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5 February 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Sam BRAUN  
Born: 1 October 1920, Lodz

1. Subject is a stateless Pole now living in West Berlin where he is engaged in East-West trade using the following as at least partial cover for these activities: Cuban Commercial Development Corporation Ltd. He has reportedly also dealt in illegal arms deliveries.

2. The West Berlin police records show eight convictions for shady business practices from 1950 to 1958. He is an associate of Berlin's most "dangerous and amoral characters in the underworld of spying and illegal trade".

3. His mother now lives in Israel; he has friends and other relatives in the United States.

4. He spent World War II in a concentration camp. By 1965, he began developing high-level contacts among the Soviets, starting with INTOURIST. In 1966, he began a fairly large scale business program with PRUDINTORG involving food stuffs. Later that year, he was in contact with PAVLOV, Chief of the Soviet Trade Mission in East Berlin, and STARSHIMOV. In 1967, he began serious negotiations with these and other Soviets, making several trips to Moscow. These talks concerned Subject's role in fronting for the establishment of a new Soviet Mission building in West Berlin. He has since been visited on a number of occasions in his apartment in West Berlin by the Soviet Ambassador to the DDR, ABRASIMOV. He is also in contact with LAGUTIN, Lawyer for Soviet property deals, who was formerly in the Embassy in Bonn. He is "probably KGB".

5. He is reported to have returned from Moscow in January 1968 in order to sponsor a large Israeli Relief Reception in West

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Berlin in honor of Israeli Ambassador BEN NATHAN. He is alleged to have been received by ESHKOL during a recent trip to Israel. (EGEA-85782)

6. Berlin has been requested to provide overt evidence of the reception described above to furnish us with a basis for querying the [ ] in low key fashion.

7. See report from BOB on how they found out about the above-mentioned reception.

[ ]  
CHIEF, CI/SPG

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