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U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. 20535

June 26, 2018

MR. JOHN GREENEWALD JR.
THE BLACK VAULT
SUITE 1203
27305 WEST LIVE OAK ROAD
CASTAIC, CA 91384

FOIPA Request No.: 1401497-000
Subject: The Finders Cult

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

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 web site: <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 foipaquestions@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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Hardy", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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

Enclosure(s)

EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

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 the 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 361 ~ b6; b7C;
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Page 363 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 364 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 365 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 366 ~ b6; b7C;
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Page 369 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 370 ~ b6; b7C;
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Page 378 ~ b6; b7C;
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Page 380 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 381 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 382 ~ Duplicate - Serial 3 pgs 131;
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Page 409 ~ b6; b7C; b7E;
Page 410 ~ b6; b7C; b7E;
Page 411 ~ b6; b7C; b7E;
Page 412 ~ b6; b7C; b7E;
Page 419 ~ Duplicate - Serial 28 pg 386;
Page 420 ~ Duplicate - Serial 29 pgs 413-417;
Page 421 ~ Duplicate - Serial 29 pgs 413-417;
Page 422 ~ Duplicate - Serial 29 pgs 413-417;
Page 423 ~ Duplicate - Serial 29 pgs 413-417;
Page 424 ~ Duplicate - Serial 10 pg 253;

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FM DIRECTOR FBI

TO FBI WMFO/IMMEDIATE/

FBI MIAMI/IMMEDIATE/

BT

UNCLAS

SECTION 1 OF 2

CITE: //0607//

PASS: SUPERVISORY SPECIAL AGENT (SSA) [REDACTED] SQUAD C-4,

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN FIELD OFFICE (WMFO); SSA [REDACTED]

SQUAD C-4, MIAMI DIVISION; AND SENIOR SUPERVISORY RESIDENT AGENT

(SSRA) [REDACTED] 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.

C-4

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3 LC-WA-189911-1

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 2 1993	
FBI - WASH. FIELD OFFICE	

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RE FBIHQ FACSIMILE TO MIAMI SSA [REDACTED] DATED 10/27/93
AND TO MIAMI SSRA [REDACTED] DATED 10/28/93; AND FBIHQ SSA [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] TEL CALL WITH WMFO SSA [REDACTED] ON 10/29/93.

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

BY SEPARATE COMMUNICATION, WMFO WILL BE PROVIDED AVAILABLE
DOCUMENTATION RECEIVED TO DATE FROM DOJ, CONCERNING [REDACTED]
ALLEGATIONS. UNITED STATES CUSTOMS SERVICE (USCS) SA [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] USCS HEADQUARTERS, WASHINGTON, D.C. [REDACTED]
ALSO POSSESSES DOCUMENTATION CONCERNING "FINDERS" WHICH IS TO BE
OBTAINED BY WMFO.

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

IN 1987, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] WERE
CONVICTED OF SEXUALLY ABUSING CHILDREN. ONE OF THE CHILDREN WHO
ATTENDED THE SCHOOL DURING THE TIME OF THE ALLEGED SEXUAL ABUSE
WAS THE [REDACTED] DOING BUSINESS AS

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] AFTER THE IMPOSITION OF PRISON SENTENCES ON
BOTH [REDACTED] BECAME CONVINCED THAT NUMEROUS
OTHER CHILDREN HAD BEEN ABUSED AND THAT THE ABUSE WAS PART OF A
LARGE, WELL ORGANIZED SCHEME. SUBSEQUENTLY, [REDACTED] HAS
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.

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

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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, [REDACTED]
WERE ARRESTED BY THE TALLAHASSEE POLICE DEPARTMENT (TPD) ON

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MISDEMEANOR CHILD ABUSE CHARGES RESULTING FROM A COMPLAINT THAT SIX CHILDREN PLAYING IN A PARK WERE UNKEPT AND NEGLECTED.

[REDACTED] 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] USCS, 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]
[REDACTED] UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE DISTRICT OF

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COLUMBIA, WASHINGTON, D.C., WHO DECLINED PROSECUTION FOR VIOLATION OF TITLE 18, U.S. CODE, SECTION 1201 (KIDNAPING) AND 2251 (SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN). WMFO SA [REDACTED] WAS THE WMFO CASE AGENT IN THIS MATTER.

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DOJ REVIEW OF USCS DOCUMENTS INDICATES THAT DURING THE EXECUTION OF THE SEARCH WARRANTS BY THE MPD AT THE TWO "FINDERS" PROPERTIES, USCS SA [REDACTED] 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 KIDNAPING THEM. [REDACTED] CLAIMS

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[REDACTED]

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

USCS SA [REDACTED] SHOULD BE CONTACTED BY WMFO TO OBTAIN COMPLETE USCS DOCUMENTATION CONCERNING "FINDER,S" INVESTIGATION BY WMFO IN THIS MATTER WILL ALSO INCLUDE THE INTERVIEW OF [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] AND THE REVIEW OF ANY DOCUMENTATION IN THE POSSESSION OF [REDACTED] THE STATE DEPARTMENT PASSPORT OFFICE, AND THE FOREIGN COUNTERINTELLIGENCE DIVISION, FBIHQ.

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FM DIRECTOR FBI

TO FBI WMFO/IMMEDIATE/

FBI MIAMI/IMMEDIATE/

BT

UNCLAS

SECTION 2 OF 2

CITE: //060777

PASS: SUPERVISORY SPECIAL AGENT (SSA) [REDACTED] SQUAD C-4,

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN FIELD OFFICE (WMFO); SSA [REDACTED]

SQUAD C-4, MIAMI DIVISION; AND SENIOR SUPERVISORY RESIDENT AGENT

(SSRA) [REDACTED] 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.

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b7C

PAGE TWO DE RUCNFB 0180 UNCLAS

IT IS NOTED THAT A MEMBER OF CONGRESS HAS INDICATED TO THE DOJ
THAT [REDACTED] DUE TO THE "FINDERS"
INVESTIGATION,

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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 [REDACTED],

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DOING BUSINESS AS [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] AND OBTAIN ANY RELEVANT MATERIAL
IN HIS POSSESSION CONCERNING "FINDERS."

WMFO

AT WASHINGTON, D.C.

1. WILL LOCATE AND INTERVIEW USCS SA [REDACTED]

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2. WILL LOCATE AND INTERVIEW USCS SA [REDACTED]

WASHINGTON, D.C., TP# [REDACTED] TO OBTAIN USCS DOCUMENTATION
RELATING TO "FINDERS."

3. WILL INTERVIEW WMFO SA [REDACTED] TO OBTAIN DETAILS

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OF THE WMFO INVESTIGATION PERTAINING TO "FINDERS."

4. WILL REVIEW AVAILABLE DOCUMENTATION CONCERNING "FINDERS"

FROM [REDACTED] STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICE AND THE FOREIGN
COUNTERINTELLIGENCE DIVISION, FBIHQ,

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATION MESSAGE FORM

PAGE 9

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

BY MEMORANDUM DATED 10/26/93, FROM ACTING ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHN C. KEENEY, CRIMINAL DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, TO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR LARRY A. POTTS, THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE REQUESTED 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. THIS COMMUNICATION DESIGNATES WMFO AS OFFICE OF ORIGIN AND SETS SPECIFICS LEADS CONCERNING THE INVESTIGATION OF THIS PRELIMINARY INQUIRY.

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ON 11/2/93, THIS MATTER WAS COORDINATED WITH UNIT CHIEF [REDACTED] OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY (OPR), FBIHQ, 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 - [REDACTED]

1 - [REDACTED]

① - [REDACTED]

1 - TICKLER

Memorandum



[Handwritten signature]
To : SAC, WMFO (31-WF-189911)

Date 07/01/96

From : SAC, MIAMI

Subject: "FINDERS" GROUP
(Title)

☐ RUC
☒ File Destruction Program

Enclosed are 2 items.

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

Enclosures are described as follows:

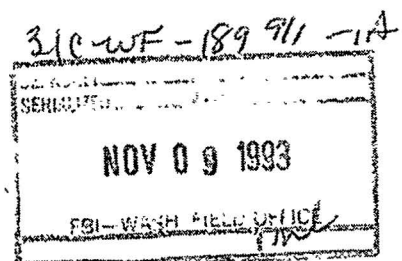
- ☐ Original Notes.
- ☐ Original FD-302's.
- ☐ Laboratory and/or Technical Support.
- ☒ Miscellaneous Documents.

Enc. 2

NOTE: DO NOT BLOCK STAMP ORIGINAL ENCLOSURES.

(Title) Finders Group(File No.) 31C-WF-18991*

Item	Date Filed	To be returned		Disposition
		Yes	No	
1	11/9/93	X		Orig. notes
2	11/15			" "
3	"			" "
4	11/23			" "
5	6/17/94			" "
6	"			" "
7	"			" "
8	"			" "
9	"			" "
10	"			" "
11	"			" "
12	"			Notes by [redacted] re: '89 investigation

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FD-340 (Rev. 8-18-89)

Universal File Case Number 31C-WF-189911-1A-1

Field Office Acquiring Evidence WMFO

Serial # of Originating Document _____

Date Received 11/05/93

From _____
(Name of Contributor)

(Address of Contributor)

(City and State)

By SA [redacted] (C-4)
(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

SA [redacted] - Previous case Agent

b6
b7C

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FD-340 (Rev. 8-18-89)

Universal File Case Number 31C-WF-189911-1A-2

Field Office Acquiring Evidence WMFO

Serial # of Originating Document _____

Date Received 11/5/93

From _____
(Name of Contributor)

(Address of Contributor)

(City and State)
By SA [Redacted] (C-4)
(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

[Redacted] MPD

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FD-340 (Rev. 8-18-89)

Universal File Case Number 31C-WF-169911-1A.3

Field Office Acquiring Evidence WMFO

Serial # of Originating Document _____

Date Received 11/12/93

From _____

(Name of Contributor)

(Address of Contributor)

(City and State)

By SA (C-4)

(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

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FD-340 (Rev. 8-18-89)

Universal File Case Number 31C-WF-189911-1A4

Field Office Acquiring Evidence WMFO

Serial # of Originating Document _____

Date Received 11/8/93

From _____

(Name of Contributor)

(Address of Contributor)

(City and State)

By SA (C-4)

(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

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FD-340 (Rev. 8-18-89)

Universal File Case Number 31C-WF-189911-1A5

Field Office Acquiring Evidence WMFO

Serial # of Originating Document _____

Date Received 1/11/94

From _____
(Name of Contributor)

(Address of Contributor)

(City and State)
By SA [Redacted] (C-4)
(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

Ref: MPD [Redacted]

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FD-340 (Rev. 8-18-89)

Universal File Case Number 31C-WF-189911-1A-6

Field Office Acquiring Evidence WMFO

Serial # of Originating Document _____

Date Received _____

From _____

(Name of Contributor)

(Address of Contributor)

(City and State)

By SA [Redacted] (C-4)

(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

[Redacted]

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FD-340 (Rev. 8-18-89)

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

Field Office Acquiring Evidence WMFO

Serial # of Originating Document _____

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

From _____
(Name of Contributor)

(Address of Contributor)

(City and State)
By SA [Redacted] (C.H.)
(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

[Redacted] CONCERNING Name of C/S

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b7C

FD-340 (Rev. 8-18-89)

Universal File Case Number 31C-WF-189911-AQ

Field Office Acquiring Evidence _____

Serial # of Originating Document _____

Date Received 1/3/94

From SA [Redacted]

(Name of Contributor)

[Redacted]

(Address of Contributor)

El Centro, CA

(City and State)

By SA [Redacted]

(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

[Redacted]

b6
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FD-340 (Rev.8-18-89)

Universal File Case Number 31C-WF-189911-1A10

Field Office Acquiring Evidence WUFO

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: "FUNDERS Group"

Reference: _____

(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☒ Original notes re interview of

AT USCS HQ

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FD-340 (Rev.8-18-89)

Universal File Case Number 31C-WF-189911-517A

Field Office Acquiring Evidence WMFO

Serial # of Originating Document _____

Date Received _____

From _____
(Name of Contributor)

(Address of Contributor)

(City and State)
By SA (C-4)
(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

12/21/93

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FD-340 (Rev. 8-18-89)

Universal File Case Number 31C-WF-189911-1A-12

Field Office Acquiring Evidence WMFO

Serial # of Originating Document _____

Date Received 12/20/93

From
(Name of Contributor)

USCS, HQ, 1301 Constitution Ave, NW
(Address of Contributor)

(City and State)

By SA (C-4)
(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

Photocopies of notes made by hms

1987 INVESTIGATION OF THE FINDERS

Photocopies of MEMOS TO FILE ON FINDERS

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Universal File Case Number 31 C WF 189911 - 1A¹

Field Office Acquiring Evidence _____

Serial # of Originating Document _____

Date Received 1-26-94

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

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Universal File Case Number 31c WF 189911-1A(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

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b7C



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: _____

Sender's Initials: MMNumber of Pages: _____
(Including Cover Page)To: FBI HQ

(Name of Office)

Date: 11/3/93

Facsimile Number: _____

Attn: SSA

(Name Room Telephone)

UC4, CIDFrom: SAC, WMFO

(Name of Office)

Subject: "FINDERS" GROUP

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

Special Handling Instructions: PLS HAND CARRY TO SSA

ATTACHED IS A MEMO LOCATED 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: MM

31C-WF-189911-2

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 03 1993	
FBI-WASH. FIELD OFFICE	

Confirmed by telcal w/SSA _____
Receipt of fax on 11/3/93 at 1615hr: MM

MEMORANDUM

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

DATE: 3/9/87

FROM: SA [REDACTED]

b6
b7C

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

KIDNAPPING
OO:WFO

On 2/18/87, [REDACTED] 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. [REDACTED] related she had received the memorandum from [REDACTED] CUSTOMS, WDC.

A review of the memorandum reflects obvious [REDACTED]

observed and what was infact recovered by the METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT (MPD) during the execution of search warrants at [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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

②-WFO

AV:rlw
(2)

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7-1685-56

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 8 9 1987	
FBI - WASH FIELD OFFICE	

locations did not produce any of the items described in the examples cited above by [redacted] 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 [redacted]

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[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

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[redacted]
[redacted]

Memorandum



To : SAC, WMFO (31C-WF-189911) (P)

Date 11/4/93

From : SA [redacted] (C-4)

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

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

SSA [redacted]	FBIHQ
SSA [redacted]	FBIHQ
SSA [redacted]	WMFO
SA [redacted]	WMFO

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

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INDEX
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/11/93 BY [redacted]

2-WMFO
MDC:mdc

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31C-WF-189911-3

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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FBI-WASH. FIELD OFFICE	

11/2/93

To: Unit Chief [redacted]

From: SSA [redacted]

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Subject: "Finders" - Preliminary Inquiry

On 11/2/93, met with SSA [redacted] Division 5 Special Staff(ext 3951, Room 4127) and SSA [redacted] Office of Liaison and International Affairs (OLIA, ext 4634), FBIHQ who is the FBIHQ liaison with the State Department. I had previously provided [redacted]

[redacted] 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 [redacted] DOS for "Finders."

[redacted] will conduct a search of Division 5 records to determine if there is any documentation concerning "Finders."

11/1/93

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.

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♦ 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] [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..."

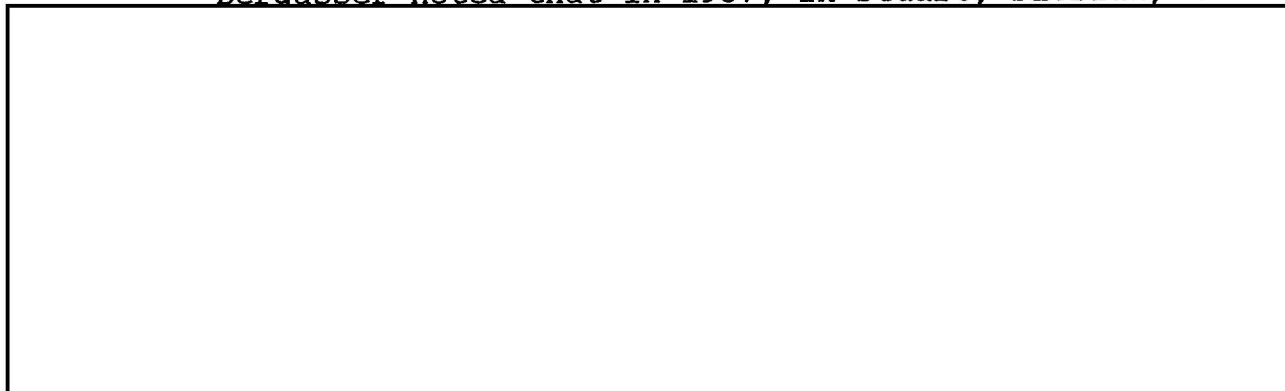
During a meeting at DOJ with Section Chief Bergasser and DOJ Attorney [redacted] on 10/28/93, it was pointed out that a written request from the FBI or DOJ would be required before any records could be obtained from DOS [redacted] for review by the FBI. During that meeting, Mr. Bergasser requested that the FBI prepare a communication to [redacted] DOS and let him review it before it was sent to those agencies.

10/29/93

PRELIMINARY INQUIRY - ALLEGATIONS
OF ORGANIZED CHILD ABUSE BY A GROUP KNOWN AS "FINDERS"

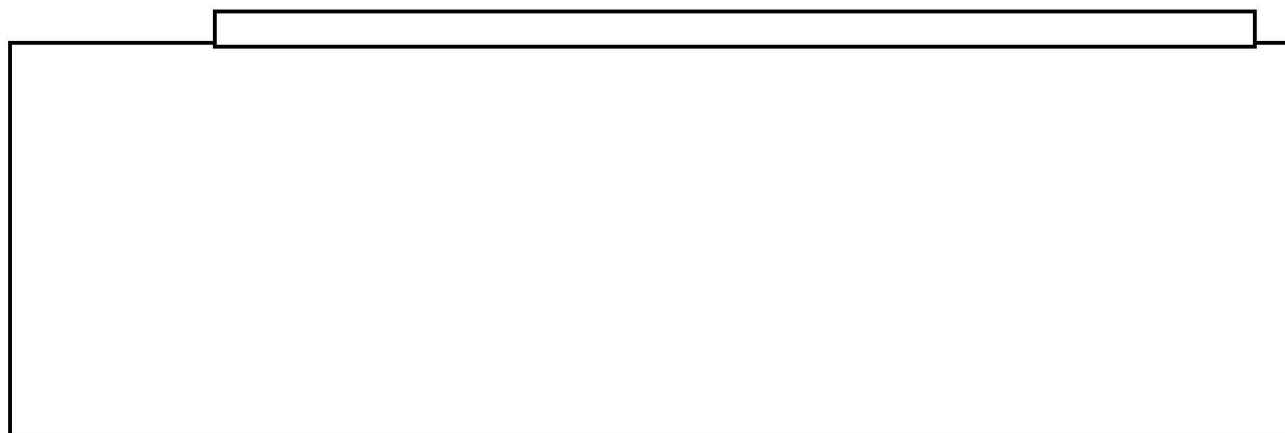
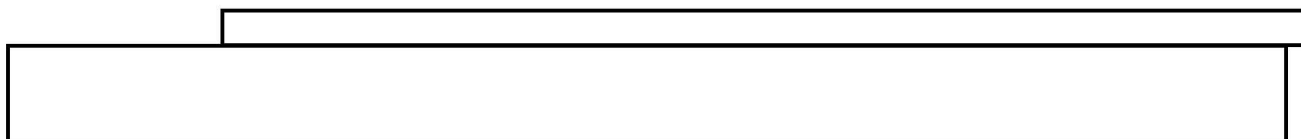
♦ On 10/28/93, a representative of the Violent Crimes Unit met with George Bergasser, Section Chief, and Attorney [redacted] [redacted] Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Department of Justice. Bergasser noted that DOJ had received a three-ring binder from Special Agent [redacted] U.S. Customs 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



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Bergasser noted that during October 1993, [redacted] met with United States Congressman Rose (Florida) to discuss allegations concerning a group known as "Finders". Both Congressman Rose and [redacted] 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.



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♦ 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 [redacted] [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 (kidnaping) and 2251 (sexual exploitation of children). WMFO SA [redacted] was the WMFO case agent in this matter.

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♦ On 10/29/93, the information obtained at DOJ was discussed with WMFO SSA [redacted] and Miami SSRA [redacted] West Palm Beach RA, and a teletype was prepared designating WMFO as Office of Origin in this matter.

10/28/93

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 [redacted]. There were no references to [redacted]. These files have been obtained and will be reviewed by the Violent Crimes Unit.

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♦ 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 [redacted]. The case Agent has known [redacted] for approximately 15 years and will contact him 10/28/93 to schedule the interview with him.

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

♦ On 10/28/93, FBIHQ OLIA was contacted concerning the review of [redacted] 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 [redacted] 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 [redacted] 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.

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♦ On 10/28/93, [redacted] 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.

[redacted]
[redacted]
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 [redacted]

[redacted] 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.

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

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] 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 [redacted] who had told him to step away from the Finders case. Allegedly, [redacted]

♦ 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.

10/29/93

FBIHQ FILE SUMMARY OF 7-20191
REFERENCE "FINDERS" GROUP

[redacted]
[redacted] 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.

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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 kidnaped. The vehicle registration records for a van the men had in their possession when arrested reflected that it was [redacted]
[redacted]

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 life style 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.

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References of FBIHQ File 7-20191:

Serial #2 - Photos of subjects and children

" #9 - Teletype from WMFO to FBIHQ re [redacted]
[redacted] "Finders", allegedly a

[REDACTED]

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 [REDACTED] Virginia 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 [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] declined prosecution in this matter stating that there is no evidence of a Federal violation. No additional investigation in this case.

10/29/93

[redacted] indices check

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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, [redacted] member of
KKK

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

Indices Check "Finders"

7-20191 - See attached note

9-67521 - Complaint by [redacted] 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: [redacted]

From: [redacted]

Re: Finders

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

SSA [redacted] 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 was made by Washington D. C. [redacted] could not provide additional information regarding the FOIPA request. SSA [redacted] recommended that I speak with the Tallahassee RA case Agent [redacted]

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SA [redacted] 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 [redacted] 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 [redacted] 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 [redacted]

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ROOM 2381
RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
TELEPHONE: (202) 226-6792
FAX: (202) 226-1880

COMMITTEES:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE,
AND TECHNOLOGY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON
NARCOTICS ABUSE AND CONTROL
NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY (NATO)



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

January 25, 1993

DISTRICT OFFICE:
PALM BEACH GARDEN
4440 PGA BOULEVARD
SUITE 408
PALM BEACH GARDENS, FL
(607) 827-8192

PORT ST. LUCIE
7801 SOUTH U.S. HIGHWAY
SUITE 200
BARNETT BANK BLOC
PORT ST. LUCIE, FL 349
(407) 282-7048
(407) 446-3710

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.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ARRESTS</u>	<u>CONVICTIONS</u>	<u>EMPLOYEE-HOURS</u>
1988	106	100	47,772
1989	54	57	54,613
1990	110	103	100,524
1991	82	116	61,173
1992	57	69	27,435

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 5-5792.

Sincerely,

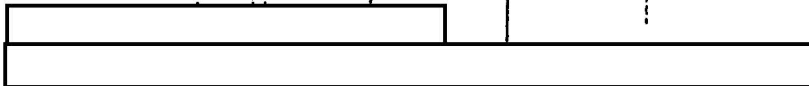
Tom Lewis
Member of Congress

THE TUNNELS FOUND AT THE McMARTIN P.S. SCHOOL
A PRELIMINARY REPORT

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.





DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE

ENF 1 E:INV:SM

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. INST

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 agench." 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.
-



- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] contacts MPD Intelligence and advised that all reports regarding Finders are to be classified at the Secret level. [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] 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: 10:35Sender's Initials: mmNumber of Pages: 8
(Including Cover Page)To: FBIHQ - VC4
(Name of Office)Date: 11/5/93Facsimile Number: 324-3089Attn: SSA

(Name Room Telephone)

From: FBI WASH DC (C-4)
(Name of Office)Subject: FINDERS GROUP, WSTASpecial Handling Instructions: PLS HAND CARRY TO SSAOriginator's Name: [Redacted]Telephone: [Redacted]Originator's Facsimile Number: [Redacted]Approved: [Redacted]

31C-WF-189911-4 FBI/DOJ

SEARCHED <u>mm</u>	INDEXED <u>mm</u>
SERIALIZED <u>mm</u>	FILED <u>mm</u>
NOV 05 1993	
FBI - WASH. FIELD OFFICE	

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FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☒ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ UNCLAS E F T O
☒ UNCLAS

3B

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 b6
b7C

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

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

FOR INFORMATION OF FBIHQ, 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,

2-WMFO

MD:KCH

(2)

Approved: _____ Original filename: KC#006W.309

Time Received: _____ Telprep filename: _____

MRI/JULIAN DATE: _____ ISN: _____

FOX DATE & TIME OF ACCEPTANCE: _____

^PAGE 2 WMFO 31C-WF-189911 UNCLAS

[REDACTED] WERE TRAVELLING IN A VAN WITH SIX
MINOR CHILDREN. THE VAN UTILIZED BY THESE INDIVIDUALS BORE

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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) [REDACTED] CUSTOMS,
PROVIDED THE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ARREST OF [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] TO MPD INTELLIGENCE AND THE INFORMATION ON THEIR
WASHINGTON, D.C. ADDRESSES.

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PRIOR TO 2/5/87, MPD [REDACTED] HAD
RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM A CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE, THAT A GROUP
OF PEOPLE CALLING THEMSELVES, THE "FINDERS", WERE CONDUCTING
BRAINWASHING TECHNIQUES AT [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE SOURCE REPORTED

^PAGE 3 WMFO 31C-WF-189911 UNCLAS

CHILDREN WERE USED IN RITUALS BY THE GROUPS, BUT REPORTED
SOURCE NEVER OBSERVED ANY ACTUAL CHILD ABUSE.

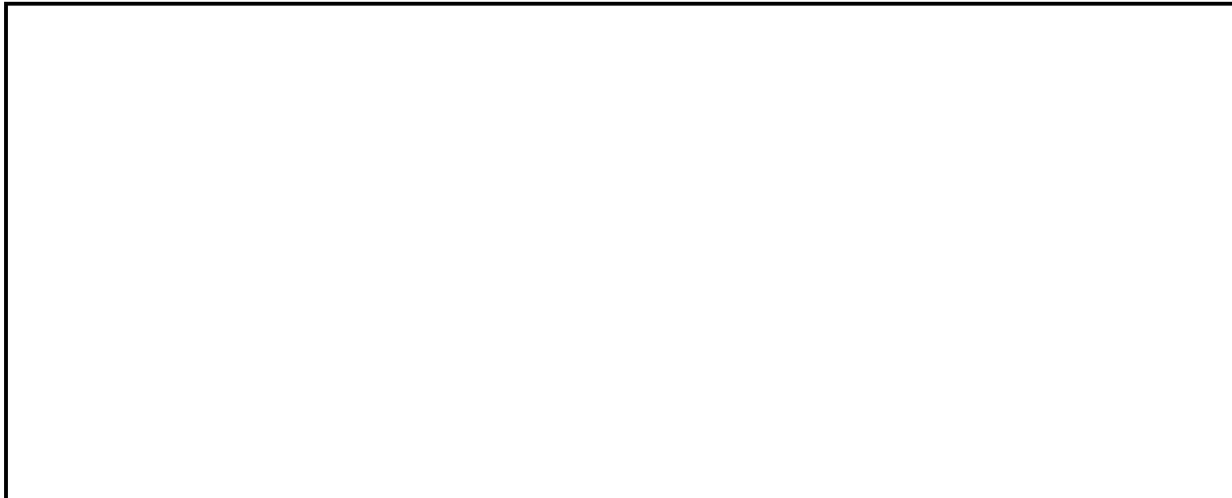
BASED ON THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY TPD AND THIS SOURCE,
MPD OBTAINED SEARCH WARRANTS AND EXECUTED THEM ON 2/5, 2/6/87
AT THE TWO WDC ADDRESSES. MPD SEIZED COMPUTERS, SOFTWARE,
PHOTOGRAPHS, AND BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION CONCERNING THE
FINDERS GROUP FROM THESE LOCATIONS. NO EVIDENCE OF CHILD
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION,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

PRESENT AT THIS SEARCH WERE MPD DETECTIVES, FBI SA [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WMFO CASE AGENT AND CUSTOMS SA [REDACTED]

A MEMO FROM SA [REDACTED] DATED 3/9/87 WAS LOCATED IN THE

b6
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^PAGE 4 WMFO 31C-WF-189911 UNCLAS

[REDACTED]

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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 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE FOLLOWING:

[REDACTED] ADVISED FINDERS WAS A GROUP [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] IN 1972 WITH THE IDEA OF
RESPONDING TO PEOPLE IN EMERGENCIES. [REDACTED] ADVISED THAT THE
GROUP GATHERED INFORMATION FOR PEOPLE OR COMPANIES. [REDACTED]
ADVISED THAT "FINDERS" WAS BASED OUT OF [REDACTED]
WDC. [REDACTED] DESCRIBED THE [REDACTED] AS
MYSTERIOUS, AND RELATED THAT NO ONE USUALLY KNEW WHERE HE WAS.

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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

^PAGE 5 WMFO 31C-WF-189911 UNCLAS

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.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

WMFO FILES ALSO CONTAINED A 10/7/92 EXTORTION CASE (9A-WF-183055) WITH [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THIS CASE WAS OPENED AS A RESULT

b6
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^PAGE 6 WMFO 31C-WF-189911 UNCLAS

[REDACTED]

b6
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THAT HE AND SEVERAL OTHERS OF THE "FINDERS" GROUP, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ADVISED THAT HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES REALIZED THAT

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] AND THE OTHERS, AT THE

b6
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TIME, WERE IN A CUSTODY BATTLE OVER THE GROUP'S PROPERTY

ASSETS. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] PURPORTEDLY RESIDED AT

[REDACTED] VIRGINIA.

^PAGE 7 WMFO 31C-WF-189911 UNCLAS

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 [REDACTED] WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW UNTIL MONDAY, 11/8/93.

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

INVESTIGATION CONTINUES AT WMFO.

BT



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: 11:30

Sender's Initials: ML

Number of Pages: _____
(Including Cover Page)

To: FBIHQ - VCU
(Name of Office)

Date: 11/5/93

Facsimile Number: 324-3089

Attn: SSA

(Name Room Telephone)

b6
b7C

From: FBI, WAFD (C-4)
(Name of Office)

Subject: FINDERS GLOBE, WSTA

Special Handling Instructions: PLS HAND CARRY TO SSA

Originator's Name: SA

Telephone: _____

Originator's Facsimile Number: _____

Approved: ML

31E-WF-189911-17

SEARCHED <u>ml</u>	INDEXED <u>ml</u>
SERIALIZED <u>ml</u>	FILED <u>ml</u>
NOV 05 1993	
FBI-WASH. FIELD OFFICE	

ML

Memorandum



To : SAC, WMFO (31C-WF-189911) (P)

Date 11/4/93

From : SA [REDACTED] (C-4)

b6
b7C

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

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 [REDACTED] MPD Intelligence Division, 300 Indiana Avenue, NW, WDC.

b6
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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, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 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.

