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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

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8 MAY 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Commissioner
Immigration and Naturalization Service
Attention: Mr. Edwin COILE,
Deputy Chief, Intelligence Unit

SUBJECT: Erik HEINE

1. Reference is made to memorandum from your office signed by Mr. James F. GREENE, Associate Commissioner of Operations, dated 23 April 1971, file: CO 212.21-C, relative Erik HEINE, born: 11 September 1919 in Estonia, plaintiff in the lawsuit HEINE vs. RAUS, and our CSCI-3/776,159 dated 15 May 1963, containing summary of information on HEINE.

2. In our second referenced memorandum, which was directed to the Federal Bureau of Investigation with a copy for your Service, background information on HEINE which was available as of the date of that memorandum was provided. We have now prepared a new summary, which we enclose. While this material amplifies and updates the information previously sent to you, it does not contain any essentially new information having a bearing on HEINE's intelligence status; rather, it is a recapitulation.

3. This Agency does not plan to conduct any new investigation of HEINE. The essential elements of our information on him have now been passed to you and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is felt that the proposal in the first referenced memorandum is a matter of internal security concern which should properly be referred to the FBI.

FOR THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR PLANS:

CSCI-316/01148-71

Enclosure

28 APR 71

cc: Federal Bureau of Investigation

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JAMES ANGLTON

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2003 2006

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Enclosure to:
CSCI-316/01148-71

Eerik HEINE was born 11 September 1919 in Tartu, Estonia to Oscar and Margarete (nee KUSSIK) HEINE. He received his early education in Tartu but did not graduate from the gymnasium, as he was unruly, a poor student and was expelled from the school for disciplinary reasons.

After the Soviet Army occupied Estonia in June 1940, HEINE participated in an incident which he later described as involvement in an "anti-Soviet underground movement" and which led to his first arrest by the Soviets. He has provided varying and contradictory versions of what happened but it would appear that with other students he was charged with anti-Russian activity having to do with the actual or attempted replacement of a Soviet flag with an Estonian flag. He remained in prison from 28 August 1940 until his release in April or May 1941, when he "repatriated" to Germany as his parents had done during the period of his imprisonment. There is no available information on the extent of his involvement in an "anti-Soviet underground" over and beyond the flag incident. The circumstances of his release from custody, as well as of his own and his parents' repatriation to Germany are not consistent with the objective conditions which are known to have prevailed at the time. Specifically, it is questionable whether HEINE's parents, who had come to the attention of the Soviet security organs because of his activities and who were of the "bourgeois element" considered hostile to the Soviet regime, could have been repatriated to Germany during the period of HEINE's imprisonment without the knowledge and approval of the Soviet State Security authorities. Further, while HEINE dated their repatriation as having occurred in about February or March 1941, it is known that a directive of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR dated 7 September 1940 effectively ended the waves of repatriation which had occurred in 1939 and 1940 under terms of the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact on the return of ethnic Germans to Germany. Finally, HEINE's parents had only a tenuous claim to German extraction, since only his maternal grandmother was of German descent. Their repatriation at this time could have served Soviet security purposes, since with-

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out their repatriation it would not have been possible for HEINE himself to have proceeded to Germany upon his release from prison.

With regard to his prison term, HEINE stated that he made a partial admission to the Soviets of his anti-Soviet activities; that the Soviets did not believe him and attempted by various methods including torture to get him to make a confession; and that suddenly and without explanation the interrogations ceased in February 1941 (a period of deteriorating relations between the USSR and Germany, with war imminent). HEINE insisted to his captors that he was Estonian and not German. Notwithstanding such insistence and in apparent disregard for regulations in effect at the time, he was repatriated to Germany as a German. Since HEINE spoke both Russian and German at the time, and since the Soviet Security organs were extensively engaged in recruiting and dispatching agents to Germany immediately prior to the declaration of hostilities in June 1941, it is possible that HEINE was released from prison as a German repatriate to serve Soviet purposes. Moreover, even if HEINE had been a German, it is unlikely that the security organs would have released him after he had engaged in counter-revolutionary acts in Estonia, since such an individual would have been a potential enemy in Germany. This speculation is in line with information obtained by this Agency from an Estonian-American who had been in command of the Intelligence Division of the Estonian Security Police in German-occupied Estonia from 1941 to 1944. This source quoted an NKVD agent as having told him that the "Special Branch" of the NKVD had contacted HEINE upon his arrest and had held him in one of their special detention cells, where he had been well treated. The informant stated that the Special Branch was charged with recruiting agents to work for the NKVD outside of Estonia, and that he had been given the impression by other agents of the Special Branch that they had succeeded in recruiting HEINE to work in Germany and that they had made arrangements for HEINE to have a short jail term before transfer to Germany for espionage under the cover of a German national.

