

## Edward Snowden's Communist and Terrorist Friends

By Cliff Kincaid – November 11, 2013

A fascinating aspect of the Edward Snowden affair, demonstrating his close collaboration with anti-American forces worldwide, has just come to the attention of the media. Contained in several stories about one of his meetings in Moscow was the name of his key German contact, a member of the German Green Party, <a href="Hans Christian">Hans Christian</a> Ströbele, who is also a member of the German Parliament. Buried in some of these accounts is the fact that Ströbele is a prominent German lawyer who represented the communist terrorist group, the Baader-Meinhof Gang—also known as the Red Army Faction (RAF).

Incredibly, Ströbele is now a member of a German parliamentary committee that oversees German intelligence agencies. He has sent letters to the U.S. House and Senate intelligence committees proposing a "dialogue between both of our monitoring committees and their members and to discuss future changes in the intelligence policy." It's extremely doubtful the U.S. Congress will favorably respond to his initiatives. But the Congressional Progressive Caucus may find his offer appealing.

In Germany, this far-left pro-communist and pro-terrorist lawmaker has significant influence. He is leading a <u>campaign</u> to have the German government protect Edward Snowden by giving him asylum in Germany.

His biography refers to the RAF terrorist killers as "political prisoners."

The book, <u>Tolerating Terrorism in the West: An International Survey</u>, notes that Ströbele had been sentenced to 10 months imprisonment in 1982 for setting up a communications network between the prisoners of the RAF and activists outside the jails. He claims this was because of his "mission as a defender" of the RAF prisoners from 1970-1975. Ströbele says the sentence was changed to probation.

In Moscow, Ströbele handed Snowden the "Honorary Diploma of the Whistleblower Award 2013." in honor of his theft and release of classified documents on NSA

surveillance programs. The term "whistleblower" is still being accepted by some dupes in the West who are willing to ignore Snowden's international connections to America's enemies and adversaries.



Snowden and Strobele

Ströbele's immediate purpose is to get the former NSA contractor—who has been granted temporary political asylum in Russia—to leave Moscow and testify before a German parliamentary committee hearing on the details of NSA surveillance in Europe.

Alleged U.S. eavesdropping on foreign leaders, including Brazil's President <u>Dilma</u> <u>Rousseff</u> and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, has figured prominently in this controversy.

Not mentioned in the coverage of this "scandal" is the fact that there are good reasons why the Brazilian and German governments might come under U.S. surveillance. Rousseff is a former Marxist guerrilla who was chief of staff to former Brazilian president and Worker's Party leader Lula da Silva. The Worker's Party is a Marxist political organization in Brazil and Lula was a personal friend of Fidel Castro. Although Merkel is considered an ally, the German Parliament includes not only members of the far-left Green Party like Ströbele, but the Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS), descended from the old ruling party in East Germany and now called the Left Party.

Ströbele's representation of the RAF, whose members were trained at Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) camps, demonstrates that members of the international communist left in Germany, as well as the U.S., have not disappeared, but in some cases have assumed positions of power and influence. The RAF was the German equivalent of the Weather Underground in the U.S.

The RAF kidnapped and murdered German corporation executives, bankers, and police; bombed U.S. military bases; and attacked U.S. military personnel in Europe in

the 1970s and 80s. One of their victims was U.S. Army Specialist Edward Pimental, who was abducted and executed with a bullet to the back of his head. One of his terrorist killers was released in 2007.

"The prisoners should have the chance for a new life," <u>Stroebele said</u>, referring to the terrorists being released from prison.



The famous KGB archivist, Col. Vasili Mitrokhin, revealed in the book, <u>The Sword and the Shield</u>, that the Soviet KGB, mostly through the East German intelligence service, was behind this campaign of violence and terrorism by the Baader Meinhof Gang/RAF. The purpose was to undermine the U.S. and the NATO Alliance—of which Germany is a member—in Europe.

Egged on by Snowden and his communist backers, Brazil and Germany introduced a U.N. General Assembly "anti-spying" resolution on November 7, urging all countries to recognize "internationally guaranteed rights to privacy to the Internet and other electronic communications," as The Washington Post described it.

Snowden signed a <u>letter</u> brought back by Ströbele expressing his willingness to testify as an "expert witness" on NSA surveillance. The letter refers to Snowden's work for the NSA, CIA, and Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA). But Snowden is facing espionage charges in the U.S., and Germany would be expected to detain and extradite him to the U.S. if he ever set foot on German soil.

A German magazine, Die Welt, <u>reports</u> that high-ranking German security sources say the meeting in Moscow between Snowden, Ströbele, and the others was organized and monitored by the Russian FSB, the successor to the KGB. "This plays into the hands of the Russians," a German intelligence officer said about the campaign to have Snowden come to Germany and testify.

