

# IRAQ SILENT ON CASH TO WHITE ARYAN RESISTANCE LEADER HE RECEIVED 'THOUSANDS,' LAWYERS FOR MCVEIGH SAY

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Iraqi government officials declined to respond Wednesday to a claim that the nation funneled thousands of dollars to an American citizen advocating violence against the U.S. government.

The allegation arose in a brief filed Tuesday in Denver by attorneys for Oklahoma City bombing defendant Timothy McVeigh.

Seeking to link Iraq with the 1995 bombing, the attorneys said Dennis Mahon of Tulsa, Okla., a leader of the White Aryan Resistance, had received "thousands of dollars over the past six years" from Iraq.

Mahon told the Rocky Mountain News he believed the monthly \$100 payments started in 1991 and ended shortly after the April 19, 1995, Oklahoma City bombing. He said he believed the money came from the Iraqi interests section in Washington, which represents the Iraqi government in this country.

Because the United States and Iraq have no formal diplomatic ties, the interests section, a lower-level version of an embassy, represents Iraq in this country.

"I've got a right to get funds from whomever I want," Mahon said.

He said his Iraqi contact was named Mrs. Yono. The Iraqi interests section said Wednesday that Yono was unavailable.

The U.S. State Department would not comment. The Justice Department said it

would respond today.

Mahon, a former Ku Klux Klan leader, has acknowledged talking with others about blowing up federal facilities but said he never followed through.

Stephen Jones, McVeigh's attorney, said in his petition that Mahon made an audio tape encouraging McVeigh to "sacrifice" himself and await eventual justice."

Mahon acknowledged making a tape, but disagreed with Jones' interpretation.

"I said, 'Tim, I don't agree with your tactics but I have to admire you. You're a man among men. If we had 100 men like you, we'd have our freedom back and the white race would be secure,'" Mahon said.