



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Seattle, Washington
November 21, 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2003 2008

① Re: EERIK HEINE

On July 10, 1963, SULEV MIHKELSON and NINA HOLM, officers of the Seattle Estonian Society advised that they have no personal knowledge of the subject but that they had learned that he would be in the area and would lecture in Seattle. Sources both believed that the subject would be a house guest of JOHANNES HANNIBAL. They advised that HANNIBAL was formerly active in the Seattle Estonian Society but more recently was organizing a group known as "Legion for Estonian Liberation", membership in which is restricted to Estonians with former military service. Sources were unable to advise the nature or degree of acquaintances or relationship between HANNIBAL and the subject.

The files of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Seattle, Washington, were reviewed on August 2, 1962, and furnished the following information:

JOHANNES HANNIBAL, a naturalized citizen of the United States, who has furnished reliable information in the past, was contacted at his residence, 3810 Aurora Avenue, Seattle, on July 19, 1963. HANNIBAL stated that he had received a letter within the past two or three days from one JURI RAUS who is the national commander of the Legion of Estonian Liberation, Inc., Estonian House, 243 East 34th Street, New York City. HANNIBAL stated that RAUS is also a captain in the United States Army.

HANNIBAL stated that RAUS wrote to him and told him that EERIK HEINE would be arriving in Seattle, Sunday morning, July 21, 1963, and requested that he, HANNIBAL, make arrangements for HEINE to address the Seattle branch of the organization which consists of twenty-one members.

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Re: ERIK HEINE

HANNIBAL, therefore, arranged for the use of the Latvian House at 43rd and Densmore, Seattle, and he states that HEINE was to show a film based on his experiences in Estonia and Russia, as well as make a talk.

He stated that RAUS told him in the letter that he should caution the members of the Seattle branch to be very careful about anything they might say to HEINE as he is under suspicion as a possible contact or sympathizer with the Soviets. HANNIBAL stated that the suspicion apparently is based on the unreasonable details of HEINE's background, which he has been incorporating into his talks and which apparently are included in the film which he shows to various people.

On July 22, 1963, HANNIBAL advised that the subject was still in Seattle but was going to leave Wednesday, July 24, 1963, for Vancouver. He stated that as far as he had noticed there was nothing which transpired during subject's stay in Seattle which would indicate that he was favorable to the Soviets.

HANNIBAL advised that the subject showed a film at the Latvian House in Seattle, on Sunday, the 21st of July, which took about two hours to complete. He stated that the film was made, as far as he knows, by the subject in Canada with volunteer actors of the Estonian community of Canada who performed without pay. HANNIBAL stated that the subject was very outspoken and did not request information from anybody but seemed to be anxious to relate his own experiences, and it is his impression that some of the experiences related by the subject were exaggerations designed to cast himself in the role of a hero. HANNIBAL stated that there were thirty in attendance at the show in the Latvian House, about half of whom were members of the Legion of Estonian Liberation. The other fifteen were made up of members of the local chapter of the Estonian Lutheran Congregation and the Estonian Society of Seattle.

HANNIBAL advised that the subject has a brother-in-law in Canada, named ARVED VIIRLAID. HANNIBAL stated that VIIRLAID who is an author has written two books devoted to the subject's experiences fighting the Russian occupation forces, entitled RISTIDETA HANAD I and RISTIDETA HANAD II. HANNIBAL stated that when the subject left Seattle on Thursday, July 24, he was destined to Vancouver where he was scheduled to show the picture and make a talk, and he also said that he was giving a show in four or five other places in Canada on his way back to Toronto, and the only one of which HANNIBAL could remember is Edmonton, Alberta.

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Re: EERIK HEINE

JOHANNES HANNIBAL furnished a letter addressed to him dated July 10, 1963, by JURI RAUS and a letter dated June 6, 1963, from ELMAR KEERD of New York. Both letters were written in the Estonian language.

Translations of the above communications are as follows:

"TRANSLATION FROM ESTONIAN

"New York, 6 June 1963

"To the most esteemed Chairman of the Seattle Estonian Freedom Fighters Union.