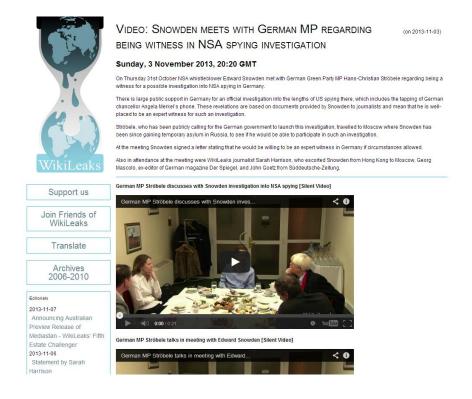
The old Soviet Union always sought to divide the U.S. from Germany and its other allies in NATO and Europe. The Putin regime in Russia is using Snowden to try to accomplish the same thing.

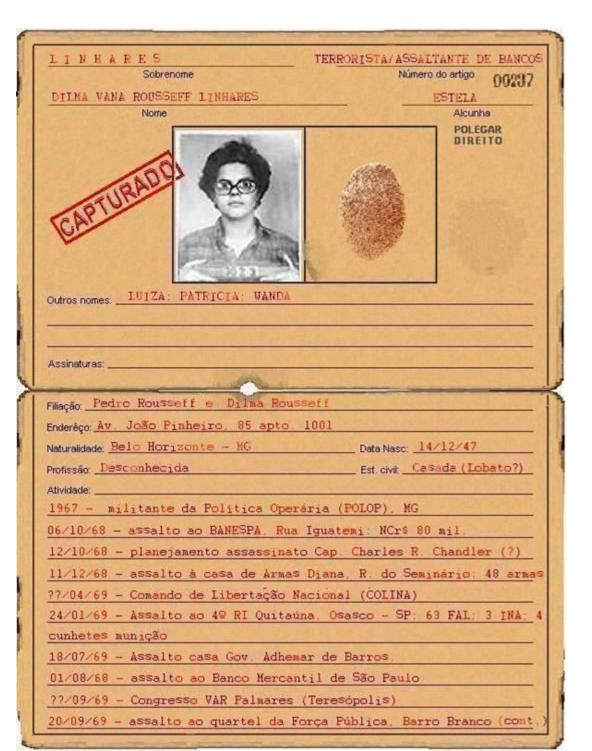
The story gets even more interesting when you consider that one of the more detailed <u>accounts</u> of Ströbele's visit with Snowden in Moscow appeared in the People's World, the newspaper of the Communist Party USA, and that the author, Victor Grossman, is an American communist who defected to East Germany and wrote a book about it.

Ströbele is described in the article as "always (or almost always) the Green deputy opposing wars in Iraq, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Patriot missiles for Israel, who fought hardest against anti-foreigner discrimination (even supporting the right of immigrant-rooted police officers to wear turbans or head cloths) and a Turkish version of Germany's national anthem."

Another member of the German Green Party is Joseph Martin "Joschka" Fischer, the German foreign minister and vice chancellor from 1998-2005, under former Chancellor Gerhard Schroder. Fischer was a supporter of the Baader-Meinhoff Gang and attended a 1969 meeting of the Palestine Liberation Organization at which the PLO dedicated itself to the destruction of Israel.

One participant in the Moscow meeting with Snowden was John Goetz, identified as an American journalist living in Germany and associated with a website called "Secret Wars," which purports to know how the U.S. war on terror is conducted from covert bases in Germany. Goetz is now representing Süddeutsche-Zeitung, a major German newspaper.





## RAF "Communique # 2" Regarding the Action Against the Rhein-Main Air Base and the Shooting of Edward Pimental

August 25th 1985

The purpose of the action was to render a coordinating point of the US military machine - A CENTER FOR CARRYING OUT IMPERIALIST WAR – nonfunctional. That meant to materially act against their commando centre or their military equipment (given that it was not possible, for a variety of reasons, to act against the headquarters) and against those who operate this machinery, as such, against the Air Base and all the soldiers who, whether in the headquarters or elsewhere, "do their job." The fact is that every transport of US intervention troops to the Mediterranean region and/or the Middle East is already organized from there. As we were carrying out the action, the "Bright Star" Maneuvers were approaching their end and the troops were already withdrawing through the Air Base. During the TWA hijacking, a Killer Commando of the Delta Force flew out of the Air Base in the direction of the Middle East, in preparation for the planned military solution. And when soldiers are to be sent directly into action, for example the Special Units of the Air Force, they are stationed at the Air Base.

THE AIR BASE, IN ITS FUNCTION AS A COORDINATING POINT FOR IMPERIALIST WAR AND AS A SECRET SERVICE CENTRE, STANDS AT THE CENTER OF THE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE INTERNATIONAL STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION AND IMPERIALISM - WHICH IS WAR - AND, AS SUCH, SO DO ALL THE SOLDIERS WHO ARE THERE.

The international class war has, since Vietnam, developed so significantly at the dialectical level in favour of struggle that we have determined the escalation of the revolutionary war in the metropole, for ourselves, to mean a COMMON ATTACK BY THE WEST EUROPEAN GUERRILLA.

