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STATINTL

Can an Agent Be Sued**Ruling Set in CIA Case**

CPYRGHT

A Baltimore Federal Judge is again pondering whether to throw out a \$110,000 slander suit against a CIA agent who is charged with calling a former Estonian freedom fighter an agent of the Soviet secret police.

Judge Roszel Thomsen said yesterday that he had heard enough argument in the case and that it was time for him "to stop in and ring the bell," by preparing an opinion on the unusual issues involved.

Erick Heine has charged CIA agent Juri Raus, also of Estonian origin, with slander

for calling Mr. Heine a member of the K.G.B., the Soviet secret police, thereby ruining Mr. Heine's career as an anti-communist lecturer.

The defense has not denied the statements were made, but instead has contended that Mr. Raus was privileged to make them as a Government agent.

Mr. Heine's lawyers hotly claim it is unfair to deny them the right of law suit or even deny them the right to cross-examine.