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SOF

C O N T E N T S

DECEMBER 1997
Vol. 22 No. 12



Robert Constance
Courtesy: USMC

On the Cover

Today's Navy SEALs owe a lot to the men who went before them in WWII, the early years of the Cold War, and Vietnam. Some of that remarkable history is explored in articles beginning on pages **38** and **52**.

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courtesy Roy Boehm



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Samuel M. Katz

Oklahoma City Update

PRIOR WARNING

ATF Shoots Their Messenger

PART 2

AP/Wide World



After a personal tragedy led former Tulsa, Okla., debutante Carol Howe to contact local racists, abuse by them, in turn, led her to work as a confidential informant for the BATF — at considerable risk and for \$25 a day — on investigations relating to racist and terrorist activities centered around Elohim City. Howe testified she forewarned the feds of proposed attacks on the Murrah Building. After the feds wasted that priceless intelligence and more than a hundred lives were lost, it became necessary to discredit Howe: She was charged with “conspiracy, making bomb threats and possession of explosive materials.” She was, of course, acquitted on all accounts — and the bidding war is on for TV rights to her tragic story. Here, Howe leaves the Tulsa Federal Court Building for a lunch break with her parents during 28 July 1997 trial.

Until now, senior federal officials, supported by local politicians, have been largely successful in concealing important facts surrounding the OKC bombing. Last month we raised the question of federal law enforcement having prior warning/prior knowledge of threats to the Murrah Building, and strong evidence of a wider conspiracy than Tim McVeigh and Terry Nichols, reporting that the shroud of federal secrecy was severely rent earlier this year during a federal trial in Tulsa of former ATF confidential informant Carol Howe, who was found innocent.

We continue the exposé of how Carol Howe was prosecuted on

bogus charges to discredit her knowledge and testimony that the feds had been given prior warnings of the impending OKC disaster, how they dropped the ball at the cost of innocent lives, and have engaged in a CYA exercise ever since — at the expense of justice.

Howe had even reported to her ATF handler that local racist Dennis Mahon and “Nazi” German visitor Andy Strassmeir had made three trips to case “the federal building in Oklahoma City” as one of three potential targets. If this isn’t “strategic warning,” what is?

There is new, credible information that Howe gave BATF Agent Angela Finley written information that the “Morrow” [sic] Building in Oklahoma City was a target. The document containing this information is among those suspected of having been removed from Howe’s official ATF file and subsequently destroyed.

There is reportedly an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the disap-

by Roger G. Charles

pearance of this and other records from Howe’s CI file.

Two days after the bombing, FBI Special Agent James R. Blanchard, II submitted a report of his and Special Agent Finley’s interviews of Carol Howe in

Oklahoma City.

The 22 and 23 February 1995 entries in Finley’s monthly report on CI-183’s (Howe’s) investigation — discussed in detail last month in these pages — confirmed beyond any doubt that the FBI had muscled the ATF out of the investigation of armed radicals at Elohim City, and stopped ATF’s planned arrest of Andy Strassmeir, an illegal alien in possession of firearms. It then becomes obvious why FBI director Louis

Freeh, Attorney General Janet Reno and the Clinton White House were anxious to announce that the OKC bombing had been solved and the perpetrators apprehended. Within 50 hours they had done so, notwithstanding serious gaps and contradictions in the case against McVeigh and Nichols. Most disturbing, however, is their certain knowledge that "others unknown" were centrally involved — and remained at large.

Blanchard's report is worth a detailed examination. But first, we should note some spelling anomalies: Carol Howe is referred to as "Carol;" Robert Millar is referred to as "Bob Lamar;" Dennis Mahon is "Dennis Mehaun;" Andy Strassmeir is "Andy Strasmeyer;" Elohim City is "Elohm City;" the 19 April anniversary for Waco is stated as "April 18th;" and Hitler's birthday of 20 April is listed as "April 19th." With these clever "errors," any key-word search of the automated database containing this record would not register hits on the intentionally distorted versions of these names and dates — and such obfuscation would permit subpoenas to be effectively ignored without being legally disobeyed.

Andreas Strassmeir was listed on this State Department Protective Intelligence Bulletin — after he had left the country — as not to be allowed entry to the United States. Tough luck for any independent grand jury who might want to talk to him.

Who Called Whom - And When?

