

## Report from Bonn by Rainer Apel

### 'A strategy of tension'

*German investigators of the neo-Nazis haven't touched the networks abroad that are steering the violence.*

On Nov. 30, German police reported the arrest of two suspects in a neo-Nazi arson attack that had killed three Turks and injured nine others in the town of Mölln the week before. Found during the police search of the apartment of one of the suspects was a U.S. Confederate flag, the "Stars and Bars," symbolizing the group's link to the Ku Klux Klan in the United States.

A senior intelligence source linked to the U.S. and Israeli secret services told *EIR* that the current activation of the neo-Nazis in Germany is part of "a strategy of tension" on the part of intelligence networks of the United States, Britain, France, and Israel, aimed at weakening the unified Germany politically and economically.

As for the two arrested suspects, Michael Petersen (25) and Lars Christiansen (19), little information has been released, but what has is indicative. For example, it turns out that the home of Petersen in Gudow, a small town near Mölln, was a gathering point for neo-Nazis and skinheads. Neighbors reported that they would meet there to sing racist and Nazi songs and have beer-drinking orgies. These often took the form of rampages outside the house, and members of the group had been involved in three other arson attacks on refugee lodgings in the region in September.

The evidence demonstrates the existence of a violence-prone cult group linked to the widespread racist skinhead/neo-Nazi counterculture, rather than the "lone assassin" profile which the higher security authorities in Ger-

many keep referring to in public.

Many questions arise. Petersen's apartment was, mysteriously, left unsealed for three days after the arrest of its tenant. It would have been interesting to see what incriminating material the gang leader had in his house, but this apparently was removed. Also strange is the news that Petersen actually was to have been arrested several days before the Mölln incident, charged with arson in the early September cases. The prosecutor had filed the arrest order, but the district judge in Lübeck decided that there was no reason for any arrest. Why?

The answer to this question may shed light on why the official German probe into the role of a certain KKK Grand Dragon from Oklahoma, Dennis Mahon, in the Klan's underground recruitment activities in Germany, has not produced results, although it was launched a year ago.

Where does this slowness come from? Is it the uncooperativeness of American authorities toward German ones on certain sensitive issues? Is it because German authorities have no access to crucial data of the FBI—which, according to well-informed sources, seems to be protecting Mahon? The latter aspect is being looked into by members of the German parliament.

A well-informed source who has studied the origins and structure of neo-Nazi groups in the former East Germany told this author that an "American connection" has existed among the eastern German neo-Nazis since at least the mid-1980s. While

the KKK is very active in Berlin and environs, nowadays, the NSDAP-AO operation of Gary Lauck was the first to massively (and rather easily) penetrate eastern Germany, through its bridgehead in Hungary, the source said.

Any publication of information such as this was banned by the communist regime and its intelligence agency, the Stasi. In 1988, independent researchers at the eastern Berlin Humboldt University and Leipzig University were prevented from publishing reports on the existence of a neo-Nazi milieu in eastern Germany, upon directives from the "very top." The group was forced to disband.

Another dissident investigative group at the Education Ministry, which was looking into neo-Nazi activities at universities and public schools, was also disbanded.

What remained intact, however, was two sections of the Stasi, Sections 20 (penetration operations) and 22 (counter-terrorism), which were officially dealing with the neo-Nazi problem. Files on what they did, and how they did it, are, mysteriously, no longer available. And if there are files left over, they are now in the hands of the government in Bonn, which has a policy of declaring all data that involve sensitive aspects of East-West intelligence operations in the 1970s and 1980s "top secret, classified" material that can't be made public.

The same Stasi that had groomed left-wing terrorism in what was then West Germany, was apparently nurturing neo-Nazi groups as well. The fact that the Stasi did not intervene against an operation run by "western agent" Gary Lauck into East Germany from Hungary, does not come as a surprise, either: The Stasi was, after all, a partner in U.S. intelligence operations like Oliver North's arms-peddling affair.