

Militias move to blame terrorism on neo-Nazis



Chicago Sun-Times

January 26, 1997

BY AMBROSE EVANS-PRITCHARD LONDON DAILY TELEGRAPH

PHILADELPHIA The patriot militia movement has launched a campaign to hunt down neo-Nazis and bring them to justice for alleged acts of terrorism.

The militias say they have been falsely linked to the wave of bombings in the last two years, especially the Oklahoma City blast that killed 168 people in April, 1995. Some of their leaders have set out to prove that the real culprits are members of the white supremacist underground - a network of fascists committed to the overthrow of the constitutional order. "We've got to dispel this idea that we're terrorists, or that we're the Ku Klux Klan reborn," said Mike Vanderboegh, an activist in an Alabama militia group. It is believed that the militia movement has continued to grow since the Oklahoma bombing, although part of it has disappeared from sight in a strategy of "leaderless resistance." The Southern Poverty Law Center, which tracks the militia movement, estimates membership at about 100,000, of whom 10,000 are hard-core. Vanderboegh publishes a newsletter on the Internet called the John Doe II Times, a compilation of press clippings and documents that accuse the federal government of suppressing the full truth about the Oklahoma bombing. "John Doe II" was the mystery man seen with the chief suspect in the bombing, Timothy McVeigh, when he rented the Ryder truck allegedly used for the attack. The FBI conducted a massive manhunt for John Doe II in 1995. Then the Justice Department suddenly announced that there was no John Doe II after all - that McVeigh had acted alone on the day of the crime. But many witnesses saw other men with McVeigh in Oklahoma City on the morning of the explosion and at critical times before then in Junction City, Kan., and Tulsa. Several have identified one man, a neo-Nazi with ties to a paramilitary group called the Aryan Republican Army that has boasted of its plan to kill Jews and deport blacks. Militia leaders say the man is being shielded from prosecution, possibly because he knows things about the bombing that could cause acute embarrassment to the federal authorities - for example, whether or not the conspiracy was penetrated

by an informant. The man targeted by militia members lives in Philadelphia. Last weekend, the militia mounted an operation to expose him and to rebuke the Justice Department. The team darted from one lamppost to another, mounting posters of the man outside his house, at his family's church and at the university he attends. The posters bore the message "Unwanted by the FBI" and showed the man's picture next to a police sketch of John Doe II. Arlin Adams, a militia commander in the Southeast, served for 12 years in U.S. military intelligence. His expertise is in tactical intelligence operations, according to his discharge form. "The white supremacists are exceedingly dangerous," he said. "What they're trying to do is provoke government repression against the militias, hoping to exploit anarchy to tear away territory for a neo-Nazi state. These racists don't care how many people they kill; they're quite prepared to use biological and chemical weapons." In the fight against neo-Nazi terrorism, some militias find themselves in the same camp as the Jewish Anti-Defamation League and the Southern Poverty Law Center, which have denounced the militia movement in the past.