

The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: The Perspective of the United States

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No child should experience the trauma associated with the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) being sexually exploited for profit. The United States actively participated in the First World Congress Against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC), in Stockholm, Sweden, in August, 1996. Since that time, we have enforced and expanded our laws against CSEC, broadened the services we provide to victims of CSEC, and initiated programs to deter children from falling prey to those who try to exploit them. Although the United States is proud of its progress, we know that the job will not be done until predators are stopped from preying on children, until. Only when children are safe on the streets and on the Internet, and until when all our children are free from sexual abuse and exploitation, so that they can grow and mature in a healthy environment and are given the chance to lead happy and productive lives.

This report encapsulates the activities and achievements of the United States in the fight against CSEC. In considering this report, one must recall that the United States is a federated union, comprised of 50 states and territories, each of which exercises a great deal of independence. Therefore, although the activities and initiatives described in this report focus almost exclusively on the federal government, it is important to recognize that each of the 50 states, as well as the territories, is actively engaged in its own strenuous efforts to fight the scourge of CSEC. For example, all 50 states have sex offender registration programs, prosecute sexual abuse of minors, outlaw the prostitution of minors, and have enacted their own laws against child pornography. Each of these states has had its share of successes and frustrations, and are serving as integral partners in the fight against CSEC. Accordingly, one must keep in mind that this report, which focuses almost exclusively on federal efforts, describes only a fraction of the successes and activities that have been, and are currently being, undertaken within the United States.

That having been said, we invite you to review our activities in the following areas:

- ◆ Law Enforcement Activities: Domestic and International Investigations and Prosecutions
- ◆ Training: Domestic and International Training of Law Enforcement Agencies, Legislators, Prosecutors, and Social Service Workers
- ◆ Legislation: Domestic Efforts and International Guidance and Support
- ◆ Programs: Services, Research, and Public Awareness

Law Enforcement Activities

A panoply of federal (and state) law enforcement agencies are responsible for the investigation of the perpetrators of CSEC. The federal agencies involved in this effort, many of which operate within the Department of Justice (DOJ), include the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the United States Customs Service (USCS), the US Postal Inspection Service (USPIS), the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), [Military - Marsha to get name], the Diplomatic Security Service of the Department of State (DOS), and the Criminal Investigative Division of the Department of Labor (DOL). Since the First World Congress in Stockholm five years ago, federal law enforcement agents and prosecutors have been busy protecting American and international children and youth, and prosecuting those who exploit them.

CHART OF CHILD PORN CASES FILED

Caption to chart: Double the cases filed, triple the convictions, and double the forfeiture since Stockholm

As this chart illustrates, the number of federal CSEC cases filed in the United States in 2000 (?) is double the number that were filed in 1996 (the year of the Stockholm Conference) and triple the number filed in 1991. As is also evident, the number of convictions and the dollar value of property forfeited have dramatically increased during that time. The United States firmly believes that future holds even more promise for our efforts to combat CSEC, including working in active partnership with our states and territories and with other concerned nations.

The Internet is rapidly transforming the way all of us communicate, educate, debate the issues of the day, and buy and sell goods and services. Although it is undisputed that the Internet has provided, and will continue to provide, unparalleled and unprecedented benefits and opportunities for all of us, it is equally and sadly true that this powerful new medium enables wrongdoers to commit evil acts in new ways and with greater ease.

It has been estimated that, in the United States alone, approximately 12 million children log on to the Internet every day, and the number is growing rapidly. When a child connects to the Internet, that child has, in effect, left the safety and security of his or her home. That child is now outside, in a seamless, borderless society known as cyberspace, and can travel all over the world with just the click of a mouse or the touch of a keypad, and is vulnerable to the online entreaties of child molesters and exploiters.

