



Police officer Philippe Granges shows two bottles found containing unidentified liquids in front of one of the destroyed chalets in Les Granges, Switzerland.

## Two cult leaders sought in deaths

### Arson, murder warrants issued

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — Arrest warrants were issued Friday for two leaders of a doomsday cult as investigations showed that many of the 53 sect members who died in Switzerland and Canada may have been murdered.

Warrants for Luc Joret and Joe di Membro, also identified by authorities as Joseph di Mambro, said they were wanted on suspicion of arson and premeditated homicide.

The issuing of warrants by the Swiss is the strongest indication yet that authorities believe the two leaders are still alive.

THOMAS KROMPECHER, chief pathologist at Lausanne university hospital, said Friday that Joret and di Mambro were not among the five bodies identified so far.

He said the autopsies on the 23 bodies found in a farmhouse in Chery should be complete early next week. But he said tests and identification of the 25 corpses discovered in two chalets in Granges-sur-Salvan would be much more difficult as many were severely charred.

"I wouldn't even recognize my own brother or mother," Krompecher said.

JORET AND di Mambro, known as the "Dictator" to his followers, visited their chalet hours before elaborately rigged

bombs set off fires in it and other buildings associated with the cult, an investigator said Friday.

Joret, a 47-year-old Belgian doctor, has been described as the charismatic leader of the doomsday Order of the Solar Tradition. He frequently held lectures predicting the end of the world.

However, there were increasing reports that di Mambro, an elusive 70-year-old French-Canadian, was the mastermind and controlled the financial strings.

"JORET WAS AN instrument. He had this prophetic quality and so was useful," one former cult member told Swiss television. "But the real power was di Mambro."

"Di Mambro was never seen. I never spoke to him, but there was no doubt that he was the grand master," said the former member. His face and voice were distorted by the television to conceal his identity.

In the Alpine village of Granges-sur-Salvan, there was a flurry of eyewitness reports that Joret and di Mambro had been seen just before the fatal fires.

INVESTIGATING JUDGE Jean-Pascale Jaquemot told Swiss radio that a locksmith had let the two men into their chalet 4 p.m. Tuesday, 12 hours before the elaborately rigged bombs wrecked the chalets.

# Hold-up duo sentenced

## In robbery of Helena businesses

By BILL SKIDMORE  
IR Staff Writer

Two escaped convicts who robbed a Helena McDonalds and a Mini-Mart at gunpoint a year ago were sentenced to stiff terms Thursday by District Judge Thomas Honzel.

Richard A. White, 31, and Kenneth C. Kelly, 38, were sentenced to 40 years (with 20 suspended) plus four years for using a weapon. The prison terms will begin only after their prior sentences have been served.

White and Kelly escaped from Montana State Prison in Deer Lodge on Sept. 20, 1993, where they were sent after being convicted of a series of robberies in Cascade County. Kelly had been sentenced to 32 years and White to 17.

Deputy County Attorney Lisa Leckie said it was estimated the earliest Kelly could have been released with maximum credit for good behavior was the year 2011, while White's earliest possible release would have been in 1998.

She noted that their escape and subsequent offenses are likely to

move those dates back, making it still later before Honzel's new sentences will begin.

In addition, she said, the men were designated dangerous offenders. That means they will have to serve at least half of the new sentences before they could even be considered for parole. And, she said early parole would seem unlikely in light of their actions after escaping.

After getting away from the prison in Deer Lodge, White and Kelly robbed the Mini Mart at 4760 N. Montana on Sept. 26, 1993, and the McDonalds at 1901 Prospect the following day. In each case, authorities said, White held the gun and took the money while Kelly drove the getaway car.

Helena police, well aware that two inmates were on the loose and having been informed they had bought a 1977 station wagon at a Helena dealership one day after the McDonald's robbery, publicized descriptions of the men and their vehicle.

The next day, Oct. 2, 1993, a motorist with a cellular phone spotted the vehicle on an I-15 frontage road just north of Craig

## Armored car robbers' sentences cut

IR Staff

A federal judge in Helena handed down reduced sentences Friday to two of the five men convicted in last year's attempted armored truck heist near Avon.

U.S. District Judge Charles Lovell sentenced Richard Chandler to 25 months in prison followed by five years of supervised release. Lovell reduced the sentence based on Chandler's cooperation in the case. Chandler would have been sentenced to 78 to 97 months in prison, according to Assistant U.S. Attorney Kris McLean.

Daniel Koenig was sentenced to 35 months in prison

followed by five years of supervised release, instead of the initial sentence of 63 to 78 months, McLean said.

Both Koenig and Chandler testified against the other three at trial.

Koenig had admitted he was a lookout during the heist, and Chandler, a former employee of the Helena-based Security Armored Express Co. whose truck was the heist target — has said he provided robbery leader Gene Camp with inside information about business procedures.

In August, the others received the maximum sentence: Gene Camp, 18½ years; his brother, Victor Camp, 17½ years and Todd Oatman, 14 years.

and called 911. Highway Patrol officers and Cascade County sheriff's deputies nabbed the men at a roadblock.

Leckie said the suspects' pleas where delayed until this year by legal maneuvering over possible

defenses and whether separate trials were called for. Also complicating the issue was the fact that they also faced separate theft and escape charges in Powell County.

## WASP

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"We were independent contractors hired by the Army Air Force," she said. "Since then, we have received military status and honorary discharge."

Cooke, now 84, believes she is the oldest living WASP.

