

DISPATCH

CLASSIFICATION
SECRET

PROCESSING ACTION

TO Chief, Soviet Bloc

MARKED FOR INDEXING

INFO Chief, European Division

NO INDEXING REQUIRED

FROM

ONLY QUALIFIED DESK
CAN JUDGE INDEXING

SUBJECT REDTOP LCIMPROVE AMJESSOP Operational
Latest SMASOVE Report on ~~REIN~~ Case

MICROFILM

ACTION REQUIRED - REFERENCES

REF: [] 3895, 15 November 1966

Attached is a copy of the latest SMASOVE report on the status of the REIN case.

Attachment: a/s h/w

Distribution:

- 2 - C/SB w/atts h/w
- 3 - C/Eur w/atts h/w

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DEC 1 1966

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DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2008

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CROSS REFERENCE TO

DISPATCH SYMBOL AND NUMBER

DATE

000A-11001

18 November 1966

CLASSIFICATION

HQS FILE NUMBER

SECRET

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On 7 November 1966, we interviewed Ilmar VESKIMETS of 201, Avenue Road, Toronto. VESKIMETS began his story from 1932 when he first joined the Federal Police Force of the Republic of Estonia. By 1940, when the Soviets captured Tartu, where he was stationed, he had attained a rank equivalent to Inspector. VESKIMETS was dismissed by the Soviets and went into hiding in a small town near Tartu, where he worked as a clerk. During the period from June 1940 to July 1941, while the Soviets occupied Estonia, they hired numerous Estonian communists as NKVD agents who, in turn, recruited secret agents in all areas of Estonian society. Serge LOOKE was such a NKVD officer and he was hired during August or September 1940. VESKIMETS was in hiding during the summer of 1941 when the Germans captured Estonia but he was recalled and reinstated in his former rank on August 4, 1941. Serge LOOKE was captured by a detail under VESKIMETS' command during August 1941. He interrogated LOOKE personally and broke him. As a result, LOOKE advised that he had recruited thirty-five secret agents himself. VESKIMETS detail specialized in detecting NKVD agents and their secret agents and, in all, uncovered over 600 in the Tartu area, out of a population of 200,000 people.

3. The source continued that it was during February and March, 1941 that most of the German-Estonians were repatriated to Germany by the Soviets.

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This was an area of investigation that VESKIMETS and his men covered during their interrogations to detect agents the Soviets had dispatched to Germany under the cover of repatriates. LOOKE revealed that a prominent Estonian Army officer named Col. BASSEN-SPILLER had been recruited by the Soviets which he applied to be repatriated to Germany because of his German ancestry. LOOKE explained that BASSEN-SPILLER was arrested when he applied to be repatriated and was held in special detention cells. It was during this detention period that the recruitment occurred. The recruitment of a man such as BASSEN-SPILLER was an extraordinary event and source immediately reported it to German Intelligence. He subsequently learned that upon BASSEN-SPILLER's arrival in Germany, he has reported the entire matter to German Intelligence and thereby nullified the recruitment. The method used in the recruitment attempt of BASSEN-SPILLER became a criterion in subsequent interrogations of LOOKE and other NKVD agents. Source did not know Berik HEINE personally, but knew of the HEINE family, as they were a prominent Tartu family of piano manufacturers. VESKIMETS was aware of HEINE's arrest as a result of the flag incident and his subsequent repatriation to Germany. He questioned LOOKE about HEINE but he didn't know him and only expressed the opinion that HEINE's case paralleled the BASSEN-SPILLER case. Source emphasized that this was only an opinion expressed by LOOKE and felt at the time that if he (LOOKE) would reveal a man as important as BASSEN-SPILLER, he would not hesitate over a nobody such as HEINE, particularly as LOOKE's survival depended on the extent of his co-operation. In any event, source reported to German Intelligence that the possibility existed that HEINE had been recruited by the Soviets, but was never able to ascertain if the Germans were able to resolve the matter. He did, however, learn from a German Intelligence officer that HEINE had been sent to Officers Training School at Bad Tolz and VESKIMETS recalls that the Germans said, "So he must be all right". The source never heard of HEINE again until he met him in Toronto in 1957.

4. VESKIMETS and his family escaped from Estonia to Germany in 1944 and were in the Hamburg area when that portion of Germany was taken by British troops during 1945. He came to Canada in 1946 with his wife and son and they are now Canadian citizens. VESKIMETS continued that he does not believe the story of HEINE's exploits during the post World War II period and he particularly doubts the story of HEINE's trip to and from Siberia in 1949. From his own experience, he would estimate the

So difficult
from what he
told investigators

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odds on the success of such an adventure at about a million to one. However, he stated that this is only his own personal opinion. VESKINETS also advised that about two weeks ago, he received a request from a lawyer in Toronto, Donald A. KEITH, to come to his office at 25 Adelaide St. West, to discuss Erik HEINE. Upon source's arrival, he found a second lawyer named [redacted] present, who claimed he represented Yuri RAUS. They discussed the possibility of HEINE's recruitment in 1941, but once again, as in August 1965, VESKINETS emphasized that Serge LOOKE had no previous knowledge of the man and merely expressed an opinion. Source could readily see that if that particular piece of information was taken out of context, it could be damaging to HEINE. Source made it clear to the lawyers that if he was called as a witness, he would tell his full story, or none at all. As a result of this, he does not feel that he would be called.

5. Hendrick KIRIK was interviewed on 5 November 1966, in Toronto. He said that he had first met Erik HEINE in Toronto. About five years ago HEINE asked him if he had a brother in a slave labour camp in Siberia. KIRIK told him that this was true but, advised him that this was already known to other members of the Estonian community. HEINE claimed that he had rescued KIRIK's brother from the slave labour camp in 1949 and returned him to Estonia, along with his wife and two children. HEINE could not recall source's brother's first name and advised source that his brother was recaptured by the Soviet authorities and re-deported to Siberia. KIRIK emphasized that his only knowledge of the rescue is what HEINE has told him and he has never been able to establish veracity of the story. As KIRIK's brother is a prisoner and has been since he was deported by the Soviets in 1941, he is not allowed to write letters to the West. KIRIK has received two letters in recent years from his brother's wife, who is actually his common-law wife, as prisoners are not allowed to marry. When KIRIK was told about the rescue by HEINE about five years ago, he wrote to his brother's wife and told her that he had met HEINE in Toronto and had learned about the rescue. The wife answered the letter, but did not confirm or deny the story, stating only, "Greetings to HEINE". KIRIK, therefore, has only HEINE's word that the story is true.

6. Investigation into HEINE's financial background revealed that HEINE has a good credit rating and no large outstanding debts. HEINE and his wife are joint owners of their home at 121 Mount Clive Drive, Rexdale, Ontario. The house was purchased in 1964 at an

How about Erik, the "Lawyer" for Heine's "Deportation" L.S.

estimated cost of \$17,000. As of October 1966, the outstanding balance on the mortgage was \$10,499. Mortgage payments are up to date and usually on time. HEINE has a chattel mortgage with a Toronto bank taken out in October 1965 for the purchase of a new Nash Rambler automobile valued at \$2,448.00. During this investigation it was learned that a complete financial investigation of HEINE was conducted in 1965 by the Toronto firm of JAMES M. DUNWOODY (Chartered Accountants) for unknown clients.

Can't we find out - ?

Can we ask Canadians to contact the Dunwoody firm
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Row's lawyers

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