Through the struggle of the urban guerrilla commandos of the FMLN against the US Marines in San Salvador, through the hijacking of the TWA aircraft by the "organization of the oppressed of the earth" in Lebanon and now through the attack against the Air Base via a common commando made up members of Action Directe and ourselves, the perspective for the international anti-imperialist revolutionary front is made realistic on a new level. It is in a position to shatter imperialist power and achieve a new breakthrough for the worldwide liberation process. ONLY IN THIS SHARP CONFRONTATION WILL THE WARS OF LIBERATION AND THE STRUGGLE FOR COMMUNISM IN THE WEST EUROPEAN METROPOLE HAVE A REALISTIC CHANCE OF SUCCESS.

In this process, one essential task for the West European guerrilla is to disrupt the functional capacity of the imperialist military machine here in the center, to make the planning and organizing of their intervention impossible. We shot Edward Pimental, the air defense specialist, who was in the army of his own free will, and in the FRG [2] for the last three months, and who gave up his previous job because he hoped to get ahead more quickly and easily. We shot him because we needed his ID card to get onto the Air Base. For us, US soldiers in the FRG are not simultaneously villains and victims. This social worker caricature does not play a role in how we understand them.

After Vietnam, Lebanon, Grenada and the official introduction of the Air-Land Battle Doctrine, the official strategy for Blitzkrieg in the Third World and against the socialist states in the East, every soldier must understand that he will pay for waging war. That is to say, THEY MUST ALL UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS WAR AND MAKE A DECISION.

Naturally, this is not based on a misplaced anti-Americanism, as is claimed in the media. It is based on a practical understanding of the international class war, with a perspective for the development of the revolutionary process in the West European metropole.

THE MILITARY BASES, FACILITIES AND COMMANDO CENTRES OF THE US STRIKE FORCES AND OF NATO ARE WAR SITES.

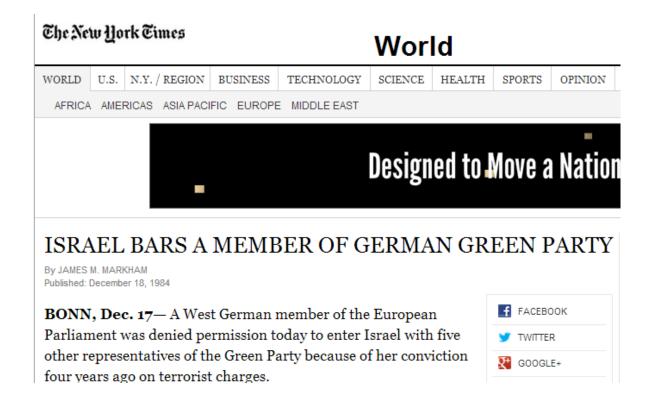
According to Victor Grossman, Goetz "did a series on Germany's secret assistance to the U.S. war in Iraq" and helped expose the "extraordinary renditions" of anti-American terrorists to secret locations that required German government cooperation.

Other participants in the meeting were Georg Mascolo, a former editor in charge of crime, terrorism, and intelligence issues at Der Spiegel, the German news magazine, and Sarah Harrison of WikiLeaks.

WikiLeaks has posted silent videos of the Moscow meeting.

Snowden's lawyer is another interesting character in this process. Anatoly Kucherena, described as "linked" to FSB and "Kremlin-connected," says his client has accepted a job with a Russian website and that he is studying Russian.

In an article from 2002, written in honor of Russian President Vladimir Putin's fiftieth birthday, Kucherena praised Putin, a former Soviet KGB officer, as a "reformer," reports Deutsche Welle, a German broadcasting company that has covered some of the controversial aspects of the Snowden affair. Kucherena emerged as "one of Vladimir Putin's most prominent supporters and campaigned for him" in 2012, the news organization reported.





World News > Visitors to Snowden and visitors to Berlin

## Visitors to Snowden and visitors to Berlin

by: VICTOR GROSSMAN november 5 2013

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tags: Germany, USA, Greens, journalists, international relations, elections, public power, environment



BERLIN - It was a good try, anyway -- and an adventurous one. Three men flew from Berlin to Moscow, were taken in a car with tinted glass windows to a secret location - where they met Edward Snowden and his partner-in- (alleged)-crime, Sarah Harrison.

The meeting was very interesting. So were the three visitors.

## The Green man

Trio leader was <u>Hans-Christian Stroebele</u>, 74, Bundestag representative from a mixed East-West Berlin electoral district, the only Green Party delegate directly elected (four times);

the other 62 got in thanks to Germany's proportional representation system. Anyone joining in anti-war rallies recognizes the rather haggard-looking man who - until recently - always arrived pedaling a bike. He was always (or almost always) the Green deputy opposing wars in Iraq, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Patriot missiles for Israel, who fought hardest against anti-foreigner discrimination (even supporting the right of immigrant-rooted police officers to wear turbans or head cloths and a Turkish version of Germany's national anthem. A constant thorn in the side of war-happy Green Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer (1998-2005), he has (almost) always been a maverick, well to the left of other Green leaders. And as a maverick he flew to Moscow.