On arrival in Germany, according to HEINE, he went to southern Germany where he soon located his parents in a camp

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near Schwabische Halle and was reunited with them in May 1941. This account was called into question later by the statement of another Agency source who stated that he had met HEINE's parents in a DP camp in Germany in 1945, at which time they said they were very much concerned because their son had been arrested and had disappeared after an anti-Soviet demonstration in Tartu in 1940 or 1941, after which time they had not heard from him.

After the German attack on the Soviet Union in June 1941, HEINE volunteered for the "Ost Battalion," with which he served until February 1942. At that time the Estonian authorities demanded his return to (German-occupied) Estonia and the Germans complied. According to a separate version given by HEINE, he transferred to the Estonian political police force in Tallinn because he was unhappy with his unit in the Ukraine, and worked in Tallinn from February to September 1942. German Army records reflect only that he was a member of the German police from 16 July 1941 until March 1942, a period which generally coincides with his claimed service in the Ukraine with the "Ost Battalion." In describing his work with the Estonian political police, then a de facto arm of the German Security Service (SD), HEINE claimed to have been responsible for interrogating suspect communist agents in Tallinn. From Tallinn he was transferred to Haapsalu, but within a month was again transferred from Haapsalu to Germany as a result of having volunteered for service with Estonian formations of the SS.

In about September 1942 HEINE joined the Narva Battalion, an element of the Estonian Legion, Waffen SS (either as lieutenant or as corporal, according to varying statements he has made). He was sent to Poland for training which lasted until March 1943 and was then sent to the Ukraine for a short period. In May 1943 he went to Bad Tolz, Germany, where he received training, first as a non-commissioned officer and later as an officer-candidate. He has claimed that he graduated in February 1944. German records show that an Eerik HEINE did attend the Bad Tolz school from 6 September 1943 to March 1944 but certain Estonian sources claim that HEINE is unknown to other Estonian emigres who attended this school,

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both as students and as instructors. Another source also has claimed that he saw HEINE for the last time in the German Army police in Estonia in 1943 or 1944. These discrepancies have never been resolved.

On 25 or 26 August 1944 HEINE was captured by the Soviet Army while serving with the 20th Estonian Division, Waffen SS. The circumstances of his capture are not clear, because of varying accounts which he has given. In essence, however, he claimed to have been wounded as a result of a bomb attack and to have been taken prisoner after he lost consciousness. He was treated as a German prisoner, although he insisted to the Soviets that he was an Estonian. He was sent to Tartu and later to Petseri; and at the end of August 1944 he was shipped by train to Leningrad and Moscow. While in Soviet custody he attempted to conceal his identity by dropping the final E of his surname.

Between September and December 1944 HEINE was in a Moscow POW camp for German prisoners. During this period he was never interrogated, but in December he was severely beaten by camp guards, who labeled him an enemy of the state and a traitor for having served in the German Army. He was sent to a Soviet labor camp in Kisel in the Urals, but in March 1945 he managed to escape by crawling under four concentric barbed wire fences in a heavy snow storm. He then made his way to the Leningrad area where he was again apprehended in mid-April 1945.

In June or July 1946 he escaped from the prison camp and made his way to Tallinn, Estonia, where he worked on reconstruction of the harbor. Alternatively, according to another version of this phase of his life, HEINE stated that he was transferred to Tallinn and as a prisoner worked on reconstruction of the harbor until June or July 1946 when he joined the Estonian partisans.

