

firearms-related charges. Schweitzer and Peterson were leaders of the Freeman, a small group of individuals in central Montana who hold strong feelings against the U.S. Government. Individuals most active in the group had experienced severe financial problems, and many of their properties were the subject of foreclosure proceedings. These experiences led members to view themselves as "sovereign citizens" and a law unto themselves. Their arrest sparked an 81-day stand-off which pitted the 16 remaining Freeman inhabitants of the "Justus Township" compound against federal law enforcement officials.

Members of the Freeman Organization engaged in "paper terrorism" by clogging legal and financial institutions in Montana with phoney documents such as illegal liens on property and forged money orders. Soon the group escalated their tactics by threatening government employees and conducting court proceedings in their own common law courts. During 1994, Freeman-generated documents were circulated in parts of Montana, offering a bounty of \$1 million for the arrest and conviction of the Garfield County prosecutor and sheriff as well as other local government officials.

The stand-off, which began on March 26, 1996, was peacefully concluded on June 13, 1996, with the surrender of 16 individuals.

WEST VIRGINIA

MOUNTAINEER MILITIA MEMBERS ARRESTED

On October 11, 1996, Floyd Raymond Looker was arrested in north-central West Virginia. Looker is the commanding general of a right-wing paramilitary organization known as The Mountaineer Militia.

The group obtained blueprints of the FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services facility in West Virginia and attempted to sell the plans to another terrorist organization. When arrested, Looker had just received \$50,000 for the blueprints from an undercover FBI Special Agent posing as a frontman for a terrorist group.

The Mountaineer Militia had been under investigation for possession and interstate transportation of explosive materials. The investigation revealed that the group possessed unlicensed automatic weapons and silencers.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

REZAQ SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON

On June 17, 1996, the trial of Abu Nidal Organization terrorist Omar Mohammad Ali Rezaq commenced in Washington, D.C. On July 19, 1996, Rezaq was convicted on charges of Air Piracy, and on October 7, 1996, he was sentenced to life in prison.

Rezaq's trial resulted from the November 23, 1985 terrorist hijacking of EgyptAir Flight 648 en route from Athens, Greece, to Cairo, Egypt. Upon landing in Malta, Rezaq shot two Israeli and three American passengers in the head and dumped their bodies on the tarmac. Two of these shooting victims, one American and one Israeli, died. On November 24, 1985, Egyptian commandoes stormed the aircraft in a rescue attempt. However, in the ensuing chaos, 58 passengers were shot or burned to death aboard the aircraft. On July 15, 1993, an FBI arrest team took Rezaq into custody in Lagos, Nigeria, and brought him back to the United States to stand trial on Air Piracy charges.

EMBASSY ATTACKER APPREHENDED

The apprehension of Tsutomu Shirosaki, a Japanese Red Army member, occurred abroad on September 21, 1996. Shirosaki allegedly launched two explosives at the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta and onto the Embassy grounds on May 14, 1986.

The FBI returned Shirosaki to the United States where he was arraigned on September 30, 1996, in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. Charges against Shirosaki include assault with intent to murder, attempted murder of internationally-protected persons, and attempted destruction of buildings.