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Chief, NE

9 April 1957

Chief of Station, [Helsinki] 14-1

STATION/OPERATIONS

Db

REDCAP - Professor [David Hecht's] Contact with
Grigory Ye. GOLUB

1. Subsequent to receipt of a brief memorandum (Encl 2) from Mr. Grant C. Hilliker, Chief of the Political Section, regarding Fulbright Professor [David Hecht's] contact with Grigory Ye. GOLUB, Hilliker was asked by the [Station] to arrange for Professor [HECHT] to call at the ODACID installation so that he could be debriefed in detail.

2. Professor [HECHT] a friend of Hilliker, is a Russian speaking research scholar whose interest is 19th century Russia. He is engaged in post-doctorate research at the Slavic Studies Department of the University of Helsinki under a Fulbright stipend. In early February he and his wife made a trip to the Soviet Union under the auspices of Intourist at their own expense. [HECHT]'s address in Helsinki is [Hietalahdenkatu 18 C 89 (tel: 33281)], an apartment building owned by Mr. John MURMINEN, husband of [VAMBRACK/1's] Finnish tutor, and a wealthy Helsinki shipping man. It was Mr. MURMINEN who recommended the KIL-YALA Travel Agency through which [HECHT] arranged his trip to the USSR. (Soviet Consulate officials have discouraged the use of this agency to Russia-bound Americans for unstated reasons.)

3. On the afternoon of April 4, Professor [HECHT] at Hilliker's request, called at the latter's office where he was introduced to Jane P. Kichline whom Hilliker generously presented as ODACID's Russian expert. After thanking [HECHT] for giving us his time, Kichline took him to her own office and obtained the enclosed report.

4. This was not a [longer]-duration courtship by the Soviets mainly because [HECHT] chose it that way. At the end of the interview, he said that he had consulted several times with his wife and had indeed debated whether or not carry on the game. Then he pointedly asked Kichline, "Could you tell me in just what way I could have been of help had I continued?" Kichline offered two reasons: one, it would have aided ODACID in knowing and comparing modus operandi of the Soviets in their approaches to Westerners (Americans, in particular) here in Helsinki; and two, if the courtship persisted until he

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had left Finland, it might have led to the discovery of Soviets who would pick up the contact elsewhere. Should the Soviets have decided on a long range period of cultivation, [RECHT] thought over these two reasons, adding, "I suppose the possibility of defection is always there, too — either way," but said that he did not regret having broken off his relations with [COLUB] and [VORONIN] since he was here to concentrate on his own work and did not care to become involved in any other type of activity, particularly involving V-G type Soviets whose interests were obviously professional along another line.

5. [RECHT] repeatedly commented, "What could the Soviets possibly want from me?" and it was apparent from the conversation that he was unaware of approaches to other individuals in the educational field with the exception of Professor [Arthur LOWMYER] whom [COLUB] kept bringing up in his conversations. He asked no questions regarding [LOWMYER] but readily offered the information which he had heard from [COLUB] in as much detail as he could recall. He seemed surprised that [COLUB] kept referring to this individual and appeared to search for a comment from [Kishline] when he mentioned [COLUB]'s astonishment at receiving a letter written by [LOWMYER] from the States. Since [Kishline] was unaware of the letter, she merely asked whether [COLUB] had elaborated on its contents, which he had not.

6. It was [RECHT]'s impression that [COLUB] was much more important than his diplomatic rank implied because of his air and his domineering behavior toward [VORONIN] and his inferiors at the Consulate. He also said that [COLUB] was an individual of more than average cunning, both in conversation and action. Furthermore, he is a reasonably young man (37), to have had so many important Iron Curtain posts; as a matter of fact, [RECHT] declared, he had voiced this impression to [COLUB] following a random on past posts: "You must be an important man!" to which [COLUB] replied jokingly, "Yeah, yeah, very important!" At any rate, from his higher rank on the diplomatic list and from [RECHT]'s description, he does appear a little higher level than [BUR] BSKOV who associated with John H. BODGSON.

7. Since [RECHT] appeared to have held his own in his verbal badgerings with [COLUB] and [VORONIN] and since he left little doubt on the part of these two Soviets that he was intelligent enough to anticipate their motives, neither has attempted to get in touch with him since the evening of March 4 when they accused him of submitting to an "American Iron Curtain" for declaring that under the circumstances he could not be their friends.

8. Professor [RECHT] offered to call Milliker immediately if the Soviets attempt to renew their contact.

9. Another Fulbrighter, Dr. [Alfred LEVIN], also a research scholar in Russian history, will leave for the USSR on April 4. It will be interesting to learn whether or not he, too, will be contacted and by whom, since his name implies an ethical background for which [VORONIN] has openly and on many occasions expressed his distaste.