[REDACTED] indicated that the MPD investigating Detective for this case was [REDACTED] presently [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] opined that [REDACTED] could answer questions concerning the specifics of this search.

2-WMFO
MDC:mdc
[Signature]

31C-WF-189911

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
NOV 04 1993	
FBI-WASH. FIELD OFFICE	

[Signature]



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: 11/3/93

Forfeiture/Seizure Related: ☐Type of Request: ☒ FAX ☐ Telcal ☐ Mail

Requestor: SA [redacted]

Phone: [redacted]

Reply: ☒ FAX ☐ Telcal ☐ Mail

UCFN: 31C-WF-189911

Office/RA: WMFO SQUAD C-4

Precedence: ☐ ROUTINE ☐ PRIORITY ☒ IMMEDIATEFugitive: ☐ Yes ☒ NoCCH Conducted: ☐ Yes ☒ NoDriver's Lic. Conducted: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Driver's License #: [redacted] State: [redacted]

NCIC Activity/Date: [redacted]

Off-Line Searches Conducted: [redacted]

Subject: ☐ Yes ☒ No Vehicle: ☐ Yes ☒ No Driver's License: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Vehicle Registration: [redacted] State: [redacted]

SEARCH CRITERIA (Attach additional sheets if necessary)

Name - Last: [redacted] First: [redacted] Middle: [redacted]

Alias: [redacted] Sex: M DOB1: [redacted] DOB2: [redacted]

SSA1: [redacted] 2: [redacted] Spouse: [redacted]

RESIDENCE

Street Address: [redacted] City/State: WDC Zip: [redacted] Phone: [redacted]

BUSINESS

Business Name: "FINDERS" Group Street Address: [redacted]

City/State: WDC Zip: [redacted] Phone: [redacted] Business ID#: [redacted]

CHECK DESIRED SEARCH PARAMETERS (Please check only those that are needed)

- ☒ 1. Specific Information Desired CONDUCT LEXUS / NEXUS CHECKS FOR REFERENCES TO SUBJECT AND GROUP FINDERS IN MEDIA AND FAX RESULTS TO WMFO
☐ 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: [redacted]

(Person/Business)

Reply From: FBI, Savannah Information Technology Center (SITC)

Return Reply To:

SAC. WMFO

Attention: SA [redacted]

SQUAD C-4

Based on search criteria, marked records are attached:

- ☒ Possible Identifiable Records
☐ Other Peripheral Information
☐ Brief Synopsis of Information Found
☐ No Information Found

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

NOV - 8 1993

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b7C

Memorandum



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

Date 11/3/93

b6
b7C

From : SAVANNAH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CENTER
INVESTIGATIVE INFORMATION SERVICES

Subject: [REDACTED]

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.

[REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED]
Telephone [REDACTED]

b6
b7C

1 - WF (Enc. 1)

Attn: Special Agent Supervisor

Note: Copy forwarded [REDACTED]

Via Mail____/Facsimile____ X Date 11/3/93

1 - SVITC

(2)

NDB

***** TRW ADDRESS UPDATE *****
FBI - SAVANNAH PUBLIC SOURCE INFORMATION GROUP

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

[Redacted]

b6
b7C

1 11/03/93 09:08:20 CP01 706 [Redacted] TVA1

[Faint, illegible text]

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

NOT TO BE USED FOR CREDIT GRANTING.
DO NOT 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) ***

***** TRW SOCIAL SEARCH *****
FBI - SAVANNAH PUBLIC SOURCE INFORMATION GROUP

DATE: 11-03-1993 TIME: 13:33:23 SUBJECT ID: SOCIAL SEARCH

[REDACTED] V-04/042/3.34

PAGE 1 DATE 11-03-93 TIME 9:55:50 PCR04 V406

SSN: [REDACTED]

b6
b7C

FULL NAME/ADDRESS:

[REDACTED]

ABBREVIATED NAME/ADDRESS:

[REDACTED]

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

END -- TRW SOCIAL SEARCH

** END OF REPORT ID: 11-03-1993/13:33:23 (ORN: 336) ***

***** EQUIFAX DTEC *****
FBI - SAVANNAH PUBLIC SOURCE INFORMATION GROUP

b6
b7C

DATE: 11-03-1993 TIME: 13:31:58 SUBJECT ID: DTEC

SSN ISSUED PRIOR-1951 STATE ISSUED-DC

OF 1

FA

&

ID OF REPORT EQUIFAX AND AFFILIATES - 11/03/93

END OF REPORT ID: 11-03-1993/13:31:58 (ORN: 338) ***

***** TRANS UNION TRACE *****
FBI - SAVANNAH PUBLIC SOURCE INFORMATION GROUP

TE: 11-03-1993 TIME: 13:32:37 SUBJECT ID: TRACE

CE [REDACTED]

ANS UNION CREDIT REPORT

R

QHO2870232

T ON

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER TRACE *

NAME/SPOUSE

ADDRESS

MKT/SUB INFILE

15 SC

SSN [REDACTED]

DATE

TIME

11/03/93 11:53CT

DOB

b6

b7C

SSN OWNER

ADDR RPT DATE

1. [REDACTED] SUBJECT
[REDACTED] 04/89

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 - SAVANNAH PUBLIC SOURCE INFORMATION GROUP

b6
b7C

TE: 11-03-1993 TIME: 13:36:28 SUBJECT ID: ADDRESS UPDATE

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

---FILE IDENT: SS# IS [REDACTED]

91 [REDACTED]

02-18-91

ADDRESS LOCATED REPORT TYPE G
NOT TO BE USED FOR CREDIT GRANTING.
DO NOT 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) ***

TIME: 12:01:50

METRONET ON-LINE INFORMATION SYSTEM

DATE: 11/03/93

A D D R E S S

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
SELECTION : FILE : R (R)ESIDENTIAL (B)USINESS

NAME : [REDACTED] FOR FIRST NAME SEARCH, ENTER F :
HOUSE# : [REDACTED] STREET: [REDACTED]
CITY : WASHINGTON ST : DC ZIP CODE: PHONE #: () -

b6
b7c

RETURNED NAME/ADDRESS

NEAREST HOUSE # FOUND

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
(000) 000 - 0000

ENDER : UNKNOWN LENGTH OF RES : 00
EDIAN INCOME : 0211.0K HOME OWNER PROB :
EALTH RATING : A HOME VALUE : 0466.7K
ATE OF BIRTH : HOME VALUE INDEX: 255
DWELLING TYPE : UNKNOWN

NET.ASP ° ANSI ° FDX ° 2400 E71 ° LOG CLOSED ° PRINT OFF ° ON-LINE

IME: 12:07:22 METRONET N-LINE INFORMATION SYSTEM DATE: 11/03/93

----- A D D R E S S -----
PTION : 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 : B (R)ESIDENTIAL (B)USINESS

AME : FINDERS GROUP FOR FIRST NAME SEARCH, ENTER F : F
HOUSE# : 1307 STREET: 4TH ST NE
ITY : WASHINGTON ST : DC ZIP CODE: PHONE #: () - -

RETURNED NAME/ADDRESS

GLOBAL PRESS REVIEW
1307 4TH ST NE
WASHINGTON DC 20002 7001
(202) 546 - 9828

NET.ASP ° ANSI ° FDX ° 2400 E71 ° LOG CLOSED ° PRINT OFF ° ON-LINE

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

1032ZC

CLIENT:
LIBRARY: 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 Mailing Address: MUNICIPALITY: b6
b7C

***** LOCATION *****

Property Address:

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

1032ZC

CLIENT:
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 PRINTED

THE SELECTED RECORD NUMBERS:
3

DISPLAY FORMAT: FULL

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

*****03418*****

LEVEL 1 - 3 OF 3 RECORDS

TRW REDI Property Data, Copyright (c) 1991

PROPERTY RECORDS FOR DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ESTIMATED TAX ROLL CERTIFICATION DATE July 31, 1991

Owner: Mailing Address: MUNICIPALITY: b6
b7C

***** LOCATION *****

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:
Rooms:	Heating:
Bedrooms:	Cooling:
Bathrooms:	Floor:
Fireplaces:	Walls: BRICK
Pool:	Const:

[FINDERS GROUP]

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

b6
b7C

umber=More Info N=New Search R=Revise State(s) S#=Save Clue E=Exit _____

SEARCH KEY: [FINDERS GROUP]

Business Name	Type	Status	Date
1 FINDERS GROUP	TRADE NAME	CANCELLED	01-03-1986

umber=MoreInfo O=OrderDocs N=NewSrch E=Exit 1
INFORMATION AMERICA NETWORK--OHIO
1 SECRETARY OF STATE CORPORATE--Detail
Information current through 10-16-1993

3-NOV-1993
Page 1/2

Name: FINDERS GROUP

Owner(s): FINDERS GROUP
Address: 629 OAK ST
COLUMBUS 43215

Type: TRADE NAME
State of Origin: NOT AVAILABLE
Date of Filing: 01-03-1986
Status: CANCELLED ON 02-22-1991
Date of Expiration: 01-03-1991
State ID Number: RN88852

*** History ***

Date	Transaction
02-22-1991	CANCELLED BY OPERATION OF LAW

TURN=More Information P#=Page E=Exit to Summary
INFORMATION AMERICA NETWORK--OHIO
1 SECRETARY OF STATE CORPORATE--Detail
FINDERS GROUP

3-NOV-1993
Page 2/2

*** History *** (Cont'd)

Date	Transaction
10-01-1990	LETTER/RENEWAL NOTICE MAILED

Date of Most recent Change in Capital: 04-13-1979

Tax Capital: 1,000
Total Capital: 1,000

umber=MoreInfo RETURN=Summary O=OrderDocs P#=Page N=NewSrch E=Exit

***** DOCUMENT FILING HISTORY *****

File Date

Transaction

08-29-86Type: ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
Comment: FINDERS GROUP LIMITEDRETURN=More Information P#=Page E=Exit to Summary
INFORMATION AMERICA NETWORK--CORPORATE GLOBAL
3 COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF STATE--Detail
FINDERS GROUP LIMITED]3-NOV-1993
Page 4/4

***** DOCUMENT FILING HISTORY (Cont'd)*****

File Date

Transaction

NOT AVAILType: 1993 CORPORATE REPORT MAILED 08/01/92
DUE 10/31/92

NOT AVAIL

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

Number=MoreInfo RETURN=Summary O=OrderDocs P#=Page N=NewSrch E=Exit

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 #: LICEN. 31C-WF-189911
ANALYST:

b6
b7C

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

b6
b7C



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: 0900
Sender's Initials: _____
Number of Pages: _____
(Including Cover Page)

To: FBI HQ. VC4
(Name of Office)

Date: 11/8/93

Facsimile Number: _____

Attn: SSA
(Name Room Telephone)

From: FBI WMD (C-4)
(Name of Office)

Subject: FINDEN S
DU: WMD

Special Handling Instructions: _____

Originator's Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Originator's Facsimile Number: _____

Approved: [Signature]

31C-WF-18991-9

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FBI - WASHINGTON	

[Signature]

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2A

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☒ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ UNCLAS E F T O
☒ UNCLAS

Date 11/8/93

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 [REDACTED]

b6
b7c

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: Kch.
(2)Approved: MMTime Received: NOV 8MRI/JULIAN DATE: 698/312FOX DATE & TIME OF ACCEPTANCE: 12⁵⁰ DsOriginal filename: KCH006W.312Telrep filename: KCH00650.312ISN: 006

31C-WF-189911-10

KCH006W.312

KCH015W.309

↑PAGE 2 WMFO 31C-WF-189911 UNCLAS

b6
b7C

[REDACTED]

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

[REDACTED] VIRGINIA, WITH THE LEADER IN THE WDC

[REDACTED]

b6
b7C

[REDACTED] WMFO CLOSED THE CASE WHEN NO VIOLATIONS OF FEDERAL
LAW, NO CHILD ABUSE, NO SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN WAS
DETERMINED TO HAVE OCCURRED.

^PAGE 3 WMFO 31C-WF-189911 UNCLAS

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 TELEVISED 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 DETERJINE IF ANY CORRLATION EXISTS.

BT

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b7c

0023 MRI 00698

PP FBIWMFO

DE FBIWMFO #0006 3121750

ZNR UUUUU

P 081749Z NOV 93

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 [REDACTED]

b6
b7C

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

31C-WF-189911-10

PAGE TWO DE FBIWMFO 0006 UNCLAS

PLAYED BY THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY,

b6
b7C

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

WMFO INVESTIGATED A GROUP CALLED FINDERS IN FEBRUARY,
1987. FINDERS WAS AN ALTERNATE LIFESTYLE GROUP, LOCATED AT
[REDACTED] THAT
EVOLVED INTO A DATA GATHERING GROUP. THE GROUP WAS
PURPORTEDLY HEADED BY A [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] VIRGINIA, WITH THE LEADER IN THE WDC
[REDACTED]

b6
b7C

[REDACTED] WMFO CLOSED THE CASE WHEN NO VIOLATIONS OF FEDERAL
LAW, NO CHILD ABUSE, NO SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN WAS
DETERMINED TO HAVE OCCURRED.

SA [REDACTED] THE WMFO CASE AGENT FOR THE 1987

4B

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☒ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ UNCLAS E F T O
☒ UNCLAS

Date 11/9/93

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

TO DIRECTOR FBI/PRIORITY/

FBI MIAMI/PRIORITY/

BT

UNCLAS

CITE: //3920//

PASS: CID, VCU, SSA

*Note corrections
on pgs 1 & 2*

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 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 CONCERNING CHILD

b6
b7CApproved: Nov 11 1 10 PMOriginal filename: SR6005 W. 313Time Received: 9:00pmTelprep filename: SR601150.314MRI/JULIAN DATE: 1232/314ISN: 033FOX DATE & TIME OF ACCEPTANCE: 131 Dec

EVA 11/9/93

*MC:SG
(2)*

31C-WF-189911-11
4/12
see 01150.314
SR6005 W. 313
SR601150.314

^PAGE 2 WMFO 31C-WF-189911 UNCLAS

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

REFERENCED BUREAU TELETYPE 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 (~~NOTIFY~~ ^{NOTIFY} FROM THE U.S. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY) ATTEMPTED TO INFLUENCE THE OUTCOME OF THEIR INVESTIGATION.

^PAGE 3 WMFO 31C-WF-189911 UNCLAS

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0077 MRI 01232

PP FBIWMFO

DE FBIWMFO #0033 3141842

ZNR UUUUU

P 101830Z NOV 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

b6
b7c

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 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

31C-WF-189911-11

PAGE TWO DE FBIWMFO 0033 UNCLAS

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.

b6
b7c

REFERENCED BUREAU TELETYPE 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 (NOTIBLY THE U.S.
INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY) ATTEMPTED TO INFLUENCE THE OUTCOME OF
THEIR INVESTIGATION.

Memorandum



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

From : SSA [redacted]

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b7C
b7E

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

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

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

On 11/9/93, SSA [redacted] advised that he was handling the review of any FCI files at FBIHQ and would advise WMFO of the results.

INDEX



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FBI-WASH. FIELD OFFICE	

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[redacted] 11/12



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: _____

Sender's Initials: _____

Number of Pages: 7
(Including Cover Page)To: FBIHQ - VCU
(Name of Office)Date: 11/12/92

Facsimile Number: _____

Attn: SSA

(Name Room Telephone)

From: FBI - WASH (C-4)
(Name of Office)Subject: FINDERS -
PIb6
b7CSpecial Handling Instructions: ID. 302s of MPD CASE OFFICER
+ USCS SR AGENT

Originator's Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Originator's Facsimile Number: _____

Approved: [Signature]

31C-WF-18991-15 FBI/DOJ

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
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FBI - WASH DC	

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0014 MRI 00488

PP FBIWMFO FBIJK

DE FBIMM #0002 3161508

ZNR UUUUU

P 121505Z NOV 93

FM FBI MIAMI (31C-WF-189911) (P)

TO FBI WMFO/PRIORITY/

FBI JACKSONVILLE/PRIORITY/

BT

UNCLAS

CITE: //3460//

PASS: TALLAHASSEE RA.

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

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

BT

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Nov 17 10 54 AM '93

31C-WF-189911-16

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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FBI - WASH. FIELD OFFICE	

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FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☒ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ UNCLAS E F T O
☒ UNCLAS

Date 11/15/93

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

TO DIRECTOR FBI/PRIORITY/

BT

UNCLAS

CITE: //3920//

PASS: VCU-CID SSA b6
b7c

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

b6
b7cApproved: *R. [Signature]*Original filename: MDC003W.319 #4Time Received: *11/15/93*Telprep filename: MDC00380.319MRI/JULIAN DATE: 1145/319ISN: 010FOX DATE & TIME OF ACCEPTANCE: 439 *J*

31C-WF-189911-17

^PAGE 2 WMFO 31C-WF-189911 UNCLAS

"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 INTERVIEWED FBI SA [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] RESPECTIVE CASE AGENTS FOR 1987 "FINDERS" INVESTIGATION ON 11/5/93. FD-302s REFLECTING THESE INTERVIEWS WERE SENT TO FBIHQ VIA FACSIMILES ON 11/8/93 AND 11/12/93.

WMFO HAS NOT YET INTERVIEWED CUSTOMS SA [REDACTED] PER INSTRUCTIONS OF FBIHQ, BUT IS PREPARED TO DO SO UPON FBIHQ AUTHORIZATION.

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^PAGE 3 WMFO 31C-WF-189911 UNCLAS

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 [REDACTED] EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY ANY PERTINENT FILES AT EITHER [REDACTED] 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

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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: _____

Sender's Initials: _____

Number of Pages: _____
(Including Cover Page)

To: _____

FBIHQ - VC4

(Name of Office)

Date: _____

11/22/93

Facsimile Number: _____

Attn: _____

SSA

(Name Room Telephone)

From: _____

FBI WASHDC

(Name of Office)

Subject: _____

FINDERS

PI -

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b7C

[Handwritten signature]

Special Handling Instructions: _____

Originator's Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Originator's Facsimile Number: _____

Approved: _____

AGD

310-WF-189917-19 FBI/DOJ

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FBI - WASHDC	

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City Paper

WASHINGTON'S FREE WEEKLY

VOL. 8 NO. 32

AUGUST 12-18, 1988



NEWS release

CHIEF MAURICE T. TURNER, JR. • METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT • WASHINGTON, D.C.
FEBRUARY 9, 1987

ALLEGATIONS RELATING TO FINDERS ORGANIZATION

INFORMATION REQUESTED

THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT IS CONTINUING TO INVESTIGATE THE ALLEGED ABUSE OF SIX (6) CHILDREN FOUND WITH TWO MEN IN TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1987. BASED ON INFORMATION DEVELOPED BY THE TALLAHASSEE AUTHORITIES, THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT WAS CONTACTED AND REQUESTED TO ASSIST WITH THE INVESTIGATION.

IN SEARCH OF THE

FINDERS



A WORLDWIDE NETWORK

We Find
PERSONS
PLACES
THINGS
ORGANIZATIONS
IDEAS
EXCHANGES
MONEY
INFORMATION
NOUNS

United States District Court
DISTRICT OF Columbia

In the Matter of the Search of
3318-20 W Street, NW, known as 2 2-story
brick structures with an entrance between
the addresses connecting the two
structures

INFORMATION REQUESTED



Who are these game players? And why did they become a national news story last year? Jon Cohen [8]

31C-WF-789911-20
Michael Brady

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 your foe can't discern your edges, you make a poor target.

Friends-of-the Finders described them as '60s throwbacks who lived communally; ascribed to Eastern philosophies, played elaborate games using the globe as their board, and raised their children creatively. Relatives branded them a cult and charged that they were pawns of their leader, Marion Pettie 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-savvy bunch was made up of spooks. Neighbors of Finders' homes in D.C. and rural Virginia accused them of plain weird: How else to explain perpetually shattered windows, a rooftop bar, and adults undressed in dress clothes ambling outdoors with buck-naked kids who didn't go to school?

These images spun in concentric circles, like planets around the sun. Then on Wednesday, February 4, 1987, the planets began to collide.

Shortly before 5 o'clock that afternoon a woman who lived next 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 communal group, 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 not acted so evasive and weird, they well might have been thanked for their time and left alone. But there are too many what-ifs in the Finders saga, too many chapters 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 innuendo, 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 swiped children from their parents, sexually abused them, and peddled kiddie 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 remotes. The *Miami Herald* quoted parents of Finders wondering if the group was going to pull a mass suicide, a la Jonestown. The staid *New York Times* reported that "some have described [the Finders] as a bizarre cult of devil worshippers." 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 stir 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 child-

ren 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 files. 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 article. "We were not the lead agency," explained spokesman Sergeant Joe Gentile. D.C. Police also denied my Freedom of Information Act request and appeal, claiming that this case was a juvenile matter and therefore off limits.

Officer Judy Suchocki, one of the arresting officers, guides her patrol car between stands of oaks to a patch of dirt at Tallahassee's Myers Park. As her headlights illuminate webs of Spanish moss hanging from the trees, she tells the story of the arrest.

Suchocki had responded to a Code 13P, 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 were from Washington and she recited 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 clammed up entirely.

"I'm not sure what's going on," Mashburn told Suchocki. They radioed their superiors.

For one week in 1987, the D.C.-based Finders were the talk of the country when Tallahassee Police arrested two well-dressed members traveling with six dirty kids. The secretive group has faded away again, but a few questions haven't. How did they become Page One news? Why did the state of Florida drag the case out for week after week? And who are the Finders, anyway?

By Jon Cohen

A.DG

D: FR 11
JEFF UBOIS/ MCI 10: 216-0456

INFORMATION REQUESTED

TO KIDS GAME: EXPAND YOUR GRANKY NETWORK WORK.

COMMAND: FR 12
FROM: JEFF UBOIS/ MCI 10: 216-0456

SUBJECT: MDP TO KIDS GAME
TUES. 5AM

IF AUTHORITARIANS APPROACH AGAIN, SAY "HAT DUKE ON THE WAY TO MEXICO TO START A SCHOOL, AND THAT YOU ARE GOING TO BY THE MOTHERS TO DO THIS."

IT FEELS LIKE A HOSTILE ACT WHEN KIDS ARE FOUND IN SCHOOL. IF THEY ASK TELL ABOUT THEIR DEGREES, FEW THAT THEY DON'T HAVE. ANNOUNCE THAT YOU ARE GOING TO CALL THE SCHOOL: "HARVARD UNIVERSITY FOR BRIGHT KIDS."

COMMAND: FR 12
FROM: JEFF UBOIS

SUBJECT: MDP TO KIDS GAME

SS: TT SAYS PHC

SS: DID YOU DO FOR THEM ARCHIV

COMMAND: FR 13
FROM: JEFF UBOIS

SUBJECT: MDP TO KIDS GAME

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COMMAND: FR 13
FROM: JEFF UBOIS

SUBJECT: MDP TO KIDS GAME

SS: TT SAYS PHC

8317

ST PETERSBURG TIMES

metro station

Cult children were seen

INFORMATION REQUESTED

RTG MAB

FDLE

Florida Department of Law Enforcement

MISSING JUVENILE

NAME: UNIDENTIFIED MALE

ALIAS:

STATUS: ☐ Fugitive ☐ Runaway ☐ Lost ☐ Parental Abduction ☒ Other (X)

RACE/SEX: W/M

HEIGHT: Pounds

HAIR COLOR: Brown HAIR STYLE:



Waiting for their supervisor to arrive, Suchocki continued her interview with the kids. The Game Caller was a big fat man who sat on a pedestal and threw pennies at them, Mary said. Suchocki began to think the kids had been brainwashed.

Mary recounted a recent trip to a coin-op laundry. They hadn't put enough soap in the machine and some of the clothes didn't come clean. They said they received food in reward for work, lived 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 peeled them for the other kids.

"Stuff like that made me wonder if the men were taking care of the kids properly—even if they weren't being kidnapped," says Suchocki.

Florida child-abuse laws make it a misdemeanor to deprive children of food, clothing, shelter, or medical care or to cause them mental injury. On arrival, Suchocki and Mashburn's supervisor decided, if nothing else, these laws had been broken and he told the officers to arrest the men.

Suchocki didn't put up any argument. "There was no way I was going to let these men continue with the kids if I could help it," she says. "Can you imagine how I would have

felt if we let them go and I learned later that these six kids were kidnapped? Think about it. If it was your child who was kidnapped..."

When informed that they were under arrest, Holwell fell to the ground.

"The guy just did a fake faint," says Suchocki. "I've seen it several times. Women are real good at doing it. Usually when a person really faints you don't bend the knees. This guy did a Scarlett O'Hara thing."

"I checked him. I looked at his eyes to make sure he wasn't diabetic or something. I said, 'Get up. I know you're faking this mess.' And he wouldn't get up....It was like a child playing, like when you go in to check if they're asleep at night."

A few teenagers hanging out in the park noticed the commotion and fetched their home video camera to tape the arrest. Holwell was hoisted by his limbs, put in a patrol car with Ammerman, and driven to the station. Suchocki drove the kids over in the van.

Ammerman, who had a valid driver's license, was booked under his name and also under an alias, Kenny Rogers. Holwell had no ID and was booked as John Doe, with the a.k.a.'s Michael James Houlihan and James Michael Holwell.

"The children were extremely hungry when they got to the police department," officer Mashburn wrote in his three-page report. "The children appeared as if they hadn't bathed in several days and most of them

didn't have on any underwear....The children's clothing were extremely filthy and they had on mismatched socks."

Investigator Cheryl Weigand of the Sex Crimes and Juvenile Unit "Miranda-ed" Holwell and Ammerman in a holding cell and attempted to interview them. Instead of answering Weigand's questions, Ammerman asked about the charges while Holwell laid on the cell's floor with his eyes shut tight, jerking his body. "Holwell was doing the frog," says Weigand, who was appointed the case's lead investigator.

"If they had said who they were, given us a number where we could have contacted the mothers, I'm not saying the situation wouldn't have concerned us—it might still have been a little hard for us to understand—but it would have lifted a large cloud," Weigand says. "We had six children, and we didn't know who their mothers were."

Weigand ushered the kids through the second of the many interviews they would endure.

Mary said the Game Caller's name was Marion Pettie. She said he forbade the children from entering the Glover Park house and that he lived on the roof. While on the roof, she explained, they wrote to Pettie on a modem-equipped computer—a TRS-80 laptop—and then he would tell them what to do.

I don't understand, Investigator Weigand said.

Mary told her they were "different."

Different indeed. One of the boys peed on the rug in Weigand's office. Other kids soiled their pants. Six-year-old Max Livingston, she noted, had a poor understanding of time. He didn't seem to recognize a stapler, a typewriter, and other common office objects. Weigand led the kids back to the van to get some food and one of the 2-year-olds ate eight bananas and a carrot.

"These children were not properly taken care of," says Weigand, who hails from New York. "Being a police officer is very much a learned behavior. You see one incident and say 'what if?' We see hundreds and hundreds and we learn what is reasonable for a parent to do and what is not reasonable."

Weigand spoke with one of the girls about sexual abuse. "[S]he became very evasive," Weigand wrote in her report. "She denied any 'bad touches,' or any inappropriate behavior by the adults. [She] became very fidgety, and wanted to end the interview."

Later, two of the kids described a game in which they ripped off an adult's clothes. Apparently, the kids only tore off a man's jacket and then rummaged through his pockets for change. They told Weigand about another game where women walked around naked. "Both children felt that this was very funny," wrote Weigand, "and went along with the concept of it being a game."

The police fingerprinted the children and

Research for this article was aided by a grant from the Fund for Investigative Journalism.

In Search of the FINDERS

took their mug shots after agents from Florida's Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services (HRS) arrived to place the kids in protective custody.

Investigator Weigand phoned the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department and explained the situation, giving them the Glover Park phone number and address Mary had memorized. D.C. Police reported back to Weigand, saying they had reached an answering machine with a "weird" message on it, some kind of biblical passage. D.C. said it was going to send a cruiser by the house. Tallahassee didn't hear from D.C. until the next day.

As Finders travel the country and the world, they communicate with fellow members via electronic mailboxes, such as MCI Mail. No matter where they are they can 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 (Stuart Silverstone—they typically use their initials when corresponding) sent a "priority" report to BM (Bob Meyer).

"The sequence of events started here when I returned to W St [the Glover Park home] last night around 10pm to a waiting Metropolitan Police Officer Smith of the 2nd District HQ," SS's report reads. Officer Smith told SS that three kids were found in Tallahassee living in a van and that police thought one of the mothers lived at this address.

"The offer asked my name, which I gave, + whether this was a school. No, and that was about it," wrote SS. "I offered to make some calls to try + locate the mother?"

SS checked the answering machine and listened to a message left by the D.C. Police. A few minutes later, the phone rang. "I was an official from Florida's HRS explaining that they had taken kids and that the juvenile court would be holding a custody hearing the next morning." He asked me if I knew where the mothers were, + I said I would try to find out. He asked if this was a school, + I said No, it was a private residence. He would not tell me more, such as the names of the men being held + charges.

On Thursday, the day after the arrest, the juvenile court granted HRS temporary custody of the children. The criminal court set bond of \$100,000 each for the misdemeanor child-abuse charges leveled against Ammerman and Holwell. SS called Investigator Weigand, using the name Steve Learner, and told her he was trying to help put the mothers in touch with her. Weigand explained the particulars of the case. Would the mothers get their kids if they showed up? he asked. Not necessarily, Weigand said.

"It was a very routine sort of investigation," says Officer Scott Hunt, who was the Tallahassee Police Department spokesman at the time.

Hunt phoned the press Wednesday night and briefed them, but on Thursday the only mention of the arrest was in a small story in the local paper, the *Tallahassee Democrat*. "Child abuse cases were not that unusual," says Hunt.

That changed before the close of Thursday when D.C. Police realized Ammerman and Holwell were members of the Finders:

"Their [D.C. Police] response was 'Holy shit! We've been looking at these freaks,'" says Hunt.

Tallahassee Investigator Cheryl Weigand spoke to Detective Jim Bradley of the Washington Metropolitan Police Intelligence Unit that day. In her report she wrote, "He asked this investigator if I thought there was a possibility there may be more children at either of the locations [the Glover Park home the women and children resided in or a Northeast warehouse that the men called home]. This investigator stated that may be true, but I did

not have any specific child that I knew of there. He stated that he was going to get search warrants on both locations, and try to serve them later this date."

Det. Bradley filed an affidavit for the search warrants at the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia on Thursday afternoon, explaining that he was looking for evidence of kidnapping, a federal crime, or any related offenses described in the affidavit.

"Prior to February 5th, 1987 your affiant, Detective James E. Bradley, Jr. received information from a confidential source of information," wrote Bradley. "This source stated that a group of subjects calling themselves the Finders, A [sic] cult, were conducting 'brainwashing' techniques at the above described two locations in Dist of Columbia. The source stated that members of the 'cult' attempted on numerous occasions [sic] to introduce it into the 'cult' by promising financial rewards and sexual gratification. The source stated that children are used in 'rituals' by the members of the 'cult'. The source stated that it never personally observed the children being abused but that it had had conversations with grandparents of the children who feared for the safety of the children."