The Internet has also emboldened sexual exploiters by enabling them to lure minors for the purpose of engaging in sexual activity, to communicate with one another, and to transfer pornographic images of children in relative anonymity. Given this reality, we must all invest in new strategies to confront offenders. In 1996, the number of Internet Service Providers (ISPs) was relatively small. In By way of contrast to 1996, today, there are approximately 8,700 Internet Service Providers (ISPs) nationwide, ranging in size from one-person operations to large organizations such as America Online and Earthlink.

To address the law enforcement issues presented by rapidly-evolving and proliferating technologies, the United States has adopted an aggressive and flexible approach in its ongoing battle against child pornography, only some of which are highlighted below.

◆ FBI's Innocent Images National Initiative (IINI) and the Crimes Against Children (CAC) Unit:

◆ Created in 1995, the IINI serves as a proactive, multi-agency investigative response to the sexual exploitation of children via the Internet.

◆ The IINI is comprised of over twenty task forces that combine the resources of the FBI with other federal, state and local law enforcement officers.

◆ IINI Investigations are conducted in every field office, and information is referred to foreign law enforcement agencies through Legal Attaches.

◆ IINI undercover agents and task force officers go on-line into chat rooms, news groups, Internet relay channels and F-serves, utilizing fictitious screen names and engaging in real-time chat or E-mail conversations with perpetrators of CSEC to obtain evidence of their criminal activities. All of the information is incorporated into a central case management system, analyzed by a cadre of Intelligence Research Specialists, and disseminated to the field, legal attaches and FBTHQ (?? - **Marsha to get precise name**) FBI Headquarters as strategic, tactical and program intelligence.

◆ In 1997, the FBI established the CAC Unit, which is exclusively devoted to investigation child exploitation offenses.

◆ Multi-disciplinary CAC Resource Teams consisting of members from law enforcement, social services, mental health, schools, courts, medical, prosecutive, advocacy centers, non-government organizations (NGOs) and other agencies, investigate and prosecute CAC matters that cross legal and geographic jurisdictional boundaries, and enhance the overall inter-agency sharing of intelligence and information. Two CAC Coordinators are assigned to each FBI field office. In addition to law enforcement activities, CAC Coordinators engage in training and community outreach.

◆ The CAC Resource Teams provide expertise in areas such as rapid multi-jurisdictional and international investigative techniques, behavioral science support, laboratory analysis, technical and analytical support and countless other resources. State and local agencies and NGOs also contribute their unique CAC resources, including an intimate knowledge of communities, local and state databases identifying documented sex offenders, direct contact with medical professionals, psychologists, sociologists, probation and juvenile authorities, advocacy groups, uniformed police operations, sex crimes units, specialized investigators and a host of other resources.

◆ In 2000, the FBI placed a CSEC offender on its 10 Most Wanted List for the first time. Eric Franklin Rosser, a known sex offender, was wanted for state and federal exploitation crimes committed against children in the United States, in addition to CSEC crimes committed in Thailand. A cooperative effort by the FBI, Interpol, Europol, and the Royal Thai Police resulted in Rosser's apprehension in Thailand in the Fall of 2001.

◆ The Cybersmuggling Center of the United States Customs Service (USCS):

◆ The USCS is the principal interdiction and enforcement agency at the borders of the United States. Established in August, 1997 to address cybercrime issues involving

violations of statutes enforced by Customs, the Cybersmuggling Center is run by criminal investigators, analysts, forensic specialists and computer specialists, and serves as the clearinghouse for all USCS investigations involving the child pornography and child sex tourism.

◆ The USCS, through the Cybersmuggling Center, has worked cooperatively with foreign law enforcement authorities in numerous countries in identifying and apprehending persons trafficking in child pornography, and other forms of child exploitation.

◆ Case example: *Operation Nadeloehr ("Eye of a Needle")*. Working cooperatively with law enforcement authorities in 23 countries in North America, Europe, and Australia, the USCS has taken a leading role in this ongoing investigation against literally thousands of individuals who, utilizing private "circles" on the Internet, freely exchange pornographic images involving children. Recently, dozens of search warrants were executed in 12 countries. The information is currently being analyzed at the Cybersmuggling Center and is being shared with those countries that have participated in this investigation for use in prosecuting the individuals involved.