The first sentence of Finley's report contains one of two major "facts" strongly disputed by Carol Howe: *On April 20, 1995, this agent [Finley] was contacted by CI-53270-183 [Howe's full CI designator] in regard to the bombing in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.*

Howe claims that Agent Finley contacted her within hours of the bombing and requested a meeting. Is it believable that for hours after the bombing, Finley just sat by the telephone, waiting until the next day for informant Howe to call her ATF case officer?

Even if Finley would have overlooked this obvious lead, someone in the ATF hierarchy would have remembered Howe's reports. In addition to Finley, Finley's supervisors in Tulsa, Dallas and Washington, D.C. (with several layers of desk jockeys leading to the ATF Director, John McGaw), were familiar with the case of their CI who had infiltrated Elohim City. Howe had been the key to the ATF's planned arrest of Strassmeir in late February 1995. That the plan had to be called off after the FBI ordered the ATF

to shut down Howe's activity at Elohim City two months before the bombing would only make CI-183's case all the more memorable to ATF *aparachniks*.

It remains unclear whether Strassmeir was a real neo-Nazi; playing the role of a double agent with his U.S. and German handlers; or was an honest-to-God *pretend-Nazi*, serving both countries at great personal risk and sacrifice; was a trash-talking fantazoid — or was an *agent provocateur*.

John Doe II: Who Is He, And Who Says So?

The second major point of contention revolves around what Howe communicated about John Doe II. Blanchard's report said, "CAROL has seen an individual named 'TONY' resembling the composite of UNSUB #2. [unknown subject #2, i.e., John Doe II]." And in her ATF report dated 22 May 1995, Agent Finley claimed, "CI-183 stated that he/she believed suspect #2 resembled one of the residents of Elohim City, Tony Ward."

Yet, Howe told two journalists in January of this year, John Cash of the *McCurtain County Gazette*, in Idabel, Oklahoma, and Donald Thrasher, a producer with *ABC News 20/20*, that there's "not a doubt in my mind Brescia is John Doe II." The news that Michael Brescia was John Doe II, coming from a reliable informant with key knowledge of the Elohim City players, must have been seen as a threat to the hastily constructed explanation that the lead perpetrator was Tim McVeigh, and that he and Terry Nichols were the only active participants in the conspiracy to blow up the Murrah Building.

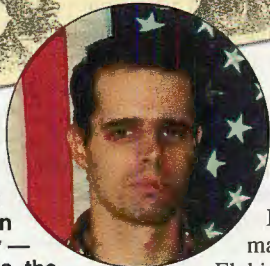
Brescia had roomed with Andy Strassmeir at Elohim City: If Brescia were allowed to be officially designated a subject or a suspect, Strassmeir would also have become a central figure to the investigation — and so would members of the band of bank robbers known as the "Mid-West" bank robbers. This group claimed to be part of the "Aryan Republican Army" and in various combinations has been charged with sticking up some 22 banks. Brescia is currently in federal custody, awaiting sentencing for his participation in at least one of the 22 bank robberies. He was engaged to one of Millar's numerous granddaughters.

The 21 April report noted that "CAROL learned that ... EC's Security Officer is ANDY STRASMEYER [sic], an illegal alien from Germany, who is a former West German Infantry Officer." Blanchard's 21 April report went on to synopsise much of what Carol Howe had told her ATF handler in the period September 1994 - March 1995. The key points were: *STRASMEYER has talked frequently about direct action against*

the U.S. Government. He is trained in weaponry and has discussed assassinations, bombings and mass shootings. ... STRASMEYER frequently talks about direct action against the U.S. Federal Government. ... CAROL described EC residents as being ultra-militant white separatists. ... There is much required reading at the compound such as Mein Kamph, The Silent Brotherhood and The Turner Diaries. The Turner Diaries is a book which described the idea of driving a delivery truck loaded with explosives into the delivery area of a federal building and detonating it at 9:30 a.m. ... MEHAUN [sic] has talked with CAROL about targeting federal installations for destruction through bombings, such as the IRS Building, the Tulsa Federal Building and the Oklahoma City Federal Building. ... MEHAUN and STRASMEYER has [sic] taken three trips to Oklahoma City in November, 1994, December, 1994, and February, 1995. ... April 18th [sic] is the anniversary of the WACO raid and April 19th [sic] is HITLER's birthday. CAROL said EC residents are very conscious of these dates. ...

Two days after the bombing, the above report was filed with the OKCBOMB Task Force. Some 26,000 plus reports of investigation were filed (many initiated by estranged relatives and "friends," especially mothers-in-law) on suspect John Doe IIs. These leads were literally pursued all over the world — but Andy Strassmeir, close at hand, was not.