"The source further stated that during the latter part of December 1986 it personally had conversations with one of the 'cult' members, identified as Allen Schoen, wanted it to 'explore' Satanism with members of the 'cult'."

Judge Jean Dwyer approved the warrants shortly after 4 p.m. Bradley's affidavit became the fount of much of the sensational reporting that followed. Ex-Finder Paula Arico, mother of Mary and John Paul Pope and formerly Holwell's wife, says Bradley's "confidential source" is a woman who had a brief affair with a group member. Two independent sources confirmed this.

In the affidavit, Bradley summarized what he had learned from Tallahassee Police and wrote, "Lastly, the source in this investigation told your affiant that the information concerning this 'cult' is kept in computers stored at the addresses listed in this affidavit."

Homeward Bound: After 41 days in jail, Florida dropped all charges against Holwell (l) and Ammerman.



In what appears to be an addendum, Bradley added this zinger in slightly larger type.

"On December 15, 1986 Detective Bradley responded to the area of Glover Park in the rear of the 3900 Block of W Street, N.W. Det. Bradley 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 [sic] was a small very ornate gravestone propped up against the support pillar for the porch."

Like other members of the Metropolitan Police, Det. Bradley did not return phone calls and did not reply to a written request for an interview.

To a school of journalists circling a story, an affidavit like this one—packed with sex, child abuse, the occult, and cultism—is fresh blood. Affidavits are court documents, and journalists can quote from them without fearing a libel suit. Whether the police have their facts straight doesn't matter—an affidavit tells a journalist what the police think they know.

If that wasn't enough to chum the waters, sexual abuse got tossed in. An HRS caseworker told Investigator Weigand and at least one other Tallahassee officer that two of the children were "confirmed cases of sexual abuse," even though the physician who conducted sexual exams on the children for HRS had not confirmed sexual abuse.

The doctor's dictation, transcribed the day after the exam, cautiously describes possible sexual abuse of one boy and one girl.

"This is a distinctly abnormal hymenal pattern compatible with either digital or attempted penile penetration," he said of the girl. "The absence of superficial [sic] abrasions revealed by toluidine [sic] blue would argue against any recent trauma [in the last 3-5 days]." Of the boy, he stated, "The degree of anal sphincter laxity should prompt questioning in the area of anal digital penetration or

sodomy, although it is not diagnostic of either."

Thursday evening, D.C. news stations broadcast their first Finders stories and Friday's *Washington Post* ran a small story in Metro.

On Friday, Weigand, another Tallahassee investigator, and an FBI agent tried to interview the men at Leon County Jail, where they were kept in isolation. To the investigators' surprise, when they arrived at the jail they bumped into Doug Ammerman's brother, David.

David told the officers Doug had visited their parents in Gainesville a few weeks before the arrest with a boy he claimed was his. Doug Ammerman had told his parents he was heading for Miami.

Though David said he hadn't seen his brother in three or four years, the year before he had written Doug a letter. David showed the investigators the reply. It wasn't from Doug. It was from Stuart Silverstone—SS—and printed on the letterhead of Gung-Ho Traders, 1307 Fourth Street NE, the address of the Finders' warehouse. Silverstone's letter said Doug had left for China with a Dr. Gung-Ho just before the postman delivered David's letter. David Ammerman also showed investigators a letter addressed to their mother signed by "The Three Wives of Gung Ho."

The letter reads, "This is to testify that your son Douglas, aka Earnest Angel, I Betterson, Danny Proper, Kenny Rogers is a true master of the art of fucking. The shape of his cock is unique and he is truly an artist at using it to give us the most pleasure. The depth! The width! The heights! No other man touches us in this way."

"His hands have magic as they stroke our slender limbs and moist pussies. Words cannot describe the tender passion that Douglas brings to our orgasmic pleasures...."

"Oh Mrs. Ammerman, we cannot thank you enough for having raised such a great stud. Just think, if he had never left home, we'd never have known the ecstasy of his throbbing penis."

Doug Ammerman refused to speak with the investigators or his visiting brother. Holwell, however, offered some "basic information" and asked about the children. Had they been seen by a doctor? Was anything found? Where were they? The investigators told him the kids were in protective custody and not in need of immediate medical attention.

Friday was also the day that reporters from the *Post* and local TV stations got their hands on the affidavit, just in time to photograph and videotape the raid of the Finders' warehouse.

At a press conference in Tallahassee, Scott Hunt revealed that "physical examinations showed sexual abuse to one of the children."

The Washington TV stations went wild. Take WUSA-TV, for example, D.C.'s CBS affiliate. They broadcast the arrest footage shot by the teens. Bob Strickland appeared live from Tallahassee. Me-lo-dra-ma-tic Mike Buchanan, citing police sources, reported that the Finders had "worldwide connections," used "sex and children to obtain power and money," and had two bank accounts with over \$100,000 in each one. The Glover Park residence was "a breeding house where women exercise great control." The children in custody were "like shells, zombie-like."

In the searches of the Finders' two D.C. addresses, police recovered computers, data disks, software, diaries, and other personal papers. Police also seized photos they said showed children taking part in animal blood-letting ceremonies. One photo supposedly showed a child in chains.

If you missed it on TV, there it was on Page One of the Saturday *Post* in two stories above the fold, complete with police mug shots of the kids in Tallahassee.

"Officials Describe 'Cult Rituals' in Child Abuse Case," one *Post* story was headlined. "Customs officials said they were looking into whether a child pornography operation was being conducted," the article said. Adding to the intrigue, *Post* reporters noted that photos of naked children were "visible through a bag carried from the warehouse" during the raid. (In TV footage of the raid, one of the article's

In Search of the FINDERS

authors can be seen scribbling madly as she peers through a jam-packed plastic bag a cop hauls away.)

The *Miami Herald's* Page One story quoted Officer Scott Hunt, "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."

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.... There is 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 satanism and pornography expertise. Interpol was investigating a tip about Holwell.

The Tallahassee Police Department was awash in the media flood. "I had 75 reporters waiting for me in the lobby," says Hunt. "We logged 450 telephone calls to me in two days. They were bringing in overtime people to help take messages." Hundreds of calls were from parents claiming the children. Canvassing the nation for the kids' parents were the National Center for Exploited Children, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Child Find, Children's Clearing House, the National Child Safety Council, and the National Association of Missing Children. Aside from a bomb threat, phoned to the house holding the kids, they were physically safe as could be.

Saturday night, three days after the arrest, the Finders went public with their story. Gardner Terrell, a CPA formerly with the Internal Revenue Service, sent a memo to D.C. and Tallahassee Police, the FBI, HRS, the juvenile court judge, the FBI, Dan Rather, and the *Washington Post*. With a stab at wit and humor, the Finders' trademark, Terrell headed the memo "SUBJECT: Investigative Leads."

"This memo is respectfully offered in the hope that it will clear up some misunderstanding concerning the current 'missing children' case receiving so much media coverage," he wrote. Terrell explained that in early January, Ammerman, a landscape gardener, and Stanley Berns, an architect, had taken the seven children to Berea, Kentucky, to help the Rev. Jim Wyker build a retirement community called New Hope. Terrell gave the name and phone number of a Berea couple who helped care for the kids during their visit, and said the plan had been to enroll them in the couple's Montessori school while the community was being built.

Because the Rev. Wyker was not ready to break ground for New Hope, wrote Terrell, "the men took the children on a vacation/camping trip to the warmer climate of Florida with the full applause and approval of the children's mothers." Terrell wrote that he drove to Florida with Holwell, computer programmers Christian Herbst and Thomas R. Van Deusen, and Robert M. Meyer. Herbst, noted Terrell, has a Harvard M.A., while Meyer "is a Princeton and Oxford M.A."

"When we were satisfied that the six children [were] safely in the hands of five capable adults, Mr. Meyer and I left Florida." On the day of the arrest, Holwell and Ammerman took the kids to the park while the three other men looked for "accommodations."

"The mothers had fully authorized these men, in writing, to care for their children and expressed full confidence in them," wrote Terrell, referring to the authorization letters in the van's glove compartment. "All of the mothers are now in San Francisco working in business offices, earning money to help pay for 'New Hope.'"

Terrell, who claimed he owned the raided Glover Park home and the Northeast warehouse, closed by saying he considered the arrests and raids "mistakes." Not violations of civil liberties. Not a humiliating pain in the ass. Not a wholly unnecessary bureaucratic fuck-up. Mistakes, that's all. His memo included his phone number and an offer to help in any way he could.

Reporters and police never poked a hole in Terrell's even-toned and cordial letter. From Berea, Kentucky, the Rev. Jim Wyker confirmed that the men and children had stayed with him for a week in January. The 86-year-old retired non-denominational minister was a rock-solid source. He told the *Louisville Courier-Journal* he met the Finders at a "meeting of commune proponents" a few years before. That past November, he told them about his New Hope plans, and January 9 they popped in to help. "The only thing we discussed was the land and the building and children's center," he said. "I'm not trying to uphold the

Kids."

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

"We are all in a state right now where we are afraid. We've been made almost dysfunctional by the reports," Terrell told the *Post* in what the paper called a lengthy telephone interview. Terrell described the "bloodletting ritual" as the slaughter of two goats kept on a farm in Virginia. The goats had been killed for food, he said, and the kids had watched the slaughter as an educational experience.

The *Post's* conversation with Terrell came shortly after police raided five Finders' properties in two small Virginia towns near Old Rag Mountain, Etlan and Nethers. Again, the *Post* satisfied the readers' longing to peer behind the curtain—no matter what might be there. "The door of one cabin was open yesterday, revealing large amounts of food, clothing, sleeping bags, books and pamphlets from

"By Monday, Washington's out of this, they're shutting down," recalls Lt. Van Meter. "We're getting calls from the chief in D.C. telling our chief, 'We don't have anything. Bye.'"

Monday was also the day Tallahassee got first wind of Marion Pettie's whereabouts.

Lt. Lee Hart of the Culpeper (Virginia) Police Department informed Tallahassee that he had a contact with the Finders. Hart said this contact told him Pettie put out the word for members to flee and hide, and Pettie would probably go to Andrews Air Force Base and catch a military plane flight to China. This was plausible: Pettie, a retired Air Force master sergeant, had the right to free, stand-by military transport.

Monday also saw a visit to the Washington, D.C., Field Office of the FBI by one of the Finders' mothers and the three men from the white van.

An FBI report of the interviews gives the impression that Herbst, Van Deusen, and Meyer had remained calm until they read the newspaper accounts on Friday morning, February 6th. "[T]hey realized they were being portrayed as child abusers and satanists. Frightened, the three decided to return to WDC and figure out what to do."

In Monday's *Washington Post*, Terrell explained the men's silence and passivity ("Finders' Member Labels Arrests 'All a Big Mistake'"). Shortly before the Tallahassee arrests they had been stopped by police in Marion County, Florida, and that incident combined with 10 years of being hassled by D.C. cops convinced the men that it would be better to deal with a judge than unreasonable police.

"Another Finders mother called the Tallahassee Police Monday and asked whether the mothers would be arrested if they came to claim their kids. 'We couldn't give the mothers the guarantee that they wouldn't be arrested,' says Lt. Van Meter. The mother agreed to call back the next day."

Two more mothers visited the FBI in D.C. on Tuesday. "Everyone interviewed stated child abuse and child sexual exploitation is not a part of their beliefs and sex with children is morally reprehensible," the FBI report states. "All have complete confidence in the ability of any of their group to care for the children.... They do not in any way, shape or form practice 'satanism,' and all are eager for the return of their children. Everyone interviewed agreed to be polygraphed by the FBI should the need arise." Two more mothers were to be interviewed the next day, the report explains, and after that the mothers were planning to head to Tallahassee.

"[We] have not uncovered any indication of violation of a federal statute," the report concludes.

"We had pretty much tied up the case," Investigator Weigand says.

By Tuesday, the *Post* had consigned the Finders story to the Metro section—"D.C. Police: Finders Odd, Not Criminal."

That night, Terrell invited reporters into the Finders' warehouse for an interview. Sitting with his back to the cameras, a Ronald Reagan mask cowering the hind part of his head, he explained that the mothers hadn't come forward because they were waiting out the storm.

Terrell also told reporters that he was "playing the role of Ghangiz K. Plato."

Tallahassee Police spokesman Hunt was flabbergasted. "Why are we doing this jousting in the media? I believe Mr. Terrell could go a long way in clearing this case if he produces the mothers of these children as he says he can," he told the *Tallahassee Democrat* on Tuesday.

"Up till that point, people said the ol' police department did some pretty dumb things," recalls Investigator Rick Huffman, who inherited the case from Weigand when the *Post* was on vacation. "Then there's this clown on TV saying all these stupid things. People started saying that's too stupid to be any kind of a cult. In Tallahassee, it turned out that this whole thing was being perceived as a joke."

Though Weigand believed the case was wrapped up Tuesday, she still wondered why the mothers had not hightailed it down to Tal-

Specials Describe
KODAK MELODIES
INFORMATION REQUIRED
Mistake
abuse
Memo: Finders found
Mystery children were
held by cult, police say

folks from Washington. I don't know them. All I know is what I saw."

The report of three other men fished with tips police had gotten about a white van traveling with the blue van. Several state police had even been put on the lookout for the white van.

On Sunday, a college student and part-time Tallahassee Police Department employee brought to police a TRS-80 computer he found. (One police source told me the student brought the computer in on Thursday, but that the police wanted to explore its files for a few days.) Files on the computer included a report from the three men Terrell mentioned in his memo, Herbst, Van Deusen, and Meyer.

This trio had left Holwell and Ammerman at 10 a.m. Wednesday morning. "They were dressed in suits and ties, the van had been cleaned up, and the kids had been dressed in clean clothes, they had a large amount of produce with them, and the kids had a breakfast buffet before they left," the confiscated report reads. Holwell and Ammerman were supposed to link up with the men via their electronic mailbox. Until they read SS's report the next morning, the three men had no idea where Holwell and Ammerman had gone. SS's report didn't send them into a panic though: One spent the day earning a few dollars helping "a cripple" while the other two researched an article about desktop publishing at Tallahassee's Florida State University library.

Other files in the TRS-80 included a report from a member working in Hong Kong and a short note from MDP, Marion D. Pettie, to the "Kids Game." Dated 5 a.m. Tuesday morning, it reads, "If authoritarians approach again, say that you are on the way to Mexico to start a school and that you are authorized by the mothers to do this."

"It feels like a hostile act when kids are found not to be in school. If they ask tell about their degrees, plus a few that they don't have. Announce that you are going to call the school: 'Harvard University for Bright

girls such as the World Future Society," the article revealed. "A plastic bag containing hundreds of neckties and several pairs of penny hose were on the floor, along with boxes of diapers."

The *Post's* coverage included juicy tidbits in paragraph 16 of one of the stories. According to a U.S. Customs spokesman, agents who saw photos seized in the D.C. raids said some of them appeared to involve sex between adults and kids. This appeared balanced with a D.C. Police source calling the pictures "no more pornographic than what you find in your average home." Later in the story, a D.C. Police source confessed that the D.C. raids didn't turn up "anything anywhere."

"We had two separate investigations going on. Ours and the media's," says Tallahassee Police's Lt. Jo Ann Van Meter, who supervised the beginning of the investigation.

"I never expected the media attention I got," says Tallahassee Police spokesman Hunt. "Never. That's the problem you have with multiple jurisdictions: The media was playing off all of us and making it a bigger story."

On Monday, Day 6 of the Finders Crisis, Washington Metropolitan Police began to slink away from the case.

The day before, D.C. Detectives Jim Bradley and Eric Witzig had interrogated the kids in Tallahassee. Bradley, who had requested the D.C. search warrants, said his visit to Tallahassee was prompted by three separate accounts of the Glover Park house's basement. Exactly what he was looking for in Tallahassee escaped Investigator Weigand, who wrote in her report for that day, "He indicated that there may have been a hole dug in the walls or the floor of the basement, for unknown reasons." Judging from the Tallahassee reports, the D.C. detectives trip to Florida was a waste. They didn't learn much more than Mary could count to 10 in Chinese.

"The chief in D.C. sent up a hue and a cry in the beginning," says Tallahassee's Lt. Van Meter, "and then when his guys didn't come up with anything, he backed away."

In Search of the FINDERS

lahassee the day they learned of the arrest.

"Seems to me that people who have never done anything wrong have nothing to fear," says Weigand. "What were they hiding? If it were me, I'd blindly go get my child."

Sex, confusion, small-mindedness, fear, the press, and the enigmatic Finders kept jolting the Finders case back to life.

HRS recruited Chicago psychologist Dr. Nahman Greenberg to tackle the question of sexual abuse. Known for his sex-abuse work in the Manhattan Beach, California, preschool case, Greenberg held a series of interviews with the kids. His conclusion: the evidence was inconclusive.

The tangle of law-enforcement outfits working the case continued to confuse everyone.

"A couple of officers in D.C. used our arrest as an excuse to go into the warehouse," says a Tallahassee officer who asked for anonymity. "They were obsessed with this group and wanted access."

Larry Kahaner, a D.C. journalist and author of the current book, *Cults That Kill*, spoke with police about the Finders while researching his book. (The Finders are not mentioned in his book, nor does he classify them as a cult that kills.)

"Finders were operating here for 25 years," says Kahaner, "and as far as I know, law enforcement had nothing on them. I think that was a very embarrassing thing. Not that they got caught with their pants down—but they were at least half-way down."

Investigator Huffman is the only Tallahassee officer who squarely discussed problems in his own department with me. He says the arresting officers did right. "You really have to



Stop, In the Name of Law: Arresting officer Judy Suchocki at the scene of the "crime."

commend them. It's easier to cut someone loose than to get involved." But, he says, "If you get down to the bottom line, people have the right to remain silent."

A sociology major in college, Huffman says he compared the Finders to the Amish—different, not bad. Yet he cautions, "They do have their immaturities."

"Our chief of police wasn't here," says Huffman. "He's very progressive and has the ability to think in new ways. But I had to deal with the deputy chief. He had already written the group off."

"There was a meeting with the FBI, HRS, state's attorney, guardian ad litem [a legal advocate for the kids]—everybody. I had only said one thing: Let's be objective."

"He let out a sigh I can still remember. He said, directed at me, something to the effect of 'If it swims like a duck, quacks like a duck

and looks like a duck, what the hell more do you need?' Obviously, these men should be sent down the river."

Huffman says the deputy chief meant well, "But he had a very narrow view."

Separate Florida agencies were battling over what to do with the case, too. "It became a political ball that bounced from one agency to the next," says Lt. Van Meter. "HRS and the state's attorney didn't want to let go of it. They kept insisting there was more to it. We got really embarrassed. It got to be a real circus."

Willie Meggs, the state's attorney, handled both the adult and juvenile cases.

"Willie gets up every morning and takes his righteous indignation pill," says Van Meter. "He's very religious, very conservative. To him, these people were heretics. He's the kind of guy who has moon satiated on one arm and

apple pie on the other. To him, they were living wrong and living bad. The HRS caseworker came off like that, too."

Sherry Walker, the assistant state's attorney first assigned to the juvenile case, stepped down because she believed her office was "projecting our own morals on this group." Walker, who is running for state senate, doesn't bad mouth Willie Meggs. She thinks he was doing his job as an elected official.

"Tallahassee is very conservative. Anything not Southern Baptist is fearful to people. In this conservative environment, it looked like the mothers were unfit. We believe that kids should get three meals, clean clothes, and be put to bed at a decent hour. In this area, women are the primary caretakers. Mr. Meggs was elected by this same conservative group," Walker says.

Meggs did have "very deep feelings" about this case, Walker allows. "When you have such deep feelings about what you think is right and wrong, it does slow things up. A legal decision is not the same as a moral decision."

Willie Meggs, who displays a Holy Bible in his office, says he thinks the case went on so long because Holwell and Ammerman refused to cooperate. "The defendants acted like horse's tails," he says. "They were all secretive. If blame has to be placed anywhere it ought to be placed on these people."

Meggs says his office wanted to be "absolutely sure" of the kids' safety. "We weren't just willing to let them go to these women who claimed to be their mothers."

Meggs' office repeatedly offered plea bargains in the Holwell and Ammerman cases. "We didn't have anything," Meggs says, point blank. "When it all boiled down, when you get down to the final analysis, I just wanted them to get out of Dodge."

Meggs stands by his office's actions. "We all have a soft spot for kids," he says. "I certainly hope that the citizenry would want us to get to the bottom of a case like this. The only thing I wish is that we could have done our

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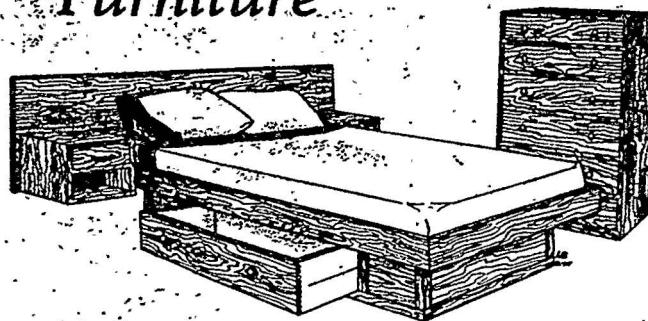
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In Search of the FINDERS

investigation without the press."

Nearly everyone who tangled with the Finders affair slagged the media—including the media—and blamed them for protracting the cases. Some attacks were, of course, "kill the messenger." Others whipped reporters for all the right reasons. Some were more introspective complaints. Others lamented the constraints of late-20th century journalism, where it's the McMedium, not the message.

"This became a big story because the press made it a big deal," Scott Hunt says. Hunt, who took flak for announcing sexual abuse and satanism in the case, is red in the face now. "How do you think I got this information? By osmosis? Somebody told me."

One report that especially irks Hunt was originated by WUSA and rebroadcast by the Tallahassee CBS affiliate. "They prefaced the story, 'Fact: Tallahassee Police Department has botched this investigation,'" says Hunt. The local station invited Hunt to the studio to rebut.

"I went live on the air and called the D.C. affiliate a bunch of liars," he says with satisfaction. "I didn't bare any horses. I let the CBS affiliate have it right between the eyes."

Rick Huffman doesn't let Hunt or others in his department off so easily. Part of the problem, he says, is that the Tallahassee Police Department wasn't used to national attention. "We had Connie Chung call us up," he remembers. "Our old PIO [public information officer—Hunt] is flapping his gills all over the department."

According to Huffman, Hunt said, "This is it folks! This is my day! Connie Chung is going to interview me."

Huffman, who didn't give any interviews

once took over the case, says publicity meant power-money-promotion to some on the staff. Others, he says, like Hunt, had purer motives. "They were like, wow, we may be the impetus to bring down pedophilia all over the world. We're the snowball at the top of the mountain. Maybe we can do some good." But Huffman didn't believe this was a credible case.

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

Huffman was particularly ranked by the allegations of sexual abuse.

"I told them, You people are dealing with fire. For you to mention possible sexual battery to the media, they don't hear 'possible.' You are proposing the idea. This is where the inexperience hurt them. They should have personally gone to the doctor and had a good tete-a-tete to find out how far we were going to go with this. If the doctor said we had semen stains on the girl, they should have asked, Well, did you find a little? A lot? Where did you find it? If it was inside the vagina it would be different than on the foot."

"I just think we jumped to conclusions."

The ordinarily toothless Post ombudsman, Joseph Latin, was critical of his paper's Finders coverage. He chomped into his colleagues. "The news stories were laced with unnamed sources; innuendo abounded," he wrote. "Facts were in short supply, but space in The Post wasn't."

In the *Washington Journalism Review's* Finders critique, the news director of WRC-TV was asked if his reporters were too quick to trust the authorities. "Well, they're initially your source," he said, "and as long as you report it as such you're reporting a news story....I mean, we're not an 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 facts straight is tough, as I showed in a piece of Finders press criticism I wrote

for *City Paper*. I incorrectly reported that the men faced sexual abuse charges, I incorrectly stated their bond, and I incorrectly said they were arrested February 5. And I only faced a weekly deadline.

Tallahassee Democrat reporter Jan Pudlow, who did some of the best reporting on the group and stuck with it long after the pack had gone home, says the Finders have to shoulder some of the blame for the media's goofs.

"If you're looking at the media's responsibility to capture the truth about these people, I've got to admit I've got 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 wit and humor? I was part of their wit and humor. The wit is being deceitful and downright lying and what they call 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 know 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 I still wouldn't want to get a quote from them."

I first called the Glover Park home in late June, dialing one of the many Finders' phone numbers listed in the Tallahassee Police documents. "Gooten tag," said the answering machine. "Ni Hau. Konichi wah." I didn't leave a message.

I then called the Northeast warehouse and group member Bob Meyer answered. I requested a group interview and told Meyer I had the police records. I dropped a detail to Meyer that not many people know. When they arrived in Tallahassee to claim their kids, the Finders mothers told police the group did not call itself the Finders. Finders, they said,

was the name of a business the group no longer ran. That's right, Meyer said, laughing. As we spoke, I could hear the punctuated chatter of a computer keyboard: Was Meyer keyboarding our conversation?

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

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

"Hello," the message began. "This is the so-called Finders calling for Jon Cohen on Saturday at 8:30 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 rhyming message that went something like this:

Could we buy another's year
Our windy salutations here
'Twould make us meet
Be quick then
As our Lord requests
A truthful foal of wit and zest
We bid thee speak

I left a message.

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

Usdin, clean-shaven and dressed in a conservative coat and tie, was maybe in his mid-20s. I told him I was swamped and asked if we could meet the next day.

"I don't know," he said. "I'll set tomorrow aside and wait in the office all day," I said eagerly. "Don't do that for me," he said. "I don't make appointments."

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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 numbers.
 "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.

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

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 Troubadours, trouveres, 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 1987 edition of the *Britannica* describes troubadours and trouveres as closely related lyric poet-musicians who traipsed through France, Spain, and Italy in the 12th and 13th centuries. Adored by the courts, their verse typically explored love. Their poetry also set up lyrical conversations about "matters of a religious, metaphysical, or satirical character."

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



The Finders Keepers: The media flood swept away Tallahassee officers Jon Van Meter and Scott Hunt.

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

"Two people are in Atlanta covering the convention, two are in Japan, and one had to go to San Francisco on an emergency," Knauth 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 it was going to take 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 Knauth called me. "We have an information gift for you,"

Knauth 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, Knauth led me to a lounge that has a world map covering one wall and made me a cup of tea. She was kind enough, striking me as more nervous than zombie-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 knew that she intended to interview me as I intended to interview her. My goal was to regulate what I said, not to blather on to ease the tension.

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

To: Jon Cohen
 Fr: M.D. ["Student" is scratched 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 Knauth I didn't think they needed my help to do an in-depth study of me, in-depth studies being their specialty. I quickly flipped through the other papers 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 it 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 tenet is Mao's 'No investigation, no right to speak' so I'll quit guessing."

Knauth proceeded to win the upper hand in the interview game, offering no information yet still getting me to talk.

Before I left, I told her I was running out of time and if they wanted to speak with me it would have to be 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.

"He's welcome to call me at home," I said at the door.

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

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



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In-Search of the FINDERS

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

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

I asked him if I 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.
"Two reasons. One, to tell you that we'll answer all your questions. Two, we like you. We think you're a kindred 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 know that Post story Police Say Finders Odd, Not Criminal?" he asked. "I say, Police Criminal, Not Odd."

Then Usdin said that he never understood why police were going after them for satanism, saying he thought laws against devil worshipping were abolished after the Salem witch hunt.

"Not that I'm into satanism," he said. "I'm no more interested in satanism than the Democratic Convention. Actually, I'm more interested in the Democratic Convention because I get paid for going there."

Usdin said he was in Moscow when the story broke and first heard about it on a shortwave radio. "We got out 15 minutes of fame multiplied by five," he laughed.

At the end of our talk, I asked if I could speak with Marion Pettie at the meeting where they'd 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 their names and what were their games?

Who are these funny persons who play the game of games? Sometimes they act like nice guys or dragons raising hell.

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If you aren't RTGIAD, you can't play the game calls. And with the Finders, everything is a game call. Dress, diet, work, play, travel, marriage, divorce, pregnancy, child-rearing, pranks, investigations—even calling games can be a game call. Many people have suggested that the whole arrest was a game call. The point of all this fun and games: Every game call yields knowledge, which members bring to the Student, Marion Pettie, so he can call better and better games.

It's hard to lead a game-playing life—in this society, at least—without raising eyebrows.

While the Florida fracas exposed the Finders to the highest degree of scrutiny, it was not the first time outsiders had tried to understand the group and its motives.

After Marion Pettie retired from the Air Force as a master sergeant in 1956, he returned to the Culpeper 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 property 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 powwows 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 yuppie than hippie, a turnaround 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 Culpeper, where they often show up at town meetings in business suits. John Davies, a Culpeper attorney who represented a former group member in a divorce proceeding five years ago, says they never say anything but always take notes.

"From my perspective, they can have a significant impact on a community like Culpeper," 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 always researching townspeople.

The Finders have combed local real estate titles to see who owns what, and how much they owe, says Davies. He's also noticed Finders men walking down the street in coats and ties and making notes on every house they pass.

Davies says he thinks there's an old-fashioned motivation behind their game playing: Dollars. "Basically, they're doing collectively what an individual investor would do," he says.

In Washington, several people have posited that the Finders gather information because they are spies.

Daniel Brandt, who has put together a database of intelligence citations he sells as spy-BASE, says he first met Steve Usdin and Jeff Ubois, another group member, in the summer of '84. "They approached me 'cause they saw I was doing this database," says Brandt. "I had posted a note about it in an extremely obscure journal called *Reesi*."

Usdin and Ubois claimed they represented an outfit called Information Bank and they gave Brandt software in exchange for information. "They were very well-informed about counterspying," says Brandt. He met with them several times over the next year, visiting the warehouse twice.

"They kept pumping me for information and I got suspicious," says Brandt.

Brandt grew more suspicious when his friends told him odd tales about their dealings with the Information Bank. Realizing the depth of the Information Bank's knowledge of the left, he sent out a three-page memo to progressive groups around D.C.

Dated November 10, 1986, the memo is headed "A Summary of What is Known About Some Very Strange People Who use Computers and Seek Out Progressives so That They can ask a lot of Suspicious Questions." In addition to Information Bank, Brandt wrote, members said they were from Global Press Review, Hong Kong Business Today, and The Seekers. Members also approached Lou Wolf, a co-editor of *Covert Action Information Bulletin*, and he helped Brandt check them out.

"There are several characteristics that lend themselves to the interpretation that this is an information-gathering front for a cult of some sort," Brandt wrote in his summary, noting that members may not be told the purpose behind their missions. "The guise of computer consulting is an ideal method of spying on the Left," he concluded. "It would take about twenty seconds to copy an entire mailing list from a hard disk onto a floppy."