SHE MIGHT FIND OUT next week when she reunites with fellow members of the WASP in Washington, D.C. There, the WASP veterans will be honored by President and Mrs. Clinton at a ceremony to be held in the White House Rose Garden. The women will present the Clintons with a bronze statue of a WASP member.

Cooke is amazed at the recognition the WASP has received since their 50th reunion two years ago.

"Before, no one was interested in us," she said. "People here have never heard of us."

At the organization's 50th anniversary reunion held in Sweetwater, Texas, Cooke recalls the speech by U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno, whose aunt was a WASP.

"She said if we could do what we did she could do anything," Cooke said. "She said we were her inspiration."

BORN IN ILLINOIS in 1910, Cooke took up flying in 1934 while living in Los Angeles.

BETWEEN 1942 AND 1944 the 1,074 members of the WASP flew every airplane in America's air arsenal from the P-51 Mustang to the B-29 Superfortress.

Established by aviatrix Jacqueline Cochran, the WASP ferried thousands of airplanes to coastal ports for shipment to war theaters.

"I never dreamed I could fly, I just didn't think I could," she said. "I was scared to death of it and I just had to conquer it and I did."

Cooke received her first pilot's license in 1936. Next, she considered joining the Civilian Pilot Training Program but it was terminated for women in 1941. Shortly thereafter, the WASP was established and she was accepted.

She recalls her experiences.

"I flew many places from New Jersey to Portland in to Canada," she said. "I even flew planes to Great Falls that were going to Russia. They had the red stars on the side."

COOKE HASN'T FLOWN since the WASP was disbanded in December 1944.

"I got married and I just didn't fly," she said. "I had flown the best the U.S. had to offer and I couldn't go back to flying in California with all the traffic."

## Murder

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doing," Blake said in court. "I was very angry." An interpreter translated his statements. Blake, 33, is from Mexico and spoke in Spanish.

The death of Stevenson was Judith Basin County's first murder in 49 years, and his funeral packed the Hobson High School gymnasium, the only place big enough to hold all of the mourners.

Blake had claimed he was unable to speak or understand English well enough to comprehend his constitutional rights when he talked with the FBI and allowed his house to be searched. He told investigators that he killed Stevenson.

Blake had asked that use of the statement be prohibited at trial, but District Judge Peter Rapkoch denied the request.

Marian Stevenson, the rancher's widow, told reporters on Friday that the death penalty is warranted, and life in prison without parole is the only acceptable alternative.

## Iraq

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Faisal, met with Clinton at the White House and, afterwards, pledged his country's cooperation. A U.S. official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said that includes allowing the United States to use its bases in Saudi Arabia as a staging area for air or land strikes in Iraq.

In New York, U.S. Ambassador Madeleine K. Albright hinted the United States might launch punitive air strikes if Iraq violates the cease-fire accords signed at the conclusion of the 1991 Gulf War.

"Let it be absolutely clear to the Iraqi government that a repetition of its past mistakes will be met by my government with the same resolve as before," she told the U.N. General Assembly.

Besides the American forces ordered to the region, the British Ministry of Defense announced it was sending an extra frigate, HMS Cornwall, to patrol off Kuwait.

U.S. officials said elements of two elite Republican Guard units had joined forces with other divisions based in southern Iraq, bringing the number of Iraqi troops near the border to between 40,000 and 50,000 men.

Some units were "very close to the border ... within tens of clicks" (kilometers) of Kuwait, one senior Defense official said.

In response, Clinton ordered a series of precautionary steps designed to give Saddam pause, including:

- Shifting the aircraft carrier USS George Washington, currently in the Adriatic Sea, to the Red Sea from whence its aircraft could strike Iraq if necessary. It is expected to arrive by Sunday night.

- Sending a four-ship amphibious assault group carrying 2,000 Marines from the southern Persian Gulf north toward Kuwait.

- Dispatching Army ships loaded with heavy weaponry toward the Gulf. They are normally based on the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia and will take up to five or six days to reach the region.

- Increasing airborne reconnaissance.
- Updating a target list for potential air strikes by Tomahawk cruise missiles.

## Sphinx

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Sphinx, built by pharaonic artisans 4,600 years ago as half-man, half-beast. Egyptologists debate much about the Sphinx, including whose placid and alluring face was the model.

Most agree it's Pharaoh Chephren, son of the pharaoh of the Great Pyramid, Cheops.

Treasure-seekers have searched inside the Sphinx since antiquity. Because so few relics survive from the days of the early pharaohs, some believe there must be a cache somewhere inside.

No treasure is known to have

surfaced, although in 1987 a secret passage yielded some shoes and an early 20th century newspaper.

The new passage was discovered by restorers repairing frail portions of the statue. Ancients crafted the Sphinx from good and bad rock. Ever since, man has been trying to keep the Sphinx from falling apart.

Restorers had reached the halfway point on the Sphinx's left side last summer when they were intrigued by a patch of rocks that seemed different from those around them.

Hawass said the team consulted thousands of old photographs

of the statue, looking for answers. They found them in a 1926 picture taken during a restoration effort after the Sphinx was dug out of a sandy grave. The photo showed a man standing at the entrance of a passage.

The passage was sealed by new blocks, and restorers didn't record what was found, Hawass said. "We hadn't thought much about the photo, and we didn't know which rocks were the ones in the picture," he said.

"It's amazing," Hawass said. "After all this time, the Sphinx still holds its secrets."

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