Strassmeir sat at Elohim City until August 1995 and Dennis Mahon, sat in



Richard L. Sherrow



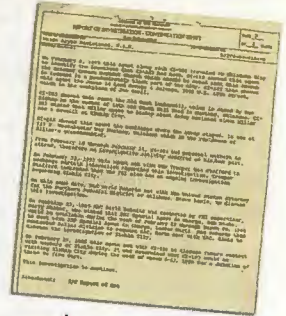
AP/Wide World

Dennis Mahon, Tulsa's favorite white supremacist, talks to media last July, preceding his appearance before the Oklahoma County Grand Jury investigating the OKC bombing. Going in, he expressed sympathy for Glenn Wilburn's death. Wilburn, who lost two grandsons in the bombing, had led the fight for a grand jury investigation to determine if feds had prior warning. Mahon told reporters he pleads the fifth amendment when asked about his knowledge of the bombing, had earlier bragged he blew up a truck with a fertilizer bomb. DA Investigator Larry Dellinger, who was escorting Mahon, waits patiently for his charge to wind down.

... On February 22, 1995 this agent met with OHP Trooper Ken Stafford to exchange certain information regarding this investigation. Trooper Stafford indicated that the FBI also had an ongoing investigation regarding Elohim City.

On this same date, RAC David Roberts met with the United States Attorney for the Northern Judicial District of Oklahoma, Steve Lewis, to Discuss this investigation

On February 23, 1995 RAC David Roberts was contacted by FBI supervisor, Marty Webber, who stated that FBI Special Agent in Charge, Bob Ricks, would be available during the week of February 27 through March 03, 1995 to meet with ATF Special agent in Charge, Lester Martz. RAC Roberts then contacted Dallas Division to request SAC, Martz meet with SAC, Ricks to discuss the investigation of Elohim City. ...



Author's files

Tulsa. Numerous associates were busted, yet, neither were interviewed about the Oklahoma City bombing until Strassmeir was safely out of the country, and was interviewed by trans-Atlantic telephone on 30 April and 1 May 1996! The resulting report of that interview is noteworthy for its insipid tone.

State Department And "Andy The German"

On 27 April 1995, a special agent of the Diplomatic Security Service called the American embassy in Bonn to request German police intelligence and criminal-history checks on Strassmeir. The U.S. Ambassador cabled that initial reports gave Strassmeir a clean bill of health, but military record checks and Berlin police record checks were pending, and would follow. These last two record checks were *never* provided to McVeigh's defense team.

Following this message to Washington,

there is a several-months gap where few federal government records are available on the imported Nazi, until after he returned to Germany in January 1996.

Once More Into the Breach

Finley disclosed in her May 1995 monthly report of Howe's investigation that the ATF and FBI had jointly "determined that CI-183 would be sent to Elohim City to obtain any intelligence relating to the bombing." This most interesting document went on to relate that: On May 1, 1995 CI-183 traveled to Elohim City and stayed for three [sic] days. ... On May 3, 1995 this agent met with CI-183 and debriefed him/her. This agent then took CI-183 to Oklahoma City to meet with ATF and FBI agents for further debriefing ... CI-183 did speak to an individual who stated, 'There is a big secret out here.' ... On May 13, 1995 this agent met with CI-183 to discuss returning to Elohim City in order to determine what the 'big secret' is and to attempt to identify suspect #2 [John Doe II].

This last sentence gives lie to later federal law-enforcement efforts to distance themselves from CI-183 by depreciating her performance. Subsequent claims that Howe produced nothing of value in her first post-bombing trip to Elohim City are flatly contradicted by the ATF-FBI plan to send her out to Elohim city for yet a second undercover visit.

Hostile-Fire Pay: \$25 A Day

Howe had been receiving \$125 per week from the ATF as pay for her work as a CI until deactivated in March 1995 (probably at the demand of the FBI). She demanded, and received, a substantial pay hike for her two-day visit to Elohim City \$400 per day. Although Finley and the FBI had been anxious for CI-183 to make an immediate post-bombing visit to Elohim City, showing again that mission comes first and CI's are expendable, Howe had the good sense to refuse an immediate visit, noting that it would be suspicious if after a two-months' absence, CI-183 shows up right after the Oklahoma City bombing.

