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20 August 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Hellar GRABBI

1. As a result of Canadian interest in Hellar GRABBI's repeated contact with a Soviet official in Ottawa, I debriefed Juri RAUS on his knowledge of GRABBI at a meeting at the Marriott Restaurant on 14 August 1969. Some months ago, RAUS had himself taken the initiative in discussing GRABBI with me in connection with GRABBI's 1968 trip to the Soviet Union. In response to my questions, RAUS supplied the following information:

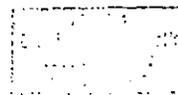
a. GRABBI left his employment with the Library of Congress about three years ago. It is quite likely that he was rified, rather than that he left voluntarily. When GRABBI left the Library of Congress, his wife obtained a job as a dental technician at Fort Belvoir. About four months ago, GRABBI told RAUS his wife had left Fort Belvoir and was now working for a private dentist.

b. GRABBI says he is a free lance writer, but he doesn't earn anything at it. His only job is publisher and editor of the Estonian cultural magazine, Mana, which appears irregularly about three times per year. RAUS estimates circulation at 300 to 400 copies. He believes the expenses of putting out the magazine are greater than its income, and that the difference is financed by wealthy Estonians in Canada. From the literary point of view, the publication is well done. It has no clear political line but represents different views dependent upon literary merit.

c. GRABBI has liberal leftist views and is hostile to the established emigre leadership. He believes

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independent but communist Estonian state is the only hope for Estonia. About four years ago, when drunk, GRABBI made the statement that he expects his sons to grow up under communism. RAUS believes the implication of this statement was that communism would eventually take over in the United States, not that GRABBI was planning to return with his family to the Soviet Union. RAUS was not present himself when GRABBI made this statement. It was reported to RAUS by his good friend, Juri KORK, who was present.

d. GRABBI fancies himself as an important figure in the emigration. He wants to be a big leader, but his style is that of the manipulator who stays in the background and works through front men. He would be very vulnerable to flattery. Anyone who makes him feel he is a big shot can manipulate him easily. He is brazen and aggressive in the sense of being the type of person who will walk into a party to which he is not invited, drink your liquor and make himself at home.

e. Despite his leftist views, GRABBI appeared to accept the fact that HEINE is a Soviet agent - at least he never said anything to the contrary. He was not of any significant assistance in the case against HEINE, however. When HEINE first came to Washington he stayed at GRABBI's house, but this was mistakenly arranged by RAUS himself and is not indicative of any HEINE-GRABBI relationship. GRABBI does know HEINE's father-in-law rather well, however, as a result of their common literary interests and activities.

f. RAUS and GRABBI have known each other for many years. When they both first came to the U.S. they were quite friendly, but after RAUS became more interested in political matters and it became apparent that their political views were quite divergent, they

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drifted apart. GRABBI has always tried to be friendly to RAUS, however, until an incident last fall. After GRABBI returned from his 1968 visit to the Soviet Union, a group of veterans from the Estonian veterans organization in which RAUS is active decided to invite GRABBI over to give them an informal briefing on the trip and his impressions of Estonia. RAUS apparently became rather irritated at GRABBI during this discussion because he was so proud of the red carpet treatment he received from senior Estonian officials and officers of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries. (RAUS was also upset because he knew GRABBI couldn't have paid for the trip himself.) RAUS asked a number of penetrating questions concerning the trip, and the contretemps got to the point where they stood up and squared off at each other, but no blows were actually exchanged. Subsequently, GRABBI telephoned RAUS' good friend, Juri KORK, and told KORK that "if RAUS does anything against me, I have ways and means of getting back at him, because I know a great deal." The last time RAUS saw GRABBI was at an Estonian gathering about four months ago. RAUS was unaware that GRABBI had traveled to the Soviet Union again this summer.

[DC/SE/CI]

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1 - RAUS
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