

Australia Dossier by Allen Douglas

Green light for pedophiles

Once again, the aptly named "Department of Foreign Affairs" has covered up for its pedophile brotherhood.

On May 15, Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer submitted a 296-page report to Parliament, the fruits of a year-long investigation into allegations of an official cover-up of pedophilia within his Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Everyone and his grandmother acknowledges that pedophilia is rife within the DFAT; the extremely restricted mandate of the chief investigating official, Canberra lawyer Pamela O'Neil, was to determine whether such activities were systematically covered up by the hierarchy of DFAT itself. No, she said, they were not.

O'Neil cited much that would apparently indicate otherwise, including identifying 15 separate allegations of pedophilia involving 11 officers of DFAT, and one notorious "bargain" which DFAT had struck with one pedophile officer, whereby he would resign if DFAT agreed not to investigate the issue; not only did he not resign, he was promoted and sent back overseas!

Despite all this (and much more), O'Neil found only that "there was a corporate unwillingness to take any action which might result in publicity which would impair the reputation of the department." One intelligence source who read the report as it was being submitted, noted, "The report is unbelievable, like a bad movie. In what would appear to be open and shut cases, again and again some reason was found not to take action, either through a lack of evidence, failing memories, breakdown in official communication, error at law, discredited witnesses, lost or destroyed files, you

name it, no action was taken—not by DFAT, nor by Ms. O'Neil."

The investigation had been forced by a series of revelations in the federal Parliament on June 5, 1995 by Victorian Liberal Party backbencher Ken Aldred. Aldred charged that at least 20 top DFAT officers were pedophiles. "Not only are known pedophiles tolerated by the senior management of DFAT, but they are actively promoted," he said, identifying several by name or by description. In the same revelations, Aldred also charged that DFAT's top permanent official, Michael Costello, had been the recipient of some \$640,000 in apparent drug money from an official of the South American nation of Surinam, a payment allegedly couriered by Melbourne Zionist lobby figure and hot-shot tax lawyer Mark Leibler.

Pandemonium erupted after Aldred's charges; then-Foreign Affairs Minister Gareth Evans and shadow Foreign Affairs spokesman Alexander Downer savagely attacked Aldred, and the Liberal Party later purged him from his seat. Despite this, Australian journalists who traveled to Asia turned up bucketloads of evidence, enough to force Downer, who became foreign affairs minister after the federal election of March 1996, to initiate the inquiry.

The present cover-up had been widely expected. Two previous investigations of the matter, in 1988 and 1993, had gone nowhere, and, as an article in the April 21, 1996 *Sun-Herald* observed, "Australian Federal Police officers have confirmed that they felt powerless to act during some inquiries. One officer involved in cur-

rent investigations claimed pedophile diplomats seemed to be a 'protected species.'" Former DFAT official Shane Carroll told the *Sun-Herald* that pedophilia was "so tolerated within sections of the department that there seemed no point in making objections," while the daily press reported story after story, such as the group of youth who approached some Australian tourists in one Southeast Asian capital and said, excitedly, "You Australians? We f*** your ambassador."

The ramifications of all this for Australian national security are ominous: All overseas DFAT postings are given the "Top Secret" security clearance.

Downer no doubt had his own reasons for the cover-up. He entered DFAT on the same day in January 1976 as one of the notorious pedophiles, for whom he had later written a recommendation (as had Gareth Evans). More importantly, Downer is from an old landed gentry family in South Australia, and was educated at boarding schools in Britain, notorious hotbeds of sodomy. When asked his clothing preference, shortly after becoming leader of the Liberal Party in 1994, Downer replied, "Stockings and plastic bags," in reference to the series of autoerotic deaths among British members of parliament at the time. Downer later became infamous for appearing in black mesh stockings and high heels in a newspaper ad.

In addition to the extremely restricted terms of O'Neil's "investigation," the police in charge of the DFAT probe raided the house of the chief whistleblower against pedophilia, Alastair Gaisford, who was soon thereafter fired from the department. Downer set the tone for the investigation by threatening that anyone found to be making "vexatious allegations" about pedophilia in the inquiry would be severely punished.