

CHILD PORNOGRAPHY: SUMMARY OF VIEWS

".....the network society devours itself, as it consumes/destroys enough of its own children to lose the sense of continuity of life across generations, so denying the future of humans as a humane species." *Manual Castells, End of Millennium*

".....the paedophile is no longer just the sad loner in the raincoat...but one link in a global chain of profit-making derived from the rape and exploitation of children."
Silverman and Wilson¹

WHAT IS CHILD PORNOGRAPHY?²

"Whilst there are probably some individuals who limit their activity to collecting child pornography, in the majority of cases known to law enforcement, child protection agencies and non-governmental organisations, the production and use of child pornography is one practice within a repertoire of child sexual abuse."
Professor Liz Kely and Linda Regan³

1 Child pornography is defined by the **Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography** as any representation of a child engaged in real or simulated explicit

¹ Silverman and Wilson, *Innocence Betrayed: Paedophilia, the Media and Society*, Polity Press, 2002.

² See, also, Articles 19 and 24 of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, and section 28 of the *Constitution of the Republic of South Africa*.

³ Liz Kelly and Linda Regan, *Rhetoric and Realities: Sexual Exploitation of Children in Europe*, 2000.

sexual activities or of the sexual parts of a child for primarily sexual purposes.

2 **Save the Children Europe Group:** "Child pornography is the evidence of the sexual abuse of a child and the production of child pornography always presupposes a crime committed towards the child. Child pornography objectifies and degrades children and may be used by abusers as a means to manipulate a child by claiming that what is happening to the child in the pictures is something that many children take part in. This "grooming process" allows the abuser to gradually overcome the child's resistance through a sequence of psychologically manipulative acts and is also used to silence the child after the abuse has taken place."

3 **Section 163.1 of the *Canadian Criminal Code*:** "Child pornography means:

(a) a photograph, film, video or other visual representation, whether or not it was made by electronic means,

(i) that shows a person who is or is depicted as being under the age of eighteen years and is engaged in or is depicted as engaged in explicit sexual activity, or

(ii) the dominant characteristic of which is the depiction, for a sexual purpose, of a sexual organ or the anal region of a person under the age of eighteen years; or

(b) any written material or visual representation that advocates or counsels sexual activity with a person under the age of eighteen years that would be an offence under this Act.”

4 **Films and Publications Act** defines child pornography to include any image, real or simulated, however created, or any description, of a person who is, or who is depicted or described as being, under the age of 18 years:

- (i) engaged in sexual conduct, or
- (ii) assisting another person to engage in sexual conduct, or
- (iii) showing or describing the body, or parts of the body, of such a person in a manner or in circumstances which, within context, amounts to sexual exploitation, or
- (iv) in such a manner that it is capable of being used for the purposes of sexual exploitation.”

THE HARM

“Thea Pumbrock died in Amsterdam on the 27 August 1984. She was 6 years old. She had already appeared in a number of child pornographic videos, and died of an overdose of cocaine whilst being filmed.”⁴

- 1 “... it could be argued that whatever else consumers of child abuse images are guilty of, they are aiding and abetting those who produce the material which fuels their fantasies. The COPINE researchers put it like this: ‘At its worst, photographs of child sexual abuse are photographs of a crime in progress.’ That is graphically borne out by the images found in the possession of the eight men arrested in the UK during Operation Cathedral. They represented the torture and degradation of thousands of children all over the world – children manacled to beds with collars around their necks, children blindfolded and suspended by their wrists from an overhead rail, babies in nappies and so on. This abuse is being perpetrated only because there is market for it, and the market is growing year by year.”⁵
- 2 “The fact that the camera is there changes the abusive behaviour of the abuser. A certain script is followed; a script that often seems to increase the violence of the abuse. The presence of a camera enhances the powerlessness of the child in the abusive situation, diminishing the child’s ability to interact or to say ‘No’ or ‘Stop’. The

⁴ Max Taylor and Ethel Quayle, *Child Pornography: An Internet Crime*, 2003.

⁵ Silverman and Wilson.

child is performing for an audience, is given orders to smile etc., thus increasing the child's sense of complicity..."⁶

- 3 "Exposing a child prematurely to sexual activities can be regarded as a more serious crime than homicide as it results in the emotional and spiritual murder of the child."⁷
- 4 "Children are used and abused in the making of much of the child pornography caught by the law... Production of child pornography is fuelled by the market for it, and the market in turn is fuelled by those who seek to possess it.... the link between the production of child pornography and harm to children is very strong. The abuse is broad in extent and devastating in impact. The child is traumatised, by being used as a sexual object in the course of making the pornography. The child is sexually abused and degraded. The trauma and violation of dignity may stay with the child as long as he or she lives. Not infrequently, it initiates a downward spiral into the sex trade. Even when it does not, the child must live in the years that follow with the knowledge that the degrading photo or film may still exist, and may at any moment be being watched and enjoyed by someone."⁸
- 5 "You may think you know what the child pornography industry is, but, no matter how cynical you are, you do not. Yes, it is naked children exposing themselves. But it is worse than that. It is adults

having sex with children, even babies. But it is worse than that. It is the rape and torture of little children."

