

McVeigh, White Supremacists, German Linked by FBI Agent's Memo

Thursday, March 21, 1996 - McCurtain Gazette
By J.D. Cash with Jeff Holladay

The McCurtain Daily Gazette has obtained a memorandum prepared by an FBI field agent describing an interview with an inmate at a Texas penitentiary who says he met Timothy McVeigh years ago — and who said he was in the company of the mysterious "John Doe No. 2" whom he described as a German national.

If accurate, it would buttress previously established ties in the Gazette's investigation between Oklahoma City bombing defendant McVeigh, elements of the ultra-radical white supremacist movement and a German national suspected of being an undercover agent for the U.S. government's investigation of neo- Nazis in America.

In the memo dated April 28, 1995, just nine days after the Oklahoma City blasts that killed 168 and wounded hundreds of others, the inmate — member of the far right-wing Aryan nation group — told Internal Affairs Capt. Wes Adams of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice that he recognized McVeigh from a single encounter before the inmate was incarcerated in 1992.

The inmate told Adams he was introduced to McVeigh by another Aryan Nation official, who referred to the Oklahoma City bombing defendant as "Sergeant Mac." (McVeigh was a decorated veteran of the war against Iraq and was discharged from the Army with the rank of sergeant.)

But, the inmate, convicted of stealing a pickup truck which he told Adams he was going to take to Idaho for use in a bombing plot against a federal judge, said he agreed to talk to federal authorities because he was enraged at the bombing in Oklahoma City.

He told the FBI agent he considered "Sergeant Mac" — whom he knew as a "mercenary" in the white supremacist movement — an "idiot" for blowing up a federal building with a daycare center and children present.

German John Doe 2?

The inmate's revelations about meeting McVeigh in the early nineties also touched on the intriguing and mysterious presence of a German national — believed to be an undercover agent — whose links to McVeigh and white supremacist groups was first revealed by the Gazette.

In the FBI memo, the inmate serving time at the Colfield Unit of the Texas prison system said when he'd first met McVeigh that he'd been in the company of a man who looked very much like the sketch, recently released at the time, of "John Doe No. 2."

The inmate said the man spoke with a heavy German accent and was introduced to him as Bonard Sevenackkar (the FBI's phonetic spelling).

Making the introduction, the inmate said, was a well-known Aryan Nation official who now resides in Arkansas, Dwayne Butler.

Despite the different name^ the man with the heavy German accent is believed to be Andreas Carl Strassmeir. His name and presence are like a thread woven through the web of interaction between McVeigh and radical white Aryan groups. Witnesses have told the Gazette, in fact, that Strassmeir frequented gun shows and frequently used aliases.

Strassmeir apparently fled the U.S. after the Gazette raised questions about his links to white supremacist groups and suggested he may be an undercover agent for federal agencies — an arrangement spawned by joint U.S. and German concern in the early 1990's of a strong interaction between neo- Nazis in the U.S. and Europe.

Strassmeir admitted he attended a Ku Klux Klan rally in Houston, Texas, some years ago, though saying he was only a spectator. But witnesses as late as 1994 reported seeing Strassmeir at a Hitler Youth meeting at the headquarters of the Aryan Nations in Hayden Lake, Idaho.

Connection Made

Late last year, following up on information obtained from Interpol, Gazette investigative reporter J.D. Cash was able to make a connection between McVeigh and Strassmeir.

Those connections were established through telephone calls made by McVeigh to the German at Elohim City, a Christian Aryan redoubt in eastern Oklahoma.

In turn, interviews with residents at Elohim City firmly established links between Strassmeir and elements of radical white supremacist groups.

Strassmeir told members of those groups that he was disenchanted with his native country.

But background obtained by the Gazette raised questions about that explanation. Why would a 36-year-old German military academy graduate and officer, son of a high ranking father considered one of the architects of German reunification forsake a sparkling career in his native land?

Because of Strassmeir's background in intelligence work, the inference was made that Strassmeir's presence in the U.S. was part of a well-publicized international agreement in the early Nineties between the U.S. and Germany to identify and root out dangerous extremist elements in the U.S. — who were successfully exporting their campaign to Germany.

Strassmeir Befriends Radicals

Strassmeir admitted that after arriving in the U.S. he immediately moved to Houston, Texas and began helping out in the law offices of Kirk Lyons — an attorney who represents some of the nation's most sensational members of white supremacist groups ranging from the Klan to the Aryan Nation and including such names as Louis Beam, Tom Metzger and Dennis Mahon of Tulsa.

Beam is the former head of the Texas KKK who stood trial with several others in the Fort Smith, Ark., sedition trials in 1988.

Once listed on the FBI's "Top Ten Most Wanted," he was captured in Mexico after a bloody gun battle only to be exonerated in 1988 and set free. He now travels the U.S. speaking out for an all-white homeland in the Northwest U.S. Dennis Mahon and Tom Metzger, also targeted for scrutiny by U.S. and European surveillance, make up the top leadership of the White Aryan Resistance — whose acronym, not unintentionally, is WAR. Mahon, of Tulsa, and Strassmeir were, in fact, once roommates for a short period of time at Elohim City after the Oklahoma City terrorist attack on April 19, 1995. Later, in an interview with the Gazette several months ago, Dennis Mahon said, incredibly, that he knew Strassmeir was a member of GSG-9 in Germany "but I didn't know what that meant."

GSG-9 is Germany's most exclusive anti-terrorist group. It was formed in the wake of the slaughter of Jewish athletes during the Munich Olympics in 1972 and is considered the equivalent of the U.S.'s exclusive "Delta" force.

Kirk Lyons, the lawyer from Black Mountain, N.C., who says he represents Strassmeir, claims his client was not a counter-terrorism plant in this country— though Jie does admit Strassmeir received military intelligence training at the Bundeswehr Academy in Hanover, Germany.

Strassmeir's Flight

Strassmeir fled the U.S. after press revelations about his ties to radical white supremacist groups and pointed suggestions that he was an undercover, agent. Kirk Lyons, Strassmeir's attorney, said Strassmeir fled the U.S. in January and returned to his native Germany after slipping out of the country.

Lyons' explanation, in a letter to supporters and friends, was this: "First, Strassmeir had to be spirited out before (Stephen) Jones (McVeigh's attorney) and company could get their hands on him. Also, there was some danger that the FBI might take Jones seriously and it would be much easier to defend Strassmeir from Germany than from inside a federal detention facility."

Subsequently, Strassmeir prepared a sworn affidavit that was filed in federal court in Denver, where the trial of the bombing defendants is to be held.

Strassmeir Doubters

Essentially, Strassmeir denies being an undercover agent and knowing anything about the Oklahoma City bombing. His recollection of events around the time of the bombing, however, are widely at variance with those told Rick Sherrow, a writer for Soldier of Fortune Magazine, and Joan Millar, daughter of the founder of Elohim City.

As for Strassmeir's exit from the U.S., Lyons claimed the involvement of GSG-9 "because of death threats against Strassmeir and his family," which he said were passed to them through Interpol by the FBI. Ironically, it was a tip from Interpol that first led to revelations about Strassmeir and his links.

Interpol sources told the Gazette they questioned the comings and goings of Strassmeir without his name being on official travel documents anywhere.

German Never Questioned

The FBI, meanwhile, has never interviewed either Andreas Strassmeir or Dennis Mahon, though the federal agency claims to have interviewed more than 11,000 persons in connection with the Oklahoma City bombing, informed sources tell the Gazette.