◆ Case Example: In 2000, an investigation by USCS revealed that an American citizen, who was a convicted child molester, was running a child sex tourism operation in Mexico. With the cooperation of Mexican law enforcement authorities, this individual was apprehended, at which time it was discovered that he was in possession of child pornography. This individual is currently in custody and awaiting trial.

◆ The U.S. Postal Inspection Service - Examining child pornography through the mail:

◆ Since 1977, a leader in the battle against child sexual exploitation. Recognizing that child molesters and pornographers often communicate with one another via the U.S. Mail, Postal Inspectors have been involved extensively in child sexual exploitation and pornography investigations.

◆ Since the enactment of the Federal Child Protection Act of 1984, Postal Inspectors have conducted investigations resulting in the arrests of more than 3,500 child molesters and pornographers.

◆ During fiscal year 1997, 33% of child exploitation cases investigated by Postal Inspectors also involved computers; in fiscal year 1998, 42% of USPIS cases involved computers, in addition to postal violations; and, in fiscal year 2001, 78% of child exploitation cases investigated by USPIS involved computers.

◆ Case Example: *Operation Avalanche. ThirtyLandslide and Operation Avalanche*. In 1999, Postal Inspectors uncovered a company named Landslide Productions, Inc., operating in the State of Texas, which advertised and distributed child pornography to over 200,000 subscribers who paid monthly fees to view and exchange such material. Working in cooperation with the Dallas (Texas) Police Department, the USPIS, this multi-million dollar illegal enterprise was shut down, and its principals prosecuted, convicted, and incarcerated. Following on the success of Operation Landslide, Postal Inspectors, working closely with 30 Internet Crimes Against Children Task Forces (ICACs) partnered with USPIS and the Dallas (Texas) Police Department, as well as law enforcement authorities in _____ [**Marsha to check for accuracy with Postal**], to launch/located strategically throughout the United States, launched Operation Avalanche,

an international undercover sting operation aimed at child pornographer utilizing the U.S. Mail and the Internet. Through these cooperative efforts, law enforcement authorities were able to shut down a system in which over 200,000 subscribers paid monthly fees to view and exchange child pornography. In the United States alone, USPIS has, to date, conducted 144 searches in 37 states, and made over 100 arrests for trafficking child pornography, resulting in numerous convictions of individuals, some of whom were running. As well, 100 individuals have been charged with federal child pornography distribution business generating millions of dollars in crimes, with many more arrests and charges anticipated in the future. For more information about these cases, we invite you to visit the USPIS' Web site at

www.usops.com/oostalins0ectorsgov/postalinspectors/newsmenu.htm. (??)

◆ USPIS partners with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), prominent NGO, in national crime prevention program designed to raise the public's awareness about the online victimization of children.

◆ Internet Crimes Against Children Task Forces (ICACs): Coordination with Local and State Law Enforcement:

◆ Authorized by the U.S. Congress in 1998 to stimulate creation of state and local law enforcement cyber units to investigate child sexual exploitation.

◆ DOJ grant program through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) for state and local agencies to create their own on-line investigative task forces, which are currently operating in 40 regions, with significant expansion expected in the future.

◆ Provide forensic, prevention, and investigative assistance to parents, educators, prosecutors, law enforcement and other professionals working on child victimization issues.

◆ Designed to ensure that participating state and local law enforcement agencies can get the necessary information, training, equipment and personnel resources to prevent, interdict, and/or investigate computer facilitated CAC offenses.

◆ Serve as regional sources of prevention, education, and investigative expertise to assist parents, teachers, law enforcement, and other professionals working on child victimization issues.

◆ The USCS' Cybersmuggling Center, the FBI, and the USPIS act in an advisory capacity.

