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17 August 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Contact with Eugene "Sonny" HAJUSZCZAK

1. The lead to Subject was originally provided by [] who has known Subject's family for many years. Subject was considered by [] to be a good candidate for a REDKIN mission. Following acquisition of a FOA on Subject, I called him on or about 3 August, identifying myself as [], representing an agency of the United States Government. I arranged to meet him in Pittsburgh on the evening of 10 August to discuss a matter which was "personal and confidential."

2. After checking in with [] OO office in the afternoon (they were interested and helpful), I called Subject and arranged to meet him at 1930 hours in the lobby of the Roosevelt Hotel. Subject sounded a little dubious, as though he thought the whole thing might be a hoax, but agreed after I stated that I would identify myself to his satisfaction and explain the reason for contact when I met him.

3. We met as scheduled. After superficially examining my documentation and listening to a few words of explanation, Subject quickly accepted the situation and thereafter was entirely cooperative--even eager. After a cocktail or two apiece, I took Subject to a rather glamorous restaurant (which he had heard of but had never seen) overlooking the city and during dinner explained that the Agency was interested in him. I asked him to sign a secrecy agreement, explaining its significance. He did so after slight hesitation. At that point I did not reveal what my ultimate purpose in talking to him was, but rather questioned Subject about himself and his views. His personal history he later put down on a FRQ, but his views were as follows: He is a staunch Ukrainian nationalist. Despite his limited education, he discussed the subject intelligently and objectively, the latter despite his very firm views. Subject believes that, given a chance, the Ukrainian people would leave the USSR and set up an independent state. This opinion is

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based on his contact with Ukrainian-Americans and also some recent immigrants to the United States from the Soviet Ukraine. They are mostly Western Ukrainians. He believes the Ukraine has been exploited and persecuted for hundreds of years by Poles, Russians and Turks. On one hand, he believes that the Ukraine will survive as a state concept and as a people despite Soviet pressure, but on the other, somewhat contradictorily, he wonders how long the Ukrainians will hold out without at least some encouragement from the West, particularly the United States. He broadens this to include other non-Russian peoples of the USSR, with whom he sympathizes.

4. Subject dislikes Poles, holding them (as a nation) responsible for many of the Ukraine's problems. He said that attempts between American Poles and Ukrainians to cooperate and even intermarry have often failed because the two people cannot forget what transpired between them in the past and even recently.

5. Subject is very active among Ukrainian emigre ("old" as opposed to post-World War II) cultural organizations, and he considers this preoccupation to be entirely compatible with his American citizenship. I agreed with him that it is sad to see colorful customs of national groups lost as Americans become ever more homogenous (I agreed but I'm not sure I believe it). Subject said that for his family there was no question of marrying outside the Ukrainian community. He was very much intent on the retention of a cohesive Ukrainian national group in the United States. Yet for all his interest in things cultural, unlike many old Ukrainian emigres and their offspring, Subject was interested in Ukrainian politics and was, as I mentioned above, a strong anti-Communist as well as an ethnic Ukrainian.

6. Personally Subject is at ease in conversation, very likeable although not impressive physically. He is rather short and squat with dark hair which is receding. He is rather non-descript. He is not nervous or tense. From what he said and from what I observed he seemed to enjoy life fully and seemed to be satisfied with everything save lack of career progress with the Kroger Corporation. Subject is toying with the idea of going into some kind of business either alone or in partnership with a friend. (He is now Chief Clerk or Assistant Manager of a Kroger food store.) Subject said that although he was by nature shy, he had learned to like meeting the public.

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7. At what I considered the proper point in the conversation and after deciding that on the basis of the conversation to that point Subject qualified as a REDSKIN candidate, I asked Subject whether he had ever considered a tourist trip to the Ukraine. Subject said that his elder sister had asked him to go with her this year, but that he had declined principally because of other vacation plans and to some extent because of the current international situation. However, he was interested in going sometime. I briefed him generally on the Agency's interest in such a trip. Subject said that under these circumstances he would certainly be willing, even eager to go. As to timing, if we were interested in having him go in this year, he could probably get leave without pay and would be willing to do so. He thought that if he went to the Ukraine, his sister would insist on going too. (This would be advantageous for cover purposes, either making the sister witting or leaving her unwitting.) When I asked Subject whether his income or savings were sufficient to make such a lengthy, expensive trip plausible, Subject said that he could reasonably afford such a trip. (Subject is unmarried.) I also told Subject that if we sent him in, his expenses would be covered by this Agency. Further, I said that of course my agency would agree to such an arrangement only if Subject would agree to perform certain tasks on its behalf. Subject understood clearly the basis for any such agreement.

8. Without stressing the danger aspect, I asked Subject how he felt about a risk element. I said that our plans had not been refined to the point where this risk element could be estimated and that I did not know whether such an element would even be present in our plans, but I asked in general how Subject felt about risk. Subject answered quite creditably that unless the risk was better defined he could not answer such a question. He said that would not rule out a mission involving risk if the risk was not foolish or too great.

9. Our meeting ended about 0100 hours. Subject was eager for a decision on our part as to whether or not he would be used this year. I told him that when a decision had been reached I would call him. In the meantime he should put the matter in the back of his mind except for casual mention among members of his family and friends that he was thinking about a tourist trip to the Ukraine at some time in the future, date unspecified. Subject agreed to do so.

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10. I believe that Subject is a good REDSKIN candidate in view of his character, personality and language ability (good but not native Ukrainian--his elder sister's is very good). He has nothing much to offer as a PI observer, having no technical training or experience. He would probably be good at meeting and assessing of target personalities. I believe he would undertake a mission with risk if it appeared well conceived and sensible. Subject's patriotic motivation--both American and Ukrainian--can be appealed to successfully. I recommend that Subject be held in abeyance as a traveller possibly for the fall or, more likely, for next year. He should be psychologically assessed prior to training and briefing. Recruitment of his sister--well known to []--should also be considered.

SR/3-CA

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