

INTERVIEW WITH ANDREW STRASSMEIR a.k.a. ANDREAS STRASSMEIR/
ANDY THE GERMAN AND [REDACTED] 1/2/96

RS: People say that nobody knows anything about you prior to you going to the CAUSE Foundation, up in Black Mountain. When's the first time you went up there?

AS: Where?

RS: CAUSE in North Carolina.

AS: Oh, North Carolina. I don't think I lived up there. Do you remember? (Referring to [REDACTED])

[REDACTED] Yeh, I can tell you what happened. You see, first off... if I give you the background from the beginning that'll be helpful. See Andy came over in a...as a civil war re-enactor with a friend of ours that lives in Germany who met him. He came to visit us and he liked it and he wanted to stay awhile. And so we lived in [REDACTED] at the time, and then after awhile we decided...he (Andy) wanted to stay here and become a United States citizen, so [REDACTED] didn't have any place for him to go. [REDACTED] knew about these people (Elohim City) cause [REDACTED] had lived there and you know, they're kind of out in the back woods, [REDACTED] didn't know that much about them other than [REDACTED] gone there a few times to visit them. When you go to visit they seemed to be ok, I didn't find out about a lot of this stuff until afterwards. So Andy went to Elohim City from [REDACTED] not from Black Mountain and we moved to [REDACTED] while he (Andy) lived there (Elohim City).

AS: That was about five...six years ago.

[REDACTED] Yeh we moved to [REDACTED] four years ago, so he'd been there way over a year before we moved from Houston.

RS: (To Andy) Have you ever been to Kansas?

AS: Yes, once. I think I was up in Dodge City about two years ago. A friend of mine is a truck driver. He took me along to help unload the truck.

[REDACTED] Yeh. They have a trucking company up there (Elohim City) and he went with one of the trucks, and they went to Dodge City.

RS: Have you ever been to Idaho?

AS: No.

RS: Did you ever go to Arizona?

AS: No.

AS: What?

RS: Mexico.

AS: Mexico? ...uh I think I been there a few years ago. Actually it was about five or six years ago.

█: He went to Nuevo Laredo.

AS: To Boy's Town.

█: I guess you can call that going to Mexico.

RS: When did you leave Elohim City?

AS: Well...when did I leave? I think it was...I went to stay with █ Then I went back to pick up my van...that was in August...around the first of August.

RS: So you were staying there after the bombing?

AS: Oh yeh, for a couple of months.

█: Yeh. They started getting antsy when Ellison finally moved in there and married one of the Millar girls, that's when this schism occurred. So that would have been...when did Ellison get married?

AS: I don't know. I remember when his now wife...he was staying in Florida where he was supposed to be and he was supposed to move to EC (Elohim City) when he was off probation but there was a delay because, when the Oklahoma City bombing occurred we knew that we might draw heat...that we lived there, that it was a religious community. So the brave hero Ellison decided to wait in Florida until things cooled down, so I think he came a couple weeks after that.

█: Andy █ in August...it was either late July or early August.

AS: I was just visiting. I only had a shaving kit with me and a pair of jeans, and I was just visiting him. The reason I was because Millar made those...I mean according to his Interpol, the BATF and INS were looking for me and there were different agencies who called him (Millar) up and gave him inside that I'm wanted...and he tried to scare me off, and I thought well heck, you know I don't think they're looking for me, I haven't done anything.

RS: Millar said Interpol?

AS: Yeh, he mentioned Interpol to me. He has all these secret contacts for some reason, and he's meeting with people...nobody ever goes with him (Millar), and he never tells

AS: anybody who his contacts are, he always protects his source and they always call up right there. So I finally called [REDACTED] being a friend of mine and being [REDACTED] and I said [REDACTED] I'm hearing all this garbage and...I'll feel better if you dig into that and find out if there is something. I was assuming it was some garbage. Either he (Millar) was misinformed by somebody, or he was making it up...I really don't know, but just to make sure you know that they don't want me for anything. And [REDACTED] kind of said "Well I don't think there's anything about it". So I went back to EC after about two weeks.

[REDACTED]: [REDACTED] and then he was going back to Elohim City to get all his affairs...cause he'd bought a house up there and wanted to go back, and... you know it's dangerous to leave your property out there because these pirates come in and raid the place you know. Several times when [REDACTED] was there, when [REDACTED] was younger with [REDACTED] parents they'd go off on an trip and when they came back their whole house would be raided. She'd find other kids wearing [REDACTED] clothes and stuff. They're like gypsies, so you have to you can't leave anything. If you do leave you have to nail your house up with plywood, like you're boarding up for a hurricane. So Andy was worried about his things. He does this modeling stuff where he paints these little...only a German could do this...he puts the shine on a guy this tall (indicates approximate 3" high figure) and so he has all this stuff so he wanted to go back and check on it and make arrangements to move if he was going to leave there. Well, that's when he went back and they were talking about, argh..There's going to be a raid and and you got to be out in two hours cause they're coming to get you and all this stuff.