◆ Child Prostitution Initiative: In addition to its other responsibilities, which include investigating and prosecuting CSEC cases throughout the country, the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section of DOJ has instituted a Child Prostitution Initiative, which encourages state and local authorities, working cooperatively with the FBI, to develop cases against pimps and traffickers who recruit and traffic youth for prostitution. This initiative has resulted in numerous convictions and substantial sentences in cities and states throughout the United States.

◆ Case Examples: In one such case that was prosecuted by federal authorities in the State of Missouri, a multi-generational family organization ran a multi-state escort service and prostitution ring which exploited approximately 50 prostitutes, the majority of whom were minors. The 17 defendants who were convicted received substantial

sentences ranging from 5 years to 84 years. In another case that is still pending in the State of Georgia, ___ 15 defendants, several 13 of whom have already pled guilty, have been charged with running a multi-state prostitution ring that exploited approximately 50 child prostitutes ranging in ages from 11 to 146. [**Marsha to check on facts of these cases**]

◆ The DOS' Diplomatic Security Service has established a trafficking in women and children unit within the Visa Fraud Branch of the Criminal Investigations Division. This program is designed to identify, deter, and disrupt criminals who attempt to obtain U.S. visas or passports for the purpose of facilitating trafficking of women and children. The DOS's International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Bureau (INL) also assisted the Royal Thai Police in funding and establishing two centers in Bangkok with specialized units which deal with victimized children, youth, and women in sexual assault and trafficking cases.

◆ Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS): Assisting in the Fight Against Trafficking:

◆ The INS is responsible for implementing important provisions of our trafficking laws including, protecting victim information, providing services and protection to victimized children and youth who are being held by governmental authorities, and providing training to other governmental personnel to enable them to identify victims of severe forms of trafficking. Additionally, the INS Resource Information Center contains reports and articles and fosters discussion of conditions in other countries as it pertains to CSEC, as well as other forms of abuse and exploitation that children and youth suffer throughout the world.

◆ The INS also investigates, and assists other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in investigating, CSEC trafficking cases, as well as other exploitation cases, involving immigrant children and youth.

◆ Among other international enforcement and training activities, the INS has taken a leading role in establishing an anti-trafficking taskforce in Bangkok, and has assigned two agents to help establish a human trafficking taskforce in Sarajevo.

◆ The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC): A Cooperative Government-Nongovernment Venture:

◆ Established by Congress in 1984 as the national clearinghouse for missing and exploited children. Through a cooperative agreement with OJJDP and DOS, the mission of NCMEC is to assist in the location and recovery of missing children and to prevent the abduction, molestation, sexual exploitation, and victimization of children. Ongoing activities include operating a toll-free hotline to report the location of a missing child and a CyberTipline to report cases of child sexual exploitation and child pornography. The NCMEC website is **www.missingkids.com**.

◆ Under the Protection of Children from Sexual Predators Act of 1998, ISPs are now required to report child pornography to NCMEC. Additionally, as of November 2001, over 54,000 calls have been received by NCMEC from concerned citizens reporting online sexual crimes against children (85% of which concerned child pornography), who either called the NCMEC hotline **1-800-843-5678** (1-800-THE-LOST) or filed a report at

www.cybertipline.com. To date, approximately 6,000 reports have been referred by INHOPE, our European colleagues, regarding US-based child pornography activities.

Training

The United States is proud of the leading role that it has played in providing training to law enforcement and other authorities, as well as NGOs, legislators, and judges, both domestically and internationally, in order to educate and enable those authorities to provide social services to CSEC victims and to investigate, prosecute, and incarcerate CSEC offenders. The following are only some of the many training initiatives that have been undertaken by the United States:

- ◆ DOJ regularly conducts CSEC-related programs for federal prosecutors, law enforcement agents, and victim-witness coordinators at its National Advocacy Center in South Carolina, and elsewhere.
- ◆ The Missing and Exploited Children's Training and Technical Assistance Program provides comprehensive training and technical assistance to law enforcement, missing children's organizations, prosecutors, State clearinghouses, and non-profit organizations on issues related to missing and exploited children. For further information, we invite you to visit www.foxvalley.tec.wi.us/ojdp.
- ◆ DOJ invites federal law enforcement, prosecutors and victim service providers each year to train local and state and federal law enforcement, child advocacy center interviewers, and other social service providers at national and regional meetings, which are partially funded by the United States government, as well as to community groups. These and other training meetings have led to the development of numerous task forces to address child prostitution, trafficking, and exploitation problems.
- ◆ DOJ has provided over twenty programs directed to training prosecutors and law enforcement, as well as social service providers, in the Military in order to enable the Department of Defense to take appropriate action against service personnel and civilians who abuse children, traffic in child pornography, and exploit youth.
- ◆ DOS's INL and DOJ's Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development Assistance and Training coordinate and provide international technical training and workshops, including numerous programs devoted to concerning sexual exploitation and the trafficking of women and children in Thailand, Bosnia, Russia, Romania, and other countries around the world.

Legislation and Policy

The United States has long outlawed many forms of CSEC, including the transportation of minors for sexual purposes, and the receipt, possession, production, or distribution of child pornography. While recognizing that there is more to be done, the United States has added to its CSEC federal statutory arsenal since the Stockholm Conference, broadening its coverage of crimes against children, increasing the penalties for those convicted of CSEC offenses, and providing greater services to the unfortunate victims of CSEC. These federal statutes and services complement CSEC statutes that have been enacted, and which are being enforced, by each of the 50 states and territories within the United States.

Since the Stockholm Conference, federal statutes have been enacted and amended that:

- ◆ Expand the definition of child pornography.
- ◆ Criminalize the transfer of obscene material to a minor.
- ◆ Broaden the definition of sexual activity crimes to include the production of child pornography.
- ◆ Expand federal jurisdiction to cover the production of child pornography.
- ◆ Enforce a zero tolerance policy for possession of child pornography.
- ◆ Require ISPs to report child pornography found on their systems.
- ◆ Provide the ability to charge those who lure or transport minors under age 12 for sexual exploitation.
- ◆ Provide the ability to charge those who transmit information about a minor to encourage others to request sex with the minor.
- ◆ Include the use of mails as a facility of interstate commerce for luring minors.
- ◆ Provide the ability to charge those who engage in sexual trafficking of adults by force, fraud or coercion or who engage in sexual trafficking of a minor by any means.
- ◆ Enable alien victims of CSEC to remain in the United States for their own safety and to serve as potential witnesses in CSEC cases.
- ◆ Provide for pretrial detention of those accused in child pornography and sexual exploitation cases.
- ◆ Enable federal authorities to forfeit the proceeds and facilitating property of those who commit certain CSEC offenses.
- ◆ Require CSEC offenders to pay restitution to victims.
- ◆ Increase the base offense levels for federal CSEC offenders and increase the maximum potential sentences that such offenders can receive.
- ◆ Enhance federal sentences for CSEC offenders who use a computer to lure a minor, who misrepresent themselves to a minor, who engage in trafficking or luring activities, who exploit young minors, or who are recidivists.
- ◆ Require sex offender to undergo treatment during or after incarceration.

Since the Stockholm Conference, the United States has established a Task Force for Missing and Exploited Children. This task force, which is comprised of sixteen agencies, is dedicated to focusing on issues related to missing and exploited children, and produces an annual guide of available resources in order to help parents and state and local law enforcement authorities. For further detail about the efforts of this task force, we invite you to visit the

website of the OJJDP's Child Protection Division at www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/fedreg/081799.pdf.

Since the Stockholm Conference, the United States has advised a number of countries on developing legislation to combat CSEC, while recognizing differences in our respective legal systems. The United States has also been in the forefront of negotiating international documents to protect children from the worst forms of labor and exploitation. The United States was one of the first countries to ratify the International Labor Organization Convention # 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor, and was also one of the first countries to sign the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children.