"But, as hard as it may be to accept, it is even worse than that. A couple of years ago, there was the arrest of an Italian-pederast ring that was taking orders from customers to kidnap Russian orphans according to pre - specified characteristics, like hair colour, then torture and kill them on camera for posting on the Web."

"This is the very heart of darkness. These are images that are more than shocking and repulsive. They kill your soul because you know that every poor child you see on these sites is dead, if not now at the hands of a sadist, then decades from now from drugs, alcoholism or suicide... The pictures first make you sick, then angry, and finally homicidal... This is not somebody else's problem but ours..."⁹

⁶ Anders Nyman at a speech held at the VIP expert's meeting in London in December 2001.

⁷ R L Geiser, *Hidden victims: The sexual abuse of children*, 1979.

⁸ *R v Sharpe*, 2001 SCC.2.

⁹ Michael S Malone, ABC News.

STATISTICS

"Pedophilic and paraphilic pornography are widely available through various computer networks and protocols, such as Usenet, World Wide Web, and commercial 'adult' BBS. The Carnegie Mellon research team was able to identify consumers of these types of materials in more than 2000 cities in all fifty states in the United States, most Canadian provinces, and forty foreign countries around the world." [Including Johannesburg and Pretoria]¹⁰

- 1 "In 1995, the Obscene Publications Unit of Greater Manchester Police seized about a dozen images of child pornography during the whole year..... In 1999, according to Detective Inspector Terry Jones, one of the UK's foremost investigators of child sex abuse, his team recovered 41,000 images, all, bar three, in computer format. 'Now', he says, referring to late 2002, 'we've stopped counting, the amount is so enormous'. One man recently targeted by his unit possessed a collection of 50,000 plus more than three gigabytes of movie files."¹¹
- 2 "..... even the National Crime Squad was staggered by the scale of the enterprise it uncovered in what became the most notorious Internet paedophile investigations of the 1990s, Operation Cathedral. The so - called Wonderland Club was a network, which operated for four years in thirteen countries as a kind of global swapshop in child pornography. Like any club, it had a chairman, a treasurer and a board of members. It had a set of rules, called the

¹⁰ Marty Rimm, *Marketing Pornography on the Information Superhighway: A Survey of 917,410 Images, Descriptions, Short Stories, and Animations Downloaded 8.5 Million Times By Consumers in Over 2000 Cities in Forty Countries, Provinces and Territories*, 1995.

¹¹ Silverman and Wilson.

Traders Security Handbook. Unlike any legitimate club, the entry requirement was outlandish – 10,000 fresh pornographic images of children. When the police eventually broke up the network, they seized a staggering 750,000 individual images and 1800 digitised video clips of prepubescent children – some of them only a few months old."¹²

- 3 "Child pornography is not a tiny local industry but a global empire. It is not some crude or amateurish back - alley operation but a sophisticated business octopus, using some of the most sophisticated computer software and encryption, conveyed by some of the biggest and most legitimate corporations, and with revenues of billions of dollars."¹³
- 4 "Although it is difficult to gauge the extent of child pornography on the Internet, there are estimates of 14 million pornographic sites (Costello 2001), some of which carry an estimated one million pornographic images of children (Wellard 2001). The rate of discovery of activity by law enforcement agencies gives one indication of the extent of child pornography. In the United States, the rate of convictions for online offences against children is about 1,000 people annually - and rising - with known activity being substantially higher than actual arrests (Carr 2001)."

"Recent publicity has been given to the trial of seven men in the United Kingdom who were members of the Wonderland Club, an Internet organisation of paedophiles operating in Europe, Australia

¹² Silverman and Wilson.

