

MCVEIGH FILE UNSEALED



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Five months before the Oklahoma City bombing, Jennifer McVeigh told people that a "revolution" was coming and that her brother, Timothy, would play a major role, according to FBI documents unsealed today in Buffalo.

"You'll see in either April or May, something big is going to happen with my brother. I don't know what it is, but it's going to be big," a witness claimed Miss McVeigh predicted at a Christmas party on Dec. 23, 1994. "There's going to be a revolution, and you're either going to be with us or against us. I know I'm going to be ready."

Miss McVeigh also advocated the overthrow of the federal government and told others that her brother had been teaching her "bomb stuff" and "weapons stuff," according to the report filed by FBI Special Agent Gregory W. Jennings. U.S. Magistrate Judge Leslie G. Foschio, as a result of legal efforts by The Buffalo News, unsealed Jennings' report today. It raises new questions about Miss McVeigh's foreknowledge of the April 19, 1995, bombing that killed 168 people. Miss McVeigh, studying at the time at Buffalo State College to be an elementary school teacher, could not be reached to comment today regarding the documents Foschio unsealed. In past interviews, the Pendleton woman denied wrongdoing and denied she made anti-government statements at a Christmas party. Law enforcement officials, according to the unsealed documents, also confirmed that FBI agents: Seized from Miss McVeigh, "The Turner Diaries," the story of a militia group whose members loaded a bomb into a delivery truck and exploded it outside the FBI headquarters building in Washington. Many government agents believe the 1978 novel served as the inspiration for the Oklahoma City bombing. Watched Miss McVeigh, followed her, tapped her telephones, confiscated letters her brother had written to her, bugged rooms in her home and put an electronic tracking device in her pickup truck. Searched the McVeigh home in Pendleton looking for fuses, detonators, dynamite, blasting caps or any other bomb-making materials. There is no indication any such items were found. Jennings' report, initially filed three days after the bombing, quotes

two witnesses who were not identified by name. The witnesses were interviewed two days after the bombing. They told FBI agents about their conversation with Miss McVeigh at a house party in Niagara County just before Christmas 1994. "As related by (one witness), Miss McVeigh was 'talking in revolutionary terms about the federal government and about overthrowing the federal government,' " Jennings said. When the witness asked Miss McVeigh if she was serious, she became "belligerent" and made her prediction about the major revolutionary event that would occur the following spring, the agent reported. A second witness from the party reported similar discussions with Miss McVeigh. "Something big will happen this spring. You're either for it, or against it," this witness quoted Miss McVeigh as saying. "While at this Christmas party, (the second witness) had several personal conversations with Jennifer McVeigh. During these conversations, Jennifer McVeigh often talked about a revolutionary movement, and her knowledge of making bombs," Jennings said in court papers. "She also stated that she had at least one book on how to make bombs, and went on to describe various ways of making bombs." Miss McVeigh, 23, has not been charged with any crime in connection with the bombing. Her brother, Timothy, 28, a Pendleton native and Army combat veteran, is scheduled to go on trial in the bombing case next month in Denver. He and Terry Nichols have pleaded innocent. Although never suspected as a participant in the bombing, Miss McVeigh's political views and close relationship with her brother brought her under heavy scrutiny, the documents show. "Jennifer was never charged because there was no proof that she had anything to do with the bombing," said one law enforcement official who is familiar with the investigation. "But did she know about the bombing before it happened? That's the big question. She certainly knew something was going to happen." Three days after the bombing, the FBI statement served as the basis for a search warrant Foschio issued for the Campbell Boulevard home that Miss McVeigh and her father, William, occupied. Agents reported to Foschio that letters, including some from Timothy, were confiscated, in addition to books, news articles about the bombing and other items. Agents said the books seized included numerous anti-government publications popular with citizen militia organizations, including "The Turner Diaries." Miss McVeigh's attorney, Joel L. Daniels, has stated in the past that Miss McVeigh did nothing illegal and should not be persecuted for reading anti-government books. More than 500 Western New Yorkers were questioned about Miss McVeigh, Daniels has said. "Federal agents have talked to every person in Western New York who can even spell her name," Daniels said in July 1995. "They've watched and followed her. At the start of the investigation, she gave them total cooperation. She spent at least 40 hours in interviews with the FBI in Buffalo." An Oklahoma newspaper, the McCurtain Daily Gazette, reported on Jan. 28 that Timothy once asked his sister to "launder" \$300 that was stolen in a bank robbery. According to the

report, based on a sworn statement by Miss McVeigh, Timothy gave his sister \$300 in December 1994 -- around the time of the Christmas party -- asking her to exchange the money for "clean" money. "It is my belief that this bank robbery had occurred within the recent past," the newspaper quoted Miss McVeigh as telling the FBI. "I was not made aware of the details or if there were additional robberies involving my brother or any of his associates. I do recall that my brother remarked that the money he had in his possession represented his share of the bank robbery proceeds." The paper also said Miss McVeigh told the FBI that her brother anonymously mailed a note to an office of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms, stating, "You . . . are going to hang." Shortly after her brother became a suspect in the bombing, agents learned that Miss McVeigh had burned some documents -- possibly related to the case -- in a barbecue grill. Some investigators also were upset that Miss McVeigh showed little remorse over the bombing, even after FBI agents showed her photographs of children who were killed. William McVeigh has been clearly sorrowful about the bombing. He has dissociated himself from his son's political views and was never suspected of having foreknowledge of the bombing, investigators said. Search warrant documents for the McVeigh home had been filed under seal by Foschio in April 1995, but he agreed to unseal them today. The Buffalo News' attorneys, John H. Stenger and Joseph M. Finnerty, petitioned for the papers' release last month. Attorneys for Timothy and Jennifer McVeigh opposed the release of the papers, but Foschio disagreed. He said precautions can be taken in Denver to make sure jurors do not have preconceived notions about McVeigh's guilt or innocence.