Before returning Howe to Millar's lair, the ATF had to reactivate her as CI-183. According to Finley, this was accomplished via telephone calls ... the paperwork followed. On 18 May, in a "Request of Use of

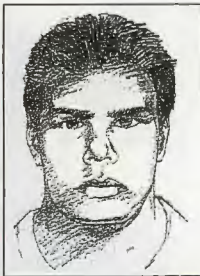
ROI filed by BATF Agent Angela Finley to SAC of Dallas Field Division cites ongoing ATF/FBI/Oklahoma State investigation of persons associated with Elohim City via informant Carol Howe, before OKC bombing. Howe testified she warned feds of proposed attack on Murrah Building. Document: Author's files

Confidential Informant," Finley wrote: *This is a request to re-activate CI-53270-183. It is requested that CI-53270-183 be returned to the active informant roster in order to aid in the Oklahoma City bombing investigation ... It has been established through several prior meetings with the informant, that he/she is stable and capable of working in this investigation.*

Nearly a year later these same ATF agents, Finley and her supervisor (Roberts), gave credit to Howe in a formal Threat Assessment (dated 22 April 1996), compiled

Continued on page 67

AP/Wide World

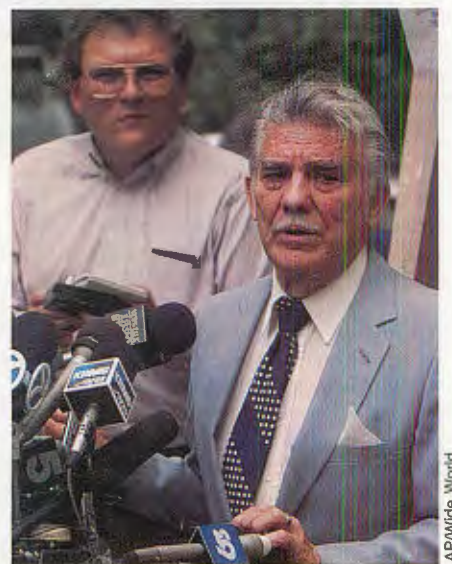


FBI

Carol Howe told two journalists, John Cash of the *McCurtain County Gazette*, in Idabel, Oklahoma, and Donald Thrasher, of *ABC News 20/20*, there was "not a doubt in my mind [Michael] Brescia is John Doe II." If, according to a reliable informant with key knowledge of the Elohim City players, Brescia is John Doe II, this would threaten the hastily constructed explanation that McVeigh and Terry Nichols were the only active participants in the conspiracy to blow up the Murrah Building.

Currently in federal custody awaiting sentencing for participation in at least one of the 22 bank robberies by "Aryan Republican Army" aka "Midwestern Bank Bandits," Brescia was former roommate of Strassmeir at Elohim City. Acknowledge a role by Brescia, and Strassmeir — and "Aryan Republican Army" — become central to OKC investigation.

At left is Brescia in high school year-book; at right is one of FBI composite sketches of "John Doe II."



AP/Wide World

Sans usual beard, Canadian expatriate and Elohim City leader "Rev." Robert Millar called a press conference in May 1995, to dispute claims Tim McVeigh made calls to Elohim City in weeks preceding OKC bombing. White separatist guru denied he is an FBI informant when questioned last July, but said he has cooperated with various police agencies. FBI testified Millar was a "source of information."

Continued from page 42

after the FBI indiscreetly identified CI-183 as Carol Howe to the McVeigh defense team: This informant is involved with the Oklahoma City bomb case which is pending prosecution in Denver and was the key in identifying individuals at Elohim City, which is tied to the Oklahoma City Bombing Case. The majority of the associates of CI-52705 [sic]-183 are militia members. ... The FBI is the lead agency on this case, however, many other federal [sic]state and local agencies are involved. Individuals who pose immediate danger to CI-53270-183 are: (1) Dennis Mahon, (2) Members of Elohim City, and (3) any sympathizer to McVeigh, i.e., militias. ... This agent has known CI 53270-183 for approximately two years and can assert that this informant has not been overly paranoid or fearful during undercover operations. This agent believes that s/he could be in serious danger when associates discover his/her identity ...

This was probably the most honest analysis, written by Finley and approved by Roberts, involving their 25-year-old CI. By the spring of 1997, however, the politically correct view required that Finley picture Howe's work as unimportant, unreliable and of little value to the ATF. At Howe's trial Finley obligingly painted a very different picture of Howe's character and conduct.