AS: A friend of mine, he drove me there (Elohim City) in the evening and we spent the next morning fixing my van up and we came back about ten, and what happened, at eight o'clock in the evening they told me that I had two hours to get out. And I figured that it was Steve, because I asked him, I told him, I realize you're not too happy with me being here and stuff like that, and apparently there are disagreements and like that. But I'm not leaving till I get my money for my house cause I need the money, at least my down payment to get set up somewhere else. I had about ten dollars in my name, I didn't even have the gas money to get out. And I had jobs lined up there, so I was planing to stay there and work around there with a friend of mine and get all debts paid off, for my house. While I was gone they emptied my house and moved some other people in. They piled everything up in my van. Actually they asked my room-mate to do that. Of course they did that to protect me, they told me later. By moving people in there, outsiders, they can show people that I didn't really live in there.

RS: Did you get your money back, for your house?

AS: I got...no they gave me...what happened, they're real.. Millar and his second son John, own the property because ...those two men they've got it incorporated and the title isn't even in their name. The house belonged to a member of the church who lived a few miles down the road. The house I bought from the owner, who built the house. I had a contract with him, but it was built on their (Millar's) property. I'm like a third person. As long as I paid him the money...I paid him the down payment and I paid him a hundred dollars a month...as long as I made payments he said it's fine. Well, he told me later when I came back that Millar and his son showed up at his door, they wanted him to re-possess the house, and he told them to get lost. He said as long as he's paying me I don't have a problem. If you have a problem with this guy you deal with it. So behind my back they pack up my stuff and wanted me gone. The guy who owned the house, they wanted him to re-possess the house ...so I figured when they give me two hours to get packed and they try to spook me that this thing was set up and they didn't want me sitting there and causing trouble. Because I know that his [REDACTED] father-in-law had the same situation and they had to pay him off because he...they had to pay him back the three thousand dollars, because...I think that's the reason they wanted to get rid of me so fast.

RS: They haven't paid you anything back?

AS: Well, they're not in agreement with the owner of the house; he said it's not fair because he bought himself a complete new trailer home, he's living in it from my down payment. He said since people had moved into my house already he'd pay me part of the rent until my down payment was covered. Well, I received two hundred dollars and I figured that's all I'm gonna see so...

[REDACTED]: Well [REDACTED] and I talked to them and they agreed to cash him out. Basically what they did, he's (Andy) not familiar with how the laws are here, as far as property ownership goes, so they sold him a house on a written contract. The problem is, the house, with an improvement on it is on someone else's land. There's no way to own the thing. So, basically they swindled him out of a three thousand dollar down payment. It's basically a land swindle. But, they don't want to make us mad cause they might need us some day, so to keep us happy they are going to cash him out by [REDACTED]

RS: They didn't say anything about you getting phone calls from McVeigh?

AS: No. One of the ladies who works in the office there (Elohim City) she gave me a list with all of McVeigh's aliases and said did you ever hear his name? I said no. She said did he ever call you? I said no. And I said I didn't receive any phone calls from people I didn't know, the last few months. Then she said somebody called up who met you at a gun show.

AS: I said I meet people all over at gun shows, that's not very specific. Did he leave a number? And she said no. See I was dealing with some people, I was buying like military surplus like fatigue shirts and stuff like that, and I'm pretty familiar with all the equipment and the current prices so I was buying really cheap and sell it to other people. They're pretty fully equipped over there (Elohim City) and I can take credit for that.

RS: What do you know about McVeigh visiting EC before?

AS: Well, if he had ever visited there I would know about it.

RS: Why's that?

AS: I'm telling you, nobody has a private life. You have to report twice a day.

There's no way, without everybody knowing about it. I tried to sneak in there once to go see [redacted] was living there before [redacted]. I went over to their house and, man like we pulled up in the middle of the night and in five minutes they were all over there, all huffed because we didn't come over there to see them first.

AS: Well, also they had someone in charge of security there who tried to track people down.

RS: Who's that?

AS: (Dead silence) I don't want to talk about that.

So, well...suffice to say, there were a group of people who were tasked...who were assigned to the task of checking to see who came in and out and stuff like that. For instance, when reporters came out young guys were assigned to them to see that nobody wandered off. So...you can't go in and out...if McVeigh was there I guarantee you would have known.