¹³ Michael S Malone, ABC News.

and North America (see, for example, BBC News online 2001; O'Reilly 2001). Reports of this group serve to demonstrate the nature of the online paedophile presence. Membership of the Wonderland Club was granted in exchange for providing the group with 10,000 new child pornography pictures. During the investigation into the Wonderland Club, law enforcement officers seized 750,000 pornographic images and 1,800 pornographic videos of children; 1,236 different children were identified from the images and videos seized (Hunter 2001).¹⁴

THE EXTENT OF THE PROBLEM

"....Computer and digital technology has transformed the political economy of all pornography, making it possible for almost anyone to be producer, distributor and consumer simultaneously." Professor Liz Kelly and Linda Regan¹⁵

- 1 "The reasons for this flood of material are twofold. One is technology. Video films used to require specialist equipment and a level of expertise to produce. The availability of digital cameras has both simplified the process and transformed the reproduction of images. The other is the availability of the Internet. Terry Jones: 'In the mid - 1990s, our biggest ever haul of pornographic videos was 1200 in a single year. That may sound a lot, but compare it to the sheer volume of information, which can be stored on a computer. One floppy disk equals about 700 pages

¹⁴ Janet Stanley, *Child Abuse Prevention Issue No. 15, Summer 2001.*

¹⁵ Liz Kelly and Linda Regan, *Rhetoric and Realities: Sexual Exploitation of Children in Europe*, 2000.

of text. One CD - Rom can carry the equivalent of 650 full - length novels...."¹⁶

- 2 "In attempting to estimate the scale of child pornography two aspects need to be examined: the number of children who have been abused in the production of child pornography and the extent of child pornography itself. Child sexual abuse, in all its forms, is an enormously complex social problem that demands a high level of professional competence and co -operation between a number of professional groups..... It is difficult to give an informed response to the question of the extent of child pornography on the Internet. Because of its illegal nature, the availability of child pornography is not subject to statistical analysis. Research from the COPINE project at the University of Cork in Ireland (one of the few universities undertaking research in this area) has shown that out of 50,000 pictures in the university's database, 2000 individual children have been subjected to sexual abuse."

"The general lack of data and research by child protection agencies and others means that it is currently not possible to have an overview of the extent to which child pornography is implicated in child sexual abuse cases. This is for two reasons: few prevalence studies ask specific questions about the involvement in pornography; and few police and child protection agencies either systematically search for child pornography in suspected cases of child abuse or record its presence in their data systems."

¹⁶ Silverman and Wilson.

"Child pornography on the Internet has expanded dramatically in recent years and appears to have largely overtaken and absorbed previous production and distribution methods of child pornographic material...."¹⁷

3 Some reported cases as an indication of the extent of *known* child pornography offenders:

- ***Operation Cathedral - September 1998 [Updated January 1999].***

In September 1998, about 100 people in 12 countries were arrested in what the UK police claims to be the biggest - ever worldwide swoop on paedophiles operating over the Internet. British police coordinated the raids, code-named "***Operation Cathedral***", in Europe, Australia, and the United States. The police recovered more than 100,000 indecent images of children as young as two from one US based paedophile club known as "Wonderland."

- ***Operation Starburst.***

The British police were involved in ***Operation Starburst***, an international investigation of a paedophile ring thought to be using the Internet to distribute graphic pictures of child pornography. Nine British men were arrested as a result of the operation, which involved other arrests in Europe, America, **South Africa** and the Far East. The operation identified 37

men world wide. A German student arrested in Germany, then identified 39 other, 2 of them in the UK, and one of them then identified other 17. The operation was widely reported in the media and Detective Inspector David Davis, head of West Midlands police commercial vice unit stated that, this was so far the biggest operation they have carried out concerning the distribution of child pornography on the Internet.

- ***Operation Rip Cord - September 1997.***

US Federal and state authorities have nabbed more than 120 people suspected of sending child pornography over the Internet, according to the New York state attorney general's office. Authorities have also identified more than 1,500 people worldwide who are suspected of the same crime.

- ***Operation Innocent Images.***

In September 1995, the FBI made several arrests and searched 120 homes nation wide, concluding a 2 year investigation into the use of America On - Line to distribute child pornography and arrange sex with children. FBI agents in Baltimore first became involved in the investigation in 1993 while attempting to find 10 year old George Stanley Burdynski, who was abducted from his Brentwood, Maryland, neighborhood. Burdynski was never found, but the investigation led to the discovery that both adults and juveniles were routinely using computers to transmit images of children aged 2 to 13 showing frontal nudity or sexually explicit conduct.

¹⁷ Save the Children Europe Group, *Position paper on child pornography and Internet - related sexual exploitation of Children*, June 2003.

- ***"Orchid Club" Indictments.***

A federal grand jury in San Jose, California, has indicted 16 people from the US and abroad for their participation in a child pornography ring called the ***"Orchid Club"***, whose members used the Internet to share sexual pictures and conduct online chat during a child molestation. A US attorney says there are no free speech issues involved: "The thing that ups the ante in this case is that allegations of distribution of pornography are coupled with serious allegations of child molestation. It's an issue relating to the protection of children, not to the First Amendment." (New York Times 17 Jul 96 A8 - taken from Computer Underground Digest 8.58).

