbia, seizing photographs and other documents that one source described as "consistent with a satanic cult," including a photograph of a mutilated animal.

No Clues to Their Identities

The band of children has baffled the police, who said the case resembled something more like a Pied Piper story than a tale of the occult.

Some of the children told investigators they had not seen their parents since Christmas and had been traveling with the men since then. Other children said that one of the men, Michael Houlihan, 28 years old, was their father, but Mr. Houlihan denied it without comment.

"He was a very quiet child," said a neighbor who lived near the Houlihan home and whom a detective asked to describe what the children were like. "He was always quiet. Always seemed to be in his own world."

A 2-year-old boy.

Rewarded With Food

The children told investigators in Tallahassee that they had been on the road for weeks, camping out at night. The older children reported that they were rewarded with food for doing "good things" but that the nature of what was expected was not described.

Their daily ration of food consisted of oranges, bananas and raw potatoes, they told the police.

Based on information provided by the children, they were tentatively identified as Mary Houlihan, 7 years old; Max Livingstone, 6; Honeymoon Evans, 3; Benjamin Franklin, 3; John Paul Pope Houlihan, 2, and B.B., a 2-year-old boy.

The two suspects are charged with aggravated child abuse.

equipment, including computer programming material.

Twenty-seven computer storage disks were also found, along with rotating food, in the blue 1980 Dodge van driven by the suspects when they were taken into custody in Tallahassee with the children.

Witnesses there told investigators that they saw two other men and children in a second van make contact with the first group in the park. The witnesses said they drove away before the police arrived.

Children Rewarded With Food

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2 Held in Child Abuse Linked to Satanic Cult

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP)—Two men arrested after being seen in a park with six children dressed in tatters were held Friday on child abuse charges, and police said the men may be part of an international satanic cult whose members give up their children.

Some of the children told police they had not seen their parents since before Christmas.

"They evidently have come from such sheltered existences that they had no concept of what a telephone was, or TV or anything like that," said Scott Hunt, a spokesman for the Tallahassee Police Department.

The children, ages 2 to 6, may have been given up by their parents so the parents could join a satanic cult in Washington, D.C., authorities in Florida said.

Police Tipped Off

Police were alerted Wednesday by anonymous callers concerned because the men were dressed in coats and tics while the children, unwashed and insect-bitten, were playing in tattered clothes at Myers Park, a downtown playground.

Upon questioning after their arrest Wednesday, the men said the children were being "weaned" from their mothers in Washington. They said they were taking the children to Mexico to start a school for brilliant children. They denied any blood relationship with the children and refused to answer other questions.

"We don't know what we've got. All we have is six children, and we don't know where they came from," Hunt said.

The oldest child said the children had never been to school. They had been traveling for several days or weeks, she said, although she did not know where they had been.

Medical exams showed that one child had been sexually abused, Hunt said.

Police identified the men as Douglas Edward Ammerman, 27, and Michael Houlihan, 28, and said they were believed to be from the Washington area. The two were charged Thursday with one count of child abuse. They appeared in court Friday and were jailed on $100,000 bail each.
Two men believed to have Washington-area ties who were traveling with six hungry and disheveled children in a van with Virginia license plates were arrested in Tallahassee, Fla., and charged with child abuse, police in the Florida capital reported last night.

D.C. police, armed with search warrants, seized documents and records from two locations in the city last night as part of the investigation of the incident, which involves six children—two girls and four boys—whose ages range from 2 to 6. The children have not identified themselves.

Based on information obtained from Tallahassee authorities, a D.C. police spokesman told a news conference last night that "the children are in doubt as to who they are."

However, D.C. police said last night that no children of the ages listed are listed as missing from the District.

Police in Tallahassee said the two men, picked up in a city park there Wednesday, carried homemade identification cards that listed them as Doug Ammerman and Michael Houlihan.

Little other information was available about the men. Tallahassee police Lt. George Creamer said the two have refused to talk to police. They were ordered held under $100,000 bond each after a hearing yesterday.

An Associated Press report said that no record of the Virginia tags on the van could be found.

In addition to being unable to identify themselves, the children apparently were

See CHILDREN, B9, Col. 3
Finders to Sell D.C. Property, Move to Florida.

A member of the Finders has announced the communal group is selling its Washington properties, which include two apartment buildings and a warehouse, and moving to Tallahassee, Fla., where authorities are holding two men linked to the group.

The men were arrested Feb. 4 and charged with child abuse after they were found in a Florida park with six children, whom Tallahassee police described as dirty, hungry and insect-bitten.

Douglas E. Ammerman, 27, and James Michael Howell, 23, remain in a Tallahassee jail in lieu of $100,000 bond each. A judge has reduced the bond for the misdemeanor charges from $100,000 for Ammerman and from $101,000 for Howell.

