

NEWSPAPER SAYS STRASSMEIR HAD INFORMATION ON CONSPIRACY

By Laura Frank | Staff Writer

In the days after the Oklahoma City bombing, conspiracy theories spread like shock waves.

One suggests the government staged the blast to discredit the militia movement.

Another of the most persistent theories suggest the federal government was not responsible but had prior knowledge of the bombing and bungled an attempt to sting the conspirators.

No one has produced any evidence to support the theories, but Andreas Carl Strassmeir - the German national with Tennessee ties who says he's been questioned by authorities about the blast - seems to adhere to the latter theory.

A London newspaper reported Strassmeir as saying he had information about a conspiracy and a sting.

In *The Sunday Telegraph*, Strassmeir said, "*The ATF had an informant inside this operation. They had advance warning and they bungled it.*"

Strassmeir now says he was misquoted. His attorney says the quote was a hypothetical guess taken out of context. The reporter, Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, says Strassmeir repeated the same idea multiple times, and he stands by his story.

His quotes have led some conspiracy theorists to question whether Strassmeir himself might have been working for the United States government to infiltrate the bombing conspiracy. Strassmeir denies this.

But when asked if he thought the alleged informant would ever speak out, Evans-Pritchard reported Strassmeir replying:

"How can he? 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. He's scared stiff right now."

Photo Captions:

"Catina Lawson, 23, says she knew bombing suspect Tim McVeigh and remembers seeing Terry Nichols. She also says she saw German national Andreas Strassmeir in her hometown of Herington, Kan." (Rex Perry /Staff)

"This house at 6713 Thorngrove Pike on the eastern edge of Knoxville is where Andreas (Andy) Strassmeir claimed residence on his Tennessee driver's license." (Rick Musacchio / Staff)