- ***Operation Ore - May 2002 - Ongoing.***

Launched after FBI passed credit card details of 7300 alleged British subscribers to a child porn gateway. About 1600 arrested, including teachers, care workers, social workers, soldiers, surgeons and 50 police officers. Forty children - 28 in London - are now under protective care. Police say many child porn sites are run from Eastern Europe. Britain's high - tech crime unit has been working with police in countries such as Romania to shut them down.

- ***FBI conducts On-line child pornography raids in 20 cities.***

On December 11, 1996, the FBI conducted a nationwide investigation of child pornography on the Internet and computer

online services in 20 US cities. FBI Director Louis Freeh stated that: "Today's searches reflect the FBI's continuing priority attack against some of the most despicable crimes that prey on children."

- ***Concern over rise in child porn.***

23 May 2003

AMSTERDAM — Over 200 cases of child porn being circulated via the Internet were reported to Dutch police in 2002, an alarming increase on the 35 cases logged in 2001, it was revealed on Thursday.

The Dutch anti - child porn group Meldpunt Kinderporno said in its 2002 annual report, that 80 of the 226 cases reported to the investigation department of the national police, KLPD, wound up in court, double the amount in 2001.

It said the **public reported 6,119 cases of child pornography being spread on the Internet last year, 20 percent more than in 2001.** The growth was mainly attributed to unsolicited spam email, with the majority of the pornography being traced back to foreign websites, primarily in the US, Russia and Spain.

The age restriction for porn to be classified as child pornography was raised from 1 October last year from 16 to 18. Virtual pornography is also criminally prosecutable.

But apart from the age limit restriction being raised, the child pornography reporting point also attributed the increased amount of child pornography reports to the rapid expansion in the number of Internet users.

It also said, more and more people who circulate child pornography are discovering the Internet as their medium because it is easy to make contact with like - minded people and spread pornography, Dutch associated press ANP reported.

The reporting point said the increased number of reported incidents was concerning and demanded an improvement in communication between police and the judiciary. It also said Internet surfers should also be better informed about the harm inherent in child pornography.

PROFITS

".....Some of these Russian sites make \$30,000 Dollars a month. In the distorted Russian economy, just one month is enough to survive on for years."
Red Herring Magazine, January 2002

- 1 "A senior customs officer remarked: 'This is commercially produced and distributed material, and it is much more prevalent than it was five or six years ago. To give you an example of the profits being made, a married couple in the US, the Reedys, were making \$1,500,000¹⁸ a month selling access to child abuse sites on the

¹⁸ Put into South African context...about R120 000 000.00 per month!

Internet. And of course, where so much money is at stake, organised crime is taking over."¹⁹

- 2 "In an investigation of Lolita sites, Red Herring uncovered highly organized commerce -possibly illegal - involving credit card firms like Visa and MasterCard, Web communities like Yahoo Geocities and Eccentrix Dot Com, third - party credit card processors like iWest and BillCards, online advertisers like Chevron and Orbitz, and Web - hosting companies like Verio and UUNet, a subsidiary of WorldCom. Thanks to the Internet's capabilities for distribution and e - commerce transactions, this dirty business has brazenly exploded into an eerily efficient and highly profitable industry."

"The US Customs Service estimates that there are more than 100,000 Web sites offering child pornography - which is illegal worldwide. Revenue estimates for the industry range from about \$200 million to more than \$1 billion per year. These unlawful sexual images can be purchased as easily as shopping at Amazon.com. "Subscribers" typically use credit cards to pay a monthly fee of between \$30 and \$50 to download photos and videos, or a one - time fee of a few dollars for single images." ²⁰

¹⁹ Silverman and Wilson.

²⁰ Robert Grove and Blaize Zerega, *The Lolita Problem*, January 2002.

"NOT ALL LOOKERS ARE DOERS. BUT YOU NEVER ARREST A DOER WITHOUT FINDING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY AS WELL"²¹

".....child pornography portrays a frightening range of perversions, such as parents having sexual intercourse with their children; adults having vagina, anal and oral sex with children; children having sex with other children of the opposite or the same sex; children being raped, tortured and beaten; and children masturbating and copulating with animals."
R L Geiser²²

²³ Viewing pornography on the Internet] made me want to do the things I wanted to do. It gave me more courage to do them...knowing that I've seen it on there...they were doing it...I can do it."

"I was finding more explicit stuff on the computer and I was looking at the computer and thinking, oh...they're doing it...it can't be that bad."

"I would say it fuelled my interest that I had anyway, that was in me...but it seemed to reinforce it and...made me want to act on it."

"It wasn't on the first night that I abused, but probably looking at the images on the Internet then...I seemed to notice her more."

²¹ Silverman and Wilson.