The United States is pleased to have participated in the Interpol Specialists Group on Crimes Against Children, and to have chaired its Legislation Committee. The United States also actively participated in the ARIAT conferences on trafficking that were held in the Philippines in 2000, and in meetings of the Council of Europe, European Union, and the G-8 subgroups on child pornography, offering our advise and expertise on child exploitation legislation, investigations, and prosecutions. Moreover, in addition to the formal training courses and seminars described elsewhere, the United States has held small meetings with Embassy officials in Washington and abroad and has corresponded with Justice and Parliamentary groups from many countries about our laws.

Programs and Services

The United States provides direct and indirect support for services, programs, and research on CSEC through almost all of its Departments. Some of these efforts are highlighted below.

Due to language, cultural, and economic barriers, battered and sexually-exploited immigrants, particularly women and children, face extensive hurdles they must overcome in order to change the quality of their lives. Recognizing that battered immigrants are often unable to leave abusive situations unless they are provided emergency shelter and transitional housing, the United States provides, through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), these and many other services, many of which are administered through government-supported grant programs, to immigrant victims, without regard to their immigration status. Such services include:

- ◆ Crisis counseling and intervention programs.
- ◆ Assistance in child protection.
- ◆ Short-term shelter or housing assistance for homeless or runaway, abused or abandoned children.
- ◆ Emergency and transitional housing for up to 2 years.
- ◆ Services related to, among other needs, employment, crime prevention, child-care, health, drug abuse, education, welfare, fair housing services.

Each year, thousands of young people run away or are lured away from their homes, are asked to leave their homes, or otherwise become homeless. Recognizing the dangers that these runaway and homeless youth face, the United States provides, through HUD, DOL, and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), numerous services, many of which are administered through government-supported grant programs, to this at-risk population. Such services include:

- ◆ Neighborhood centers, shelters for homeless, runaway children, and for people with mental disabilities.
- ◆ HHS' Street Outreach Program, which provides grants to organizations that provide community-based outreach and education to runaway and homeless youth who are at risk of being sexually abused and exploited.
- ◆ HHS' Basic Center Program, which provides grants to community-based public and private agencies to provide outreach, crisis intervention, temporary shelter, counseling, family reunification and aftercare services to runaway and homeless youth and their families.
- ◆ HHS' Transitional Living Program, which focuses on older homeless youth (ages 16 to 21) who cannot return to their families because of prior abuse, neglect, abandonment, or severe family conflict. This program helps such youth make a successful transition to self-sufficient living, which will enable them to avoid long-term dependency on social services.
- ◆ DOL's Job Corps Program is a national residential, educational, and job training

program for at-risk youths aged 16 through 24. Since its inception in 1964, this program has provided academic, vocational, and social skills training to more than 1.9 million disadvantaged youth.

The United States also administers programs, through HHS, designed to strengthen families, prevent the abuse of women and children, and help families provide a healthy and safe environment for children. Such programs include:

- ◆ The Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program, which provides grants to states to keep children with their biological families, if safe and appropriate, or to place children with adoptive families.
- ◆ Child welfare grants to local programs to stimulate collaboration between child welfare agencies and domestic violence providers. These programs train child welfare staff to identify and respond appropriately to instances of domestic violence in their caseloads. These programs also award training stipends to schools of social work to develop curricula and train social workers in family violence.
- ◆ The publication of “Effective Intervention in Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment Cases: Guidelines for Policy and Practice” by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, with the support of DOJ and HHS, in 1999. In 2000, six sites were selected to demonstrate the effectiveness of community collaborations in implementing the Council's recommendations.
- ◆ Programs designed to address substance abuse and mental health issues among victims of violence, including children and youth who are victimized and traumatized by crimes involving CSEC.