One of the children remains in full custody of the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services. A judge ordered the agency to share custody of the five other children with four members of the group who say they are the children's mothers.

"We look for signs and symbols, and Florida's sending us signs that they want us here," R. Gardner

HAILMAN, EUGENE P
On Tuesday, March 3
EUGENE P. HAILMAN
beloved husband of Hilda
Hailman, Jr. of Columbia,
Sr., brother of Martha Cooper
J. Hailman Jr. of Columbia,
Sr., and son of Mr. and Mrs.
Hailman of Spotsylvania,
Va., of Hailman, Md.
Florida: He also survived
Memorial services will be
Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Columbia
333 W. Columbia St.
Cremation donations may
be made to the American
Foundation for the Blind,
1401 16th St., N.W.
Arrangements by 330 JEN
FUNERAL HOME

KANIA, JACQUELINE
Announcement of the marriage of
Lori Monday, March 2
HANSON of Upper Marlboro,
Hanson, mother of 17;
Michael M. McCann and
Phillips L. Mc; E. Vermilion,
former wife of 1
of William Robert McCann;
Family and friends may call
HOME OF CLINTON,
1112 A Rd., Clinton, Md., today
8 a.m. to 9 p.m. or 10 a.m.
Marriage ceremony at
Riverdale Baptist Church
Marlboro, Md., on April
Interment at Maryland
Vets, Md. Expressions of
love to the American Cancer

ARALSON, POLLY G.
Two members of the Finders organization, Doug Ammerman, left, and James Holwell, leave courthouse in Tallahassee, Fla., yesterday after their bond was reduced to $5,000. They are charged with child abuse after being arrested in the company of six unkempt children in a Tallahassee park.
Mothers Win Custody of 3
Older Children in Finders Case Remain in Fla. Care

By Lawrence Feinberg
Washington Post Staff Writer

A Florida judge yesterday awarded full custody of three children, found last month in a van in a Tallahassee park to their mothers, who are members of the Washington-based Finders commune, but ruled that three older children should remain under state supervision.

Only hours later, one of the Finders' leaders released a statement saying the futurist group was dissolving, possibly as a result of the custody battle.

Ruling after four days of testimony, Leon County Circuit Judge Victor Cawthon rejected a state motion that the three children, aged 2 and 3, should be declared "dependent" because they had been "abused, neglected, or abandoned" by their parents, according to a lawyer for three of the women.

Cawthon ruled that the three others, aged 4 to 7, were dependent, primarily because their education was being neglected, but he allowed two of them to remain temporarily with their mothers in Tallahassee.

The sixth child, whose mother has not stayed in Tallahassee to seek his return, remains in foster care. Cawthon said he would make a final ruling on arrangements for the three dependent children at a hearing March 23.

The decisions, announced in a closed court session, were disclosed by Paula Walborsky, who represented three of the mothers at the hearing, and confirmed by Cawthon in a telephone interview.

"I'm absolutely delighted with the outcome," Walborsky said. "The court found there was no abuse or abandonment.

"Ultimately, the state only pressed the issue of neglect, that the Finders' life style was inherently detrimental to the psychological

See FINDERS, C2, Col. 5
Fla. Judge Sends 2 Finders Children To Foster Homes

A Florida judge has declared two children of members of the Finders commune to be dependents of the state. Judge Victor Cawthon last week ordered two children who grew up in the Washington-based Finders group placed in foster homes.

The judge's ruling was the final act in the state's attempt to sort through the affairs of the secretive group that found itself the subject of intense public scrutiny in February, when police in Tallahassee received an anonymous phone call about two well-dressed men and six disheveled children in a local park.

Within hours, police in Florida, Virginia and the District, joined by the FBI and even Interpol, were on the case. Authorities raided the Finders' homes, confiscated records and photographs, and publicly speculated whether the group was involved in satanism, child abuse or pornography. While none of the more lurid possibilities was confirmed, the Finders proved to be an avowedly private and elusive group of about 20 people, many of whom had lived together since the late 1960s.

Public interest in the Finders quickly centered on their unusual child-rearing philosophy, in which youngsters were raised communally and left largely to their own devices.

The two Finders in Florida with children of other group members were held in jail for six weeks, then released when a judge dismissed child abuse charges. In March, another judge returned four of the children to their mothers, who had retained a Florida lawyer.

But at the direction of Marlon Pettie, the group's founder and intellectual leader, two mothers, Kristin Knauth and Pat Livingston, refused to hire a lawyer, argue for the return of their children or even remain in Florida.

They said Pettie told them that since the court had the best interests of the children in mind, they should not participate in the judicial process, according to Paula Walborsky, a Tallahassee lawyer who represented the other Finders mothers.