"Lt. EERIK HEINE now is on a tour of the USA in connection with the exhibition of his film 'Creators of Legend.' Lt. HEINE has created this film on the basis of his own experiences, and it deals with the battles of the Estonian partisans after the second Russian occupation in the year 1946 and following. Lt. HEINE himself fought for four years on the eastern front, was five years a partisan in Estonia, and suffered for 9 years in a Siberian slave-labor camp, on which theme it is planned to report separately.

"'Creators of Legend' has now completed its tour of the east coast and will be shown on June 16th in Chicago, on Victory Sunday in Minneapolis, on June 30th in Los Angeles, and July 13-14th over the week-end in San Francisco, and tentatively, July 20th in Portland. Thereafter the film will on July 21st reach Seattle, if this date is suitable to you. This will be the last showing in the USA, as then Lt. HEINE will move on to the west coast of Canada.

"Lt. HEINE is driving there in his own car, and he has all the necessary equipment for showing this film to about 200 persons. If there are more people, a larger screen is required (his screen is 6 x 5 ft.) - Lt. HEINE has prepared the film at his own expense, all the actors performing gratis. The price of admission has normally been \$2.00, except in New York where it was \$2.50.

"This film is under the sponsorship of the Estonian Freedom Fighters Union, the plan of the tour being to include also centers of Estonian colonies where there is no EVU (Estonian Freedom Fighters Union). By agreement with Lt. HEINE, the sole manager of this tour is the New York Estonian Freedom Fighters Union, and HEINE ?.....headquarters is with me.

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Re: EERIK HEINE

"If Sunday, July 21st is suitable to you, please inform me as quickly as possible so that announcements in the local papers can be arranged. At the same time please send a second letter to the chairman of the Portland EVU to be delivered to Lt. HEINE, and which will have a map showing the route into Seattle, and the person and address where he might stop at first, and how to get in touch with the local EVU.

"I wish to make it plain that Lt. HEINE will pay the necessary rents and current expenses. Essential however will be to set the precise date and time and the arrangements for getting the audience together.

"To the present, 'Creators of Legend' has been received in the USA very warmly and kindly, since it is actually a film of our national struggle.

"As an explanation about this film there is included a program.

"With co-combatant greetings,

"/s/ E. KEERD

"N.Y. EVU Chairman"

"TRANSLATION FROM ESTONIAN

"10 July 63

"Dear Mr. HANNIBAL:

"Around here strong rumors are circulating that our film exhibitor from Canada is a very untrustworthy fellow, and it is possible that he is working for the Russians. This has been expressed, they say, officially, for all practical purposes. These days anything is possible, and in this connection I beg of you to be wary in giving out information during his visit. Please report this to the members of the leadership, particularly to those who have been in the army here. The film itself is very fine and worth seeing. Also, I should like to request a detailed account of the visit. I trust that you will keep the matter under control, as necessity dictates. Here there is no idea to begin speculating as to whether he is or is not. The main point is not to place too much confidence in him.

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Re: EERIK HEINE

"Best wishes,

"/s/ JURI RAUS (?)"

"TRANSLATION FROM ESTONIAN

"Dear colleague JOHANNES HANNIBAL.

"Many thanks for agreeing to present the film. I forwarded to Lt. HEINE the information you sent, so he understands the circumstances.

"Meanwhile it was settled that in the framework of Estonia Days, there will be held a public ceremony in Los Angeles after the showing of the film, i.e. on July 3 at 10 o'clock p.m. in Estonia House. HEINE will give a talk in the church auditorium on June 30th. I am sure that if you attend the West Coast Days, you will surely meet Lt. HEINE. I am convinced that this tour is going according to plan, so no changes need be made there.

"After the film is shown, please send me a summary of impressions, and at the same time please note the approximate number of participants. In agreement with Lt. HEINE, I intend to draw up a general summary of the tour after the completion of this undertaking. If possible, please comment on the management of the tour, whether you were pleased with it or whether some matters might be improved on the part of the management. From this distance I cannot help matters to a greater extent.

"With best wishes,

"/s/ ELMAR KEERD
"N.Y. EVU Chairman"

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