I finally managed to build gcc4.

The problem was caused by the paragraph in Scott Meyers' article "Building gcc 4 for Windows 2000" (http://www.aristeia.com/Misc/gcc4ForWindows_frames.html) where he suggests to use the Unix sh command "PATH=...".

I find this paragraph strongly misleading if not simply wrong:

The path is already set by changing the environment variable as Marcelo Slomp suggests in his original article, immediately before the paragraph in question. So the Unix sh command is not necessary and in fact - at least on my system - caused some strange effects and finally foiled the build process.

So the simple solution is: Do as Slomp and Meyers suggest but do not modify the path in the mingw window. Instead set the path under Windows as Slomp suggests and afterwards change it to "[drive]:\msys\mingw\bin".

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