"Those children should have been returned to their mothers, but they didn't go through the system," Walborsky said. "The state felt these mothers had abandoned their children when they returned to Washington. I saw them with their children, and I know all these women love their children."

Connie Ruggles, spokeswoman for the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, confirmed that the two children, Ben Knauth, 4, and Max Livingston, 6, are in foster homes. She said their cases will be reviewed every six months. "The judge felt circumstances were not right to reunite them with their family," Ruggles said.

Cawthon had closed the hearing to the public, as is his option in Leon County.

Walborsky said the state presented no evidence that the children were abused or neglected, and the judge declared the children wards of the state for "educational reasons." Ruggles declined to comment on the hearing.

George Wisnovsky of the Jacksonville FBI office said the agency "is no longer investigating the Finders."

The Finders, who announced the dissolution of their group in March, are still together and living in California, according to several people who were in contact with them in Florida. Neither Walborsky nor Ruggles has spoken to group members in recent weeks.

"The judge felt circumstances..."
Two Finders Released; Abuse Charges Dropped

By Douglas Stevenson

Two members of a Washington-based communal group known as the Finders, arrested last month on child abuse charges in Florida, were released from jail yesterday after the charges were dismissed.

Douglas Edward Ammerman, 27, and James Michael Holwell, 23, were released after a Leon County Circuit Court hearing. A move for dismissal of the charges on the grounds of insufficient evidence had been filed by their counsel, authorities said.

Ammerman and Holwell were arrested Feb. 4 in Tallahassee after police there received an anonymous telephone call reporting that two "well-dressed men" were "supervising" six disheveled and hungry children in a local park, Tallahassee police said at the time.

Each man was charged with one count of misdemeanor child abuse, and the children, ages 2 to 7, whose mothers were members of the Finders, were examined for signs of abuse and remanded to the custody of the state of Florida. Holwell was also charged with resisting arrest without violence.

The investigation involved D.C. police, who raided a Northeast warehouse owned by the Finders, as well as Virginia and federal authorities. Initially, there were widespread reports of possible involvement by group members in child pornography and satanic rituals. Authorities later said that these reports were unfounded and were attributable in part to confusion over the group members' unusual life style. Members said recently the Finders are disbanding.

Michael Minerva, the assistant public defender who represented Ammerman and Holwell, said he made the motion to dismiss the case "on the grounds that there was not sufficient evidence" to try it. Judge George Reynolds agreed.

See FINDERS, D9, Col. 3
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April 26, 1994

TO: FBI

FROM: Office of Freedom of Information
       Litigation and Appeals Branch

SUBJECT: The "Finders Investigation"

Enclosed for your review are a total of 21 documents (70 pages) which were retrieved by the Department of State in connection with the "Finders Investigation." As I mentioned today by telephone, the Department of State has not yet reviewed the documents for releasability. We will notify your office once that review has been completed. In the interim, however, we ask that all documents be held in a proper security container and that they be shared only with individuals possessing proper security clearances and a need to know.

If you have any questions, you may contact me on ____________
The following investigation was conducted on April 26, 1994 by Special Agent (SA) [redacted] FBI, Washington Metropolitan Field Office at the UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE (USDS), Office of Freedom of Information, 22nd and C streets, NW, Washington, D.C.

USDS, Office of Freedom of Information, Litigation and Appeals Branch provided photocopies of material requested by FBIHQ concerning the "Finders Investigation". [redacted] advised that the attached documents represented all that was retrieved from USDS records concerning this matter.

[redacted] requested that this material be treated as confidential in nature, and that it not be disseminated outside of the FBI until USDS completed a review of the documents. [redacted] indicated that this should take approximately two weeks to complete.
TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (31C-WF-189911)
ATTN: CID, VCU, SSA

FROM : SAC, WMFO (31C-WF-189911)

SUBJECT : "FINDERS" GROUP;
WSTA - SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN;
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE - PI;
OO: WMFO

Enclosed for FBIHQ are photocopies of 21 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE (USDS) "Finders" Group documents, and one copy of an FD-302 documenting their origin.

For information of FBIHQ, these documents were obtained by WMFO at USDS on 4/26/94, and according to the USDS are all that is contained in their records regarding captioned matter.

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WMFO
MDC:mdc
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Memorandum

To : ADIC, WMFO (31C-WF-189911) (P) Date 4/28/94

From : SA (C-4) b6

Subject: "FINDERS" GROUP;
WSTA - SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN;
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE - PI;
OO: WMFO

Attached to this memo is a Form FD-302 that is classified "Secret".

It is requested that a Sub S file be opened from this memo in order to serve as a repository for classified material.