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 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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

In Reply, Please Refer to  
 File No.

Baltimore 2, Maryland

June 10, 1963

DBA

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RE: Eerik Heine

On June 3, 1963, Reverend Uno Plank, 3601 Elmora Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland; Pastor of St. Marks Lutheran Church, 1900 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, a person of Estonian background who came to the United States in 1950, advised that he recently attended a showing of a film depicting the operations of Estonian groups in the Estonian forests. Reverend Plank advised this film was made by Eerik Heine in Canada and that the showings in the United States were being sponsored by a number of Estonian groups. He described the groups sponsoring this film as Estonian Legions, which groups he compared to the American Legions in the United States. According to Reverend Plank, this film was shown in Baltimore on two occasions and it was observed by approximately 350 persons.

In connection with the showing of this film, Reverend Plank furnished a leaflet captioned "Creators of Legend," which leaflet explained the purpose of the film and identified the persons appearing in the film as well as the producers. This leaflet contained two explanations; one in the English language and one written in Estonian dialect. The English language portion appears as follows:

"CREATORS OF LEGEND

"Heroic deeds will never die, but are transformed into a spiritual treasure, that lives forever in the memory of the people. Such achievements of courage and self-sacrifice will thus become a heritage which provides the nation with an everlasting inner strength, the strength that makes it possible for a nation to maintain it's spirit of freedom and independence even in the darkest of times when the country is overrun by a foreign tyranny. This treasure is also a monument for the future generations to look up to and gain inspiration from the heroism of their ancestors.

"It was mainly due to such heritage that the Estonians did not lose their hope for freedom when their small country was again occupied by the Red Army on 1944.

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RE: Erik Heine

Estonian menfolk refused to surrender when the regular front collapsed under the impact of overpowering enemy masses and continued to harass the invader from Estonian forests. Such guerilla-activities ranged all over the country and there were three main factors that gave impetus to the men's determination to resist the enemy at all costs. First of all, it was their inherited obligation to defend their country to the last man, secondly they were well aware that surrender would mean their death or deportation to Siberian labor-camps, and thirdly, it was taken for granted by the freedomfighters, that the Democratic Powers in the Free World will never tolerate the annihilation of the independent Estonia by Soviet Union.

"This motion picture you are about to see, concerns the life and struggle of one of the numerous guerilla units which were operating in Estonian forests at that time, and the story is based on actual facts. Being continuously hunted by the communists and suffering from all kinds of hardships, it is hardly any wonder that the men and women who are living under such stress and circumstances, become hard-faced creatures who sometimes get disillusioned and even begin to waver a little in their beliefs. We can see glimpses of the rugged life in a bunker, the constant dangers encountered by the partisans and among others a dramatic scene where a partisan captured by the communists, is forced to lead the enemy to the positions of his comrades.

"We can also view the skirmishes between the partisans and Red Army units, the hazardous lives of the people keeping contact between the partisans and villagers and a spectacular, daring train-robbery, the proceeds of which - one million rubles - are divided between the local farmers so that they could pay their exorbitant land taxes and thus save their individual farms from being corporated into kolkhozes - at least as long as possible. Their ears constantly glued to the radio-set, the partisans are eagerly awaiting for some encouraging news from the Western World, but it is all in vain. There is no help in sight. The action in the film reaches it's culmination with a battle between the partisans and a Red Army ski-patrol in the snow-covered forest. The partisans are forced to withdraw before the strength of overwhelming enemy and in order to save the rest of the unit from certain death, a farmer and his wife are willingly sacrificing their lives.

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RE: Eerik Heine

"The script of this motion picture is by Eerik Heine who has based a great deal of the story on his personal experiences. It is dedicated to the memory of those who fought in the Estonian forests - to the men and women of whom some are still living, their eyes directed toward the Free World in rightful expectation that this here is now the battleground where the struggle for Estonian freedom is being continued. Those people who once fought and bled and hoped in the forests of their homeland, braving all hardships, have thus created a legend that will live forever in the hearts of Estonian people."

Reverend Plank advised that in his opinion, this film clearly depicted the terrible ordeals Estonians suffered at the hands of the Russians during the period of 1939 to approximately 1945 and were certainly anti-communist in its entire theme. Rev. Plank could furnish no information as to the cities where this film would be shown and he knew nothing of Mr. Heine's future plans.

Reverend Plank further advised that while he resided in Tartu, Estonia, his hometown, he was well acquainted with Eerik Heine's father. He said that the Heines owned a large piano factory in Tartu and were well respected in the community.

Concerning Eerik Heine's background, he stated that he knew him as a young boy in Tartu and also knew that he was first arrested by the Russians when he was a young student in Estonia. Following his release, he was permitted to go to Germany. Reverend Plank explained as the Russians overran Estonia, many of his country men fled to Germany claiming German citizenship to escape the Russians. Heine subsequently entered the German Army and fought against the Russians. He was later captured by the Russians and taken to Siberia. Following several attempts, he escaped; and when he returned to his home in Estonia, he was again captured and imprisoned by the Russians. Reverend Plank further stated that many Estonians had been forced to serve in the Russian Army and upon reflection, this militia began to help Estonians to escape; and in fact, some of the militia deserted to the forest mentioned in the above described brochure and together with the escaped prisoners fought a guerilla warfar against the Russians.

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RE: Eerik Heine

According to Reverend Plank, when President Adenauer of West Germany visited Moscow in 1956, he succeeded in securing the release of many Germans and Estonians from behind the iron curtain and it is his understanding that Eerik Heine succeeded in coming to Germany under this program in 1956. Reverend Plank stated that most of the information concerning Heine was obtained from a Lutheran minister now in Stockholm, Sweden, who served as an interrupter for United States Intelligence Agencies then charged with clearing these repatriates in West Germany. This person was not further identified by Reverend Plank.

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Concerning August Kuklane, Reverend Plank advised that he is an elderly person, a member of his congregation who is employed full time as a carpenter in the Baltimore area. Mr. Kuklane was further described as a former Estonian Officer and a leader among the Estonian Veterans in this area. Reverend Plank could furnish no information concerning any relationship between Eerik Heine and Kuklane.

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