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## Investigative Leads

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### 'Rocker' cycle gangs and the drug traffic

On a sunny Sunday in the summer of 1984 in the beautiful city park of Sydney, Australia, while families with their children picnicked and enjoyed "Father's Day," a bloody shootout suddenly erupted between rival motorcycle-gangs. One 8-year-old girl and two of the gunmen died. What had happened on this bloody Sunday was a battle to dominate the illicit amphetamine market in Australia.

The winner, a gang called the Bandidos, sent representatives to the United States two years ago to ask the U.S. Bandidos mother-gang for status as a chapter. The U.S. Bandidos agreed at once, obtaining advantage over their rivals in the amphetamine market. In Australia, some of the necessary substances to produce this drug are not illegal. A friendly chapter from Australia could easily smuggle the much needed substances into the United States.

The main business of all U.S. motorcycle gangs of the type Europeans call "Rockers"—Hell's Angels, for example—is drug-trafficking. According to a 1984 report of the Drug Enforcement Administration: "America's motorcycle gangs are involved in every conceivable criminal activity, not least of all drug-trafficking," says the report. "They control the entire methamphetamine market in the Northeast. In fact, they could be in control of up to 50% of the illicit methamphetamine distribution system." The report names four leading gangs: the Hollywood-sponsored Hell's Angels, the Pagans, the Outlaws, and the Bandidos, all with chapters in the United States, the first and the last having chapters in Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Denmark, the Netherlands, and Sweden.

The report continues: "Currently the Bandido organization is the fastest growing outlaw gang and potentially the most dangerous threat to law enforcement. . . . State and local authorities feel the Bandidos are heavily involved in synthetic drug manufacturing, contract murders, interstate theft, weapon trafficking, and prostitution."

On July 19, 1984, 20 members of the Pagans, including its top four leaders, were indicted on federal drug-trafficking and racketeering charges in Philadelphia. In a 12-page press release, U.S. Attorney-General William French-Smith com-

mented: "We are charging the Pagans with trafficking of hundreds of pounds of methamphetamines and hundreds of pounds of killerweed—parsley laced with phencyclidide or PCP." The indictments charged that the 20 "used force and violence, including without limitation, beatings, and assaults." The violence, the government says, was used "to protect drug supplies, eliminate competition in drug manufacture and distribution, and to enforce discipline among Pagan members."

Another government authority made quite clear that the international connections of the motorcycle-gangs serve mostly to smuggle a substance called P2P, illegal in the United States, from other countries where it is freely available such as Australia or France. Since 1984, amphetamine-smuggling from the Netherlands increased about 800 times in comparison with 1983. Amphetamines will soon conquer the West German drug scene and substitute for heroin, creating a genuine addiction that is feared by experienced drug-therapists much more than heroin addiction. It is noted that Hell's Angels have some very powerful chapters in the Netherlands.

The leading drug-consumer worldwide is Germany, where, next to Frankfurt, Hamburg has the leading role in drug traffic because it has the country's largest harbor with a "free zone" attached. Last year, the Hell's Angels' chapter there was designated a "criminal union," permitting arrest of individuals who belong to the group without having to prove a specific crime. Hundreds of policemen raided the gang's headquarters. The whole leadership was later indicted, including Mario Amtmann, twice accused of murder who escaped both times to California for safe-housing by the mother-gang. One of the American leaders of the Angels is still sought in Germany for killing a man during a visit.

Leaping to the defense of Hell's Angels were the German Green Party and extreme leftists. Not only is every prominent green-left lawyer in Hamburg in on the trial, but counterculture and pro-terrorist newspapers such as *tageszeitung* came out in support of the right-wing, swastika-wearing "Rockers." After one month, the lawyers succeeded in stopping the trial on technicalities, holding up all proceedings in Hamburg for nearly two months.

Even more illustrative, before the Angels' trials, Green lawyers defended the uncrowned king of organized crime in Hamburg, Wilfrid Schulz. Whoever has been in Hamburg knows that the "Godfather of St. Pauli," as he is nicknamed, is one of the leading mobsters in Germany.

The pattern that presents itself is a net from America, where the DEA and investigative agencies have documented the motorcycle-gangs' role in drug trafficking, to Australia, where a young girl became the victim of the bloody drug-war, from where substances are supplied for manufacturing in the United States and sales there and in Europe. As one of history's jokes, the brutal fascist "Rockers" are supported by the Greens, the communists, and the Godfather of St. Pauli.