²² R L Geiser, *Hidden victims: The sexual abuse of children*, 1979.

²³ Actual interviews with convicted paedophiles, quoted in Silverman and Wilson.

SEXUAL ABUSERS – WHO ARE THEY?

".....the increased opportunities for criminal behaviour provided by the Internet would appear to be leading to an increase in the sexual exploitation of children and young people by a greater range of people than traditionally have been known to offend"²⁴

1 "It is frequently the case that stereotypical views are held about the profile of sex offenders. However, child sexual exploitation is unlikely to be prevented unless we recognise the diversity of the people who sexually exploit children. Men, and a minority of women, exploit children sexually in different ways, for many different reasons and in various contexts. The inclination to associate sexual abuse and the commercial sexual exploitation of children exclusively with 'paedophilia' in the media and public debate often fails to recognise that 'ordinary people' can be abusers. Because the vast majority of sexual abusers do not fit the stereotype that is portrayed in the media, society is leaving children dangerously unprotected. The concentration of resources on some particular group of abusers only constitutes a partial, answer as to why people sexually exploit children since third party commercial exploiters in child pornography often have no sexual motives at all."²⁵

2 "...the range of people of people involved in child pornography offences seems to cross boundaries of class, income and professions. Doctors, technicians, businessmen, teachers, media

²⁴ Janet Stanley, *Child Abuse Prevention Issue No. 15 Summer 2001*.

²⁵ Save the Children European Group, *Position paper on child pornography and Internet - related sexual exploitation of Children*, June 2003.

personalities, policemen: these are just a few of the kinds of people who have been found guilty in recent criminal proceedings of possession of child pornography²⁶. Offenders are not always adult males; women are also involved. Nor is age particularly relevant; children as young as 13 have been involved in the distribution of child pornography, and men as old as 75 have been convicted for the production of child pornography. We have no idea how many people collect or possess child pornography. Nor do we have any idea of the extent of the broader issue of adult sexual interest in children. But all our knowledge of offending suggests that the number of people involved is considerable. However, occasionally, there are glimpses we can make into this world. On 14 November 2001, ABC News.com reported the results of an FBI investigation into a child pornography website operated by Landslide Productions.²⁷ This company's web site sold subscriptions to web sites offering child pornography. Landslide Productions grossed over \$1.4 million dollars (in profits) in one month, and an investigation revealed 35,000 individual subscribers within the US. This is the largest such site to be detected to date, but indicates the scale of both the interest, and the potential profit."²⁸

²⁶ You can now add... "celebrities, judges, psychiatrists and priests" to the ever-expanding list!

²⁷ Landslide Productions was operated by a husband and wife team, (the Reedy's), in Texas. They were both convicted for distributing child pornography, with the husband being sentenced to 1,335 years, reduced on appeal to 180 years, and the wife to 14 years imprisonment.

²⁸ Max Taylor and Ethel Quayle, *Child Pornography: An Internet Crime*, 2003.

- 3 The following reported cases illustrates the diversity of the people charged and/or convicted for possession and/or distribution of child pornography:

110 held in police crackdown on Internet child porn.

17/01/2003 10:55:47

A British police force today said it had arrested more than 100 people suspected of downloading child pornography from the Internet in just four weeks. Sussex Police has made 110 arrests as part of Operation Ore, the national crackdown on child abuse on the net, and seized more than 1,000 computers from addresses across both the east and west of the county. Detective Chief Inspector Alan Chambers, leading the force's part in Operation Ore, said: "We are still actively processing the remaining cases: those involved can expect a visit from Sussex Police soon." "Every image that we are talking about is a picture of the sexual abuse of a child." "By directing our resources towards people who purchase these images, Sussex Police is taking the opportunity to disrupt the activities of those who may also be committing physical offences against children within Sussex, and also to disrupt the market for child pornography which victimises children across the world."

JOSH RUBIN, CANADIAN PRESS, January 16, 2003. 06:56 PM.

Toronto police have targeted 241 pedophile suspects in the GTA who allegedly paid to view pornographic images on the Internet that