"If it's a game, it's pretty bizarre," says Brandt, who hasn't heard from the group in a few years. "It seems like there must be some sort of impetus behind it."

More than a year before the Tallahassee case, Rep. Robert Kastenmeier (D-Wis.) looked into the group at the behest of a constituent whose son had joined. Kastenmeier says he had a hunch that they were intelligence linked, but when he took it to the House Intelligence Committee he couldn't get verification. Kastenmeier's office did learn

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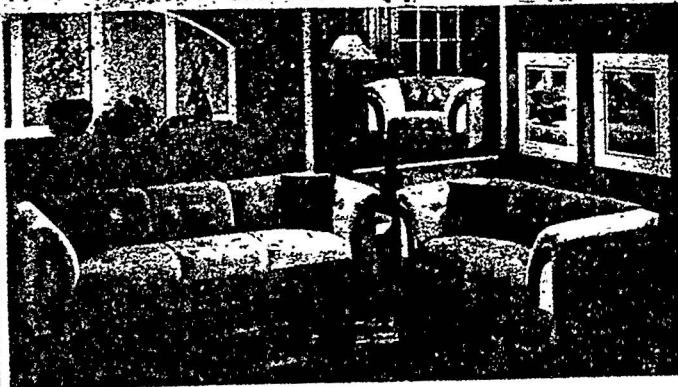
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The Florida Finder binder forced Paula Arico to choose between the group and John Paul and Mary.

In Search of the FINDERS

that Pettie had a background in military intelligence.

According to FBI documents, Pettie worked in Air Force intelligence and "sometimes bragged about his intelligence connections in later years. When the Finders story broke, WUSA reported that a police source claimed Pettie's deceased wife worked for the CIA. *Cats That Kill* author Larry Kahaner, 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 Kahaner. "The interesting part about the Finders is that they like to play games with law enforcement agencies. That's their shtik. As you'll notice in Tallahassee, they did indeed embarrass them. It may have been one of their games."

None of the Tallahassee Police I spoke with knew anything about the Finders working for an intelligence operation. But they all had a similar response to Investigator Cheryl Weigand's: "Nothing they are involved with would surprise me."

Paula Arico nearly spits up her food laughing when I tell her people suggest the Finders may be spooks.

Arico and I are eating at a restaurant in Tallahassee. She resettled here after the juvenile court finally deemed her fit to raise Mary and John Paul. "That's their model, to 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. "Wouldn't it be an exciting life?"

This is one of the few times in our many talks that Paula calls the group "they." Though she left the Finders more than a year ago, it's still "we this" and "we that." She also still speaks lovingly—no, adoringly—of Pettie.

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

Arico has a theory for why the Finders gather megabytes 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."

"But why compile a giant *Who's Who*?" I

ask. "It's a mystery why things are of interest to Pettie, but he's not able to call complete games if he doesn't have complete information."

"You don't know what game Pettie has in mind to call tomorrow. He already has it in mind. He's got next year's game in mind based on the information you're bringing him right now."

Talk like this sounds like slavish devotion, brainwashing, cult. But ultimately the labels are stupid. If any group defies a label it's the Finders. They're constantly changing, reinventing themselves, drafting new "Constitutions," setting new rules—RTGIAD.

A taste of Finders cosmology can be found in John Fowles' novel *The Magus*, in which Maurice Conchis (conscious—get it?) bedazzles the protagonist with a troupe of actors/consciousness-seekers playing the "godgame." As one of *The Magus*' characters says, "[I]n the godgame we start from the premise that in reality all is fiction; yet no single fiction is necessary."

Paula Arico has lived the godgame. "The best thing about it for me is that I lived and worked with my best friends for eight years," Arico says. "It's hard to have that. And in a situation where everyone was committed to working it out. If you've ever had that one-on-one relationship with another person where there's that long-term level of commitment, I had that with 20 people."

"You really trusted 20 people?" I ask. "For the time that I did," she replies. "I got my eyes opened pretty quickly in about three weeks of February in 1987. But up until then, yeah, I had implicit trust, because we were all committed to Pettie'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 since December 1986, and Arico was having a blast. For a long time, the women had wanted the men to do more child-rearing 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 20 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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Courting Disaster: At the juvenile hearing, the Finders "gamed" their attorney, Paula Walborsky.

In Search of the FINDERS

go to work, and I got a phone call from somebody who was telling me that if Stuart [SS] had already called me and told me to go to Tallahassee that those orders were reversed." The person didn't have any other information.

Carolyn Said, mother of B.B., was the only women's game player who had a computer, and she kept Paula and the others plugged into the group. Paula called her and learned zilch.

Then the mothers—Said, Arico, Knauth, Judy Evans, and Pat Livingston—began hearing news reports. "By Friday afternoon we were all in a tizzy," says Arico. They finally contacted Pettie in Southern California and planned a group meeting in San Francisco for Saturday night.

I ask why they didn't call the Tallahassee Police in the interim. "We had to make a group decision," she says.

Pettie arrived at dusk and, as is their custom, the women massaged him to help him think. They carried out a traditional Finders meeting, each person speaking their mind, going round and round in a circle. Since the police had seized the computers from their D.C. homes; one of the group's concerns was how to stay in touch. But the kids were Topic A.

"This wasn't the first time that things had not gone right with the kids' game and we were all just really upset about that, that no-

body had learned their lessons any other times," she says.

Pettie's advice: Your home is in D.C., not Tallahassee. Go back to D.C. and let your presence be known.

They took his advice.

Back in D.C. Sunday night, the women—the alleged satan-worshipping-kidnapping-brainwashed pornographers—were greeted by reporters camped on their porches.

Pettie's game call was to let the FBI call the game. The possibility of kidnapping, the bureau said, took precedence over the misdemeanor child abuse charges. One agent advised they immediately head to Florida and hire a good attorney.

When the mothers called Scott Hunt at the Tallahassee Police Department on Monday evening they couldn't get through.

"Carolyn's on the phone saying she's B.B.'s mother and she's met by snorts and giggles," recalls Arico. "She's the 200th caller claiming these beautiful children." They finally spoke to Tallahassee Police, but Hunt still told the media they had yet to hear from the mothers. "I'll never forgive him for that," says Arico.

After finishing their last FBI interview on Wednesday, the women hit the road for Tallahassee. By Friday, they were sitting in their lawyer's office.

"You haven't lived until you've been employed by the Finders," says the attorney hired to represent them, Paula Walborsky. "They elect a new leader each day. I could be hired or fired two or three times in 24 hours. But I really got sucked in. I loved it. There were great, sexy Constitutional issues."

Constitutional issues didn't come into play for weeks, though. It took until the next Thursday, in fact, for Walborsky to set up a

court-sanctioned, one-hour meeting between the mother and kids.

The mother-and-child reunion took place at a park where 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 attributed 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 I ever was the leader, I hereby resign to devote myself full-time to Zen Walking."

The Finders also started publishing a news-

letter, *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. "Since February 4, Florida has been sending signals that they want to keep some Finders members, so now 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 on-lookers

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-kay. 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 fired on television," Walborsky jokes.

Pettie's strategy of nonresistance split the mothers. Knauth and Livingston gave Walborsky the boot, as instructed, while Arico, Evans, and Said 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 the way I 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 in."

Arico couldn't accept Pettie's advice. "The group told me to choose between Pettie and

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In Search of the FINDERS

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 educations."

John Paul, B.B., and Honeybee, the three youngest children, were returned to their mothers—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 Knauth's children were put in foster homes, but the state finally relinquished cus-

tody to the mothers 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 been traumatized. As far as I'm concerned, whatever trauma there was, they've basically gotten over it now." Another hurdle would be proving wrongful intent. "Everything 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 lifestyle 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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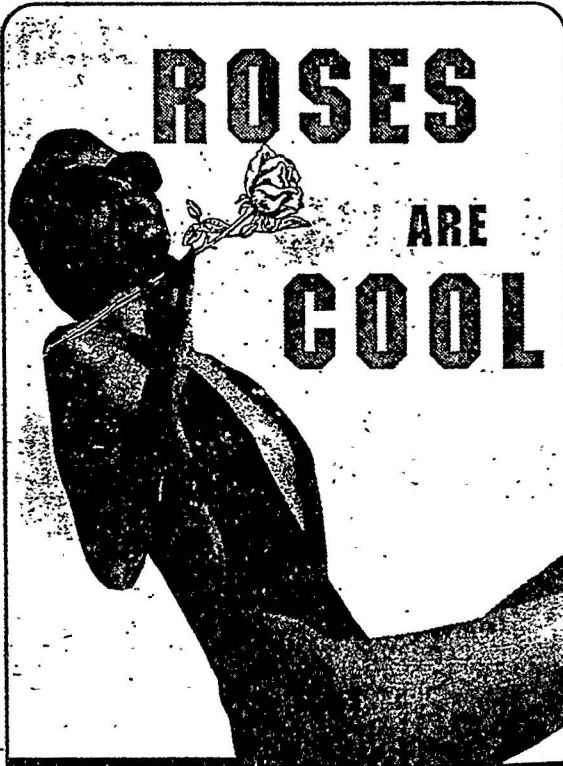
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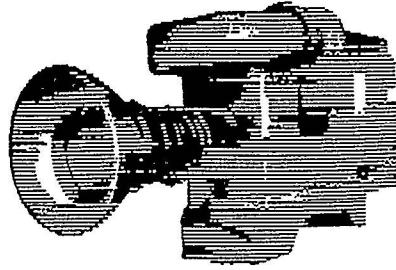
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MESSAGE

Re: Finders Case
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TOPS  FORM 4005
LITHO IN U.S.A. Sent 9-22-93b6
b7C



48 HOURS

September 16, 1993

Chief Mel Tucker
Tallahassee Police Department
SENT BY FAX
904-891-4204

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,



b6
b7C

CBS NEWS

524 West 57 Street New York, NY 10019 (212) 975-4848

310-WF-189911-23

na
na

IMPORTANT MESSAGEFOR Chief TuckerDATE Sept 15 TIME 1035 A.M.
P.M.M [REDACTED]
OF CBS NEWS 48 HRS.PHONE [REDACTED] AREA CODE [REDACTED] NUMBER [REDACTED] EXTENSION [REDACTED]

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September 15, 1993

Tallahassee Police Department
Attention: Chief of Police
234 East 7th Avenue
Tallahassee Fl., 32303

Dear Chief Tucker,

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 [redacted]
of my staff. Should you have any further questions [redacted]
can be reached at [redacted]

b6
b7C

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



Charlie Rose
Chairman
Committee on House Administration

31C-WF-189911-24

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Date 11/18/93

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
(ATTN: CID-VCU, SSA [REDACTED])

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

b6
b7C

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 [REDACTED] concerning being
interviewed by a U.S. CUSTOMS Agent concerning an FBI [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] the captioned matter;b6
b7C
b7E

2 - Bureau
(2) - WMFO (Enc. 4)
1 - Jacksonville
MMP/sdh
(5)

31C-WF-18991127

mkt mkt

Approved: [REDACTED]

Transmitted

(Number) (Time)

Per

41/30

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 1A and 1B sections. BLP

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 [REDACTED]

memorandum to Chief TUCKER, SA

b6
b7C
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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.

31C-WF-189911
MDC:mdc

On 11/10/93, the following names were searched in WMFO indices at the request of SSA [REDACTED] FBIHQ, CID, VCU.

b6
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Finders
Finders Transnational
Finders Transnational Ragged Mountain
Womens Network Service
General Scientific Corporation

[REDACTED]
Isabelle Pettie

[REDACTED]
Future Enterprises

Attached to this insert are the results of this query.

31C-WF-189911-28

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Subject *see Attached*
FUTURE ENTERPRISES

Aliases

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- ☐ Seattle
- ☐ All above

File & Serial Number	Remarks	File & Serial Number	Remarks
	UCFN <input type="checkbox"/> Pos <input type="checkbox"/> Neg		
	GENERAL INDICES		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Automatic Search		
	WF: <input type="checkbox"/> Pos <input type="checkbox"/> Neg	AX: <input type="checkbox"/> Pos <input type="checkbox"/> Neg	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manual Search		
	WF: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pos <input type="checkbox"/> Neg	AX: <input type="checkbox"/> Pos <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neg	

Consolidated by

Date

Reviewed by

Date

I - Identical
NI - Not identical

File Review Symbols

? - Not identifiable
U - Unavailable reference

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 11 1993	
FBI - WASH. METRO FIELD OFFICE	

b6
b7C

MICRO COMPUTER (Continued)

<input type="checkbox"/> MICRO: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS <hr/> Date Base <hr/> Searched by _____ Date _____	<input type="checkbox"/> MICRO: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS <hr/> Date Base <hr/> Searched by _____ Date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> MICRO: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS <hr/> Date Base <hr/> Searched by _____ Date _____	<input type="checkbox"/> MICRO: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS <hr/> Date Base <hr/> Searched by _____ Date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> MICRO: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS <hr/> Date Base <hr/> Searched by _____ Date _____	<input type="checkbox"/> MICRO: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS <hr/> Date Base <hr/> Searched by _____ Date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> MICRO: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS <hr/> Date Base <hr/> Searched by _____ Date _____	<input type="checkbox"/> MICRO: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS <hr/> Date Base <hr/> Searched by _____ Date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> MICRO: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS <hr/> Date Base <hr/> Searched by _____ Date _____	<input type="checkbox"/> MICRO: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS <hr/> Date Base <hr/> Searched by _____ Date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> MICRO: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS <hr/> Date Base <hr/> Searched by _____ Date _____	<input type="checkbox"/> MICRO: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS <hr/> Date Base <hr/> Searched by _____ Date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> MICRO: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS <hr/> Date Base <hr/> Searched by _____ Date _____	<input type="checkbox"/> MICRO: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS <hr/> Date Base <hr/> Searched by _____ Date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> MICRO: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS <hr/> Date Base <hr/> Searched by _____ Date _____	<input type="checkbox"/> MICRO: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS <hr/> Date Base <hr/> Searched by _____ Date _____

File No.

721/282

To: Office Services Manager

Subject *see A-11*
GENERAL SCIENTIFIC CORP
Aliases

Date **11/10/93**
Requested by **SA**
Ext. **772** Squad: **C-4** File No. **31C-WF-189911**
Social Security Account #

b6
b7C

Address Birth Date Birth Place Race Sex
☐ Male
☐ Female

- ☐ Exact Spelling ☐ Main Criminal Case Files Only ☐ Restrict Locality of
☒ All References ☐ 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)

<input type="checkbox"/> General Indices: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Confident 11-22-93 Searched by _____ Date _____ <input type="checkbox"/> ELSUR Indices: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date _____ <input type="checkbox"/> FOIMS: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date _____ <input type="checkbox"/> GLOBAL: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date _____	<input type="checkbox"/> ISIS: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date _____ <input type="checkbox"/> OCIS: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date _____ <input type="checkbox"/> IIS: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date _____ <input type="checkbox"/> MICRO: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date _____ <input type="checkbox"/> REGIONAL: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date _____
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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
- ☐ Jacksonville
- ☐ Knoxville
- ☐ Memphis
- ☐ Miami
- ☐ Mobile
- ☐ New Orleans
- ☐ Norfolk
- ☐ Quantico
- ☐ Richmond
- ☐ San Juan
- ☐ Savannah
- ☐ Tampa
- ☐ 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

b6
b7C

File & Serial Number	Remarks	File & Serial Number	Remarks
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"><p>UCFN <input type="checkbox"/> Pos <input type="checkbox"/> Neg</p><p>GENERAL INDICES:</p><p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Automated Search</p><p>WE: <input type="checkbox"/> Pos <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neg AX: <input type="checkbox"/> Pos <input type="checkbox"/> Neg</p><p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manual Search</p><p>WE: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pos <input type="checkbox"/> Neg AX: <input type="checkbox"/> Pos <input type="checkbox"/> Neg</p></div>			
Consolidated by _____ Date _____			
Reviewed by _____ Date _____			

1 - Identical
NI - Not identical

File Review Symbols ? - Not identifiable
U - Unavailable reference

CFR CORRESPONDENCE SEARCH

SEARCHED **SYN**
DATE **11-22-93**

31C-WF-189911

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
NOV 10 1993
FBI - WASH. METRO FIELD OFFICE
FBI/DOJ

22

File No.

[illegible]

File Name Symbols

1. ~~1000000~~
2. ~~1000000~~

9. Not identifiable
U. Unavailable reference

FILE _____

1992

SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____ FILED _____
NOV 1 1964
FBI - WASH. METRO FIELD OFFICE

To: Office Services Manager

Date <u>11/10/93</u>		
Requested by <u>SA</u>		
Ext <u>7792</u>	Squad: <u>C-4</u>	File No. <u>31C-WF-109911</u>
Social Security Account #		

b6
b7C

S [redacted] re Aff

Address	Birth Date	Birth Place	Race	Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
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- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exact Spelling | <input type="checkbox"/> Main Criminal Case Files Only | <input type="checkbox"/> Restrict Locality of |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All References | <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal References Only | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Main Security Case Files Only | <input type="checkbox"/> Main Security (If no Main, list all Security References) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Security References Only | <input type="checkbox"/> Main Criminal (if no Main, list all Criminal References) | |

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>[redacted]</u> <u>NEG</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date <u>11/10/93</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> ISIS: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Confidential Indices <u>NEG</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POS Search <u>[redacted]</u> <u>11-22-93</u> Date _____	<input type="checkbox"/> OCIS: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> ELSUR Indices: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date _____	<input type="checkbox"/> IIS: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FOIMS: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date _____	<input type="checkbox"/> MICRO: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> GLOBAL: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date _____	<input type="checkbox"/> REGIONAL: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date _____

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
- ☐ Jacksonville
- ☐ Knoxville
- ☐ Memphis
- ☐ Miami
- ☐ Mobile
- ☐ New Orleans
- ☐ Norfolk
- ☐ Quantico
- ☐ Richmond
- ☐ San Juan
- ☐ Savannah
- ☐ Tampa
- ☐ 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
CFR CONFIDENTIAL INDICES SEARCH			
SEARCHED <u>[initials]</u>			
DATE: <u>11-22-93</u>			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UCFN <input type="checkbox"/> Pos <input type="checkbox"/> Neg			
GENERAL INDICES:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Automated Search			
WF: <input type="checkbox"/> Pos <input type="checkbox"/> Neg			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manual Search			
WF: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pos <input type="checkbox"/> Neg AX: <input type="checkbox"/> Pos <input type="checkbox"/> Neg			
Consolidated by _____ Date _____			
Reviewed by _____ Date _____			

I - Identical
NI - Not identical

File Review Symbols

? - Not identifiable
U - Unavailable reference

31C-WF-109911

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED

FBI - WASH. METRO FIELD OFFICE
FBI/DOJ

b6
b7C

b6
b7C

[illegible]

To: Office Services Manager

Subject
ISABELLE PETTIE

Aliases _____

Address _____ Birth Date _____ Birth Place _____ Race _____ Sex ☐ Male ☐ Female

Date **11/10/93**

Requested by **SA**

Ext. **7792** Squad **C-4** File No. **31C-WF-189911**

Social Security Account # _____

- ☐ Exact Spelling ☐ Main Criminal Case Files Only ☐ Restrict Locality of _____
- ☒ All References ☐ Criminal References Only _____
- ☐ Main Security Case Files Only ☐ Main Security (If no Main, list all Security References) **b6**
- ☐ Security References Only ☐ Main Criminal (if no Main, list all Criminal References) **b7C**

<input type="checkbox"/> EG <input type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date 11-16-93	<input type="checkbox"/> ISIS: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Co _____ Searched by _____ Date 11-22-93	<input type="checkbox"/> OCIS: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> ELSUR Indices: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date _____	<input type="checkbox"/> IIS: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FOIMS: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date _____	<input type="checkbox"/> MICRO: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> GLOBAL: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date _____	<input type="checkbox"/> REGIONAL: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date _____

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

Northeast	Mid-Atlantic	Central	Western		
<input type="checkbox"/> Albany <input type="checkbox"/> Bern Switzerland <input type="checkbox"/> Bonn Germany <input type="checkbox"/> Boston <input type="checkbox"/> London England <input type="checkbox"/> Mexico City Mexico <input type="checkbox"/> New York City <input type="checkbox"/> Newark <input type="checkbox"/> Paris France <input type="checkbox"/> Philadelphia <input type="checkbox"/> Rome Italy <input type="checkbox"/> All above	<input type="checkbox"/> Atlanta <input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore <input type="checkbox"/> Birmingham <input type="checkbox"/> Charlotte <input type="checkbox"/> Jackson <input type="checkbox"/> Jacksonville <input type="checkbox"/> Knoxville <input type="checkbox"/> Memphis <input type="checkbox"/> Miami <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile	<input type="checkbox"/> New Orleans <input type="checkbox"/> Norfolk <input type="checkbox"/> Quantico <input type="checkbox"/> Richmond <input type="checkbox"/> San Juan <input type="checkbox"/> Savannah <input type="checkbox"/> Tampa <input type="checkbox"/> Washington Field <input type="checkbox"/> All above	<input type="checkbox"/> Buffalo <input type="checkbox"/> Chicago <input type="checkbox"/> Cincinnati <input type="checkbox"/> Cleveland <input type="checkbox"/> Dallas <input type="checkbox"/> Denver <input type="checkbox"/> Detroit <input type="checkbox"/> El Paso <input type="checkbox"/> Houston <input type="checkbox"/> Indianapolis <input type="checkbox"/> Kansas City	<input type="checkbox"/> Little Rock <input type="checkbox"/> Louisville <input type="checkbox"/> Milwaukee <input type="checkbox"/> Minneapolis <input type="checkbox"/> Oklahoma City <input type="checkbox"/> Omaha <input type="checkbox"/> Pittsburgh <input type="checkbox"/> San Antonio <input type="checkbox"/> Springfield <input type="checkbox"/> St. Louis <input type="checkbox"/> All above	<input type="checkbox"/> Albuquerque <input type="checkbox"/> Anchorage <input type="checkbox"/> Butte <input type="checkbox"/> Honolulu <input type="checkbox"/> Las Vegas <input type="checkbox"/> Los Angeles <input type="checkbox"/> Phoenix <input type="checkbox"/> Portland <input type="checkbox"/> Sacramento <input type="checkbox"/> Salt Lake City <input type="checkbox"/> San Diego <input type="checkbox"/> San Francisco <input type="checkbox"/> Seattle <input type="checkbox"/> All above

File & Serial Number	Remarks	File & Serial Number	Remarks
CFR CONFIDENTIAL INDICES SEARCH			
UCFN <input type="checkbox"/> Pos <input type="checkbox"/> Neg SEARCHED BY 11-22-93			
GENERAL INDICES:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Automated Search DATE: 11-22-93			
<input type="checkbox"/> Manual Search AX <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDEXED <input type="checkbox"/> Neg 31C-WF-189911			
<input type="checkbox"/> Manual Search AX <input type="checkbox"/> POSITIVE RESULTS NOV 10 1993			
WF: <input type="checkbox"/> Pos <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neg AX <input type="checkbox"/> REVIEWED <input type="checkbox"/> Neg NOV 10 1993			
Consolidated by _____ Date _____			
Reviewed by _____ Date _____			

I - Identical
NI - Not identical

File Review Symbols ? - Not identifiable
U - Unavailable reference

SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____ FILED _____
NOV 10 1993
FBI - WASH. METRO FIELD OFFICE

To: Office Services Manager

Date <u>11/10/93</u>		
Requested by: <u>SA</u>		
Ext. <u>7792</u>	Squad: <u>C-4</u>	File No. <u>31C-WF-189911</u>
Social Security Account #		

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Subject <u>FINDERS, FINDERS GROUP</u>				
Aliases <u>FINDERS, TRANSNATIONAL</u>				
Address <u>FINDERS TRANSNATIONAL RAGGED MOUNTAIN</u>		Birth Date	Birth Place	Race
				Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exact Spelling | <input type="checkbox"/> Main Criminal Case Files Only | <input type="checkbox"/> Restrict Locality of |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All References | <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal References Only | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Main Security Case Files Only | <input type="checkbox"/> Main Security (If no Main, list all Security References) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Security References Only | <input type="checkbox"/> Main Criminal (If no Main, list all Criminal References) | |

<input type="checkbox"/> <u>NEG</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>POS</u> Searched by <u>[redacted]</u> Date <u>11-16-93</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> ISIS: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Confide</u> <u>[redacted]</u> <u>11-22-93</u> Searched by _____ Date _____	<input type="checkbox"/> OCIS: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> ELSUR Indices: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date _____	<input type="checkbox"/> IIS: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FOIMS: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>POS</u> <u>11-15-93</u> Searched by _____ Date _____	<input type="checkbox"/> MICRO: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> GLOBAL: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date _____	<input type="checkbox"/> REGIONAL: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS Searched by _____ Date _____

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

Northeast	Mid-Atlantic	Central	Western		
<input type="checkbox"/> Albany <input type="checkbox"/> Bern Switzerland <input type="checkbox"/> Bonn Germany <input type="checkbox"/> Boston <input type="checkbox"/> London England <input type="checkbox"/> Mexico City Mexico <input type="checkbox"/> New York City <input type="checkbox"/> Newark <input type="checkbox"/> Paris France <input type="checkbox"/> Philadelphia <input type="checkbox"/> Rome Italy <input type="checkbox"/> All above	<input type="checkbox"/> Atlanta <input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore <input type="checkbox"/> Birmingham <input type="checkbox"/> Charlotte <input type="checkbox"/> Jackson <input type="checkbox"/> Jacksonville <input type="checkbox"/> Knoxville <input type="checkbox"/> Memphis <input type="checkbox"/> Miami <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile	<input type="checkbox"/> New Orleans <input type="checkbox"/> Norfolk <input type="checkbox"/> Quantico <input type="checkbox"/> Richmond <input type="checkbox"/> San Juan <input type="checkbox"/> Savannah <input type="checkbox"/> Tampa <input type="checkbox"/> Washington Field <input type="checkbox"/> All above	<input type="checkbox"/> Buffalo <input type="checkbox"/> Chicago <input type="checkbox"/> Cincinnati <input type="checkbox"/> Cleveland <input type="checkbox"/> Dallas <input type="checkbox"/> Denver <input type="checkbox"/> Detroit <input type="checkbox"/> El Paso <input type="checkbox"/> Houston <input type="checkbox"/> Indianapolis <input type="checkbox"/> Kansas City	<input type="checkbox"/> Little Rock <input type="checkbox"/> Louisville <input type="checkbox"/> Milwaukee <input type="checkbox"/> Minneapolis <input type="checkbox"/> Oklahoma City <input type="checkbox"/> Omaha <input type="checkbox"/> Pittsburgh <input type="checkbox"/> San Antonio <input type="checkbox"/> Springfield <input type="checkbox"/> St. Louis <input type="checkbox"/> All above	<input type="checkbox"/> Albuquerque <input type="checkbox"/> Anchorage <input type="checkbox"/> Butte <input type="checkbox"/> Honolulu <input type="checkbox"/> Las Vegas <input type="checkbox"/> Los Angeles <input type="checkbox"/> Phoenix <input type="checkbox"/> Portland <input type="checkbox"/> Sacramento <input type="checkbox"/> Salt Lake City <input type="checkbox"/> San Diego <input type="checkbox"/> San Francisco <input type="checkbox"/> Seattle <input type="checkbox"/> All above

File & Serial Number	Remarks	File & Serial Number	Remarks

CFR CONFIDENTIAL INDICES SEARCH

SEARCHED BY: ASD

DATE: 11-22-93

☒ NEGATIVE RESULTS

☐ POSITIVE RESULTS

(REVIEW IN PROGRESS)

Consolidated by	Date
Reviewed by	Date

I - Identical
NI - Not identical

File Review Symbols

? - Not identifiable
U - Unavailable reference

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 18 1993	
FBI - WASH. METRO OFFICE	

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b7C

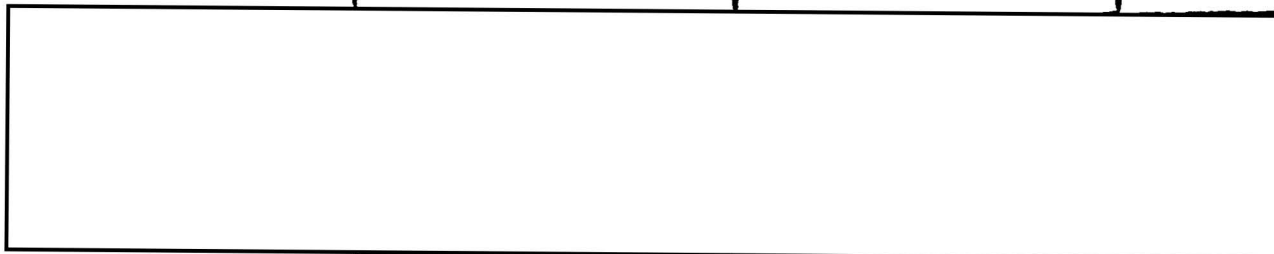
NAME _____

DATE _____

Page

File No.

File & Serial Number	Remarks	File & Serial Number	Remarks
Finders			
62-0-25213 B	WMFO	6-83	
		No Data	
		Extortion	
		C-4	



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Finders Transnational

9-5009X

WMFO

7-83

Finders

Finders Transnational

Ranged Mountain Research Center

b6

b7C

Extortion

C-4

62-0-25213 B

WMFO

No Data 6-83

Extortion

C-4

File Review Symbols

I - Identical
NI - Not Identical

9 - Not Identifiable
U - Unavailable Reference

PAGE _____
OF _____ PAGES

To: Office Services Manager

Subject

Aliases

Address Birth Date 12/12/20 Birth Place Race Sex
☐ Male
☐ Female

- ☐ Exact Spelling ☐ Main Criminal Case Files Only ☐ Restrict Locality of
☒ All References ☐ 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)

☐ General Indices: ☐ NEG ☒ POS
Searched by Date 11-16-93

☐ ☐ POS
Searched by Date 11-22-93

☐ ELSUR Indices: ☐ NEG ☐ POS
Searched by Date

☐ FOIMS: ☐ NEG ☐ POS
Searched by Date

☐ GLOBAL: ☐ NEG ☐ POS
Searched by Date

☐ ISIS: ☐ NEG ☐ POS
Searched by Date

☐ OGIS: ☐ NEG ☐ POS
Searched by Date

☐ IIS: ☐ NEG ☐ POS
Searched by Date

☐ MICRO: ☐ NEG ☐ POS
Searched by Date

☐ REGIONAL: ☐ NEG ☐ POS
Searched by Date

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
☐ Jacksonville
☐ Knoxville
☐ Memphis
☐ Miami
☐ Mobile
☐ New Orleans
☐ Norfolk
☐ Quantico
☐ Richmond
☐ San Juan
☐ Savannah
☐ Tampa
☐ 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
<div>UCFN <input type="checkbox"/> Pos <input type="checkbox"/> Neg</div> <div>GENERAL INDICES:</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Automated Search</div> <div>WF: <input type="checkbox"/> Pos <input type="checkbox"/> Neg AX: <input type="checkbox"/> Pos <input type="checkbox"/> Neg DATE: 11-22-93</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Manual Search</div> <div>WF: <input type="checkbox"/> Pos <input type="checkbox"/> Neg AX: <input type="checkbox"/> Pos <input type="checkbox"/> Neg</div> <div>Consolidated by</div> <div>Reviewed by</div> <div>Date</div>			

I - Identical
NI - Not identical

File Review Symbols

? - Not identifiable
U - Unavailable reference

Date 11/10/93
Requested by: SA
Ext 7792 Squad C-4 File No. 31C-WF-189911
Social Security Account #

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b7C

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CFR CONFIDENTIAL INDICES SEARCH
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
NOV 16 1993
FBI - WASH. METRO FIELD OFFICE
FBI/DOJ

Date

Page

File No.

