

London Newspaper: Strassmeir Claims ATF Had Inside Informant

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By J.D. Cash and Jeff Holladay

Evidence suggesting the Oklahoma City bombing of a federal building was the result of a "sting operation" gone wrong, first detailed by the McCurtain Gazette, was recently asserted outright by German national Andreas Strassmeir — whose own mysterious links to the bombing have been raised by this newspaper.

Strassmeir made the comments in a lengthy interview with The Telegraph of London, England.

The newspaper said Strassmeir "claimed he had copper-bottomed information about the bombing, but seemed torn over how much he felt able to impart."

"The ATF had an informant inside this operation. They had advance warning and they bungled it," he said. "What they should have done is make an arrest while the bomb was still being made instead of waiting till the last minute for a publicity stunt."

Strassmeir, who fled the U.S. after the McCurtain Gazette raised questions about his links with those allegedly involved in the bombing, was asked by the London newspaper if he thought the alleged informant would ever speak out.

"How can he?" the 36-year-old Strassmeir replied passionately. "What happens if it was a sting operation from the very beginning? What happens if it comes out that the plant was a provocateur? What then? The relatives of the victims are going to go crazy, and he's going to be held responsible for the murder of 168 people? Of course the informant can't come forward right now."

The newspaper said that both before and after the outburst Strassmeir repeatedly said he was not making veiled references to himself.

Strassmeir, who lives with his parents in a well-to-do area of West Berlin and whose father is a former top aide to Chancellor Helmut Kohl, has denied any ties with McVeigh or any role in the bombing.

But his links to McVeigh were exposed earlier by this newspaper. They include a telephone call that McVeigh made to Strassmeir on April 5, 1995, while the German national was at Elohim City, redoubt of a "Christian Identity" sect Of the White Aryan movement in eastern Oklahoma.

The Gazette also learned last month that an investigative team from ABC news had interviewed key witnesses in Kansas who confirmed that McVeigh was seen in the company of Strassmeir.

Strassmeir has publicly denied implications that he might have been an undercover agent for U.S. government agencies, admitted only a single meeting with McVeigh in 1993.

But The Sunday Telegraph said in its story that an Oklahoma City couple, Glenn and Kathy Wilburn, who lost two grandchildren in the bombing of the Murrah federal building, would name Strassmeir in a civil lawsuit as a "U.S. federal informant with material knowledge of the bombing."

The newspaper says the Wilburns have accumulated evidence "which they claim indicates Strassmeir was an undercover U.S. agent who, while based at Elohim City, penetrated the white separatist movement and alerted the authorities about the impending attack."

The Sunday Telegraph also said the Wilburns "now believe they have evidence from witnesses that five to seven men were involved in the bombing, and indications that several of these had connections with Elohim City."

Only Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols are facing federal charges in connection with the April 19, 1995, bombing that destroyed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, killed 168 people and wounded hundreds of others.

The FBI claims nobody else was involved.

But the newspaper indirectly quoted the Wilburns that their failure to arrest other persons is "because the FBI is afraid of exposing the government's negligence."

"This was a sting operation that went berserk," Wilburn told the newspaper. He said he didn't blame Strassmeir, saying "Andy did his best, he tried to stop this thing, we're not blaming him for what happened. But we're going to sue the U.S. government to break this wide open."