investigators described today as "evil". Among those arrested across Canada already are a police officer, a teacher and a doctor. "I think it's reasonable to assume that once we go through the list we'll come across some pretty high - profile people," said Detective Sergeant Paul Gillespie, who leads the Toronto police force's sex crimes unit. Neither Gillespie nor OPP Detective Inspector Robert Matthews would describe exactly what kind of pornography has been seized, but both said they were disturbed by what they'd seen. Gillespie called the images "evil", while Matthews said he too was horrified. "Paul and I have seen things that I would never want any other human being to record in their mind," said Matthews. The probe, called **Project Snowball** in Canada, has targeted more than 2,000 Canadian suspects, Gillespie said. Thirty - two people have been charged and 42 charges have been laid. The probe stems from the same worldwide sting that garnered headlines earlier this week when The Who guitarist Pete Townsend was arrested for allegedly making illegal images of children in the UK. American investigators say they've traced 250,000 suspected pedophiles around the world through credit - card details on child porn sites. British police say they have arrested more than 1,300 people as they go through a list of 7,000 people suspected to accessing illegal Internet sites. Those arrested so far in what British police call Operation Ore include 50 police officers, social workers, teachers and judges. Project Snowball was the only significant Canadian offshoot of Project Avalanche, a US investigation that resulted in the arrest of Texas kiddie - porn magnates Thomas and Janice Reedy. Their business, Landslide Productions Inc., often grossed \$1.4 million US per month from subscribers paying as little as \$14.95 US to access Web sites with names like Cyber Lolita and Child Rape. "That would allow them 30 days access to some of the

most evil images of child abuse you can imagine," Gillespie said. Thomas Reedy was sentenced in August 2001 to 1,335 years in prison - the first - ever life sentence for distributing child porn, Matthews said.

BBC News, Thirty held over online child porn, May 20, 2002.

More than 30 people suspected of buying paedophile pornography on the web have been arrested in raids across the UK. Officers from 30 forces searched about 50 houses and flats across Britain. Deputy Assistant Commissioner and Association of Chief Police Officers (Acpo) spokeswoman on internet child abuse Carole Howlett said: "A significant proportion of people involved in child abuse online are themselves actual abusers." NCIS UK Tactical Services director Vincent Harvey added: "Every image of a child being sexually abused is an image of a crime scene and each photograph is that of a victim." "Using the sophisticated technology along with traditional detective and analytical work we can now make sure there is no place for paedophiles operating online to hide." The National Crime Squad's Detective Superintendent Peter Spindler said: "This is an excellent example of all the UK policing agencies coming together in a co - ordinated way to tackle a relatively new and growing problem. "This is the first time we have targeted people who use the Internet to buy images of children being sexually abused." "We will continue these operations to protect children and show paedophiles that law enforcement agencies will find them regardless of which area of the Internet they

use." Home Office minister Beverley Hughes, who chairs the government's task force on child protection on the Internet, said the operation sent "a clear signal to such criminals that they cannot hide." "People who access child pornography are fuelling the widespread and often organised sexual abuse of children by paedophiles across the world." "The government is determined to give the highest priority to protecting our children, on and off - line, and to searching out and arresting those who prey upon them." "We will continue to work with law enforcement, industry, children's charities and others to tackle the dangers posed by online paedophiles and ensure the UK provides a safe environment for legitimate Internet users."

Ananova News, Police have launched the biggest ever crackdown in Britain on Internet child pornography, April 24, 2002.

Greater Manchester Police say 75 warrants have been executed nationwide.

Merseyside Police have seized computer equipment during raids on the Wirral and in Walton, Liverpool. A Wirral man in his twenties has been arrested. The operation, **codenamed Magenta**, follows a six - month investigation by 34 police forces under the Protection of Children Act. It was led jointly by officers from Hertfordshire Police's child protection and investigation unit and Greater Manchester

Police's abusive images unit. A total of 75 warrants were carried out simultaneously focusing on paedophiles who used Internet chat rooms to advertise and exchange images of children being abused. Inspector Terry Jones, from Greater Manchester Police's abusive images unit, added: "Today's operation is primarily about two things: firstly, to closely examine the activities of individuals who have engaged in the exchange of child abuse material and determine what access they have to real children." "Secondly, it is a clear demonstration that forces can work together to tackle new challenges posed by the Internet."

Manchester Evening News, Internet porn cops praised, April 24,2002.

POLICE in Greater Manchester have been praised in the European Parliament for their battle against child porn. Labour's Arlene McCarthy told fellow MEPs that the force's Abusive Images Unit had been involved in a major operation against Internet perverts in Britain. "Internet paedophilia is a rising phenomenon," she told the parliament in Strasbourg. She is working with children's charities including the NSPCC to demand tough action against Internet child abusers. Ms. McCarthy praised the work of Detective Inspector Terry Jones and his anti - porn team in Manchester for their expertise in tracking down and convicting child abusers.

BBC News, Paedophile trapped by Internet images, April 6, 2002.

