

Editorial

Forget Sherlock Holmes

There is no question but that President Clinton, with the support of the FBI, acted rapidly and effectively in response to the Oklahoma bombing. The role of the mass media is another thing entirely. They consistently treat every news story, tragic or otherwise, as if it were a soap opera. But this is only one aspect of the way they act to brainwash the population; the other problem is the tendency to treat a crime like the bombing as a "whodunit," a situation in which Sherlock Holmes might have intervened.

This obscures consideration of what really happened on April 19 in Oklahoma City. A terrible crime was committed, and as a result of that crime, almost 200 people were killed and others were mutilated. A great deal of suffering was imposed on innocent people.

What exactly was the nature of this crime? Was it an unprovoked killing spree by one or more nuts who believed they had grievances against the U.S. government or the Clinton administration in particular, or was something else involved?

To make the point clear, let us suppose that an armed robber holds up a 7-11 store, and in the course of the robbery becomes frightened and shoots one or more innocent bystanders. To understand the nature of the crime, it is important to recognize that the principal motive was robbery, and the murder was a byproduct of this.

Similarly in the case of the Oklahoma bombings, we must seek to understand the real nature of the crime itself. Was the bombing the expression of populist outrage? Or was it not, in fact, an act of irregular warfare, whose target was the United States itself; an act of an internationalist terrorist apparatus organized from London?

To answer those questions, we must recognize that the Oklahoma bombing occurred as part of a pattern of terrorism, an outbreak of terrorism in the same period which includes events such as the Tokyo poison gas attack, and other less dramatic terrorist incidents in the Mideast and in Europe. Furthermore, it occurred in the context of open hostility by the British Crown against

the American President.

More specifically, the Oklahoma bombing should be seen in the context of the intervention into U.S. right-wing circles—in particular the militia groups—by the very high-level British intelligence operative Lord William Rees-Mogg, who publishes a newsletter, *Strategic Investment*, widely read in these circles. In its March 22 issue, there was a feature article with the title "Waco²," which laid out the scenario for a confrontation between the militias and what the author termed "government storm troopers." According to the scenario presented, an incident would be staged by the Justice Department which would serve as a pretext for "Field Marshal Reno" to declare martial law. Included in the article is the characterization, "the Democratic Party has been converted into a close cousin of fascism."

After the bombing, on April 21, the London *Guardian* reported that Tory Members of the British Parliament, "still resentful at the U.S. administration's red carpet welcome for Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein President, in Washington last month, responded to the Oklahoma bomb outrage by claiming that it had taught the Americans a lesson."

Thus we can say that before the act itself, the crime had begun, with the newsletter's provocation to violence. After the event, Rees-Mogg and his associates continued their efforts to generate hysteria among the militias and other right-wing circles, and British political leaders gloated about the bombing.

Now if we look at the circumstances of the event itself, another aspect of the case suggests itself for investigation: the sophistication of the design of the explosives to cause such extensive damage. Was suspect Timothy McVeigh perhaps a scapegoat, covering for the activities of highly professional terrorists? Whatever the role of McVeigh and any possible associates, the important question to be investigated is to what extent those British operatives who are in fact politically culpable for deliberating creating the climate in which the attack took place, may also have been criminally culpable.