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NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS

10 May 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

SUBJECT: HAZNERS, Vilia Avreds
DPOB: 23 July 1905, Latvia

1. (U) An intensive search of the files and indices of this Directorate has surfaced the following information on Subject.

2. (S) HAZNERS had been of interest to this Agency since October 1952, however, approval for his use was not granted until 10 September 1959 when he was granted a provisional clearance for use as a foreign positive intelligence informant on Latvia and legal travelers into the USSR. The last direct contact with Subject by this Agency was on 17 July 1963 for the purpose of maintaining rapport for possible future assistance. Subject was paid nominally by this Agency from 1961-63. After 1963 he continued to receive funds indirectly through the Free Europe Committee to the Committee for a Free Latvia.

3. (S) Subject and his family came to the United States in August 1956. They were admitted without Agency assistance. Subject's relationship with this Agency began after he and his family were admitted to the United States.

4. (S) HAZNERS served in the Latvian army from November 1926 until September 1940. After leaving the army he worked as a bookkeeper for the Central Sugar Industry in Latvia. When Germany attacked the Soviet Union on 22 June 1941, Subject was imprisoned by the Soviet Ministry of Internal Affairs. He subsequently escaped on 30 June 1941, and in July of the same year, led a group of Latvian partisans against the Soviets. From July-October 1941 he was with the German Occupation authorities in Riga, Latvia, and served as chief of the district from October 1941-May 1943. On 20 May 1943 HAZNERS joined the volunteer Latvian SS Division. After WWII Subject went to Germany where he became active in administrative work at displaced persons camps. HAZNERS was also active in Latvian partisan organizations. In 1953 he became a member of the Committee for a Free Latvia in the United States; he subsequently became chairman of this group. Subject was co-founder of the Latvian Veterans Association (Daugevas Vanagi) and editor of the newspaper published by Daugevas Vanagi.

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5. (S) Subject came to the United States in August 1956 with his wife, Elza Veronika (nee BUNDZA, born 28 June 1911) and their two teen-age sons.

6. (C) The Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue Service, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of the Army and Department of the Air Force have information on HAZNERS.

7. (C) On 18 April 1962 and 30 April 1962 the Air Force requested a routine name check on Subject. This Directorate responded with a no derogatory information response on both requests. On 22 April 1977 the Immigration and Naturalization Service requested an all information name check on Subject. This Directorate responded on 3 May 1977 with an all information reply.

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