EASA- *1147*

Chief, EE
    Attention: [   ]
Chief of Base, Salzburg

8 April 1953

Op/GROSVI

[illegible] ..BN - Austrian Citizenship

board
ABM *sbm*
LE|FI|PO
RLG

References: a. WOB-10
                b. EASA-196
                c. SLZ-7069 (sent Hq. under EAVA-1041)

1. We appreciate the clarifying data submitted in WOB-10. Gross-bahn falls in the category of persons with less than 10 years residence in Austria and his application, of necessity, would come to the attention of [   ]. The only stumbling block in the entire process outlined is the person of [   ], for Grossbahn enjoys excellent relationship with the responsible Land officials and had no trouble getting his papers, initially, as far as [   ] desk.

2. We do not know -- nor does Grossbahn -- on what grounds [   ] based his original disapproval. The attachment to reference b may contain the reason -- Grossbahn, back in 1947, refused to go to work for [   ] Grossbahn also tells us that [   ] for some unexplained reason, checked his application with CIC (probably Fritz ETTINGER) who replied they had no interest in Grossbahn and likewise had no interest in whether he obtained Austrian citizenship or not.

3. We did discuss the problem with [   ] in Vienna on 3 April 1953. The suggestion was made that we try to handle the son's problem on a local basis with the Bezirkshauptmannschaft. Discussion with Grossbahn indicates this solution to be impractical for several reasons; documentation is now so tightly controlled that all unusual requests must be brought to the attention of the Ministry of Interior, which would mean that any attempts on Grossbahn's part to make a deal or exert influence on the local BH, might conceivably be reported directly to [   ] which would tend to make the situation even worse. If an attempt is made to handle the situation locally, it means the son will have to be briefed to some extent, as Grossbahn has never told the lad he is considered Stateless. Grossbahn, in most of his operations and in all his local dealings, plays the part of an Austrian citizen -- this is part of his operational cover -- and he is afraid the son, if he should learn the truth, might, being young and naive, let the information slip in the wrong quarter, doing Grossbahn serious operational damage. Incidentally, the son will be 14 in July at which time he will have to secure his own ID card from the local

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EN. We appear to have sufficient time to work the problem out, but considering how slowly these matters move through the Austrian bureaucratic machine, it is requested that our planning be accomplished as quickly as possible.

4. We see little hope of really solving the problem satisfactorily except to overcome the hurdle of [   ]'s objection. How best to do this without confirming, in [   ]'s eyes, that Grossbahn is in KUBARK employ is the trick involved. We have thought of possibly letting the request originate with ODACID, direct to [   ] through their official channels, with the explanation that Grossbahn has been of help to ODACID in lending technical aid or advice and they would like to see that he does get his Austrian citizenship. Probably Vienna can think of better means of deflecting the request so that a direct intelligence connection or sponsorship is not in evidence when the request reaches [   ]'s desk.

5. We do not know where Grossbahn's citizenship file rests at the moment. Offhand, we would guess it is pigeonholed in the Salzburg Landeshauptmannschaft, but we will confirm this from Grossbahn and forward a separate dispatch. Any suggestions Vienna may have as how best to get this file moving again without attracting undue attention would be appreciated.

[   ]