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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/12/95

STEVEN NORTHUP SNYDER, date of birth (DOB) October 9, 1947, Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA), was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and the nature of the investigation. AUSA SNYDER voluntarily provided the following information:

SNYDER obtained information about a 1983 plot to blow up the Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, from JAMES D. ELLISON, the founder of the Covenant, the Sword, and the Arm of the Lord (CSA). The CSA was a paramilitary group. SNYDER was interviewing ELLISON in preparation for a Sedition trial against fourteen other white supremacists who were plotting to overthrow the Government. Some of the individuals charged were RICHARD BUTLER, ROBERT MILES, LOUIS BEAM, and RICHARD WAYNE SNELL. The trial for all fourteen of these individuals began February 16, 1988, and all were acquitted. SNYDER had prepared 2,000 questions to ask ELLISON to prepare for trial. SNYDER provided interviewing Agent a copy of his original ELLISON interview notes as well as a copy of the indictment against the fourteen individuals who were plotting to overthrow the Federal Government.

In late January or February 1988 during final trial preparation, ELLISON advised SNYDER that there was something he had forgotten to tell him. RICHARD SNELL and STEVE SCOTT approached ELLISON at the CSA compound near Bull Shoals Lake near the Missouri border in October 1983. They (SNELL and SCOTT) asked ELLISON in his opinion would it be practical to blow up a Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, or possibly a Federal Building in Dallas or Fort Worth, Texas.

ELLISON relayed to SNYDER that at a July 1983 Aryan Nations Congress meeting at Hayden Lake, Idaho, the various leaders of anti-Government groups met to discuss objectives. These group leaders agreed to do certain activities to strike back at the U. S. Government and wage war. One of these activities mentioned was to blow up Federal buildings. The groups would use robberies to finance their revolution.

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Investigation on 7/7/95 at Fort Smith, Arkansas File # 174A-OC-56120-0-6754
 by SA STEVEN CRUTCHFIELD/rta Date dictated 7/9/95

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RICHARD BUTLER hosted the Aryan Nations Congress at Hayden Lake, Idaho. Also attending the July 1983 meeting were ROBERT MILES (deceased), head of the Mountain Church in Choctah, Michigan, and Louis Beam, Ambassador at Large for the Aryan Nations and head of the Texas KU KLUX KLAN. ELLISON of the CSA attended as well as RICHARD SNELL. Every member of the future group known as the Order attended the meeting. On the last day of the Congress, at 2:00 A.M. the main individuals met in BUTLER's home to discuss future plans. These groups were very upset with the U. S. Government over the death of GORDON KAHL, a tax protester who was killed in a gun battle with local and Federal Agents in Smithville, Arkansas.

ELLISON explained to SNYDER that the reason SNELL wanted to blow up the Federal Building in Oklahoma City was because the INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS) was in that building. SNELL had a lot of problems with the IRS and SNYDER believed that the IRS had raided SNELL's home to collect back taxes. SNELL wanted to blow up the building to get even with the IRS. SNELL came to ELLISON at the CSA compound because he felt ELLISON had expertise with explosives and could get the job done. SNELL actually took ELLISON to the Federal Building in Oklahoma City to check it out prior to it being bombed. SNELL and SCOTT were requesting that a rocket launcher be used to blow up the building. A timer or remote control would be used so the launcher could be left in a trailer or van and then fired. The truck carrying the launcher would be left near the Federal Building. ELLISON drew a picture of the prototype of the actual rocket launcher that would have been used for use in the Sedition trial in 1988. SNYDER advised that much of the testimony by ELLISON could be heard on tape 27 of the Sedition trial, and a copy could be obtained upstairs in the U. S. District Clerk's Office.

According to ELLISON, SNELL and SCOTT were close buddies. SNELL was the driving force behind the plot to bomb the Federal Building in Oklahoma City. SCOTT was considered a minor character, and SNYDER did not even consider indicting him.

ELLISON and SNELL did not have time to carry out the plot to bomb the Federal Building in Oklahoma City. It seemed after the meeting in October 1983, at which the plot was discussed, the group got more involved in the events for which the fourteen individuals were charged at the Sedition trial. In

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addition, the CSA compound of ELLISON was raided in the spring of 1985.

A surveillance of an FBI Agent's residence (Special Agent JACK KNOX) was conducted in October 1983. In December 1983, a group of men including SNELL were on their way to kill Special Agent (SA) JACK KNOX at his residence when they had a vehicle accident. SNELL was the hit man for the group, and he would have done the actual shooting of KNOX. The planning of the assassination of Judge FRANKLIN WATERS of Fort Smith also took a lot of time which might have been used to bomb the Federal Building in Oklahoma City. These individuals felt Judge FRANKLIN WATERS was responsible for a lot of unfavorable rulings in court against them and their group.

SNYDER admitted that there are several similarities between the plot to bomb the Oklahoma City Federal Building in 1983 and the actual bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in 1995. The fact that SNELL was executed on the day of the bombing was close timing. In addition, the Federal Building in Oklahoma City was SNELL's main target due to his hatred of the IRS. SNYDER feels someone else must have been involved other than MC VEIGH or NICHOLS. SNYDER could not speculate on what the connection might be between the plot and the actual bombing. MC VEIGH would have been a young boy during the planning of the bombing in 1983. SNYDER does not feel ELLISON or SCOTT would cooperate in any investigation regarding the bombing. ELLISON only cooperated previously to help his position in another court case. SNYDER remembered ELLISON telling him that MARY SNELL was more ruthless and mean than her husband, RICHARD SNELL.