An Internet paedophile has been jailed following the first surveillance operation of its kind in the UK. David Randle was arrested by officers who pinpointed the scene of his crimes by studying the images of them he distributed via the web. A number of other people he is believed to have networked with have also been arrested in Europe, as part of an international operation. Randle, of Richmond Road, West Bridgford, Nottinghamshire, was given six life sentences at Nottingham Crown Court after pleading guilty to a string of rapes and indecent assaults on a young girl. Nottinghamshire Police said an investigation was launched in January 2001, when colleagues in Greater Manchester became aware of a series of images circulating on the Internet. They depicted the serious sexual and physical abuse of a young girl and officers said they were among the worst they had ever seen. Greater Manchester Police's Abusive Images Unit began analysing the images to identify and trace the scene of the crimes before Randle was arrested on January 9 this year. The operation also involved officers from the National Criminal Intelligence Service, Interpol and Europol. Randle pleaded guilty to six counts of rape, four indecent assaults, two counts of taking indecent images, two counts of making indecent images and two counts of distributing indecent images.

Ananova News, Arrests in 10 countries over child porn, April 22, 2002.

Police in nine European countries and the US have arrested about 25 people for allegedly violating child pornography laws. A police spokesman said arrests have been made in Britain, Sweden, Switzerland, Germany and Denmark. He declined to name the other four European countries.

"The case is unique because we caught those who have sexually abused the children, not just distributed the child pornography," said Troels Oerting Joergensen of the cyber crime unit of Denmark's national police. Two US citizens were arrested in San Diego, he said, and two Danes in Denmark. He declined to provide further details because the investigation is continuing. "More arrests are soon to be expected in Europe and in the United States," he said. The investigation began last November when Danish police arrested a couple in Ringkoebing, 205 miles west of Copenhagen. They had acted on a tip from Swedish police who had found photographs on the Internet showing a man sexually abusing an 11 year old girl. On his shirt, there was a logo of a Danish company. Danish police identified the man and arrested him with his wife. On the couple's computer, investigators found more photos of the girl. Police also found names of people outside Denmark with whom the couple had exchanged photos through the Internet. The couple was not identified in line with Danish privacy rules. They were charged with sexually abusing a child and face up to eight years in prison, if convicted. They were released from jail pending trial. So far between 30 and 35 boys and girls, aged 3 to 15, in 10 countries

have been identified. All the children were sexually abused, Mr. Oerting Joergensen said.

Finland Police seized child pornography at the Helsinki home of a 19 year-old student.

On August 28, 1996 in Helsinki - Finland the police seized two computers and nearly 350 floppy disks at the house of a 19 year old student. The material showed sadistic acts involving Caucasian and Asian children, including torture, mutilation, and cannibalism. Police specialist Kaj Malmberg stated that: "These pictures of adults having sex with children are really hard pornography. This is exceptionally severe hard pornography involving very severe abuse of children."

Berlin Doctor Gets 2 Years For 'Net Porn, January 15, 1999.

A German district court yesterday sentenced a Berlin doctor to two years in prison for distributing child pornography over the Internet. The doctor distributed some 9,500 photos between April and June 1997 over the Internet, according to Michaela Blume, a spokeswoman for the Berlin District Court, which issued the sentence. The pictures contained pornographic scenes with children and animals, and some depicted scenes of violence, she said.

South Africa - Biggest child porn bust in SA, November 9, 2001.

An astonishing chain of events has led to the discovery of the biggest collection of child pornography in the East Rand and the subsequent arrest of a 51 year old East Rand hospital archive clerk who has been evading police for some time. The suspect must regret offering temporary shelter to an 18 year old boy, whose relatives forgot to pick him up from hospital. The man was arrested on Thursday after the boy became suspicious about his host's hospitality. According to Captain Flip van den Berg, Head of the East Rand Child Protection Unit, the boy became suspicious when the clerk showed him child pornography on his computer upon arriving at his house. The man wrote a letter of introduction for the boy to "raise funds" to visit his sick mother and make sure she is taken care of. The letter was signed "Captain de Jager from Brakpan," Van den Berg says. "A person who was approached by the boy armed with his "credentials" phoned the police, upon which the boy took us to the suspect's place of residence. "There we made a shocking discovery. I have never seen so much child pornography in one place - books, pictures, videos and everything one can think of." "Even the screen saver on his computer was the pornographic image of a child," Van den Berg said.

National Crime Squad Press Release, 122/01, November 28, 2001.

The National Crime Squad has this morning coordinated the execution of 130 arrest and search warrants in 19 countries across the world, including ten in the UK. Those under investigation are

suspected of using Internet newsgroups to request, exchange and supply paedophilic images. In one instance a newsgroup was used to seek help with the 'grooming' of a young child for abuse. This is the world's largest collaborative policing operation. Operation Landmark is the culmination of a ten month investigation by the National Crime Squad. Intelligence gathered showed that there were dozens of newsgroups carrying illegal paedophilic images.

Case of Gary Glitter (November 1999).