File & Serial Number	Remarks	File & Serial Number	Remarks
950097*	WMFO	7-83	
		Finders	
		Finders Transaction	
		Nugget Mountain	
		Research Center	
		Extortion	
		C-U	
62-0-25213B	WMFO	6-83	
		No Data	
		Extortion	
		C-U	
62025213	WMFO	3-77	
		No Data	
950091 P4	WMFO	7-83	
		Finders number	
		C-U	

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File Review Symbols

- I - Identical
- NI - Not Identical
- Q - Not Comparable
- U - Unavailable Reference

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Serial

File No.

File & Serial Number	Remarks	File & Serial Number	Remarks
9B-665*	AX	5-83	
62-0-1007	AX	4-80	
100-0-20	AX	10-69	
		100-0-20C	10-69
		100-0-20D	10-69
		100-0-20E	10-69
		NOB 11-12-16	
		12-12-20	
190-136*	AX	3-85	
100-0-20C	AX	10-69	
100-0-23C	AX	12-96	
		(mn)	
190-136*	AX	3-85	

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File Review Symbols

- I - Identical
- NI - No Identical
- 9 - Not Identical
- U - Unavailable reference

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OF _____ PAGES

31C-WF-189911
MDC:mdc

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 [redacted] as the victim. Subject [redacted] was described as a W/M born approx [redacted]

[redacted] Victim [redacted] advised that he was a member of this cult, headed by [redacted] 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. [redacted]

[redacted] 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.

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Indexed to [redacted]

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.

31C-WF-189911-29

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 23 1993	
FBI - ALEXANDRIA	

Indexed to

[redacted]

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[redacted]

190-1 sub E is a 10/31/84 FBIHQ response to a FOIPA
request on [redacted]

Indexed to Womens Network Service:

no reference.

Indexed to General Scientific Corporation:

105-2574 file could not be located.

Indexed to Future Enterprises:

[redacted]

b6
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31C-WF-189911
MDC:mdc

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:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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

[Redacted]

Indexed to General Scientific:

[Redacted]

Indexed to [Redacted]

[Redacted] same information as detailed above.

Indexed to [Redacted]

[Redacted] same information as detailed above.

190-C0000001-E request for FOIPA information by [Redacted] concerning an [Redacted] dated 9/9/87.

190-Z0000001 FOIPA file that has been destroyed.

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31C-WF-18991130

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 23 1993	
FBI - NEW YORK	

Indexed to Future Enterprises:

[redacted] lead on Philadelphia Division 3/3/88
investigation of [redacted]

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[redacted]
[redacted]

Memorandum



To : SAC, WMFO (31C-WF-189911) (P)

Date 11/23/93

From : SSA [redacted] (C-4)

b6
b7C
b7E

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

On 11/23/93, SSA [redacted] VCU-CID advised that based on recent discussions with VCU Unit Chief [redacted] and Section Chief [redacted] the interview of U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE SA [redacted]

It is noted that as of 11/23/93 the formal written request from FBIHQ to both [redacted] and the USDOS had not been sent out of FBIHQ.

INDEX
[Handwritten signature]

2-WMFO

JKD:plj
(2)

31C-WF-189911-31

SEARCHED <i>[initials]</i>	INDEXED <i>[initials]</i>
SERIALIZED <i>[initials]</i>	FILED <i>[initials]</i>
NOV 23 1993	
FBI - WASH FIELD OFFICE	

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FBI FACSIMILE COVERSHEET

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

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- ☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☒ Routine

CLASSIFICATION

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☐ Secret
☐ Confidential
☐ Sensitive
☒ Unclassified

Time Transmitted: _____

Sender's Initials: _____

Number of Pages: _____
(Including Cover Page)To: HBIRK - VCU
(Name of Office)Date: 11/24/93Facsimile Number: 324-3089Attn: SSA

(Name Room Telephone)

b6
b7cFrom: FBI WASH (31C-WR 189411) (PXC-4)
(Name of Office)Subject: FINDERS 001 WASH

Special Handling Instructions: _____

Originator's Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Originator's Facsimile Number: _____

Approved: AKD31C-WR 189411-32

FBI/DOJ

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Memorandum



To : SAC, MIAMI (145-0) (P)

Date 10/26/93

From : SA [redacted] (FPRA)

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b7C

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

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

[redacted]

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Subsequent to this request, SA [redacted]
[redacted] at his offices. It should be noted that [redacted]
[redacted]

identified as one of those assaulted. [redacted] proceeded to
advise SA [redacted] of much of the information as he related in
the letter to [redacted] on 7/21/93. While not going into as
much detail as is set forth in the letter, [redacted] 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, [redacted] could not provide any and

2 - Miami (Enc.2)
MJM/jah
(2)

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

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

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, [redacted] Fort Pierce, Florida was contacted and advised his office had conducted the investigation and prosecution of [redacted] sexual abuse case. Since that time, he advised, [redacted] 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 [redacted] admitted to him he had found no connection to date between [redacted] actions and any nationwide organizations or activities. [redacted] did provide the attached copy of a communication concerning the FINDERS, which [redacted] had provided to him on 9/14/93. He advised [redacted] 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 [redacted]

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

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advised the STATE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE investigation did not uncover others having been involved than were charged.

On 10/18/93, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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. [REDACTED] 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, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] operates a day school from which, during the past year, he advised numerous parents have withdrawn their children. According to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

occurring at or being done by individuals at the JENSEN BEACH PRE-SCHOOL. [REDACTED]

concerning the JENSEN BEACH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, where parents also withdrew their children from attendance.

[REDACTED] stated that he himself did extensive checking of the [REDACTED] school and found absolutely no indication of any child abuse. He further advised that those espousing

[REDACTED]

targeting Martin County.

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On 10/22/93, [REDACTED] JENSEN BEACH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, was contacted. [REDACTED] 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. [REDACTED] stated she did extensive work to attempt to substantiate these rumors, with negative results. She advised that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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On 10/22/93, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 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, [REDACTED] 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

[redacted]
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

Dear [redacted]

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 [redacted]
[redacted]

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

[redacted] 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.

① - Miami - Enclosures (10)

Attention SAC: This matter is referred for appropriate action.

ADD [signature]

SSRA [redacted] [signature] 10/19/93

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ASAC Wheeler [signature]

Regr.
Attached appears to
impact on Stuart, RA.
-JAS.

ASAC Pavlenko [signature]
[redacted]
referred for appropriate
action - TSS [signature]

INDEXED
11/0
SEP 27 1993

[redacted]
A copy of [redacted] correspondence has been
forwarded to our Miami Office for review.

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

Sincerely yours,

Larry A. Potts
Assistant Director
Criminal Investigative Division

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☒ AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ UNCLAS E F T O
☐ UNCLAS

Date 11/19/93

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

31C-WF-189911-34

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 03 1993	
FBI - WASH. FIELD OFFICE	

Approved: 

Transmitted

(Number) (Time)

Per b6
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31C-WF-189911

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, []

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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.

31C-WF-189911-35

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 06 1993	
FBI - WASH FIELD OFFICE	

2/6

b6
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FBI FACSIMILE COVERSHEET

CLASSIFICATION

PRECEDENCE

- ☐ Immediate
☒ Priority
☐ Routine

- ☐ Top Secret
☐ Secret
☐ Confidential
☒ Sensitive
☐ Unclassified

Time Transmitted: _____
Sender's Initials: DRW
Number of Pages: 8

To: SAC Wm Fo

Date: 11/24/93

(Name)

Facsimile number:

Attn: SSA

(Name)

Room

Telephone No.)

From:

Director, FBI

(Name of Office)

Subject:

"Finders" Group;

WSTA - sexual exploitation of children;
obstruction of justice - preliminary inquiry;
OO: Wm Fo

Special Handling Instructions:

Please HAND CARRY TO SSA

Originator's Name:

SSA

Originator's Facsimile Number:

Approved:

LAP/DR

[Redacted]

- Please see attached DRAFT synopsis.

Please review with SA [Redacted]
myself or SSA [Redacted]

Thank you.

FBI/DOJ

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.

DRAFT

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☒ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ UNCLAS E F T O
☒ UNCLAS

Date 12/3/93

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.

RE WMFO TELETYPE TO FBIHQ DATED NOVEMBER 15, 1993, WMFO
 FACSIMILE TO FBIHQ ON NOVEMBER 24, 1993, BOTH CAPTIONED AS
 ABOVE, AND TELCALL BETWEEN SSA FBIHQ AND SSA
 WMFO NOVEMBER 23, 1993.

REFERENCED WMFO TELETYPE OUTLINED THE RESULTS OF WMFO'S
 PRELIMINARY INQUIRY CONCERNING CAPTIONED GROUP.

Approved: AED/ampOriginal filename: 31C-WF-189911-36

Time Received: _____

Telprep filename: MDC00250.337MRI/JULIAN DATE: 38/338ISN: 10FOX DATE & TIME OF ACCEPTANCE: 0025 MSTVb6
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^PAGE 3 WMFO 31C-WF-189911 UNCLAS

WMFO HAS COMPLETED ALL REQUESTED INTERVIEWS AND FILES
REVIEWS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE ABOVE CITED MATTERS.

BT



FBI FACSIMILE COVERSHEET

CLASSIFICATION

PRECEDENCE

- ☐ Immediate
☒ Priority
☐ Routine

- ☐ Top Secret
☐ Secret
☐ Confidential
☐ Sensitive
☒ Unclassified

Time Transmitted: _____

Sender's Initials: DRNumber of Pages: 2To: SAC, WMFO
(Name of Office)Date: 12/6/93Facsimile number: 202-863-1786Attn: SSA [redacted] 159 ued C-4, ext 7844
(Name) Room Telephone No.)From: Director FBI CVI/Plant Crimes Unit
(Name of Office)Subject: F.W.H.S.Preliminary Inquiry;OO: WMFOSpecial Handling Instructions: Please Hand carry to SSA
[redacted] 159 ued C-4, ext [redacted]b6
b7COriginator's Name: SSA [redacted]Telephone: [redacted]Originator's Facsimile Number: 202-324-3089 31C-WM-1894137Approved: LAP/DRW

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____	FILED _____
DEC 06 1993	
FBI - WASH FIELD OFFICE	

please read and contact
 me on this. no action required
 by WMFO. TH

(2)
 [Signature]

ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP

Date

12/3/93

TO: (Name, office symbol, room number,
building, Agency/Post)

Initials

Date

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Action	File	Note and Return
Approval	For Clearance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Per Conversation
As Requested	For Correction	Prepare Reply
Circulate	For Your Information	See Me
Comment	Investigate	Signature
Coordination	Justify	

REMARKS

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b7cDO NOT use this form as a RECORD of approvals, concurrences, disposals,
clearances, and similar actions

By: FROM: (Name, org. symbol, Agency/Post)

Room No.—Bldg.

John C. Keeney

Deputy Assistant Attorney General

Phone No.

Criminal Division (U.S. DOJ: 1590-250-31)

OPTIONAL FORM 41 (Rev. 7-76)

Prescribed by GSA
FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.208

Memorandum



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

Date 12/13/93

From : SA [REDACTED] (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 [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] FBIHQ
SSA [REDACTED] WMFO
SA [REDACTED] WMFO
MR [REDACTED] DOJ
MR. GEORGE BURGASSER, DOJ

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SSA [REDACTED] provided an update on the above captioned matter to the DOJ representatives.

②-WMFO
MDC:mdc

31C-WF-189911-39

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 13 1993	
FBI-WMFO	

12/9/93

PRELIMINARY INQUIRY - ALLEGATIONS
OF ORGANIZED CHILD ABUSE BY A GROUP KNOWN AS "FINDERS"

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

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♦ 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, [redacted]
[redacted] 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. [redacted] 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 [redacted]
[redacted] 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)
[redacted] WMFO case Agent, and USCS SA [redacted]
participated in these searches.

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♦ 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]
[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 (kidnaping) and 2251 (sexual
exploitation of children).

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♦ 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.D. 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 [REDACTED]

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♦ WMFO SA [REDACTED] was interviewed on 11/8/93, and MPD [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
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

[REDACTED]
FINDERS property in 1987.

♦ SA [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] had obtained a copy of a memoranda, prepared by USCS

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[REDACTED]
the DOS or any other intelligence organization or entity. SA [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] dated 3/9/87 which addressed misstatements and discrepancies contained in an attached 2/7/87 memorandum from USCS SA [REDACTED]. In this memo, SA [REDACTED] documented the fact that she had discussed SA [REDACTED] memo with MPD [REDACTED]

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[redacted]
[redacted]

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♦ [redacted]
[redacted]

Sergeant John Stitcher (deceased) had contacted [redacted] concerning the FINDERS and had obtained this information.

[redacted] had nothing to do with the children or his investigation into the alleged child abuse. [redacted] stated that he was never instructed by anyone from [redacted] FBI< State Department, or any other organization to end the FINDERS investigation, and that his investigation ran its normal course without interference.

[redacted] 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 [redacted] who provided information concerning the USCS 1993 response to [redacted] on USCS's child exploitation investigations. He had interviewed USCS SA [redacted] on 9/3/93 and 9/16/93 during which

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[redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted] advised that he had reviewed USCS files and interviewed USCS Agents and Supervisors concerning the FINDERS investigation. [redacted] related that the Customs file on the FINDERS case in 1987 consisted of only one report, that of SA [redacted] 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.

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[redacted] related that his review of USCS files located no references to [redacted] 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 [redacted] one in a report written by a Sergeant Stitcher, and the other in a report written by [redacted]

♦ 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)

Date 12/14/93

From : SA [REDACTED] (C-4)

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

Attached to this memo are photocopies of two UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT search warrants and returns made by SA [REDACTED] 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.

12/15/93:

[REDACTED] WAS REQUESTED TO DETERMINE WHETHER MPD HAS ANY RECORDS FURTHER DESCRIBING THE PROPERTY OR SETTING FORTH DISPOSITION OF SAME. [REDACTED] OPINIONED THAT RECORDS ARE NORMALLY DESTROYED.

(2)-WMFO
MDG:mdc

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31C-WF-189911-40

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 13 1993	
FBI-WASHINGTON	

12/15

United States District Court

DISTRICT OF Columbia

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 [redacted] who has reason to b6
Affiant b7Cbelieve 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 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 prop-
erty seized and promptly return this warrant to
as required by law. U.S. Judge or Magistrate

FEB 05 1987

Date and Time Issued

4:02 p

at

Washington, D.C.

City and State

JAN 30 1987

U.S. DISTRICT COURT

Name and Title of Judicial Officer

Signature of Judicial Officer

RETURN

DATE WARRANT RECEIVED

2/5/87

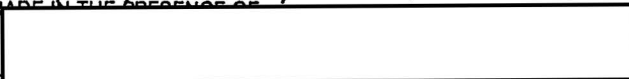
DATE AND TIME WARRANT EXECUTED

2/5-2/6 87

COPY OF WARRANT AND RECEIPT FOR ITEMS LEFT WITH

On Scene

INVENTORY MADE IN THE PRESENCE OF

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INVENTORY OF PERSON OR PROPERTY TAKEN PURSUANT TO THE WARRANT

IBM Compt. Computer (OMNI Cron X Turbo ROM)
MONITOR X TRON

MACINTOSH + Computer

COMPAQ Computer 286

ASSORTED SOFTWARE + manuals

ASSORTED personal papers

DATA FAX DATA Transfer machine

> VAULT

ASSORTED papers + photos Kitchen
Closet

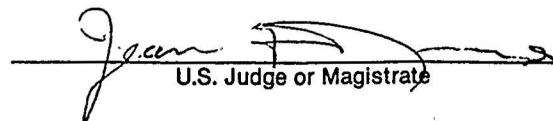
ASSORTED papers, photos & documents
throughout the warehouse

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.


U.S. Judge or Magistrate

6 FEB 1987

Date

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87-0076M-01

FEB 05 1987


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

Please issue ~~(arrest)~~ (search)

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

Violation: ~~XXXXX~~; U.S.C.; Title 18

Sections: 1201 :


Assistant United States Attorney

2/5/87
DATE

Bond: _____

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United States District Court

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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.APPLICATION AND AFFIDAVIT
FOR SEARCH WARRANT

CASE NUMBER: 87-0076M-01

I [redacted] being duly sworn depose and say:

I am a(n) [redacted] METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPT, WASHINGTON, DC, and have reason to believe
Official Titlethat ☐ on the person of or ☒ on the premises known as (name, description and/or location)1307 4th St. NE
Washington, DC.

in the District of COLUMBIA

there is now concealed a certain person or property, namely (describe the person or property)

SEE ATTACHED SEARCH WARRANT & AFFIDAVIT

which is (give alleged grounds for search and seizure under Rule 41(b) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure)

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 AFFIDAVIT

Continued on the attached sheet and made a part hereof [redacted]

Sworn to before me, and subscribed in my presence

FEB 05 1987

Date

JEAN F. DWYER

U. S. MAGISTRATE FOR D. C.

Name and Title of Judicial Officer

at

City and State

Signature of Judicial Officer [Signature]

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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 A 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, [REDACTED] received information from a confidential source of information. This source

of [REDACTED]

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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 a 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 [REDACTED] and another subject who refused to give his name to the police in Florida. Both subjects were charged with child abuse and according to [REDACTED] 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. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] were all dirty, unkempt, hungry, disturbed and agitated and had been living in the rear of the van for sometime. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] an investigator with the Tallahassee police who is the case agent stated that she interviewed the children who stated that [REDACTED]

-2-

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[REDACTED]

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, [REDACTED] responded to the area of Glover Park in the rear of the 3900 Block of W Street, N.W. [REDACTED] 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.

[REDACTED]

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b7C

Metropolitan Police Department

[Signature]
United States Magistrate

FEB 05 1987

Sworn before me this 5th day of February 1987

[REDACTED]

2/5/87

United States District Court

DISTRICT OF Columbia

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 who has reason to b6
Affiant b7C

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. U.S. Judge or Magistrate

FEB 05 1987

Date and Time Issued

4:05 pm at

Washington, D.C.
City and State

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

Name and Title of Judicial Officer

Signature of Judicial Officer

[Handwritten Signature]

RETURN

DATE WARRANT RECEIVED

2/5/87

DATE AND TIME WARRANT EXECUTED

2/5/87 1715 hours

INVENTORY MADE IN THE PRESENCE OF

INV

- 1) metrocall data call
- 2) Cannon Electronic Calculator & assorted papers " "
- 3) & checks.
- 4) MAIntest plus computer - printer & Disc.
- 5) Xtron Computer printer & Disc
- 6) Assorted papers
- 7) Telephone Answering machine & Tapes
- 8) Assorted papers & note books
- 9) photographs

3920 - W Street NW.

- 1) Documents
- 2) Notes
- 3) Documents & paper
- 4) Documents portfolio
- 5) Metal can gray cont. paper

b6
b7C

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. ✓

Jean F. [Signature]
U.S. Judge or Magistrate

6 FEB 1987

Date

b6
b7C

87-0077W-01

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


FEB 05 1987

Please issue ~~(arrest)~~ (search)

warrant for 3918-20 W Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Violation: ~~XXXXXX~~; U.S.C.; Title 18

Sections: 1201


Assistant United States Attorney

2/5/87
DATE

Bond: _____

b6
b7C

United States District Court

DISTRICT OF



COLUMBIA

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

I  being duly sworn depose and say:I am a(n)  WITH THE METROPOLITAN  and have reason to believe

Official Title

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

3918-20 WST NW, Washington DC

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

(SEE ATTACHED SEARCH WARRANT & AFFIDAVIT

which is (give alleged grounds for search and seizure under Rule 41(b) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure)

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 pa

Sworn to before me, and subscribed in my pres

FEB 05 1987

Date

at

City and State

J. T. DWIER
U. S. MAGISTRATE FOR D.C.
Name and Title of Judicial Officer

Signature of Judicial Officer

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b7Cb6
b7C



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: 1700Sender's Initials: mmNumber of Pages: 12
(Including Cover Page)To: FBI HQ, CTD, VCU
(Name of Office)Date: 12/15/93Facsimile Number: [Redacted]Attn: SSA [Redacted]
(Name Room Telephone)From: ADIC, WMFO
(Name of Office)Subject: "FINDERS" GROUPSpecial Handling Instructions: HAND CARRY TO SSA [Redacted]

ATTACHED ARE THE INFAMOUS RESULTS OF THE FINDERS
SEARCH WARRANTS

Originator's Name: SA [Redacted] Telephone: [Redacted]Originator's Facsimile Number: [Redacted]Approved: [Signature]

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

CIA tied to cult accused of abuse

Justice probes links to Finders

By Paul M. Rodriguez
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

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 Department 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

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Date:
Edition:

Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office:

Indexing:

12/17/93
WASH TIMES
FRONT PAGE

[Handwritten signature]

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WU - 12/17/93

31C-WF-189811-41

12/17

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SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 17 1993	
FBI - WASH. FIELD OFFICE	

CIA

From page A1

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 prop-

erty 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," and Mr. Terrell's employment was ended, Mr. Marinich said.

Mr. Terrell, who left the Finders a

few years ago and no longer lives in the Washington area, could not be reached. But a friend confirmed that he worked for Future Enterprises while a member of the Finders.

Current and former members of the group said Mr. Terrell's work for Future Enterprises was separate from the group's other activities.

Current members of the Finders said they did not have any interest in Future Enterprises and denied working for the CIA or any other intelligence organization.

"I guess you could say we're odd," said Steve Usdin, a free-lance writer associated with the Finders. "But we're not criminal."

Memorandum



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

Date 12/20/93

From : SA [redacted] (C-4)

b6
b7C

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

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

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

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

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

On 12/15/93, writer briefed SA [redacted] and SSA [redacted] concerning this media inquiry.

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2-WMFO
MDC:mdc

31C-WF-189911-42

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 20 1993	
FBI-WFO	

4/2

■ U.S. NEWS

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 curiouseer and curiouseer.

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 disheveled 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, dealing in pornography 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 in-

volves 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



February 1987. D.C. police seize evidence.

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 zero security threat. 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 WITKIN AND PETER GARY
WITH ANCEL MARTINEZ

12/21/90

3K-WH-189911

1C

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☒ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ UNCLAS E F T O
☒ UNCLAS

Date 12/23/93

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 [REDACTED]

b6
b7C

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

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

MDC: SG
(2)

Approved:

AED/1

Original filename:

Time Received:

Telprep filename:

MRI/JULIAN DATE:

1575, 1576

IN:

43,44

FOR DATE & TIME OF ACCEPTANCE:

2331, 2333

MSJN

31C-WF-189911-46

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

DEC 27 1993

FBI - WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE

SRG-016547387

7

BS&

^PAGE 2 WMFO 31C-WF-189911 UNCLAS

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PROVIDED AS BACKGROUND FOR
LEGAT BRUSSELS:

IN 1987, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b6
b7C

THE CHILDREN WHO ATTENDED THE SCHOOL DURING THE TIME OF
ALLEGED SEXUAL ABUSE WAS [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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

[REDACTED] ALLEGES THAT THE FINDERS ARE INVOLVED IN A WELL
ORGANIZED CHILD ABUSE SCHEME AND THAT [REDACTED] IN CONJUNCTION
WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT, AND THE FBI'S FOREIGN

.b7E

^PAGE 3 WMFO 31C-WF-189911 UNCLAS

COUNTERINTELLIGENCE SECTIONS, CONSPIRED TO COVER UP THOSE ABUSES.

THE "FINDERS" GROUP CAME TO PUBLIC LIGHT IN FEBRUARY 1987 WHEN TWO MEMBERS, [REDACTED] [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 UNKEMPT 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.

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

b6
b7C

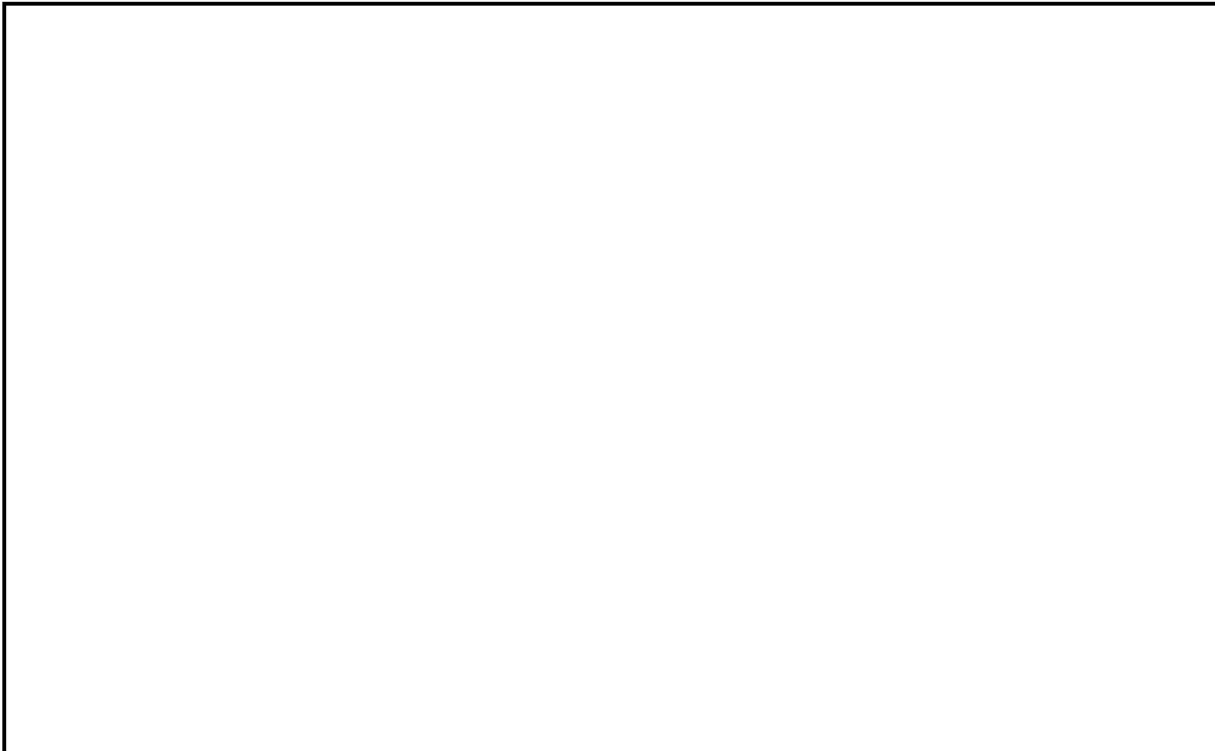
A JOINT INVESTIGATION, CONDUCTED BY MPD AND FBI, WMFO LED TO THE IDENTIFICATION AND INTERVIEW OF THE MOTHERS OF THE SIX CHILDREN, TWO OF THE FATHERS, AND SEVERAL OTHER KEY MEMBERS OF THE "FINDERS" GROUP. THE RESULTS OF THIS INVESTIGATION WAS

^PAGE 4 WMFO 31C-WF-189911 UNCLAS

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

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^PAGE 5 WMFO 31C-WF-189911 UNCLAS

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 [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] WAS CONFRONTED BY THE WMFO CASE AGENT ON 2/19/87, CONCERNING THE ITEMS HE CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN. [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] EXISTED IN THE ITEMS SEIZED BY MPD. THE DETECTIVE RELATED THAT [REDACTED] WAS WITH HIM AT THE SEARCH SITES, AND IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE THAT SUCH ITEMS WERE MISSED. THE DETECTIVE ALSO ADVISED THAT [REDACTED] HAD NOT CONTACTED MPD IN AN ATTEMPT TO VIEW THE SEIZED ITEMS.

[REDACTED] WAS INTERVIEWED BY WMFO ON 12/20/93 AT USCS HEADQUARTERS. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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b7c

^PAGE 6 WMFO 31C-WF-189911 UNCLAS

[REDACTED] ADVISED THAT AT THE TIME HE WAS ASSISTING MPD ON
THE "FINDERS" INVESTIGATION HE WAS ASSIGNED TO THE USCS OFFICE

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b7C

[REDACTED] HE INDICATED THAT USCS
NEVER OPENED A CASE ON "FINDERS" AND THAT HIS INVESTIGATIVE
EFFORTS WERE CONTAINED IN AN ADMINISTRATIVE FILE.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b6
b7C
b7E

[REDACTED]

FORWARDED TO CUSTOMS HEADQUARTERS, WITH NO RESPONSE RECEIVED.

LEAD:

LEGAT BRUSSELS AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

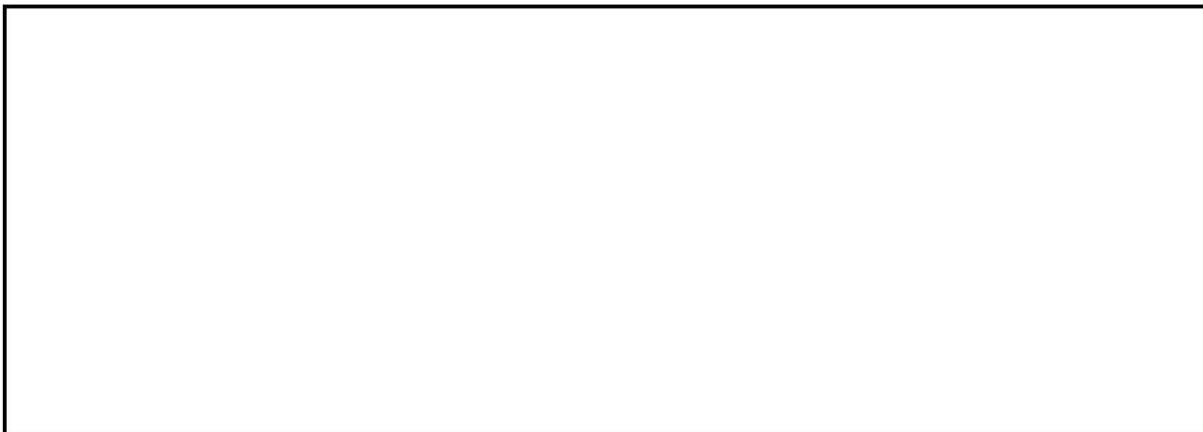
CONTACT [REDACTED] AMERICAN

EMBASSY, [REDACTED]

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b7C

^PAGE 7 WMFO 31C-WF-189911 UNCLAS

b6
b7C
b7E



[REDACTED] SUTEL RESULTS TO FBIHQ, CID,
VCU, ATTN: SSA [REDACTED] AND WMFO. FORWARD FD-302'S TO WMFO
VIA FACSIMILE AT [REDACTED]
BT

Disk #1C

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☒ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ UNCLAS E F T O
☒ UNCLAS

Date 12/25/93

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

TO DIRECTOR FBI/PRIORITY/

FBI MIAMI/PRIORITY/

FBI SAN DIEGO/PRIORITY/

BT

UNCLAS

CITE: //3920//

PASS: VCU-CID FOR SSA

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

INQUIRY; OO:WMFO.

