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15 August 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: 1. Possible PNG of Mikhail Aleksandrovich MURNIKOV [ ]  
2. Hellar GRABBI [ ]

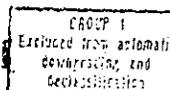
1. After discussion with representatives of SB and CA/BI on 14 August, I met with [ ] and [ ] of the RCMP. I told them that we had reviewed the information available on this case, and there were a number of questions still bothering us.

2. First of all, why is MURNIKOV rather than another officer being selected for the PNG action? Isn't his tour about to end? And why is publicity desired in this case? [ ] said that publicity is the aim in this instance, and he surmised that it was because there had not been any good PNG publicity or anti-RIS publicity in Canada recently. In particular, as he understood it, the RCMP was eager to have publicity reflecting undesirable Soviet activities among emigres. The fact that MURNIKOV's tour is almost complete does not deter the RCMP, since their objective is not really to get rid of MURNIKOV. In fact, they have been rather concerned that MURNIKOV might depart PCS before the PNG action could be completed. And MURNIKOV himself was selected because he has indeed been involved with the emigre community.

3. I asked whether the RCMP didn't have any grounds better than GRABBI's information on which to base their action. [ ] immediate reaction was that there was no more substantial information on MURNIKOV. I indicated that we would be very envious if a PNG action should succeed on no more substantial grounds than these which did not appear to involve espionage or, really, subversion, and appeared to be only slightly different from USIA activities. After I

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embarrassment [ ] I also asked that we be kept informed as the PNG action proceeds.

7. [ ] confirmed that GRABBI has returned from his trip and has gone to Canada where he is currently (in the course of the present two or three days) being interviewed by the RCMP. A full report of that interview will be made available to us.

8. In the course of our conversation, I reiterated that GRABBI is not of operational interest to us and that we are not, and have not been, in operational touch with him. I acknowledged that we had looked him over a few years ago and decided against any involvement with him. I made no comment about the "International Advisory Committee."

[ ]  
Acting Asst. Chief, European Division  
for the British Commonwealth Region

A/EURBC: [ ] kp (15 Aug 69)

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