The United States has worked diligently to increase public awareness, both at home and abroad, about CSEC and other forms of exploitation affecting children and youth. The United States has also been working with private industry to make the Internet safe for children by urging the adoption and implementation of industry self-regulatory methods, such as labeling, parent-controlled filters, and some degree of content control. Some of the efforts undertaken by the United States in this regard include:

- ◆ In 1997, the United States, working in collaboration with private industry, held an *Internet Online Summit: Focus on Children*, in which proposals for computer industry self-regulation on safety issues surrounding children's use of the Internet were formulated.
- ◆ In 2000, DOJ participated in the efforts of the Commission on Child Online Protection, which issued a report suggesting ways to limit the exposure to minors of inappropriate material on the Internet.
- ◆ The publication of several posters and brochures to alert parents, children, teachers and other members of the community to the potential issues involved with Internet predators, and which include information, which is described above, about how concerned citizens can contact law enforcement authorities.
- ◆ The Aviation Consumer Protection Division (ACPD) of the U.S. Department of Transportation has been working in cooperation with ECPAT-USA to alert the major U.S. airlines and the traveling public about the issue of sex tourism. For additional

information about this effort, we invite you to visit ACPD's web site at www.dot.gov/airconsumer/sources.htm.

◆ The United States, through INL and the Agency for International Development, has provided funding for anti-trafficking campaigns in several countries, including India, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, the Dominican Republic, and Russia.

◆ The United States, through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, supports the National Electronic Violence Against Women Resource Network (VAWnet) and the National Sexual Assault Resource Center to provide an online resource for advocates working to end domestic violence, sexual assault and other violence in the lives of women and their children. For additional information, we invite you to visit VAWnet at www.VAWnet.org or vawprevention.org. (?? - Marsha to check)

◆ HHS' Office of Administration on Children and Families administers the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information, which maintains, among other things, national data regarding child abuse and neglect and information about the characteristics of victims, perpetrators, and reporters of child abuse and neglect. For additional information, we invite you to visit www.calib.com/nccanch/ or com/nccanch. (?? - Marsha to check).

◆ The United States is participating in *Nismart: National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children*, which is an ongoing study about the scope of the problem of missing and exploited children. The results of the first study, was conducted in 1988, was published in 1990. The results of the second study, encompassing data from 1994-1999, will be published soon.

◆ DOL's Bureau of International Labor Affairs has produced several reports on trafficking of children throughout the world, designed to develop strategies on a regional basis to combat CSEC, and funds projects in numerous regions throughout the world designed to prevent and abolish child exploitation, including child prostitution. Similarly, INL, OJJDP, and the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) have funded research projects on CSEC, some of which focus on the trends and legislation around the world, while others have focused on regional activities. These studies provide other useful information such as current research on the mental and physical health consequences of sexual abuse, as well as comparative data about CSEC laws and trends in nations throughout the world. To view one such website, we invite you to visit www.protectionproject.org.

◆ DOL's Bureau for International Labor Affairs also supports the International Labor Organization's (ILO) International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC). DOL currently funds seven ILO-IPEC projects that address issues related to CSEC, having already funded five now-completed ILO-IPEC projects.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE

Sadly, our efforts, while extensive and aggressive, have not eradicated CSEC, which is our ultimate goal. In the future, the United States will expand its interagency government activities, its liaisons with non-governmental organizations, and its cooperation with other nations to:

- ◆ Pursue investigations and prosecutions of those who exploit youth.
- ◆ Raise the public's awareness of the harms of CSEC - to their own children and to children in their neighborhoods.
- ◆ Fortify children to resist the lures of those who prey upon them
- ◆ Increase parents' and educators' awareness of the harms of CSEC and how to protect children from exposure to predators and pornography on the Internet.

The United States recognizes the international nature of CSEC and pledges to work cooperatively with those assembled at the WC2/CSEC to stop the activities of those who would harm our children. We look forward to a world without CSEC. In the meantime, we need to work together to protect vulnerable children, to diminish the supply of and demand for the "services" of vulnerable children, and to punish unscrupulous and unconscionable evildoers, such as traffickers, pornographers, and facilitators, who cater to that demand by supplying such "services."

Child sexual abuse and exploitation results in physical and emotional suffering, ruined lives, and shattered dreams. Working together, combining all of our capabilities and commitment, we can achieve success and protect our respective nations' most precious resource — our children.