From the time of his escape or transfer to Tallinn in 1946 until his next arrest in 1950, HEINE claimed to have been a member of the "Forest Brothers," an Estonian partisan

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unit belonging to the anti-Soviet underground. In 1947 while he was with this unit he made what has been described as an incredible journey from Estonia across European Russia to a guarded and restricted deportation area in Siberia, and successfully returned to Tallinn via Moscow and Riga with a small band of adults and children. While HEINE's own account of difficulties encountered contained contradictions and discrepancies, evidence from other sources indicated that the long trip did take place. The question is whether it could have taken place without the active collaboration of the Soviet secret police, and it has been noted that HEINE's partisan band came under heavy attack during his absence, and several members were killed. The technique of removing an agent from his underground group during a period of planned repression was standard Soviet procedure during that period. In any event, HEINE was eventually the sole survivor of his partisan band, the others having either been killed in action by the militia or having been taken prisoner.

On 20-21 July 1950 HEINE was arrested in Tallinn as he attended a music festival before proceeding to Leningrad and Finland. He was able to conceal from the Soviet authorities his previous work in the anti-Soviet underground and managed to convince them that he was a German rather than Estonian. In February or March 1951 he received the death sentence, which later was reduced to life imprisonment (or to 25 years' hard labor) upon his appeal and retrial as a German rather than Estonian.

During his imprisonment HEINE spent time in three or four separate camps. The fact that he was transferred frequently and given relatively easy assignments in these camps has been adduced as further evidence of agent status, since agent-informers normally have been used in camps in privileged jobs, with transfer in the event of compromise or to prevent harm to an agent.

In January or February 1956 HEINE was sent to a camp near Potma which served as a staging point for non-Soviet

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prisoners. He was then sent to another detention camp and finally to a house in the suburbs of Moscow. In early October 1956 he and other prisoners were taken to the West Germany Embassy for preparation of returnee documents. He left the USSR for East Berlin on 26 November 1956. In West Germany he was processed as a returning prisoner of war, obtained a West German passport and in April 1957 applied for and received a visitor's visa for travel to Canada, where he had determined his mother was living. He lived in Canada on his visitor's visa until he was granted status as a landed immigrant in 1959. He became a Canadian citizen in August 1964.

After his arrival in Canada, HEINE married a woman of Estonian origin. They live modestly in Toronto, where they are both employed. They have no children. There is a large Estonian colony in Toronto and HEINE has been actively associated with various Estonian organizations, in particular the Estonian National Committee.

Soon after arrival in Canada, HEINE wrote a book on his experiences in the "anti-Soviet Estonian underground." The book was published in Canada and later a film was made based upon this book. In 1963 HEINE resigned his job in order to make a lecture tour of the United States during which the film was shown to numerous Estonian colonies, ostensibly for the cause of Estonian liberation. In addition to this trip HEINE has made many other visits to the United States, where he is well known among Estonian emigre circles.

HEINE first came to the attention of this Agency when he visited the American Embassy in Bonn, West Germany, on 30 November 1956 and was interviewed by an Agency officer. His story was deemed to be of sufficient interest to warrant full debriefing and initial sessions were held with him in Frankfurt. The information which emerged during these sessions was not given credence, however, and contact was dropped before his departure for Canada. HEINE attempted to persuade American intelligence representatives to make use of his partisan underground assets in Estonia and claimed that he

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had "secret contacts" in Estonia through whom he was able to obtain data on Soviet missiles. He also asked for financial and other aid for himself and an alleged anti-Soviet Russian underground consisting of some 70,000 members, the leader of which had commissioned him to gain the cooperation of American (or German) intelligence representatives. HEINE has also provided separate and often conflicting versions of his life story to Canadian officials after his arrival in Canada and to a wide variety of Estonian emigre acquaintances in this country.

The combined income of HEINE and his wife would appear to be in the neighborhood of \$8000 per year. There is no available information on the way in which his apparently expensive legal suit is being financed.

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