But back to May 1995, where until the 24th Finley still wanted Howe to make the second post-bombing visit to Millar's neo-Nazi compound, until: ... this agent was informed by RAC, David Roberts that Robert Millar suspected CI-183 of being a confidential informant ... It was determined that CI-183 would not be sent to Elohim City at this time or in the future.

The Bane Of Cover-Ups - Papers Too Widely Spread

In Howe's 1997 trial, Finley "apologized," saying she had just noticed, "after reading it a hundred times" that in her report for the month of May 1995, the statement in the preceding paragraph, had been typed incorrectly! Roberts did not tell Finley that Millar suspected CI-183 of being "a confidential informant." Finley had told Roberts of Millar's suspicions. But how did either Roberts or Finley know what Millar suspected? FBI Special Agent Peter Rickel's admission that Millar was an FBI source now makes it clear that Millar was the likely source of the threat to CI-183, relayed via the FBI.

The period from May 1995 until early 1996 was very quiet for Howe and Mahon, and only slightly more active for Andy the German. In August he left Elohim City for North Carolina. By 2 January he was in Port Arkansas, Texas, where SOF staff writer Rick Sherrow had the only media interview Strassmeir granted while in the United States.

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Very shortly thereafter (no later than 10 January according to some reports), Strassmeir left the U.S. and returned to Germany. This date is important because on 11 January he surfaced in an Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) document of more than passing interest: a computer printout from the National Automated Immigration Lookout System (NAIS), used primarily at Ports of Entry and containing names of individuals who may be excludable from the United States, or are of interest to another agency.

The NAIS alert highlighted Strassmeir with this attention getter: "Lookout May Be Armed or Dangerous." His situation was described in these terms:

"SUBJECT IS WANTED FOR QUESTIONING BY FBI, OKLAHOMA CITY. CONTACT SPECIAL AGENT JOHN R. HIPPARD ... OR SUPERVISORY SPECIAL AGENT RICK BAKER ... PLEASE REFER TO FBI CASE NO. 174A-OC-56120. SUBJECT ENTERED IN 1991 AS NON-IMMIGRANT ... SUBJECT IS POSSIBLY ARMED AND MAY BE DANGEROUS. SHOULD BE INTERVIEWED BY INS AND FBI JOINTLY. DETAIN UNTIL ARRIVAL OF FEDERAL TEAM."

On the same day, an INS official released data printouts from Strassmeir's INS file to FBI Special Agent John Hippard. The "Purpose of Disclosure" was stated as "Criminal Investigation."

The day after Strassmeir was safely out

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of the U.S., the ever-vigilant FBI asked for and received a routine data dump of basic information on his five visits to the United States! *It gets better:* The Oklahoma City INS office stated in a Memorandum of Investigation regarding Strassmeir (dated 8 February 1996):

The writer received a call from OKC FBI SA LOUANN SANDSTROM ... who indicated ... SUBJECT was out of the United States. ...

[INS officers] called SANDSTROM and indicated that the SUBJECT was being investigated by the INS via a ... request from [FBI Special Agent] HIBBARD [sic] that if the SUBJECT was encountered, to notify HIBBARD [sic] (and the writer) for further investigation concerning SUBJECT'S possible activity under FBI CASE NO. 174A-OC-56120, and for INS, SUBJECT'S status. [INS officers] indicated that now that SUBJECT is out of the US and not an overstay, it is unlikely INS would have any interest in him. In addition, since the purpose of the lookout was to locate SUBJECT and SUBJECT had already been seen in Germany ... we inquired about whether the INS lookout should remain active. SANDSTROM indicated that the INS lookout should be canceled.

Action was taken by this office this date to cancel lookout on SUBJECT. ...

The next day a NAILS II LOOKOUT UPDATE went to all INS Ports of Entry with this notice: PER LOU ANN SAND-

STROM, SPECIAL AGENT, FBI ... SUBJECT WAS DBO [CONTACTED] IN GERMANY AND THE LOOKOUT SHOULD BE CANCELED ...

Right. That's what the INS and FBI agreed to do. After Strassmeir had "escaped" the U.S. (following eight months of complete lack of interest in talking with, much less apprehending him), the FBI and INS issued a NAILS LOOKOUT which is designed to catch people entering the U.S. Then, once it's confirmed Strassmeir is safely in Germany, the FBI and INS agree to cancel the lookout notice at INS Ports of Entry. This entire string of documents reeks of CYA, bureaucratic paperwork generated to hide the truth about Strassmeir's bizarre history while in the U.S.