AS: One other thing, those people talk about everything that happens. Nothing happens there without everybody talking about it the next day. And if somebody comes there they usually give them a big show...have a big search and everything. Millar and all of them, they're not in with any of the militia...they try to pretend that they're into the movements, but I think that's because it's become popular.

RS: Like the patriots, the militia?

AS: Yeh. While I was there, a few years ago they started to have contact with other identity people. Before that all their contact was with holy (unintelligible), pentecostal, snake-charming, tambourine swinging...you know.

Yeh. They speak in tongues and shit like that.

AS: They're really religious and harmless...I would say harmless because I guess...you know weirdos, that's all the people they're involved with. That's what they're doing...a perfect term for it is a circle jerk. They get some crazy preacher up there that prophesies over Millar and tells the whole congregation what a great prophet he is. And of course he (Millar) returns it and of course Millar returns it by going to his church and doing the same thing for him. It's a game these preachers are playing, you know, elevating each other. You know, they cannot elevate themselves, you're obvious, so they have one guy do it for them then they do it for him.

They give each other religious titles and stuff. Now Millar's got a doctorate...a religious doctorate...

AS: Yeh, a doctorate from a child molester.

RS: Had anybody been around there in the past year or so that was talking anything crazy, trying to stir anything up?

AS: Well, the most violent person lining there was probably me. I'm really fanatical (laughs)...but...no, I really don't think so. But you know they have those kind of things. Of course like after Waco and Ruby Ridge they kind of figured out that they might be targeted by the federal government. So they also referred to the outside world, because everything outside the three hundred acres they have is Babylon, and they're the chosen people of Israel, everything around them is Babylon.

They even have their own science.

AS: If its the dog catcher, the mailman, the FBI they're all the soldiers of Babylon. They have the mentality, we're one people and everyone outside is a potential enemy. Especially those things are nourished by the cremating a bunch of people at Waco, Texas.

That really made them paranoid, they were planning for the siege. You know it's...I'm telling you, the parallels between the Davidians and the Elohimites is so great. And a lot of groups like that, I mean I could name five other ones that are exactly like that. And they're paranoid because they know that they're fringe. When you live in a place like that it's very facist, in other words you have the central leader and everybody else kind of falls in line with him or else out with you. Everybody has to tow the party line otherwise you're ostracized. It has no capacity for self criticism at all. When you live in a society like that...when you're at the top and there's no criticism, no checks and balances...on anything you do, you often do things...like having multiple wives...kind of Koresh-like. In Millar's case, even back in the cobwebs of his mind he knows what he really is, so it's very dangerous to bring this out to the forefront, to point it out to the person that they're not what they've deluded themselves into thinking. And when you start pointing this out, like Andy was doing...

AS: At regular intervals.

...you become persona-non-grata there.

RS: When you got there you wanted to organize an army?

AS: No. They never even had any real weapons there until after Waco. The whole response was to Waco...they thought they were going to be targeted. Basically, I was approached by some of the young men. They said "You were in the army, you were a soldier". The so-called head of security was some burned out Viet Nam vet who was absolutely worthless. So they asked me if I could teach them some skills and I said I don't mind. They asked what kind of weapons they should have, and I told them their lever-action Winchester won't do much good, and your 10/22...you might want to get some kind of automatic, magazine type weapon. I ended up advising them, but the leader never asked me to. I just wanted to lay low and get married and just live a peaceful life over there.

The problem is they need fresh blood, cause everybody's related to everybody. Some of the first-cousin relationships have resulted in some pretty disastrous things happening there. And so they were always interested...so they kept stringing Andy along, trying to get him interested in one of their gals there.

RS: A lot of banjo playing there?

AS: No, actually it's the first generation there. In two or three generations...it won't last that long. I think they're digging their own hole right now. I figure if Grandpa Millar ever fades away that'll be the end of it. I think it's already breaking up.

Ellison got married there and there was a wedding picture... didn't he have a gun...?

AS: Oh, hey, no...no I wouldn't ever say he had a gun because that would be a violation of the law...that might put him away. But, no...uh he was dressed up in black fatigues and combat boots and he had a tartan sash, like in a Scottish wedding. He had a cheap replica of a medieval two-handed sword strapped on his back and had these two daggers dangling from his side. That was his wedding costume. When he was living there, when he came up from Florida he came to church every day in a new uniform. He had a nice collection of international camouflage.

RS: Where were you around the time of the bombing?

AS: I was a few miles down the road from Elohim City. But that's off the record, because [REDACTED]

RS: You were working there?

AS: Yeh, but I'm not supposed to be...

RS: But you were there?

