

Australia Dossier by Allen Douglas and Michael J. Sharp

Police under attack, as crime soars

Budget cuts and orchestrated scandals have given free rein to drug trafficking and pedophilia.

Amidst a deafening media drum-beat about record numbers of young people dying from heroin overdoses, Prime Minister John Howard in early June announced a three-year "national campaign against crime." Howard's "war" is to be funded at a paltry total of \$13 million. Like the pious hand-wringing of the media, it is a complete fraud.

Australia's first line of defense against crime, particularly the burgeoning drug trafficking and organized pedophilia, is the Australian Federal Police (AFP), supplemented by the National Crime Authority (NCA), and both backed up by state police forces. But, the AFP and NCA are being savaged by budget cuts, while police "reforms" and media-run scandals are aimed at crippling the two largest state police forces, of New South Wales and Victoria.

The AFP has been cut by some 500 officers over the last five years, leaving a force at pre-1983 levels of only 2,027 agents, while funding has been slashed by an estimated \$26 million per year. In early September, Australian Federal Police Association (AFPA) National Secretary Luke Cornelius said that "overseas travel by Federal agents has virtually come to a standstill," making the fight against drugs and pedophilia, in particular, impossible to carry out.

In an Oct. 17 interview with the *New Citizen*, the newspaper of the Citizens Electoral Council, Lyndon LaRouche's co-thinkers in Australia, Cornelius charged that, although the government talks about fighting pedophilia, it has provided *zero funding* to do so, and that the AFP's anti-pedophile "Project Mandrake," which had

received 1,400 allegations of child-sex-tourism offenses, of which it considered at least 330 worthy of further investigation, was staffed by "one Federal agent with no investigative capacity." And, although the government in October signed a much-bally-hooded document with the Philippines against pedophiles bringing Filipino children into Australia, the agreement merely tightens immigration procedures, so that Filipino child visitor-immigrants must be accompanied by an adult who has the written consent of their parents.

"Now, of course this is laughable," said Cornelius, who noted that a Department of Immigration officer "has absolutely no way of confirming the veracity of this written consent," without the funding necessary "to take up these investigations overseas." Similarly, he noted that whereas "the economic activity generated by illicit drug trafficking amounts to some \$7 billion, the AFP would be lucky to be able to commit \$15 million of its budget specifically to drug law enforcement . . . nothing more than a token effort."

Meanwhile, the NCA, the second major national law enforcement body, will be slashed by \$35 million (17% of its total budget) over the next three years. As the Brisbane *Courier Mail* of June 11 editorialized, "So, at a time when every state and territory in the nation is increasing its spending on law and order, the Federal government is doing the opposite. That is bizarre." It is particularly destructive because Federal law enforcement provides the bulk of drug-related intelligence to state law enforcement bodies.

For their part, the police are will-

ing to fight the war, as an Aug. 25 AFPA communiqué to its members made clear: "Contrary to populist dogma, the war on drugs is not lost. As a nation we just haven't been serious enough about it. . . . Properly resourced and enabled, AFP federal agents can stop most serious drug importations before they reach Australia. . . . The so-called war on drugs *can* be won, with national commitment, community sensitivity, and by resisting weak, soft-option surrender."

While Federal funds are being slashed, New South Wales found \$100 million to fund a three-year Royal Commission investigation into "police corruption" and pedophilia, run by Justice James Wood. Wood has worked in tandem with a British cop, Peter Ryan, who was recently appointed head of the N.S.W. force, to eviscerate that 13,000-man force, the largest in the nation, as Wood's final actions made clear: He dismantled the force's anti-drug squad, which he acknowledged had been "highly effective"; he recommended dropping the sexual "age of consent" from 18 to 16, thus facilitating pedophilia; and he recommended that legalized heroin shooting galleries be established. Meanwhile, his rabidly pro-heroin legalization buddy, Ryan, fired many of the force's top officers, and implemented other "reforms" which, as even he admitted, caused chaos and a soaring crime rate in N.S.W.

In Victoria, the state police's highly effective Police Support Intelligence Group has come under attack by the Melbourne *Age*, which has devoted article after article to alleged PSIG "illegal spying" on community groups. The purpose of the attacks is to dismantle the Victorian police's intelligence monitoring of such British intelligence terrorist-support capabilities as Greenpeace and the International Socialist Organization.