RE: MIAMI AIRTEL TO WMFO DATED 11/19/93, GNA
 FOR INFORMATION OF SAN DIEGO, 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 OF KNOWN AS THE "FINDERS" AND WHICH

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 b7C

2-WMFO
 mpc:gna
 (2)

Approved: *Am*Original filename: *GNA00952.003*Time Received: *JAN 3 1994*Telrep filename: *GNA00952.003*MRI/JULIAN DATE: *340,341/003*ISN: *001,002*FOX DATE & TIME OF ACCEPTANCE: *1027, 1028 J*

31C-WF-189911-47

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^PAGE 2 WMFO 31C-WF-189911/PRIORITY/

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, [REDACTED]

b6
b7c

[REDACTED]

THE CHILDREN WHO ATTENDED THE SCHOOL DURING THE TIME OF
ALLEGED SEXUAL ABUSE WAS [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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

[REDACTED] ALLEGES THAT THE FINDERS ARE INVOLVED IN A WELL
ORGANIZED CHILD ABUSE SCHEME AND THAT [REDACTED] IN CONJUNCTION

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^PAGE 3 WMFO 31C-WF-189911/PRIORITY/

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] [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 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.

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

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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

^PAGE 4 WMFO 31C-WF-189911/PRIORITY/

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 .

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^PAGE 5 WMFO 31C-WF-189911/PRIORITY/

[REDACTED] THAT USCS
AGENT [REDACTED] WAS PRESENT AT ONE
OF THE SEARCH LOCATIONS, AND COULD POSSIBLY CORROBORATE THE
EXISTENCE OF THE DOCUMENTS IN QUESTIONS.

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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 [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] WAS
CONFRONTED BY THE WMFO CASE AGENT ON 2/19/87, CONCERNING THE
ITEMS HE CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN. [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] EXISTED IN THE ITEMS SEIZED
BY MPD. THE DETECTIVE RELATED THAT [REDACTED] WAS WITH HIM AT
THE SEARCH SITES, AND IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE THAT SUCH ITEMS WERE
MISSED. THE DETECTIVE ALSO ADVISED THAT [REDACTED] HAD NOT

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CONTACTED MPD IN AN ATTEMPT TO VIEW THE SEIZED ITEMS.

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FLORIDA OFFICE.

AT: MIAMI DIVISION, WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

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^PAGE 7 WMFO 31C-WF-189911/PRIORITY/

CONTACT [REDACTED] SUTEL RESULTS TO FBIHQ, CID, VCU ATTN: SSA

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[REDACTED] AND WMFO. FORWARD FD-302S TO WMFO VIA FACSIMILE AT

[REDACTED]

AT:SAN DIEGO DIVISION, EL CENTRO, CALIFORNIA

Y CONTACT [REDACTED] USCS AGENT [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 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

[REDACTED] COULD LOCATE [REDACTED] SPECIFICALLY ASCERTAIN

[REDACTED] ROLE IN THE 1987 FINDERS

INVESTIGATION, THE CONDUCT OF THE TWO MPD SEARCHES, WHAT
SPECIFICALLY WAS SEEN BY [REDACTED] AT THE SITES, WHAT EFFORTS

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[REDACTED] MADE TO OPEN A USCS CASE ON FINDERS, AND HIS

KNOWLEDGE OF THE [REDACTED] 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
 00:WMFO

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

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

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The following are the best recollections of SSA [redacted] 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. SSA [redacted] Special Agent (SA) [redacted] U.S. Customs, Reston, Virginia, was one of several U.S. Customs Agents who attended.

SA [redacted] 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 [redacted] 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 [redacted]

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31C-WF-189911-48

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 30 1993	
FBI - WASH. METRO FIELD OFFICE	

11/3/94

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.

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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 []

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[]
[]
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 and [] 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 []

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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.

0009 MRI 00363

PP RUCNFB FBIWMFO

DE BRU #0002 0031557

ZNR UUUUU

P 031546Z JAN 94

FM LEGAT BRUSSELS (31C-WF-189911) (P)

TO DIRECTOR FBI/PRIORITY/

FBI WMFO (31C-WF-189911)/PRIORITY/

BT

UNCLAS

CITE: //5220;BI 715,004 04 JAN 94//

PASS: FBIHQ FOR VCU-CID, SSA [REDACTED]

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

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RE WMFO TELETYPE 12/22/93.

IN CONTACT WITH U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE ATTACHE, [REDACTED]

[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

31C-WF-189911-49

JAN 3 11 07 AM '94

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 03 1994	
FBI - WASH. FIELD OFFICE	

1/3/94

PAGE TWO DE BRU 0002 UNCLAS

SPECIFIC DETAILS,

[REDACTED] ADVISED HOWEVER THAT HE DID NOT RECALL ANY ALLEGATIONS OF [REDACTED] OR FBI INVOLVEMENT IN ANY COVER UP OF THE INVESTIGATION.

A MORE DETAILED INTERVIEW OF [REDACTED] WILL OCCUR ON HIS RETURN FROM LEAVE IN MID-JANUARY, 1994.

BT

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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: _____

Sender's Initials: _____

Number of Pages: 6
(Including Cover Page)To: FBI HQ - VCU
(Name of Office)Date: 1/7/94Facsimile Number: 324 - 3089Attn: SSA
(Name Room Telephone)b6
b7CFrom: FBI WMFO
(Name of Office)Subject: "FINDERS" GROUPSpecial Handling Instructions: PLS HAND CARRY TO SSA
ATTACHED IS SAN DIEGO DIVISIONS FD 302 REFLECTING INTERVIEW OF RETIRED USCS
AGENT Originator's Name: SA Telephone: Originator's Facsimile Number: Approved: AED/JKD311-UN-18981 / 53
FBI/DOJ

4/2/94
ml
mg

Memorandum



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

Date 1/7/94

From : SSA [redacted] (C-4)

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

On 1/7/94, [redacted] Property Division, MPD-DC telephone [redacted] was advised of the ongoing effort by WMFO to ascertain the disposition of evidence seized by MPD in February, 1987. [redacted] 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.

②-WMFO
(1-SA [redacted])
(1-31C-WF-189911)

JKD:plj
(2) [signature]

31C-WF-189911-54

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SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 07 1994	
FBI — WASH. METRO FIELD OFFICE	

17

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☒ AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ UNCLAS E F T O
☐ UNCLAS

Date 1/6/94

TO : SAC, WMFO (31C-WF-189911)

WE/ALB 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 [redacted] 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 [redacted] 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 [redacted] was telefaxed to WMFO, as requested, on January 6, 1994. The original and one copy of the FD-302 recording the interview of [redacted] and the original interview notes are enclosed.

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

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2-WMFO (Enc.3)
 2-San Diego
 (1-31C-WF-189911)
 (1-Agent's Copy)

RMS/jmn
 (4)

31C-WF-189911-56

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____	FILED _____
JAN 26 1994	
FBI - WASH. METRO FIELD OFFICE	

Approved: _____

Transmitted _____

(Number) (Time)

Per _____

Memorandum



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

From : SA [REDACTED] (C-4)

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

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

Attached to this memo are the following items provided to writer by SSA [REDACTED]

1. SSA [REDACTED] memo dated 12/21/93 detailing the results of FBIHQ indices checks.

2. AD POTT'S 12/22/93 request [REDACTED] and USDS to query their records for references to captioned matter.

3. SSA [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] concerning the status of WMFO'S investigation. SSA [REDACTED] and writer concurred that the following represented the balance of outstanding leads concerning captioned matter:

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

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2-WMFO
MDC:mdc

[Handwritten signature and initials]

31C-WF-189911-58

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 18 1994	
WASH. FIELD OFFICE	

[Handwritten checkmark]

12/15/93

To: Unit Chief [redacted]

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From: SSA [redacted]

Subject: Finders

A search of FBIHQ indices was conducted for [redacted]
[redacted] File reviews were conducted on indices references
identified by the indices search as follows:

1. [redacted] this is a main file concerning the investigation in
1987 wherein [redacted]
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, [redacted]
[redacted] 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
kidnaped. The vehicle registration records for a van the men had
in their possession when arrested reflected that it was
registered to a [redacted]
[redacted]

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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 life
style 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 [] of "Finders", allegedly a [] Also, results of search warrants of property owned by [] in Washington, D. C.

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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 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.

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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 []

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 [redacted]

-Serial #1 is a letter from Isabelle M. Pettie [redacted] to the Records Management Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation. This letter notes that Isabelle Pettie [redacted]

[redacted] The letter notes that her [redacted] had made an FOIA request to [redacted] for any information concerning him in their files.

-Serial #2 is a letter from [redacted] to Mr. Clarence Kelly, Director, FBI concerning his FOIA request. This letter noted that [redacted]

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-Serial #4x2 is an undated letter from [redacted] concerning a FOIA request. This letter notes that he was born [redacted] Virginia, and that he was retired from the [redacted] This letter noted that he was currently [redacted] 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 [redacted] 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 [redacted] is a white male.. [redacted]

[redacted] 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 [redacted]

[redacted] 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 [redacted] [redacted] thru [redacted] The communication is five pages in length and contains various data on personal, political and economic information on individuals and organizations as described by [redacted] The letter opens with the remark [redacted] A copy of this communication is attached.

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5. [redacted]

This file contains two serials and the subject of the file is [redacted] Finders; Finders Transnational; Ragged Mountain Research Center; [redacted] - Victim; Extortion;

OO: Alexandria." and concerns a complaint by [redacted] that
[redacted]

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An airtel dated 5/12/83 from SAC, Alexandria to Director, FBI enclosed an LHM which provided information received from an attorney in Culpeper, Virginia that "a cultist group, known as the Finders and [redacted] is presently headquartered at [redacted]. The group maintains a warehouse at [redacted] 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. [redacted] is a memorandum dated 10/29/71 from SAC, Richmond to Director, FBI. The subject of this file was [redacted] Security Matter-Anarchist: OO: Baltimore." This communication reported that [redacted] which may in be part both in Madison County and Rappahannock County, Virginia, in that [redacted] VA..." There is no other reference to [redacted]

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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 [redacted]

BY LIAISON

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 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 [redacted] concerning child sexual abuse by the group known as the "Finders" and what role, if any, was played by the United States Intelligence community.

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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. [redacted]
[redacted]

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

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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)

BY LIAISON

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

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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. [redacted]

1 - Mr. Potts
1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted]
1 - 31C-WF-189911
JDS:mrg (9)

1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted]

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(See Note on Pages 2-3)

Secretary of State
Attention: Office of the Legal Advisor

9. Isabelle Pettie, aka, Isabelle M. Pettie
10. [REDACTED]
11. [REDACTED]
12. [REDACTED]
13. [REDACTED]
14. [REDACTED]
15. [REDACTED]
16. Diane Sherwood
17. Barbara Sylvester

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b7C

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)

[REDACTED] FBI Headquarters, telephone: [REDACTED]

Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

NOTE: During the week of November 1, 1993, SSA [REDACTED] Violent Crimes Section, conferred with SSAs [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] was advised that due to the nature of the request, the proper entities within the USDS [REDACTED] to process this request is the Office of General Counsel and that the FBI's request should be in letterhead memorandum format.

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The OLIA, DLU, volunteered to reduce the documentation provided by SSA [REDACTED] to LHM format suitable for dissemination to the USDS [REDACTED] and are to be delivered by liaison.

On 12/8/93, Unit Chief [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] 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.

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This matter was coordinated between SSAs []
[] OLIA, and SSAs []
and [] CID.

THE FINDERS

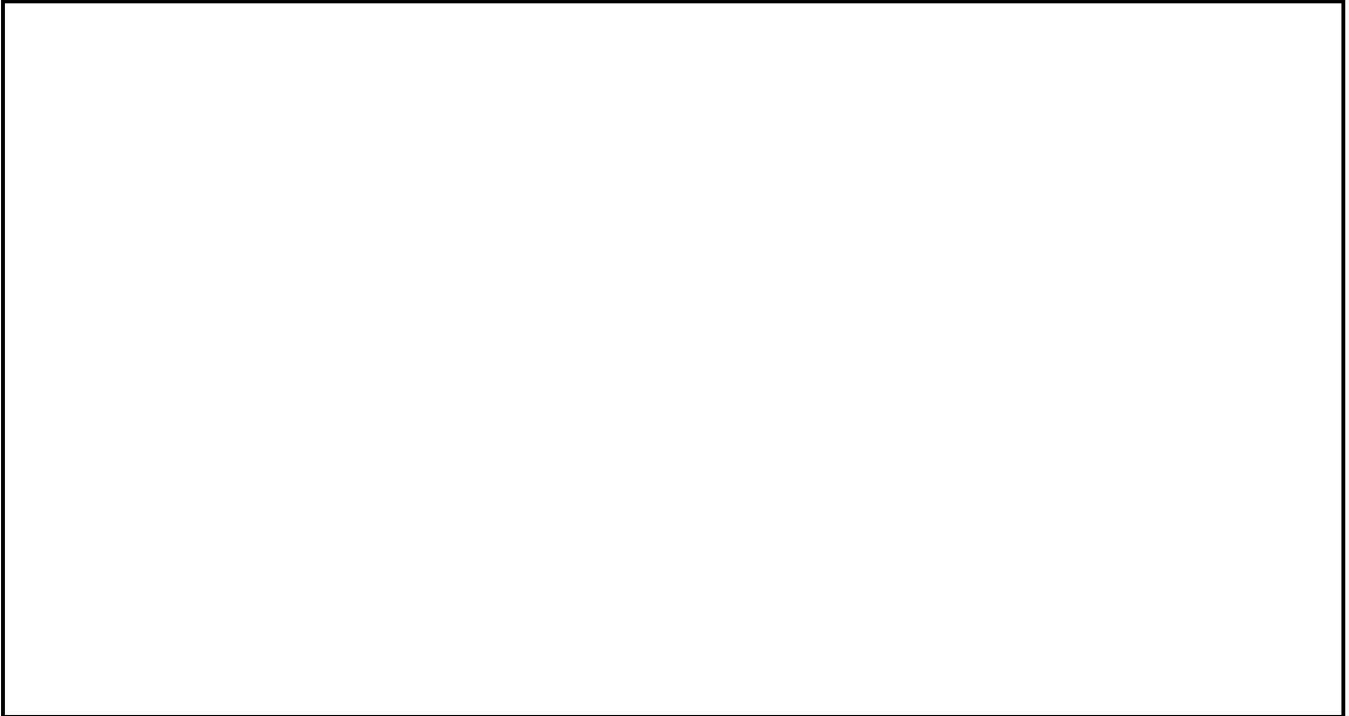
The following excerpts include information contained in an undated memorandum from Acting Chief George C. Burgasser to Acting Assistant Attorney General John C. Keeney, Criminal Division, Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. and information obtained from the records of the Washington Metropolitan 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 [REDACTED]

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.

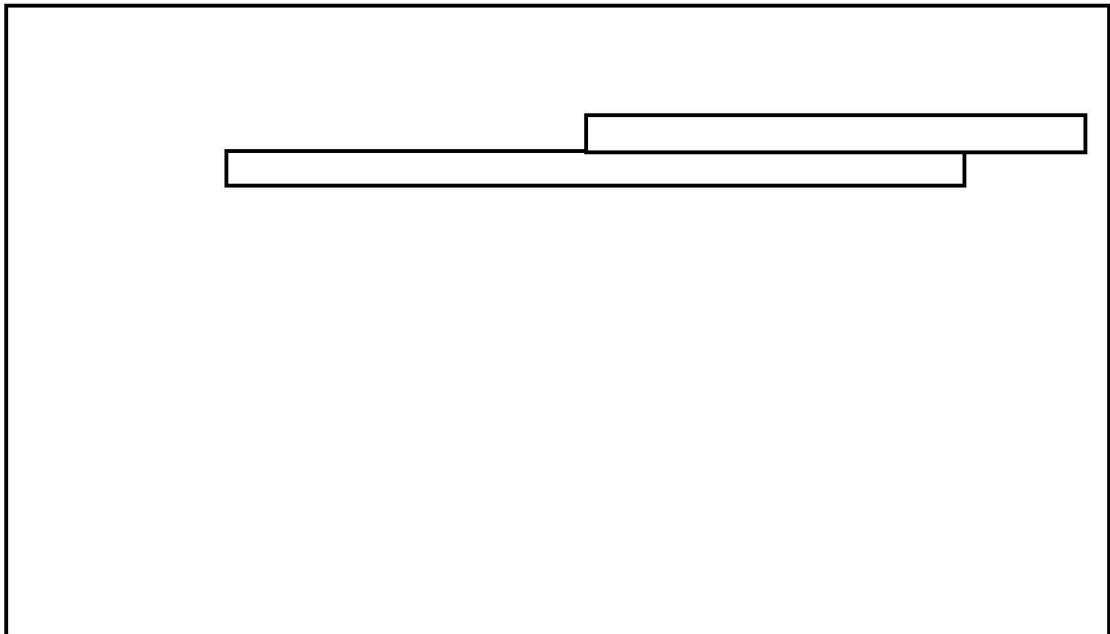
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Subsequently, USCHQ, Washington, D.C., contacted Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), and determined that they were interested in the information, and that search warrants were being considered for two addresses in the District of Columbia. MPD invited the USC to observe the execution of the search warrants in the event that evidence of USC violations was recovered.



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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:



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On February 6, 1987, the USCSA met with representatives of the MPD at the 4th Street address and examined the warehouse. During



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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



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During a USC review of the "Finders" investigation, USC representatives noted that an MPD report, dated February 19, 1987,



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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Future Enterprises operates out of the warehouse at 1307 4th Street N.E..."

[REDACTED]

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MPD investigation revealed that the "Finders" had at one time attempted to infiltrate General Scientific Corporation, Rockville, Maryland [REDACTED] the "Finders." During an interview, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Investigation determined that the "Finders" has, at one time been known as the "Women's Networking Service," "the Information Bank (located at 1307 4th Street, N.E., Washington, D.C.); "Finders Transnational; and Finders Transnational Ragged Mountain Research Center. Investigation also indicated that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Diane Sherwood, and Barbara Sylvester had been the original founders of the "Finders:" and that [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

Memorandum



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

From : SA [redacted] (C-4)

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

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

Attached to this memo are the following items provided
to writer by SSA [redacted]

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1. SSA [redacted] memo dated 12/21/93 detailing the
results of FBIHQ indices checks.

2. AD POTT'S 12/22/93 request [redacted] USDS to query
their records for references to captioned matter.

3. SSA [redacted] 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.

INDEX
ⓧ

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

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

2-WMFO
MDC:mdc

31C-WF-189911-59

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 18 1994	
FBI - WASH. FIELD OFFICE	

F1 - NAME SEARCH



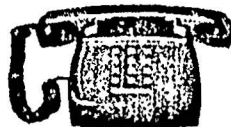
- * Summary Exact - This will perform an exact name search on the name the user enters. Will output the name, per-no, nam-no and the oo file number.
- * Summary Phonetic - Performs a phonetic search on the name entered. Will output the name, per-no, nam-no and the oo file number.

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 phone numbers that are

12/21/93

To: Unit Chief [redacted]

From: SSA [redacted]

Subject: Finders

A search of FBIHQ indices was conducted for the following:

1. [redacted]
2. Diane Sherwood
3. Barbara Sylvester
4. [redacted]
5. The Information Bank, 1307 4th Street, NE, Washington, D.C.
6. Sergeant John H. Stitcher, Jr., Washington Metropolitan Police Department
7. [redacted]
8. Future Enterprises, Inc.

b6
b7C

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

1. [redacted]-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 [redacted] There is no other information concerning Diane Sherwood.

[redacted]

[redacted]

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Diane Sherwood; [redacted] Information Concerning." [redacted]

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 Barabara Sylvester DOB 12/9/36. This serial is a memo dated 3/8/60 to Director, FBI from SAC, New York and is captioned [redacted] Security Matter; IS-PO; Miscellaneous Information Concerning."

4. [redacted]

serial #29-this is a teletype dated 2/7/87 from FBI, Jacksonville to Director, FBI and summarizes investigation to date. The information concerning [redacted] is the same as information contained in serials #11 and #15.

serial #24-Teletype from WMFO to FBIHQ, re interview of [redacted]
[redacted] 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 [redacted] 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 [redacted]
[redacted] associated with two women was [redacted]
[redacted]

serial #9-this is a teletype from WMFO to FBIHQ re [redacted]
[redacted]
reported results of search warrants of property owned by [redacted]
in Washington, D. C. [redacted] was identified as having been [redacted]
[redacted]

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 [redacted]
[redacted] when arrested in Tallahassee, Florida by the Tallahassee Police Department. [redacted] name was listed along with the remarks "Redirect phone line Hold on for 5 seconds till you hear the message [redacted]

5. The Information Bank, 1307 4th Street, NE, Washington, D.C. - there was no record in indices.

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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.

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For
WMAFO
(2)

BY LIAISON

Date: December 22, 1993

To: [REDACTED]
Attention: Office of the General Counsel

b7E

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 [REDACTED] concerning child sexual abuse by the group known as the "Finders" and what role, if any, was played by the United States Intelligence community.

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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. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[redacted]
Attention: Office of the General Counsel

b7E

9. Isabelle Pettie, aka, Isabelle M. Pettie
10. [redacted]
11. [redacted]
12. [redacted]
13. [redacted]
14. [redacted]
15. [redacted]
16. Diane Sherwood
17. Barbara Sylvester

b6
b7C

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)

[redacted] FBI Headquarters, telephone: [redacted]

Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

Enclosures (2)

BY LIAISON

Date: December 22, 1993

To: [REDACTED]

Attention: Office of the General Counsel

b7E

From: Larry A. Potts, Assistant Director
Criminal Investigative Division
FBI Headquarters

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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. [REDACTED]

b6
b7C

1 - Mr. Potts
1 - [REDACTED]
1 - [REDACTED]
1 - [REDACTED]
1 - 31C-WF-189911
JDS:mrg (9)

1 - [REDACTED]
1 - [REDACTED]
1 - [REDACTED]
1 - [REDACTED]

(See Note on Pages 2-3)

[redacted]
Attention: Office of the General Counsel

9. Isabelle Pettie, aka, Isabelle M. Pettie
10. [redacted]
11. [redacted]
12. [redacted]
13. [redacted]
14. [redacted]
15. [redacted]
16. Diane Sherwood
17. Barbara Sylvester

b6
b7C
b7E

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) [redacted]
[redacted] FBI Headquarters, telephone: [redacted]

Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

NOTE: During the week of November 1, 1993, SSA [redacted] Violent Crimes Section, conferred with SSAs [redacted] and [redacted] 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 [redacted] was advised that due to the nature of the request, the proper entities within the USDS and [redacted] to process this request is the Office of General Counsel and that the FBI's request should be in letterhead memorandum format.

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The OLIA, DLU, volunteered to reduce the documentation provided by SSA [redacted] to LHM format suitable for dissemination to the USDS and [redacted] and are to be delivered by liaison.

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On 12/8/93, Unit Chief [redacted] Violent Crimes Unit, Violent Crimes and Major Offenders Section, Criminal Investigative Division, discussed with Deputy Assistant Attorney General (DAAG) John Keenev the FBI's concern in requesting the [redacted] Department of State (DOS) to conduct a search of their records for the "FINDERS" when they could potentially be

[redacted]
Attention: Office of the General Counsel

b7E

subjects in the preliminary inquiry concerning the "FINDERS." DAAG Keeney stated words to the effect that "...we must rely on the integrity of the [redacted] DOS to conduct a thorough records check...", and he stated that he concurred with the submission of these letters by the FBI to the [redacted] DOS.

This matter was coordinated between SSAs [redacted]
[redacted] OLIA, and SSAs [redacted]
and [redacted] CID.

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~~SECRET~~

DIS-NO: 13587

FACILITY: GENERAL SCIENTIFIC CORP
DIVISION:
COMPANY TYPE: UNK

FACILITY CODE: 3S344
HOME OFFICE: 3S344
FIELD OFFICE: BA

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
REINSTATE DATE: TERMINATION DATE: VALIDATION DATE: 09/01/87
CREATION DATE: 11/18/92 DELETION DATE: 03/22/93 ACT/HIST FLAG: H

PHYSICAL ADDRESS:
CITY:

ZIP:

ZIP EXT:

~~SECRET~~

ENTER-----PF1-----PF3-----PF4-----PF5-----PF6-----PF22-----PF23-----PF24-----
NEXT HELP PRINT SUMMARY RERUN SERCH OPTNS RETRV CEASE
4β NUM ↑ #06

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~~SECRET~~

```

ENTER---PF1---PF2---PF3---PF4---PF5---PF6---PF22---PF23---PF24---
NEXT    HELP    BACK    PRINT    SUMMARY    RERUN    SERCH    OPTNS    RETRV    CEASE
4β      NUM    ↑

```

SERIAL NO:

~~SECRET~~

ENTER--PF1--PF2--PF3--PF4--PF5--PF6--PF22--PF23--PF24--
NEXT HELP BACK PRINT SUMMARY RERUN SERCH OPTNS RETRV CEASE
4β NUM ↑ #06.

1/7/94

To: Unit Chief [redacted]

b6
b7C

From: SSA [redacted]

Subject: Finders

The attached items were received from [redacted]
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 [redacted]
[redacted] to date found no documentation indicating that any agency
interfered with or covered up the FINDERS investigation.

TO
WMFG
(3)

ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 02-18-2014 BY NSICG/F63M84K93

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. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

9. Isabelle Pettie, AKA, Isabelle M. Pettie, Christine Isabell Pettie, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

further description available.

[REDACTED]

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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. Stitzer, JR., ^(checked) W/M, DOB 8/27/43,
SSAN 220-38-0629, Sergeant,
WASHINGTON METRO POLICE Police Dep Attorney

12/10/93

To: Unit Chief [redacted]

b6
b7C

From: SSA [redacted]

Subject: Finders

A search of FBIHQ indices was conducted for [redacted]
[redacted] File reviews were
conducted on indices references identified by the indices search
as follows:

1. [redacted]

[redacted]
Serial 3 is an investigative report from SAC, Baltimore
dated 10/26/70 and concerns [redacted]

[redacted] 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 [redacted]
[redacted]

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
[redacted]

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[redacted] There is no other information concerning [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

This is a main file captioned [redacted]

[redacted] 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, [redacted]
[redacted] 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.

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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 kidnaped. The vehicle registration records for a van the men had in their possession when arrested reflected that it was registered to a [redacted]
[redacted]

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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 life style 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 [redacted] were released from the custody of the TPD on 3/17/87, and all charges against them were dropped.

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Included in this file are the following:

Serial #2 - Photos of subjects and children

" #9 - Teletype from WMFO to FBIHQ re [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] 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 [redacted] Virginia 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 [redacted]
[redacted] provides info pertaining to

b6
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"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.

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2. []

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. See additional write-up above.

[] file on locate.



FBI FACSIMILE COVERSHEET

CLASSIFICATION

PRECEDENCE

- ☐ Immediate
☒ Priority
☐ Routine

- ☐ Top Secret
☐ Secret
☐ Confidential
☐ Sensitive
☒ Unclassified

Time Transmitted: _____

Sender's Initials: cjr

Number of Pages: 5

To: SAC, WMFO
(Name of Office)

Date: 1/26/94

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 [Redacted] (FPRA) Telephone: [Redacted]

Originator's Facsimile Number: [Redacted]

Approved: _____

[Redacted Signature Box]

SEARCHED <u>mt</u>	INDEXED <u>mt</u>
SERIALIZED <u>mt</u>	FILED <u>mt</u>
FBI/DOJ	
JAN 28 1994	
FBI - WASH. FIELD OFFICE	

aw

JAN 27 11 - 01 AM '94

31C-WF-189911-61

C-4

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☒ AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ UNCLAS E F T O
☐ UNCLAS

Date 1/30/94

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 [redacted]

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)

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b7c

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31C-WF-189911-13

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB - 7 1994	
FBI - WASH. FIELD OFFICE	

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ Per _____
(Number) (Time)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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Total Deleted Page(s) = 86

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Page 5 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 6 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 7 ~ b6; b7C; b7E;
Page 8 ~ b6; b7C; b7E;
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Page 63 ~ b6; b7C; b7E;
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Page 87 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 89 ~ b6; b7C; b7E;
Page 90 ~ b6; b7C; b7E;
Page 91 ~ b6; b7C; b7E;
Page 92 ~ b6; b7C; b7E;
Page 98 ~ Duplicate - Serial 75, pg 61;
Page 99 ~ Duplicate - Serial 75, pg 61;
Page 100 ~ Duplicate - Serial 80, pg 86;
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Page 132 ~ b6; b7C; b7D; b7E;
Page 139 ~ b6; b7C;

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Total Deleted Page(s) = 86

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Page 5 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 6 ~ b6; b7C;
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Page 89 ~ b6; b7C; b7E;
Page 90 ~ b6; b7C; b7E;
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Page 92 ~ b6; b7C; b7E;
Page 98 ~ Duplicate - Serial 75, pg 61;
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Page 100 ~ Duplicate - Serial 80, pg 86;
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Page 139 ~ b6; b7C;

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U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

F A X C O V E R S H E E T

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.DATE: 2-1-94TO: WMFO ATTN: CED UCU ATTN: SSAb6
b7C

FROM:



FBI, FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA RA

407/461-6142

407/461-6241 (FAX NUMBER) (~~NOT~~ AUTOMATIC)

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES BEING FAXED

INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET

4

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

FOR INSTRUCTIONS OF WMFO TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR 1-3-94

310-WF-109911-64

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 07 1994	
FBI-WASH. FIELD OFFICE	



c-4

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☒ AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ UNCLAS E F T O
☐ UNCLAS

Date 2/18/94

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 [redacted] was recontacted on January 11, 1994, February 11, 1994, and February 17, 1994, to determine whether [redacted] 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*

2-WMFO

2-San Diego

(1-31C-WF-189911)

(1-Agent's Copy)

RMS/jmn
 (4)

31C-WF-189911-66

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 24 1994	
FBI - WAS. FIELD OFFICE	

Approved: _____

Transmitted _____

(Number) (Time)

Per _____



JAN 28 8 01 AM '94

FBI FACSIMILE COVERSHEET

CLASSIFICATION

PRECEDENCE

- ☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☒ Routine

- ☐ Top Secret
☐ Secret
☐ Confidential
☐ Sensitive
☒ Unclassified

Time Transmitted: 3:38
Sender's Initials: R.A.H.
Number of Pages: 24

To: FBI, WMFO
(Name of Office)

Date: 1/26/94

Facsimile number: _____

Attn: _____

(Name)

Room

Telephone No.)