On 13 November 1999, Gary Glitter was jailed for four months for amassing "a vast private library of child pornography." The pop star, 55, admitted downloading more than 4,000 "hard - core, sick and degrading" images of children - some as young as 2 on to his laptop computer. He had spent hundreds of hours logged on to the Internet searching for paedophile websites and had catalogued the images he found for his private viewing. Bristol Crown Court heard that the pictures showed boys and girls being sexually abused, tortured, bound, gagged and blindfolded. Glitter admitted to 54 specimen counts of making indecent photographs of children under 16. Mr. Justice Butterfield told Glitter that he was being imprisoned as a punishment and to send a message to others who satisfied their "perverted desires" by gathering child pornography. "This is not victimless crime," he said. "The victims are the little children whose images you wish to view. Without the ultimate consumer, men like you prepared to pay for this material, there would be no market for this filth."

Not to be outdone, another "pop" star, **Pete Townsend**, was also arrested and charged with possession of child pornography.

PRIORITIES, RESOURCES AND STRATEGIES

*"Prevention and repression must be considered as two sides of the same coin: one cannot exist without the other. The experience gathered during criminal investigations should be used to develop new measures to prevent child pornography and, on the other hand, the experience in developing preventive measures could be of help during investigations."*²⁹

- 1 "You can arrest someone for possession of child abuse images but, to do the job right, you have to look beyond that. You have to ask a number of questions. Who is this person? What are his home circumstances? Does he have kids? Who does he work for? Does he access to kids through his work? Unfortunately, because of the pressure the police are under, there is often a strong temptation to say 'Look, we haven't got the wherewithal to go the extra mile. Let's send him to court on a charge of possession. Next!' And that's the classic way to miss people who are abusing children."³⁰
- 2 "Save the Children recommends the following three main strategies in the fight against child pornography:

²⁹ Richard Gerding, Deputy Chief Prosecutor, Rotterdam, Netherlands, *Combating child pornography on the Internet - the role of the European Judicial Network*, 1999.

³⁰ Jim Reynolds, former head of Scotland Yard's Paedophilia Unit, quoted in Silverman and Wilson.

- facilitate international multi - agency co - operation to combat the problem of child sexual exploitation on the Internet at the international, national and local level
- improve international law and national child protection systems in respect to the complex multi - jurisdictional nature of Internet crime and abuse against children
- challenge societal denial, minimisation and myths about child sexual abuse and exploitation of children."³¹

3 ".....the global dimension of the crime requires an internationally - coordinated approach, with the main concern being that of child protection worldwide and an appreciation of the fact that, given the nature of the Internet, any increase in the creation, distribution and availability of child abuse images in any one country is an increase in every country. Child pornography is a crime that demands an understanding of the complexities involved, including child protection issues, technological architecture, the politics of the Internet and the implication of offenders who operate in cyberspace and yet its devastating effects are most keenly felt at the local level and within communities."³²

³¹ Save the Children Europe Group, *Position paper on child pornography and Internet-related sexual exploitation of Children*, June 2003.

³² Dr. Allyson MacVean, Head, John Grieve Centre for Policing and Community Safety, *Draft Conference/ Workshop programme*, 2003.

SOCIETY AND CULTURE?

"On December 2, 2001 my daughter, who had just turned five months old, was brutally gang - raped, cut open with a bottle and left to bleed on the urine - stained bed of her seedy hotel room in downtown Johannesburg...her ordeal is our collective failure as adults to protect our children from grievous bodily harm and this heinous crime against the innocence of young girls in South Africa and everywhere else."
 Claudia Ford³³

1 "However, all of the therapists...recognised that, while paedophiles were being targeted as 'icons of evil', the dangers for children did not come simply from paedophiles but also from a broader cultural phenomena at work in society. Indeed, one therapist thought that 'at this moment it's a bit of a scary place for a child to grow up,' but that the causes of this were not simply about the presence of paedophiles. 'It concerns me that there is this polarisation of opinion, which on the one hand scapegoats paedophiles as the origins of society's evil, while at the same time, closer to home, there has been sexualisation of children in the media, fashion and the cosmetics industry."

"The question of there being a relationship between these two phenomena cannot be tested empirically, but the likelihood that the two have a connection does at the very least suggest that children have a broad appeal to many adults who are not paedophiles, and would frankly be offended by the suggestion. Nonetheless, dressing up small girls as adult women, or dressing adult women as small girls, is clearly working at a sexual level, whether we chose to

³³ Claudia Ford, *My precious Moonbeam*, *Sunday Times*, November 17, 2002.

acknowledge it or not. To deny that this is true obviously allows us to ignore some difficult questions about ourselves...allows us to deny our responsibility for them rather than seeing them as a product of our own society."³⁴

Iyavar (2000)

³⁴ Silverman and Wilson.