AS: Basically I was helping a friend. It was a rainy day and uh... and some drunken neighbor came up there and said they blew up a bomb there. I said where? He said in Oklahoma City. I thought well somebody sent a letter bomb or some junk. We got rained out so I came home and that's where the TV's were, so I walk into my house and saw half a building gone and I said to myself holy shit. I told my friend, I hope I don't know who did it. You see, there are a lot of crazy people going up there (Elohim City) and visiting and saying "I'm only looking for God" and "Something has to be done" and, you never know. You know like some, some moslem fundamentalist. You never know, some of them might actually do something someday. So I was worried that man I hope I don't know the person who did it, you know. I saw a lot of people coming down there, radical people, and I figured out they wanted to link-up with a radical group. But after a half a day of talking to a few people they figured out that those guys are nothing, so they split and you usually don't even know their name or...you know.

RS: You stayed a few months after that?

AS: After the bombing? Oh yeh. Just going back to work. And of course then we had the media coming there, and I kind of was responsible for escorting people around so it interfered with my work because I was taking care of visitors.

See, Andy was...

and these guys are all a bunch of crackers that just can't...like Andy had these two, one was a reporter from Tel Aviv and the other was a reporter from Japan. Cause they just can't talk to these guys (the press). They just don't know how to communicate, so any time they needed to communicate with anybody that had any brains they'd come and get Andy, because Andy had at least been away...I mean these people are world travelers man, they've been all the way to Ft. Smith, Arkansas, you know.

RS: When did you leave there? After the bombing, when did you leave there?

AS: Leave where?

RS: Leave Elohim.

AS: Oh, it was a couple of months later. About the end of July.

RS: You went to Tulsa then?

AS: No, I went to [REDACTED]. I mean I left the property a

AS: few times afterward. A matter of fact, I was even in Oklahoma City...I think a week later to go to a local gun show. I went to gun shows.

RS: So, you had your car, which was broken down...

AS: I had one car that needed some...a lot of engine work done I figured I'd get some work done on it. Then I bought a van and I was using the van.

RS: While you were living there?

AS: Yeh. I bought the van in Spring. I figured I didn't want to spend a lot of money on the car and the van was a deal. But then I was having some minor problem with the van, too.

RS: What kind of a car did you have?

AS: It a '83 Malibu station wagon.

RS: What color was it?

AS: Red.

[REDACTED] Yeh, it's Andy's shit box.

RS: When did you get it?

AS: About six years ago.

RS: What kind of a van did you have?

AS: A '83 Chevy van. Maroon.

RS: Where is it?

[REDACTED]

RS: Is it running?

AS: Yep. It needs some tune-up.

[REDACTED] It drove from Elohim City to [REDACTED] He's braver than I am.

RS: You've got friends in Tulsa?

AS: Yeh, one friend.

RS: Who is that?

AS: You don't want to know.

RS: Why?

AS: Well, he's a nice guy. He's kind of crazy.

RS: Can he get you into any shit?

AS: Uh...uh...yeh.

RS: Could his name come up in anything?

AS: (Pause) Uh...I can tell you, but not on tape.

OFF TAPE

ON TAPE

RS: What about your family? I understand that your father held a high position in the German government. Is that true.

AS: Uh, yeh. He was Secretary of State. He was an architect in the Reunification. There's the picture, when the wall came down, there's Honikur the East German and Kohl and him, right between those two guys. And he retired.

RS: When did he retire?

AS: Oh, about a couple years ago. Where did you get the information that my family is highly connected?

RS: That's more of all the same...reporters, investigators.

AS: Well, I don't usually don't tell those things around. I think that the only people who are knowing about it might be the people in Elohim City. You live with those people really close...you know, I mean I knew who was screwing who and who got who pregnant...everybody knows everybody's business. Even though they try to keep things secret. Especially Millar tries to keep secret who his offspring is, but everybody knows. If there was any connection everybody would know.

For example, in the [REDACTED] family they've got four girls that are all blonde haired, blue-eyed goddesses and then the youngest has got black hair.

AS: She looks like the spitting image of Millar.

RS: Who drives the brown pick-up?

AS: Uh...yeh, one of the Millar's got one. They use it for a work truck. I think its Bruce's truck. Its got duellies on back.

RS: How about a white mid-'80's sedan?

AS: What's a sedan.

RS: Like a four door or a two door car, full size.

AS: I don't think so, I don't pay much attention to cars.

RS: When you met McVeigh what name did he give you?

AS: I don't really know. It might have been his real name, but at gun shows we don't...we all use first names, like "I'm Andy" or "I'm Jim", you know.

RS: Well, what do you think about this stuff?

■ Oh, thanks a lot.

AS: Well, I...is that thing off? (Recorder)

OFF TAPE

-END OF TRANSCRIPT-