From: FBIHQ Violent Crimes Unit
(Name of Office)

Subject: "Finders" Group; White Slave Traffic
ACT-SEOC;
OO: WMFO

b6
b7C

Special Handling Instructions: Hand-carry

Originator's Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Originator's Facsimile Number: _____

Approved: DR/R.A.H.

31C-WF-189911-67

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 28 1994	
FBI - WASH. FIELD OFFICE	
CND	

FD-26 (Rev. 8-29-85)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☒ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ UNCLAS E F T O
☒ UNCLAS

Date 1/27/94

FM FBI MIAMI (31C-WF-189911) (FPRA) (P)

TO FBI DIRECTOR/PRIORITY/

FBI WMFO/PRIORITY/

BT

UNCLAS

CITE: //3460:1225//

PASS: ATTN: SSA [REDACTED] VCU-CID.

b6
b7C

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

RE WMFO TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR AND OTHER OFFICES, DATED
JANUARY 3, 1994.

ON JANUARY 26, 1994, [REDACTED] RESIDENT
AGENT IN CHARGE, U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE (USCS), WEST PALM BEACH,
FLORIDA, WAS CONTACTED PER REFERENCED REQUEST. [REDACTED]
ADVISED FROM 1985 TO 1988, HE HEADED THE USCS CHILD

1 - 31C-WF-189911

MUM:az

Approved: 

Original filename: _____

Time Received: _____

Telprep filename: _____

MRU/JULIAN DATE: _____

ISN: _____

FOX DATE & TIME OF ACCEPTANCE: _____

PAGE 2 PM, 31C-WF-189911, UNCLAS

PORNOGRAPHY UNIT IN WASHINGTON, D.C., WHICH DID NOT ACTUALLY CONDUCT INVESTIGATIONS, BUT RATHER GATHERED AND DISSEMINATED INFORMATION CONCERNING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY. SA [REDACTED] WAS ASSIGNED TO THE UNIT FOR APPROXIMATELY SEVEN MONTHS AND THEN REASSIGNED TO THE USCS, RESTON, VIRGINIA OFFICE.

b6
b7C

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
IN EARLY 1987, [REDACTED] ADVISED HE BECAME AWARE OF THE "FINDERS" GROUP WHEN THE RESTON OFFICE AND [REDACTED] BECAME INVOLVED IN THE SEARCHES. HE CLAIMS NOT TO KNOW ALL THE DETAILS OF THIS SEARCH OR INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED BY USCS AND [REDACTED] FURTHER, HE STATED [REDACTED] TOLD HIM HE PURPOSELY HAS KEPT [REDACTED] OUT OF THE MATTER, BUT HE, [REDACTED] HAS TOLD USCS COMMISSIONER GEORGE J. WEISE EVERYTHING.

b6
b7C

DURING THE PERIOD OF THE 1987 SEARCHES, [REDACTED] RECALLED [REDACTED] ASKED HIM IF HIS UNIT HAD RECEIVED ANY PAPERWORK CONCERNING THE "FINDERS" AND WHEN HE REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE, HE WAS TOLD BY [REDACTED] TO KEEP IT THAT WAY. IT WAS [REDACTED] UNDERSTANDING THAT INFORMATION

b6
b7C

^PAGE 3 RM, 31C-WF-189911, UNCLAS

DEVELOPED BY [REDACTED] AND THE RESTON OFFICE WAS PASSED ON TO [REDACTED] AND THEN TO THE USCS FRONT OFFICE.

b6
b7C

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
1992. AND AT THAT TIME, THEY INQUIRED AS TO INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM USCS CONCERNING [REDACTED] SINCE THAT TIME, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] CONTACT WITH USCS SAC WILLIAM P. ROSENBLATT.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
AGENTS WHO HAD BEEN IN THE CHILD PORNOGRAPHY UNIT. AT THAT TIME, HE RECALLED [REDACTED] APPEARED TO HAVE CONSIDERABLE KNOWLEDGE OF THE UNIT. [REDACTED] DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF HOW [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

b6
b7C

^PAGE 4 MM, 31C-WF-189911, UNCLAS

[REDACTED]

b6
b7C

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF ORGANIZED CHILD ABUSE IN
THE STUART, FLORIDA AREA, OR ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN THE
"FINDERS" AND [REDACTED] RECENTLY,

b6
b7C

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

MIAMI WILL FAX FD-302 OF [REDACTED] INTERVIEW TO SSA [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] VCU-CID.

BT

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☒ AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ UNCLAS E F T O
☐ UNCLAS

Date 1/31/94

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
 (ATTN: VCU-CID, SSA [REDACTED])

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

b6
b7C

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 [REDACTED]

b6
b7C

As referenced teletype 1/27/94 indicates, [REDACTED] 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
 MJM/jah
 (5)

31C-WF-189911-69

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____

(Number) (Time)

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
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FBI - MIAMI	

[Handwritten signature]

31C-WF-189911

advised that any information he received in the future concerning THE FINDERS would be brought to the attention of either SA [redacted] or other law enforcement officials. At that time, [redacted] also advised SA [redacted] 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.

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b7C

As of 1/28/94, [redacted] 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.

- 1 -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 2/10/94

[redacted] 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.

b6
b7CInvestigation on 2/10/94 at Washington, D.C. File # 31C-WF-189911-70by SA [redacted] Date dictated 2/10/94b6
b7C

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☒ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ UNCLAS E F T O
☒ UNCLAS

Date 3/7/94

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

TO DIRECTOR FBI/ROUTINE/

BT

UNCLAS

CITE: //3920//

PASS: VCU-CID FOR SSA b6
b7C

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

b7E

AND UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
 STATE (USDS) RECORDS.

31C-WF-189911-71

Approved: *ADD*Original filename: *MDCO03W.066 #1A*

Time Received: _____

Telprep filename: *MDCO03SD.066*MRI/JULIAN DATE: *99/067*ISN: *7*FOX DATE & TIME OF ACCEPTANCE: *0048* *MTN*

^PAGE 2 WMFO 31C-WF-189911 UNCLAS

WMFO WILL REVIEW THESE RECORDS UPON NOTIFICATION FROM
FBIHQ.

BT



FBI FACSIMILE COVERSHEET

CLASSIFICATION

PRECEDENCE

- ☐ Immediate
☒ Priority
☐ Routine

- ☐ Top Secret
☒ Secret
☐ Confidential
☐ Sensitive
☐ Unclassified

Time Transmitted: _____

Sender's Initials: 02

Number of Pages: 3

To: SAC, WMFO

Date: 4/15/94

Facsimile number: _____

Attn: SSA

(Name)

Room

Telephone No.)

From: Director FBI Content Review Unit

(Name of Office)

Subject: Fidels

to WMFO

Special Handling Instructions: Please hand carry to

SSA

Originator's Name: SSA

Originator's Facsimile Number: _____

Approved: LAP 12P

31C-WF-189911-13

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SERIALIZED <u>✓</u>	FILED <u>✓</u>
APR 15 1994	

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ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 02-26-2014 BY NSICC/F63M84K93



FBI FACSIMILE COVERSHEET

CLASSIFICATION

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☒ Immediate

☐ Priority

☐ Routine

☐ Top Secret

☐ Secret

☐ Confidential

☐ Sensitive

☒ Unclassified

Time Transmitted: _____

Sender's Initials: DFW

Number of Pages: 2

To: SAC, Wmfo

(Name of)

Date: 5/10/94

Facsimile number: _____

Attn: SSA

(Name)

Room

Telephone No.)

Squad C-4

From: Director FBI Violent Crimes Unit, UCMOS

(Name of Office)

Subject: Enclers;

OO: Wmfo

[Handwritten signature]

Special Handling Instructions: Please HAND CARRY TO SSA

Originator's Name _____

Telephone: _____

Originator's Facsimile Number: _____

Approved: LAP/PRW

31C-W-189911-76

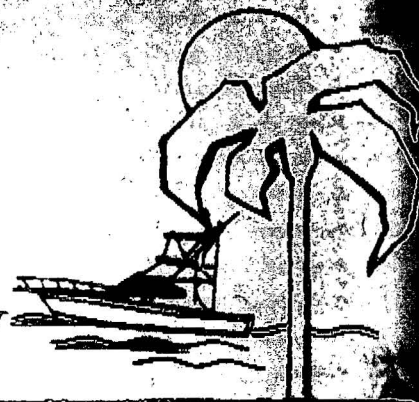
please note Attached which I just received. Please HAVE SA contact for the remaining items he has requested. Thank.

SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____ FILED _____

MAY 10 1994

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b7C



FBI • PALM BEACH COUNTY

FACSIMILE COVERSHEET

PRECEDENCE

- ☐ Immediate
☒ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION

- ☐ Top Secret
☐ Secret
☐ Confidential
☐ Sensitive
☒ Unclassified

Time Transmitted: _____

Sender's Initials: cjrNumber of Pages: 5
(including this page)To: ADIC, WMFO
(Name of Office)Date: 05/18/94

Facsimile number: _____

Attn: _____
(Name Room Telephone No.)From: MIAMI Division o Palm Beach County RA
(Name of Office)File Number: 31C-WF-189911Subject: "FINDERS" GROUP;WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT - SEXUAL EX - LON OF CHILDOBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE - PRELIMINARY INQUIRY

Special Handling Instructions: _____

Originator's Name: SA _____

Telephone: _____

Facsimile Number: _____

Approved: _____

31C-WF-189911-79

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 18 1994	
FBI - MIAMI	

5/18

b6
b7C

FD-36 (Rev. 8-29-85)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☒ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ UNCLAS E F T O
☒ UNCLAS

Date 5/17/94

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 [REDACTED] VIOLENT CRIMES UNIT.

b6
b7C

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.

ON 5/16/94, [REDACTED] WAS CONTACTED

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] OF THE FORT PIERCE RESIDENT AGENCY. [REDACTED] FURNISHED

1 - 31C-WF-189911
JTM/jah

Approved: C. B. [Signature]

Original filename: _____

Time Received: _____

Telprep filename: _____

MRI/JULIAN DATE: _____

ISN: _____

FOX DATE & TIME OF ACCEPTANCE: _____

PAGE 2 MM 31C-WF-189911 UNCLAS

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

OCCURRING AT THAT INSTITUTION DURING THE 1980'S. HE NOTED THE

[REDACTED] WAS PROSECUTED AND

IS CURRENTLY INCARCERATED SERVING A LENGTHY SENTENCE IN THE

FLORIDA PRISON SYSTEM. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

BECAME

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. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

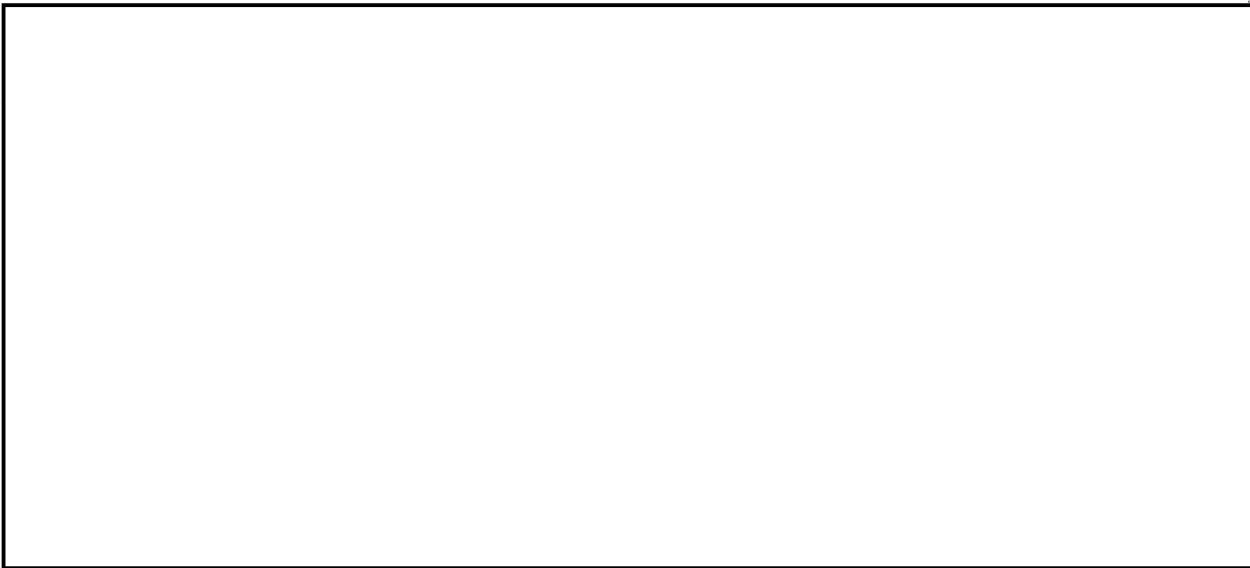
b6

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b7C

^PAGE 3 MM 31C-WF-189911 UNCLAS



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b7C
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^PAGE 4 MM 31C-WF-189911 UNCLAS

TO THE BUREAU'S INQUIRIES INTO THE MATTER, IN PARTICULAR WITH
REGARD TO THE ATTITUDE OF [REDACTED] OF THE BUREAU'S
BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE UNIT.

b6
b7C

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

p C-4

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☒ AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ UNCLAS E F T O
☐ UNCLAS

Date 5/18/94

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 [redacted] FBIHQ, Violent Crimes Unit, to SA [redacted] 5/18/94.

b6
b7C

Enclosed for WMFO is the original and one (1) copy of FD-302's reflecting interviews with [redacted]. 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 [redacted] reflects the specific results of investigation requested by the Bureau in referenced Bureau teletype. The enclosed FD-302 with [redacted] reflects an inquiry made with U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE, Fort Pierce, Florida regarding their possession of toll records furnished by [redacted] to 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) *h*
 1 - Miami

JTM/jah
 (5)

UCFN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pos	<input type="checkbox"/> Neg	<i>h</i>
GENERAL INDICES:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Automated Search			
WF:	<input type="checkbox"/> Pos	<input type="checkbox"/> Neg	AX: <input type="checkbox"/> Pos <input type="checkbox"/> Neg
<input type="checkbox"/> Manual Search			
WF:	<input type="checkbox"/> Pos	<input type="checkbox"/> Neg	AX: <input type="checkbox"/> Pos <input type="checkbox"/> Neg

Approved:

Transmitted

Per

(Time)

31C-WF-189911-83
 SEARCHED *h* INDEXED *h*
 SERIALIZED *h* FILED *h*
 MAY 19 1994
 FBI - MIAMI

h
 25
 5

FORWARDED BY FBIHQ

23 MAY 24 1994

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☒ AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ UNCLAS E F T O
☐ UNCLAS

Date 6/10/94

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (31C-WF-189911)
 ATTN: CID, VCU, SSA [REDACTED]

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

b6
 b7C
 b7E

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 [REDACTED]
2. One copy each of an FD-302 detailing the results of a reinterview of [REDACTED]
3. One copy each of three documents obtained from the [REDACTED] 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.

2-Bureau (Enc. 6)

2-WMFO
 MDC:mdc

6/10/94
Close 6
5/10/94
31C-WF-189911-90

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____

(Number)

(Time)

Per _____

0-9 (Rev. 8-16-79)

TRANSMIT VIA: AIRTEL

CLASSIFICATION: UnclasDATE: 12/20/94

FROM: Director, FBI

TO: (Violent Crimes/Fugitive Unit, Violent Crimes and Major
Offenders Section)SAC, Washington Metropolitan Field Office (31C-WF-189911)
(Attention: SSA [redacted] Squad C-4)b6
b7C

"FINDERS" GROUP;

WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT - SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN;

OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE - PRELIMINARY INQUIRY;

OO: 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 [redacted]

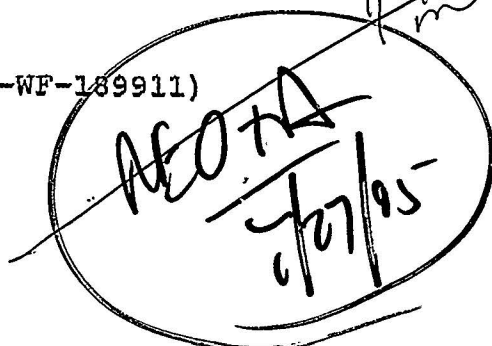
b6
b7C

On 9/23/94, Deputy Assistant Director (DAD) Jim Frier, Acting Section Chief [redacted] Violent Crimes/Fugitive Unit (VC/FU) Unit Chief [redacted] Supervisory Special Agent (SSA) [redacted] and WMFO SSA [redacted] 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 [redacted] 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 [redacted] Congressman 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.

b6
b7C

Enclosure

1 - [redacted]
1 - Tickler (31C-WF-189911)
DRW:cjg (6)



1/30/95 me 31C-WF-189911-21

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 27 1995	



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;

OO: WMFO

On 12/13/94, DOJ Attorney [redacted] advised that DAAG DeGregory had completed his review of captioned matter, and he had requested that additional investigation be conducted. [redacted] noted that a WMPD report, dated 2/19/87, indicated that one of the Finders [redacted]

b6
b7C
b7D
b7E

[redacted] The WMPD report indicated that WMPD [redacted]

[redacted] advised that DAAG DeGregory requested that the FBI determine the following:

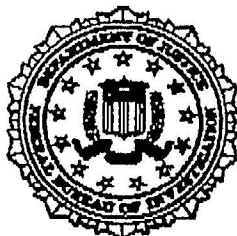
(1) Did the WMPD provide to FBI, WMFO a [redacted]

(2) [redacted]

(3) [redacted]

On 12/20/94, attached communication was received from DOJ Attorney [redacted] 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

☐ Top Secret
☐ Secret
☐ Confidential
☒ Unclassified

CLASSIFICATION

Time Transmitted:

Sender's Initials: DRNumber of Pages: Cover +To: ADIC, WMFODate: 1/27/95

Facsimile number:

Attn: SSA

(Name)

Room

Telephone No.)

From: SSA

Subject:

"FINDERS" Group
OO: WMFO

Special Handling Instructions:

Please Hand carry
to SSA Please provide update

Originators Name:

SSA

Telephone:

Originator's Facsimile Number:

Approved:

WJE/DR

Refer calls 1/25 and 1/27/95..
Please see attached 12/20/94 Finders
Arrest. I know you're busy with FBI/DOJ other
things (HAI) But ADIC is it wants an update
I must have that done by 1/31/95.
Thank for your help.

b6
b7Cb6
b7C



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: 9:10 A
Sender's Initials: MM
Number of Pages: 5
(Including Cover Page)

To: FBI HQ
(Name of Office)

Date: 1/31/95

Facsimile Number: [Redacted]

Attn: SSA [Redacted] VCU, CID
(Name Room Telephone)

From: ADIC, WMFO (31C-WF-189911)
(Name of Office)

Subject: "FENDERS" Group

Special Handling Instructions: PLS HAND CARRY TO SSA [Redacted]

[Redacted] per your REQUEST Attached are both [Redacted]
INTERVIEW FD 302's [Redacted]

Originator's Name: SA [Redacted] Telephone: [Redacted]

Originator's Facsimile Number: [Redacted]

Approved: AED/JED

31C-WF-189911-91X2 FBV/DOJ

SEARCHED <u>w</u>	INDEXED <u>w</u>
SERIALIZED <u>w</u>	FILED <u>w</u>
JAN 31 1995	
FBI-WASH. FIELD	

Memorandum



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

Date 5/9/95

From : SA [redacted] (C-4)

b6
b7C

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 [redacted] 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 [redacted] via facsimile on
1/31/95.

[Handwritten signature]
b6
b7C

On 5/9/95, writer contacted SSA [redacted] to ascertain
the status of this investigation. SSA [redacted] indicated that the
matter remains open at FBIHQ, pending a decision from the
Department of Justice. SSA [redacted] advised that there were no
new, or outstanding leads for WMFO.

Based upon the above, WMFO is closing this case.

2-WMFO
MDC:mdc

(2)
[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten: Close to 5/10]

[Handwritten: 5/24/95]

[Handwritten: 31C-WF-189911-92]

SEARCHED <i>[initials]</i>	INDEXED <i>[initials]</i>
SERIALIZED <i>[initials]</i>	FILED <i>[initials]</i>
MAY 10 1995	
FBI - WASH. FIELD OFFICE	

Serials in this
file have been
automated thru
Serial 92 .

Thanks

No serial can be placed, changed or inserted
prior to above serial.

Memorandum



To : WF 31-WF-189911-96 Date 7/17/97

PGH/AM
From : SD

Subject: Finders "B"
(Title)

☐ RUC
☒ File Destruction Program

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.

Enc.

NOTE: DO NOT BLOCK STAMP ORIGINAL ENCLOSURES.



FBI FACSIMILE COVERSHEET

PRECEDENCE

- ☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☒ Routine

CLASSIFICATION

- ☐ Top Secret
☐ Secret
☐ Confidential
☐ Sensitive
☒ Unclassified

Time Transmitted: 1:30 PM
 Sender's Initials: Duc
 Number of Pages: 3
(Including Cover Page)

To: FBI HQ
(Name of Office)

Date: 11-29-95

Facsimile Number:

Attn: SSA

b6
b7C

From: FBI, WMFO
(Name of Office)

Subject: "Finders" Group;
White Slave Traffic Act -
Sexual Exploitation of Children;
Obstruction of Justice - Preliminary Inquiry;
OO: WMFO

Special Handling Instructions: Hand carry to SSA

b6
b7C

Originator's Name: SA

Telephone

Originator's Facsimile Number: 31C - WF - 189911

Approved: Duc

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____	FILED _____
NOV 29 1995	
FBI - WASH. FIELD OFFICE	

Duc

Memorandum



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

Date 5/9/95

From : SA [redacted] (C-4)

b6
b7C

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

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This one reinterview was conducted by WMFO with the respective FD-302 forwarded to FBIHQ, SSA [redacted] via facsimile on 1/31/95.

On 5/9/95, writer contacted SSA [redacted] to ascertain the status of this investigation. SSA [redacted] indicated that the matter remains open at FBIHQ, pending a decision from the Department of Justice. SSA [redacted] advised that there were no new, or outstanding leads for WMFO.

b6
b7C

Based upon the above, WMFO is closing this case.

(2) WMFO
MDC:mdc

(2)

Close to 5/10

31C-WF-189911-9

SEARCHED <i>ml</i>	INDEXED <i>ml</i>
SERIALIZED <i>ml</i>	FILED <i>ml</i>
MAY 10 1995	
FBI - WASH. FIELD OFFICE	

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1401497-0

Total Deleted Page(s) = 270

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Page 11 ~ Duplicate - Serial 1A-12, pgs 74-79;
Page 12 ~ Duplicate - Serial 1A-12, pgs 74-79;
Page 13 ~ Duplicate - Serial 1A-12, pgs 74-79;
Page 14 ~ Duplicate - Serial 1A-12, pgs 74-79;
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Page 41 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 42 ~ Duplicate - Serial 3 pgs 131-136;
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Memorandum



To : SAC, WMFO (31C-WF-189911) (P) Date 11/8/93

From : SA [redacted] (C-4)

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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 [redacted] United States Customs Service, Customs Headquarters, 1301 Constitution Ave, NW, Washington, D.C.

This information is further described as listed below:

1. Copy of "FINDERS" briefing bullets prepared by SA [redacted] for Commissioner, U. S. Customs briefing book.
2. Copy of SA [redacted] memo to file dated 2/7/87.
3. Copy of SA [redacted] memo to file dated 4/13/87.
4. Copy of a NEXUS report prepared by U.S. Customs.
5. Copies of [redacted] 2/7/87, and 4/13/87 memos with names removed together with a "FINDERS" chronology provided to U.S. Customs by a [redacted] of the Tallahassee, Florida Police Department.
6. Copies of Tallahassee Police Department Reports concerning the 2/5/87 [redacted] and subsequent "FINDERS" group investigation.
7. Copy of U.S. Customs RAC Tallahassee case file dated 2/87.
8. Copy of U.S. Customs RAC Reston case file dated 4/13/87.
9. Copy of a magazine article titled "In search of the Finders".

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②-WMFO
MDC:mdc

*11/10/93
open a Sub M file off of this memo*

31C-WF-189911 Sub M

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*Brief Bullets for Commissioner's book, prepared
by SA [redacted]*

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"FINDERS"

On August 23, 1993, I was advised by agents from the SAC/Miami office that they had interviewed [redacted] per request of [redacted] SAC/Miami. They listened to [redacted] 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 [redacted]

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[redacted] regarding a group called the "Finders". [redacted] inquired if the agents were aware of this case and suggested they make themselves knowledgeable of its details. [redacted] 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 [redacted] and determined that a case had been open and closed by Special Agent [redacted] on February 12, 1987. No

further information was located. This information was provided to SAC/Miami agents. It should be noted that [redacted] from the Customs Service. A copy of the CPPU records and the [redacted] record are attached as number 17.

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- Inquiries regarding this matter with [redacted] Division Director, Smuggling Investigations Division, revealed that the Finders incident was investigated by Special Agent [redacted] when he was assigned to what was then the RAC/DC.
- On September 3, 1993, I spoke with Special Agent [redacted] who is currently assigned to Headquarters, Internal Affairs. [redacted] was the agent who participated with the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) during the initial stages of their investigation of the "Finders". [redacted] 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.
- [redacted] in initial establishment of the Child Pornography and Protection Unit at the request of then Commissioner Von Raab. Upon final staffing of the unit, [redacted] to the RAC/DC where he was assigned to work among other things, child pornography cases.
- [redacted] advised that the reason the Tallahassee Police Department (TPD) had contacted Customs was due in part [redacted]
[redacted]
- [redacted] stated that [redacted] contacted Special Agent [redacted] 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.
- SA [redacted] 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. [redacted] said that when children were sexually

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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

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• SA [] 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, MPD, []. It should be noted that Sgt. Stitcher is now deceased.

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• On September 14, 1993, I spoke with [] 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.

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• 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. [] 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.

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- 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. [] advised that he had been contacted by SAC/Miami agents for any information regarding the "Finders". [] 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

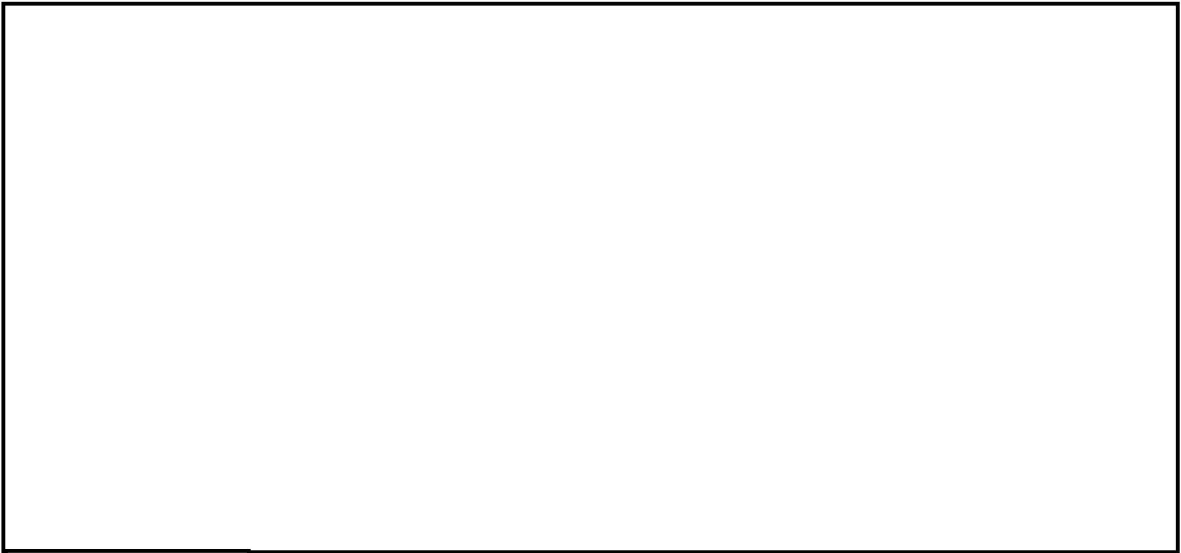
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[] requested that [] provide me with the same information as well as any Customs case reports. He advised that after the initial opening report, the investigation revealed no Customs violations and the matter was closed. It should be noted that both 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 any []. 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. [] was the acting RAC/Reston on February 5, 1987. [] 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. [] stated

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- On September 16, 1993, I contacted [] regarding additional information about this matter. He stated that



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[redacted]

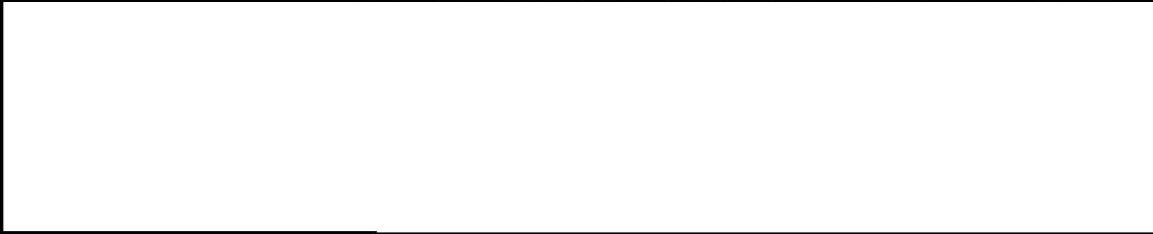
On September 16, 1993, I contacted Special Agent [redacted]
[redacted] FBI, Washington Field Office. [redacted] was the
FBI case agent who handled matters regarding child
pornography. [redacted] stated that the "Finders" was a very
bizarre communal group who got their name based on the fact
that they could "find" any type of information that was
requested of them. [redacted] stated that MPD became very

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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

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[redacted] said that no evidence of child sexual
exploitation, child pornography, or kidnapping was obtained.

In a memorandum dated March 9, 1987, [redacted]



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] 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 or [REDACTED] and was never instructed by [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED]. 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.
- On September 17, 1993, I contacted [REDACTED] stated that from what he could remember, [REDACTED] tended to get himself involved in matters involving children that were outside the jurisdiction of Customs. As far as this matter is concerned, [REDACTED] did not show any indication of a Customs violation after his [REDACTED] to discontinue the investigation. [REDACTED]
- On September 17, 1993, I interviewed [REDACTED] 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. [REDACTED] 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. [REDACTED] stated that he does not recall any conversations between himself and [REDACTED] regarding this matter and certainly does not recall any discussion of [REDACTED]

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Heading # 2

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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.

Press (return) to continue...->

Heading # 3

0669252

Although many adults enjoy healthy friendships with teenagers, psychologists warned Friday that parents should be alert for signals of potential child sexual abuse.

Press (return) to continue...->

Heading # 4

0669201

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.

Press (return) to continue...->

Heading # 5

0669200

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.

Press (return) to continue...->

Heading # 6

0669071

Police 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.

Heading # 1

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D : ADVICE ON DESIGN AND DECOR Easy on the Eyes - and Feet

Newsday (ND) - Thursday September 2, 1993

By: Beth Sherman

Edition: NASSAU AND SUFFOLK Section: AT HOME Page: 83

Word Count: 698

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Heading # 1

Searched: 09-13-1993 16:03

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0645417

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.