The Department of State now re-enters the story, this time as a full member of the Protect Andy Strassmeir Program: An undated (probably March 1996) Protective Intelligence Bulletin, issued by the Counterterrorism Division of the Diplomatic Security Service of the State Department, shows four mug shots of Andy the German. The bulletin case number shows that it's a "CT" (counter-terrorism) case involving this relatively unknown federal law-enforcement agency.

To round out the Rubenesque battlefield being so carefully painted, on 18 March 1996, Special Agent Paul Brown of the Diplomatic Security Service typed a memorandum for the record, Subject: Strassmeir.

WANTED BY THE FBI FOR RICO, EXTORTION

**JAMES J. BULGER
AKA WHITEY BULGER**



DOB: 9/3/29
POB: Boston, MA
HEIGHT: 5'7"
WEIGHT: 150 lbs.
BUILD: Medium
RACE: White
SEX: Male
HAIR: Silver/White
EYES: Blue

ALIASES: • Whitey Bulger • Jimmy Boy
• Thomas Baxter • Tom Harris

Bulger, a major organized crime figure in Boston, MA is being sought for extortion and RICO charges. Bulger has funded his activities through the extortion of illegitimate criminal operations to include gambling, loan-sharking and drugs.

Warrant Information: A federal warrant was issued on January 4, 1995 in Boston, MA charging Bulger with Extortion and RICO.

Anyone having information regarding Bulger should notify the Federal Bureau of Investigation Violent Fugitive Task Force at Boston, Massachusetts, (617) 742-5533 or the nearest FBI Office.

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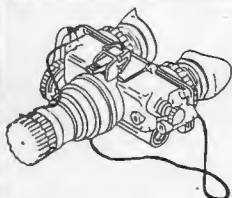
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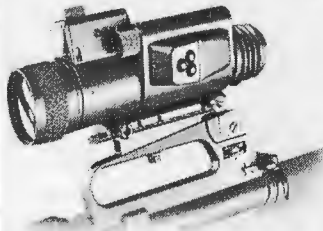


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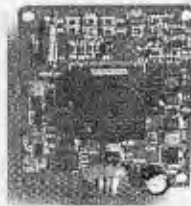
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Strassmeir was a [sic] overstay on his last trip to the US ... is known to have been the military training officer for a white sumpremist [sic] group, 'WAR' (White Aryan Resistance). ... has been the suspect of several investigations for purchasing weapons, and making the weapons fire on full auto. Strassmeir should not be allowed to return to the US.

So at the very time the FBI is pretending to want to apprehend Strassmeir, the State Department, knowing he's safely ensconced in the family's Berlin home, declares Andy a really bad guy who cannot enter the U.S. If there happens to be some independent body such as congress or a local grand jury that wants to talk to Andy, tough luck: He's prohibited from entering the U.S.

But it's the Department of Justice prosecution team in Denver that takes the prize for chutzpah. Joseph H. Hartzler and Beth A. Wilkinson, the two lead prosecutors, sent a 6 February 1997, letter to McVeigh's defense attorney, Stephen Jones, that stated: *At no time did the FBI consider Andreas Strassmeir or Dennis Mahon a subject of the Oklahoma City bombing.*

Maybe Hartzler and Wilkinson are playing word games — they're notorious for doing so. Perhaps Strassmeir was not a "subject" as they define one. But there is zero doubt that at a minimum he had material — and — relevant knowledge about the Oklahoma City bombing, and that several agencies of the U.S. Government went to substantial effort to prevent the justice system of our country from including him in the search for the truth about the Oklahoma City bombing.

That's called obstruction of justice, and it's a felony!

Postscript

In the report of the April/May 1996 Strassmeir telephone interviews, there's not a mention of why Strassmeir overstayed his fifth trip, becoming an illegal alien after 2 August 1991, until he fled the U.S. in early 1996. Or, about his numerous illegal activities at Elohim City. Strassmeir claimed he was "not involved in the planning or execution of the bombing ... nor did he have any foreknowledge of the bombing." Like he would admit it in a telephone call! But, that's good enough for our dedicated investigators — Strassmeir was never a subject of the Oklahoma City bombing investigation.

Maybe, just maybe, that will someday change.

A retired Marine officer, Roger G. Charles has been a freelance journalist and investigator since 1990, working as assistant producer of ABC's 20-20, and as a defense investigator for attorney Stephen Jones on the OKC bombing trial in Denver. He is presently an investigator for Oklahoma State Representative Charles Key's committee formed to support the independent grand jury now probing the OKC bombing. ✕

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