

German neo-Nazis 'made in U.S.A.'

by Rainer Apel

At a press conference in Vienna on Jan. 17, Austrian Interior Minister Franz Loeschnak and Vienna Chief of Police Günther Bogl dropped a bombshell, presenting evidence that a group of 20 Austrian neo-Nazis that had been exposed over the preceding days, was receiving logistical and financial support from the Nebraska-based Nazi party (NSDAP-AO) of Gary Lauck, and other extremist groups in the United States.

Then on Jan. 20, at press conferences in Budapest and Vienna, similar charges were made by Hungarian police authorities. In the city of Győr, Hungary, a group of seven extremists was arrested, along with weapons and munitions, in a joint Hungary-Austria search effort.

In Germany, the Federal Prosecutor's office and the Berlin anti-extremism authorities launched probes last autumn into support for European neo-Nazis by the Ku Klux Klan (KKK).

Police spokesmen were reluctant to give out detailed information, but they said at the Jan. 17 Vienna press conference that a lot of arms and explosives were found with the group, as well as evidence of live plans for political assassinations. The Vienna-based group had been planning "the violent overthrow of the Austrian government" and "assassination of President Kurt Waldheim, Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, and Interior Minister Franz Loeschnak," journalists learned.

The U.S. connection

The police findings confirmed the bragging of a certain Dennis Mahon of Tulsa, Oklahoma, the Grand Dragon of the KKK there, about how he had helped instruct German and other neo-Nazis in guerrilla warfare. In a mid-November interview with the *Tulsa Tribune*, Mahon said that he had just returned from a tour of Germany where he had trained neo-Nazi youth.

The Klan and other U.S.-based racist groups are not just active in Germany, but also in other European countries. These transatlantic links have been well known and partially documented for several years. The main question is what the U.S. authorities intend to do about the problem.

"Gary Lauck of the United States, who prints and ships all of this [Nazi propaganda] into our country, has become a major problem for us," Tilo Jochem of the German Federal Anti-Crime Agency (BKA), told Chris Wallace of ABC News "PrimeTime," in a feature on the neo-Nazi issue aired

Jan. 2, "We would like the American authorities to help us."

But they are not helping, and counter-extremism experts in Germany have been wondering for some time why the U.S. authorities never moved against Lauck.

The fact is, that the intelligence services of several nations have long deployed extremist groups for their own political purposes. At this point in history, the Anglo-American establishment is trying to block the emergence of reunified Germany as a political force, by raising the bogey of "the threat of a Fourth Reich." This is where the two-bit neo-Nazi groups fit in.

On the ABC News program, the KKK's Mahon had a forum for his racist propaganda. He was filmed at a secret meeting of German neo-Nazis in the forests around Berlin, shouting: "*Sieg Heil, meine Kameraden!* I come to you from America as a fellow brother in the struggle for your race and your future. We are in this forest now to show solidarity with you from America."

Also on the program, Gottfried Küssel, an Austrian neo-Nazi, announced: "We will have war in Germany. . . . It will be the big bang. . . . The big bang is war on the streets, violent war on the streets with guns and with riots and so on."

Shortly after the program was transmitted, Austrian police located and arrested the 20-man neo-Nazi group. Küssel, Vienna Chief of Police Bogl said, was suspected of being "at the center of an international distribution network" of neo-Nazi propaganda and logistics from the United States into the German-speaking parts of Europe. U.S.-printed propaganda was also found with that 20-man group.

Target for investigation: the ADL

European security officials anxious to find out more about the "American connection" would do well to start their probe at the United Nations Plaza headquarters of the Anti-Defamation League in New York City. For years, the ADL has maintained an army of agents provocateurs inside the radical right in the United States.

While no direct evidence exists at this point that either Lauck or Mahon is currently on the ADL dole, several leads do exist.

Lauck started out as the right-hand man of another self-described Hitler fan, the Chicago-based Frank Collin. In the mid-1970s, Collin grabbed headlines when he led a Nazi Party march through the Chicago suburb of Skokie, a town heavily populated by Jewish eastern European refugees who were survivors of the Nazi concentration camps. It later turned out that Collin was himself Jewish, and was probably supported in his Skokie stunt by the Chicago office of the ADL, which helped organize a large counter-demonstration.

A few years later, in an even more blatant instance of ADL shenanigans, Jewish Defense League figure Mordechai Levy was caught organizing a neo-Nazi and KKK rally in Philadelphia.