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Heading # 31

Searched: 09-13-1993 16:07

^S/^Q: stop/start; ^T: Paging OFF; ^C/(esc): interrupt (^ = CTRL/CONTROL key)

0342936

SECTION: General news

^TORY TAG: children

TELETYPE: TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (UPI) March 18, 1987

TIME: 23:05ps CYCLE: pm

PRIORITY: Deferred WORD COUNT: 0210

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.

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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 I was unsure of the status of the two other children.

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ding # 32

0342535

SECTION: General news

STORY TAG: children

DATELINE: TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (UPI) March 17, 1987

TIME: 18:59ps CYCLE: am

PRIORITY: Deferred WORD COUNT: 0203

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, Press (return) to continue...->

dirty children with them were going or identify the parents of the children.

The two men and the children, age 2-6, were linked to the Finders communal organization of Washington D.C.

Dickey said four of the children have been released to their parents, but he was unsure of the status of the two other children.

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Heading # 33

0341741

SECTION: General news

STORY TAG: children

DATELINE: MIAMI (UPI) March 12, 1987

TIME: 06:42ps CYCLE: pm

PRIORITY: Deferred WORD COUNT: 0275

Three of six children who belong to The Finders, a counterculture community based in Washington, D.C., have been ordered returned to their parents but the other three remain in temporary state supervision.

Shortly after Wednesday's order by Leon County Circuit Judge Victor Cawthon, the leader of The Finders said the group was disbanding.

Defense attorney Paul Walborsky called Cawthon's 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.
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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

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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 them."

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 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 Press (return) to continue...->

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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Heading # 37

0337145

SECTION: General news

STORY TAG: children

BY: McCLELLAND, MICHAEL

DATELINE: TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (UPI) February 19, 1987

TIME: 07:05ps CYCLE: pm

PRIORITY: Deferred WORD COUNT: 0408

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 well. Ammerman's father, University of Florida agriculture professorrence 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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Heading # 38

0336575

SECTION: General news

STORY TAG: children

BY: McCLELLAND, MICHAEL

DATELINE: TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (UPI) February 17, 1987

TIME: 21:59ps CYCLE: pm

PRIORITY: Deferred WORD COUNT: 0408

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 : 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 childrens' 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 y in Sunday's Tallahassee Democrat identified four of the women as tin 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 Press (return) to continue...->

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.

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Heading # 40

0336164

SECTION: General news

STORY TAG: finders

BY: BRIENZA, JULIE

DATELINE: WASHINGTON (UPI) February 15, 1987

TIME: 12:44ps CYCLE: bc

PRIORITY: Advanced for weekend WORD COUNT: 0743

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 initial suspicions that the men and children were involved in satanic rituals. Then, District of Columbia and Virginia police said their Press (return) to continue...->

rituals. Then, District of Columbia and Virginia police said their

... group is so bizarre that it has many people perplexed and even scared. 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 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 "a 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.
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"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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Heading # 41

Searched: 09-13-1993 16:18

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0335928

SECTION: Washington news

STORY TAG: finders

BY: BRIENZA, JULIE

DATELINE: WASHINGTON (UPI) February 14, 1987

TIME: 09:40ps CYCLE: am

PRIORITY: Regular WORD COUNT: 0705

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 Press (return) to continue...->

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.

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 "a threat to themselves more than anything else."

The children, ages 2 to 7 and given such names as Honey Bee, John Paul Pope and Benjamin Franklin, have been in foster homes since the men were arrested. The men still face child abuse charges and the parents a custody battle.

A Finders spokesman, Robert Terrell, who met with reporters while wearing a Ronald Reagan mask over the back of his head, said the police 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 Terrell.

Asked how he would characterize the Finders, he 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, Press (return) to continue...->

goatskins and a scrapbook titled "The Execution of Henrietta and Igor" were also confiscated.

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 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.

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

BI agents have contacted the parents of six children found in a park and two men linked to the mysterious Finders organization, but interviews revealed no illegal activity by the parents, authorities said.

if there are any federal violations.

"We have uncovered nothing that would point to a 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.
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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.
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Heading # 43

0335280

SECTION: General news
STORY TAG: children
BY: McCLELLAND, MICHAEL
DATELINE: TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (UPI) February 11, 1987
TIME: 07:58ps CYCLE: pm
PRIORITY: Regular WORD COUNT: 0550

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 Press (return) to continue...->

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 aiatric ward for a long, long time."

The children seemed physically healthy but showed signs of being Press (return) to continue...->

The state took custody of the children last Wednesday when police arrested Ammerman and Houlihan watching over the dis- 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," Award 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.

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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."

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Heading # 44

0335123

SECTION: General news

STORY TAG: children

BY: McCLELLAND, MICHAEL

DATELINE: TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (UPI) February 11, 1987

TIME: 12:30ps CYCLE: am

PRIORITY: Regular WORD COUNT: 0425

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.

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"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 Press (return) to continue...->

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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Heading # 45

0334860

SECTION: General news

STORY TAG: children

February 10, 1987

TIME: 16:03ps CYCLE: am

PRIORITY: Deferred WORD COUNT: 0465

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, e 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 Press (return) to continue...->

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: 02:42ps 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,

... news organizations in Washington from a man who identified himself as R. Gardner Terrell said the children were not Press (return) to continue...->

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.

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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.

Press (return) to continue...->

Heading # 47

0334622

SECTION: General news

STORY TAG: children

BY: McCLELLAND, MICHAEL

DATELINE: TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (UPI) February 09, 1987

TIME: 14:28ps CYCLE: am

PRIORITY: Deferred WORD COUNT: 0702

Publicity surrounding six children taken from members of the Finders cult has brought a flood of questions from anxious parents of missing children, a police spokesman said Monday.

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 false hope in them, so that when we find out the identities of the Press (return) to continue...->

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 Thursday and Sunday and took about 50 more by noon Monday. Calls about the Press (return) to continue...->

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 during the weekend to Washington police from Robert Gardner Terrell, the Press (return) to continue...->

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 learn at their own speed, to learn how to walk and to talk when they naturally 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.

Press (return) to continue...->

Heading # 48

0334524

SECTION: General news

STORY TAG: children

February 08, 1987

TIME: 14:01ps CYCLE: am

PRIORITY: Regular WORD COUNT: 0484

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 food, 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

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. (return) to continue...->

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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Heading # 49

0334457

SECTION: General news

STORY TAG: children

BY: McCLELLAND, MICHAEL

DATELINE: TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (UPI) February 07, 1987

TIME: 21:18ps CYCLE: pm

PRIORITY: Regular WORD COUNT: 0584

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 Press (return) to continue...->

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.

...ing ... investigation and the pictures found at a Washington, D.C. warehouse linked to the group include those of children engaged in what appeared to be "cult rituals."

The newspaper said the group was known as "The Finders" and was made up of about 40 people who lived in the District of Columbia and a farm in al Virginia, the remains of a popular 1960s hippie refuge that evolved ss (return) to continue...->

into a satanist society.

Hunt said a 6-year-old girl in the group showed signs of sexual abuse.

The children four boys and two girls raning in age from 2 to 6 were put in state custody.

Merrill Moody of the state health department said the youngsters were "confused," but were doing well and will remain in state care until relatives can found who are able to provide "a safe and healthy home."

Hunt said the children, who had not bathed in days and were covered with scratches and insect bites, told police they had not eaten in 24 hours. He said they had "bizarre" names like "Benjamin Franklin," "Honey Bee" and "B.B."

Police also believe the two men gave false names. A check of the Virginia license plate on their van showed it belonged to a man matching Houlihan's description, but with a different name, Hunt said.

The men initially told police they were taking the youths to Mexico to begin a school for "brilliant" children. When they could not explain the children's condition or name their parents, Hunt said, the men refused to ss (return) to continue...->

answer further questions.

The children told police they had not seen their mothers since before Christmas. One girl said the men fed them mostly fruit and all of them had been sleeping in the van or in a tent.

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Heading # 50

0334358

SECTION: General news

STORY TAG: children-finders

DATELINE: WASHINGTON (UPI) February 07, 1987

TIME: 22:17ps CYCLE: am

PRIORITY: Regular WORD COUNT: 0456

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 'ss (return) to continue...->

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 Press (return) to continue...->

...sure, 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.

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Heading # 51

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0334357

SECTION: General news

STORY TAG: children

Y: McCLELLAND, MICHAEL

ATELINE: TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (UPI) February 07, 1987

TIME: 13:47ps CYCLE: am

PRIORITY: Urgent WORD COUNT: 0521

... to another location and place them under guard.

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 ret 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.

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Hunt also refused to discuss the measures taken to protect the children. He said tapes of the calls to the police station were being evaluated, and that police did not know if the calls came from a "local crackpot" or were tied to "The Finders."

"You never underestimate the power of somebody who wants to do damage to young children," Hunt said. "That we have had threats has put us on alert."

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 sed. 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.

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Virginia State Police and Madison County, Va., sheriff's officers served five search warrants early Saturday in the area of the Pettie Farm, a 90-acre property near the Shenandoah National Park. Owner Marion Pettie is reported to be the founder of "The Finders."

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 yesterday said 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—dirty faces and mismatched clothes? . . . If

(cont.)

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 founded 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 Mayer-son, 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 Gardner 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

Cont

17

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 reporter 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-

partment of Health and Rehabilitative Services, said Florida and District officials, along with a behavioral psychologist from the FBI, will conduct videotaped interviews with each of the children to try to clarify their identities, and determine how they have been cared for in the past.

The interviews will be conducted by one person, while the others watch from behind two-way mirrors, Mr. Moody said.

Under Florida's child dependency laws, the six youngsters can continue to be held in protective custody for an indefinite time pending an investigation by the state and D.C. Child and Family Service Administration officials into their background, Mr. Moody said.

Even if guardians do come forward, the state cannot release the children into their custody without a court order, he said. A court order cannot be obtained until the probe into the children's background in the District is complete, he said.

"Until we know they have a safe and healthy environment to return to, they will remain in our custody," Mr. Moody said.

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 men by the ~~children's mothers~~, 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 worshippers 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.

Cont.

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." 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 kidnapp-

ing 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.

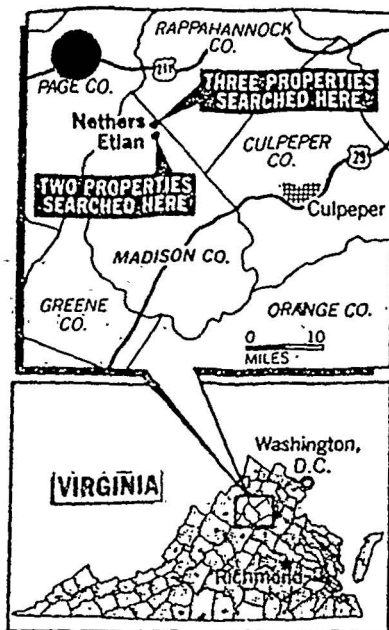
Other items seized included official records indicating that the group has substantial assets, including bank accounts, the source said.

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,



BY DAVID ZUCKERMAN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

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 Tallahas-

seek leads on a white van. Witnesses said was with the blue van that police found 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 Howell or Michael Houlihan, 23, have been charged with aggravated child abuse and resisting arrest without violence, both misdemeanors in Florida. They were each 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

cont.

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 Sandra 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 "well-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. This 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 Dec. 15, 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.

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 6-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 Leader," 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."

SCOTT

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.

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Finders Group Has Roots In Popular '60s Hippie Refuge

Wash. Post 2/17/87

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 also had a house at 3920 W St. NW in 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
Democrat staff writer

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 Mashburn 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 Mashburn 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

Children

From 1A

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) Date 11/9/93

From : SA [redacted] (C-4)

b6
b7C

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 [redacted] on 11/09/93 by [redacted] MPD Intelligence Division, room 5067, 300 Indiana Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C.

INDEX
AS MARKED
[Signature]

2-WMFO
MDC:mdc

CC - FBIHQ - VCU
11/9/93

31C-WF-189911-2
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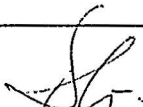
SEARCHED	INDEXED
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FBI - WASH. FIELD OFFICE	

[Signature]

P.D. 15 Rev. 2/90

Metropolitan Police Department
Washington, D.C.

Office of the Chief of Police

TO:		Date	10/26/93
	ASSISTANT CHIEF PATROL OPERATIONS BUREAU	Approved	
		Attend	
	ASSISTANT CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BUREAU	Call Me	
		Comment	
	ASSISTANT CHIEF TECHNICAL SERVICES BUREAU	Consideration	
		Contact Writer	
	ASSISTANT CHIEF INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES BUREAU	Disapproved	
		Expedite	
	OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL	File	
		Handle	
	OFFICE OF FINANCE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	Information	
		Invest. & Report	
	OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND MEDIA PRODUCTIONS	Noted	
		Prepare Order	
	EXECUTIVE PROTECTION UNIT	Prepare Reply	
		Reply Direct	
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		Recommendation	
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Signature of Sender		Signature	
		Return By:	

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REMARKS: _____

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DATE: OCTOBER 19, 1993

PAGE 1

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FINDERS ORGANIZATION

NUMBER OF STORIES FOUND WITH YOUR REQUEST THROUGH:
LEVEL 1... 7

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10-19-93

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4TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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February 10, 1987, Tuesday, SPORTS FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 2; ZONE: C

LENGTH: 384 words

HEADLINE: PROBE CAN'T PROVE CHILD ABUSE BY CULT

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BODY:

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.

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(c) 1987 Chicago Tribune, February 10, 1987

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

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5TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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The Washington Post

February 10, 1987, Tuesday, Final Edition

SECTION: METRO; PAGE D1

LENGTH: 784 words

HEADLINE: D.C. Police: Finders Odd, Not Criminal;
FBI, Virginia and Florida Expand Probes

BYLINE: Victoria Churchville, Marc Fisher, Washington Post Staff Writer

BODY:

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 life 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.

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.

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The Washington Post, February 10, 1987

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

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6TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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February 10, 1987, Tuesday, Late City Final Edition

SECTION: Section A; Page 21, Column 1; National Desk

LENGTH: 843 words

HEADLINE: POLICE SAY UNIDENTIFIED CHILDREN IN FLORIDA ~~WAS NOT A CULT~~

BYLINE: By PHILIP SHENON, Special to the New York Times

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, Feb. 9

BODY:

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 can 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 Pettie, a charismatic leader who urged his followers to study a doctrine that stressed self-exploration and futurism.

Children Allowed to Travel

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(c) 1987 The New York Times, February 10, 1987

"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

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Copyright (c) 1987 The Times Mirror Company;
Los Angeles Times

February 8, 1987, Sunday, Home Edition

SECTION: Part 1; Page 2; Column 1; National Desk

LENGTH: 101 words

HEADLINE: THE NATION;
VIRGINIA CULT SITES RAIDED

BODY:

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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P.D. 15 Rev. 3/86 METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
Washington, D.C.



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

TO: *a/c Cop*

DATE
5-5-87

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INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION	

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METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
Washington, D. C.

INSPECTIONAL SERVICES BUREAU

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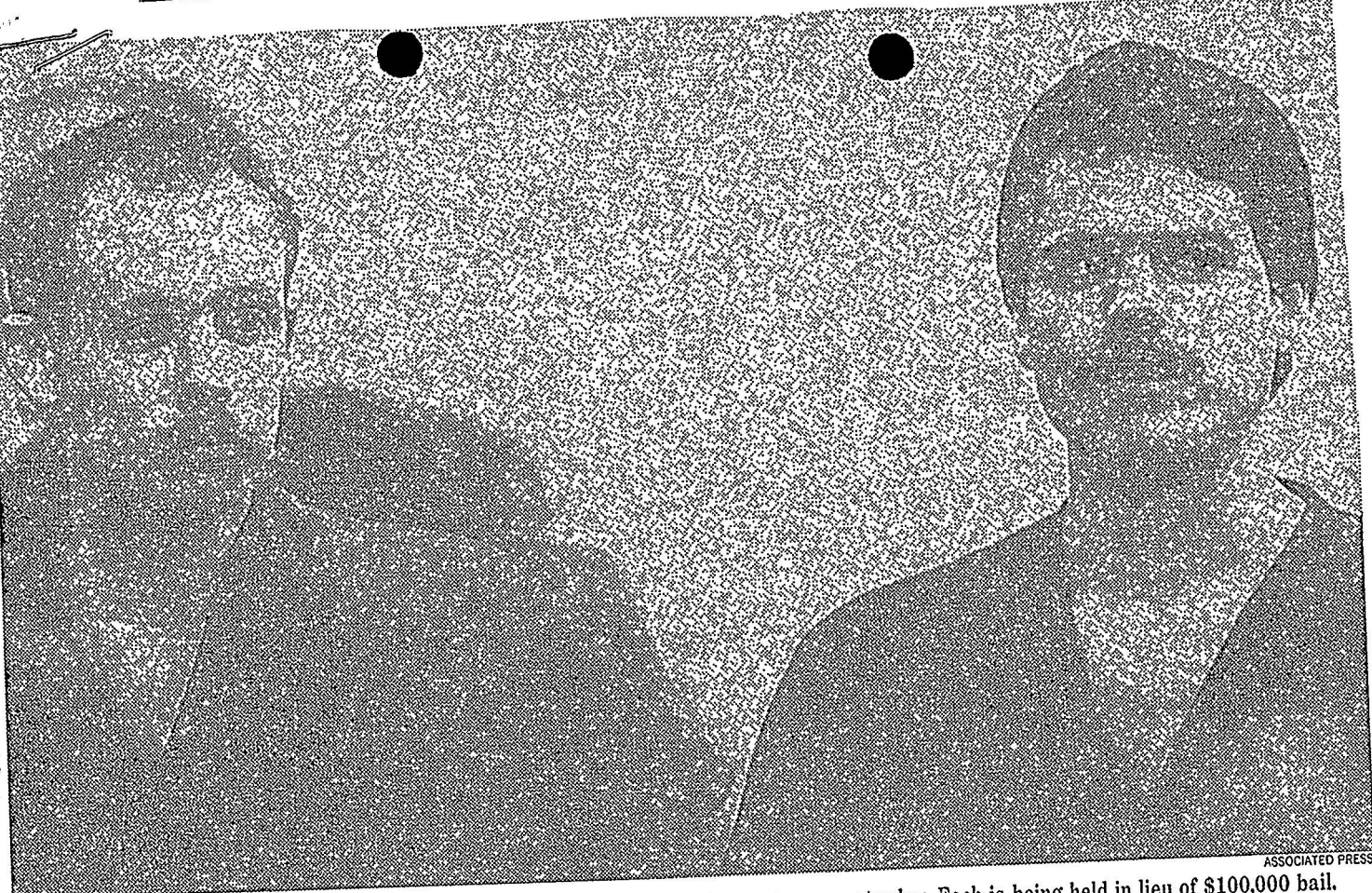
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ASSOCIATED PRESS

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

SPORTS
George Washington's Birthday
IRVING'S SHO

le it is difficult to come up
numbers, said Patricia Marks,
child care coordinator, the

Region
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and are currently being
ted to federal agencies.

she never
grandmother said. That woman
child also was placed in a city shel-
ter temporarily.
Finders spokesman Robert Gard-
ner Terrell confirmed both inci-
dents, explaining that Finders chil-
dren are allowed to roam freely in
the country but are supervised in
the city.

Staff writer Victoria Churchville
contributed to this report.

Mike Washington Post
2/13/87

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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 processes 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 emotion.

See FINDERS, B17, Col. 1

Women of Children

District of Columbia Protective Services officials have twice taken custody of some of the Finders children, once in 1984 after some were allegedly found wandering cold and hungry near the group's Northeast warehouse, and a year later, after one of the mothers refused to leave her family's home, according to the grandmother of one of the children, Finders spokesman and a government official.

In both cases, District social workers were swayed by how the mothers presented themselves as parents, according to the grandmother.

The Washington Post
2/15/87

Post

... SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1987 A5

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 cus-
tody 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 Rehabil-
itative 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 lin-
gering 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 com-
menting, and Paula Walborsky, at-
torney for the women, did not re-
turn a call to the Associated Press.

Meanwhile, the two men ar-
rested Feb. 4 remained jailed on
child neglect charges. Douglas Am-
merman, 27, and James Holwell,
23, are being held in lieu of \$10,000
bail each on one count of child ne-
glect. Trials are scheduled for
March 30 and 31.

The Washington Post
2/28/87

D.C. Police: Finders Odd, Not Criminal

FBI, Virginia and Florida Expand Probes

Post 2-10-87

By Victoria Churchill
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 life 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

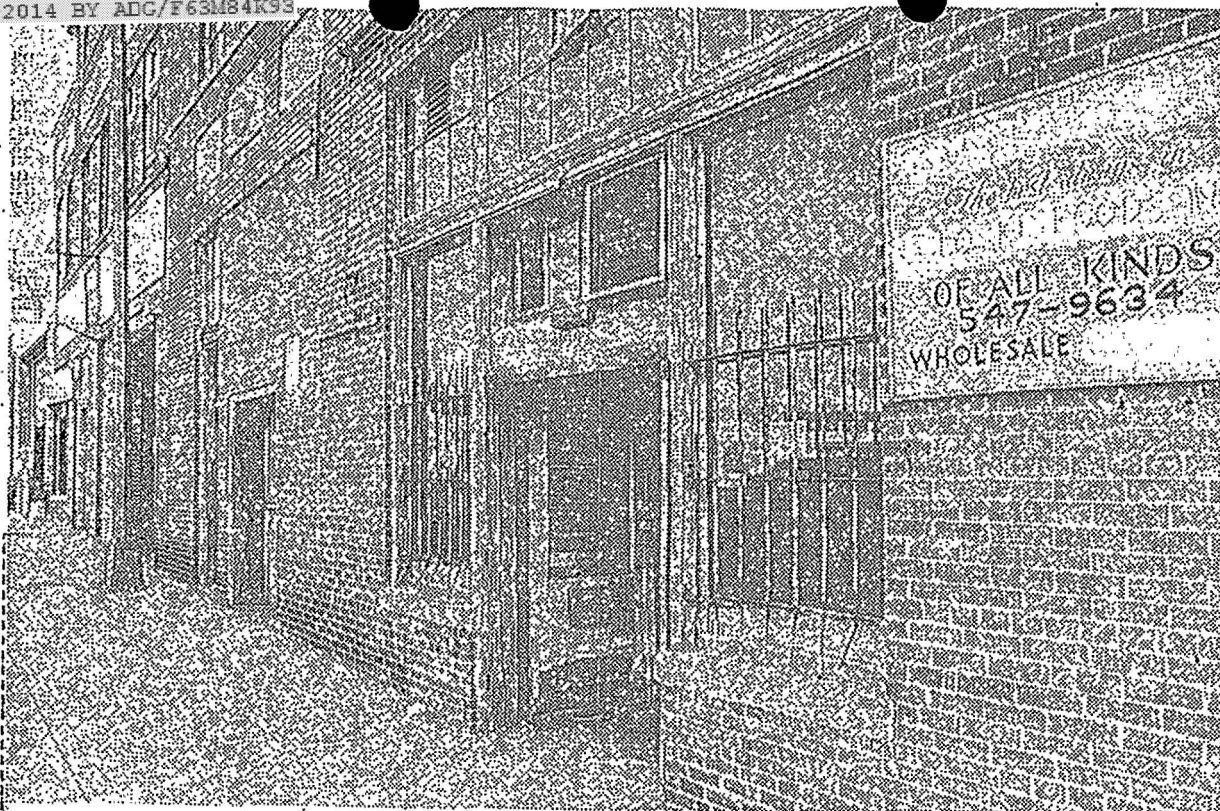
And how many of us are
frustrated when a phone call takes
forever to be put through and do
nothing? A man in New Delhi had
a plan. After repeated attempts
and delays to place a call to
Bombay, he entered the phone
exchange at midnight and
threatened operators with a pistol
if they did not put through the
urgent call for him. He also
ordered his bodyguard to beat up
an operator because his call was
delayed.
When the press tried to call him
for comment, they were unable to
get through to the numbers listed

The Washington Post
2/10/87

Opening lead: Two of ♦

East	Pass	2	♦	Pass	4	♦
North	Pass	2	♦	Pass	2	♠
West	Pass	3	♦	Pass	2	♠
South	Pass	3	♦	Pass	4	♦

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A warehouse in Northeast Washington, believed to have been occupied by the Finders, a little-known cult. Associated Press

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 disheveled 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 at least two buildings here.

But Captain White added, "We haven't 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.

"We have a very long, tedious pro-

cess 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 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 said 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 worshippers.

Known to one another by such names as "Benjamin Franklin," "John Paul Pope" and "Honeybee," 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

providing any clues to their identities. Frequent visitors, both Haitians and gate of the villa. There are fre- garden," said the guard at the and that, when he walks in the "Sometimes we discuss this

rossa. Saab 900 or his red Ferrari Testa- either behind the wheel of his frequent day trips, often to Cannes, of time out and around, taking fre- But Mr. Duvalier is spends a lot bile to a reporter outside the villa. from the window of his automo- anybody," Mr. Duvalier shouted will give the slightest interview to "There is no possibility that I La Mochammedia. Cannes in a luxurious villa called Mediterranean village near their two children live in this Duvalier, his wife, Michele, and

Hunt said. "Adults are encouraged to join this group and one of the stipulations of joining this group is that they give up the rights of their children."

Police sources in Washington said the trail of the men led to a rural Virginia community in Madison County, about two hours southwest of the nation's capital, apparently a lead provided by documents found today. "It may turn out to be one property, it may turn out to be more," said Lieut. M. G. Millner of the Virginia state police who added that the police would to check the area soon.

In the searches, police officers seized large boxes of documents, records and

The two suspects are charged with aggravated child abuse.

equipment, including computer programming material.

Twenty-seven computer storage disks were also found, along with rotting 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

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; Honeybee Evans, 3; Benjamin Franklin, 3; John Paul Pope Houlihan, 2, and B.B., a 2-year-old boy.

INSURE TO

The New York Times
2/7/87

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 ties 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.

The Los Angeles Times
2/17/87

2 Men Arrested Traveling in Van With 6 Children

1037 2-6-87

By John Ward Anderson
and Victoria Churchville
Washington Post Staff Writers

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

White said, however, that police have not been able to determine where the two suspects were from, and have not been able to tell whether they are from the Washington metropolitan area.

The Wash. Post
1/6/87
THIS DOCUMENT SHALL NOT BE DISSEMINATED
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THE COMMANDING OFFICER, INVESTIGATIVE
SERVICES DIVISION, METROPOLITAN POLICE
DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Post 3-4-87

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.

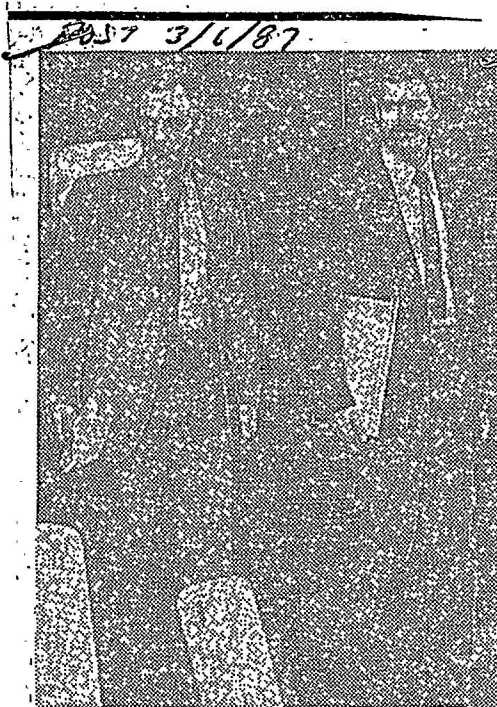
Douglas E. Ammerman, 27, and James Michael Howell, 23, remain in a Tallahassee jail in lieu of \$10,000 bond each. A judge has reduced the bond for the misdemeanor charges from \$100,000 for Ammerman and from \$101,000 for Howell.

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 F.
On Tuesday, March 3,
EUGENE F. HAILMAN
beloved husband of Mr.
father of Melva Cooper
F. Hallman Jr. of Ch
Hallman of Spotsylvania
White-Hurst of North C
Florida. Also survived
Memorial services will b
at 7 p.m. at Columbia
33 W. Columbia St.,
a Foundation or The
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ON FUNERAL HOME
K. HANSON, JACQUELENE
on Monday, March 2,
HANSON of Upper Marl
M. Hanson; mother of T.
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ARALSON, POLLY G.

The Washington Post
3/4/87



UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

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.

The Washington Post
3/6/87

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

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ward
post
3-11-87

87-20

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 were 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 Marion 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.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

James Madison University professor J. Barkley Rosser and his wife, Marina Vchershynaya, share a toast after being married May 24 in an outdoor ceremony in Rockingham County, Va. The two met in the Soviet Union in 1984, fell in love, but were separated in August of that year after registering with the Soviet government to be married. This year Soviet officials allowed Vchershynaya to leave the U.S.S.R.

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.

— Marc Fisher

*Wash Post
6/1/87*

Two Finders Released; Abuse Charges Dropped

Post 3-18-87

By Douglas Stevenson
Washington Post Staff Writer

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

arrest. He said police testimony indicated that Holwell "just seemed to have fainted" at the time of the arrest and that there was no way of telling if Holwell had faked the fainting spell.

Because Holwell showed "no active resistance," the prosecution could not press the charge, Fordham said.

Last week Leon County Circuit Court Judge Victor Cawthon awarded custody of three of the youngest children to the mothers. Two of the other children were declared dependent but were allowed to remain with their mothers in Tallahassee, and another child, whose mother was not present for the custody hearing, remains in foster care.

The Washington Post
3/18/87

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United States Department of State

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (UNCLASSIFIED WHEN SEPARATED FROM ATTACHMENTS)
Washington, D.C. 20520

April 26, 1994

ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 02-18-2014 BY NSICG/F63M84K93

TO:

[REDACTED]
FBI

FROM:

[REDACTED]
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.

b6
b7c

If you have any questions, you may contact me on [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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31C-WF-189911-3^{Sub m}
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- 1 -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 4/28/94

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.

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b7C

[redacted] 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.

Investigation on 4/26/94 at Washington, D.C. File # 31C-WF-189911 *See M*
by SA [redacted] Date dictated 4/28/94

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b7C

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☒ AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ UNCLAS E F T O
☐ UNCLAS

Date 4/28/94

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (31C-WF-189911)
 ATTN: CID, VCU, SSA [REDACTED]

FROM : SAC, WMFO (31C-WF-189911)

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

b6
 b7C

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.

2-FBIHQ (Enc. 2)
 2-WMFO
 MDC:mdc

31C-WF-189911 Sub M-5

4/28

mh

Approved: _____

Transmitted _____

(Number) (Time)

Per

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Memorandum



To : ADIC, WMFO (31C-WF-189911) (P) Date 4/28/94

From : SA (C-4)

b6
b7C

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.

TOP SERIAL

2-WMFO
MDC:mdc

31C-WF-189911 Sub S

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APR 28 1994	
FBI - ...	