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June 7, Kishline

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Interview with Professor [David HECHT] on 4 April 1957

1. At the end of January after making preliminary arrangements and filling out visa forms through the KALEVALA Travel Agency in Helsinki, Professor [HECHT] and his wife were instructed to call at the Soviet Consulate to check on the progress of their visas. Mr. GOLUB was the first official to whom they were referred; he seemed to know in advance all the details of their proposed trip and what they really wanted. GOLUB said that the visa wasn't ready but asked that they come back on the following Tuesday. GOLUB did not speak English and asked if it would be all right with [HECHT] to speak through a French interpreter. When [HECHT] said that he spoke Russian, GOLUB's interest perked up and he began to chat quite freely. GOLUB then changed his mind and told [HECHT] that he would fix him up with a visa right then and he would not have to come back the following Tuesday. After the procedure was completed, and [HECHT] and his wife got up to leave, GOLUB said: "Do come back after you get back and let me know what you think of your trip." At this point he mentioned that another Professor, [Arthur LOHWATER], a person for whom he had a very high regard, had taken a similar trip to the Soviet Union not too long ago. He said that much to his surprise he had received a letter from [LOHWATER] after his return to the States. He then related a sad story concerning [LOHWATER], who, he said, had been chosen as a representative to a mathematician's congress in the USSR, but his firm wouldn't cough up the money for [LOHWATER]'s trip. Since [HECHT] did not know [LOHWATER] he made no comment, and he and his wife left the Consulate.

2. On the morning of February 3, [HECHT] and his wife left by train for Moscow where they spent 4 days. They then went to Leningrad for three days and finally came back via train to Helsinki. [HECHT] mentioned only one incident of note - in Leningrad - concerning telephone books. He said he had promised a friend in the States that if he had a chance he would call the friend's friend in Leningrad and pass greetings. When he asked for a telephone book in Leningrad, he was told that they had all been lost. No one appeared to be helpful in locating one for him, and, finally, [HECHT] decided to try to bribe the guide into getting him one. The guide went into a closed cabinet in the hotel lobby and produced one...an old 1951 edition. [HECHT] called the number appearing alongside the friend's name and a voice answered on the other end. He did not appear to be the gentleman whom [HECHT] was calling but said he knew the man [HECHT] was trying to get in touch with, that he was well, etc., etc., but that he wasn't available. The call ended there and [HECHT] did not press the matter further.

3. A week after [HECHT]'s return (February 19), he and his wife decided to stop by the Soviet Consulate to give GOLUB their impressions of their trip. A new doorman was there this time. There was no previous call announcing that [HECHT] and his wife were coming to the Consulate - they just stopped in. GOLUB appeared very pleased to see them. [HECHT] recounted the pleasant aspects of his trip and said that he and his wife enjoyed it very much. After a bit of chit-chat about the trip, GOLUB asked to meet [HECHT] again...How about that same night at the Adlon Restaurant? Professor [HECHT] said politely that he

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would like to see him again, but perhaps the Palace Restaurant was more convenient, and they arranged to meet at 8 o'clock that night (February 19) at the Palace Hotel. GOLUB stated that he would bring along the Cultural Attache because he spoke English and thus would be able to talk to HECHT's wife (H's wife does not speak Russian.)

4. The night of 19 February, a very snowy night, H and his wife appeared at the Palace Hotel at eight o'clock. G. was there alone. G excused the Cultural Attache VORONIN (Yuri N.) who had another engagement and could not come. G asked if H would not prefer a private dining room. H replied, "As you like" and they took a private dining room. G appeared in a good mood, was very witty. He talked about his wife who was in the hospital and blamed the Finnish climate. He said he did not like the climate, the country or the Finns and added, "My job here is to find a few pearls among swine!" Dinner went on till 1 a.m. - covering a discussion of politics, economics, Das Capital, Soviet-American foreign policy, American foreign policy and the Hungarian situation. GOLUB's statement on Hungary: "Hungary is even a greater tragedy for us Russians than the Hungarians. I've lost a great friend who was killed in an attack. The poor Hungarians had to call in the Russians. As long as the Americans have bases all over the world, we have to come in lest anarchy occur and the Americans come in." He was very down on the American Embassy. "We Russians have a beautiful Embassy; we have many gatherings; we invite Americans, but they are always busy. You have an Iron Curtain here. He was also equally down on USIS: "They are always lying." GOLUB queried H as to the amount of H's stipend. H told him since it was open knowledge. H later offered to pay the check (10,000 Finnmarks), but GOLUB refused to let him touch it. On Stalin, GOLUB's only comment was: "Stalin is the tragedy of Russia." All through the dinner, GOLUB's eyes continually strayed to HECHT's wife, and he paid her many courtly compliments through HECHT. He spoke Finnish to the waiters. At about 0100, they left the hotel restaurant and GOLUB headed for the #5 trolley which he said would take him home. Before they parted, however, he took two tickets to the opera Boris Gudonov out of his pocket and presented them to the HECHT's, compliments of VORONIN. HECHT accepted the tickets.

5. On February 21 at the presentation of Boris Gudonov, the HECHT's were met by GOLUB who showed them to their seats right beside his own. A boy sitting on the other side of them kept staring at GOLUB and the HECHT's until finally HECHT said, "Do you know who this boy is who keeps staring at us?" G boasted that it was his business to know people, and that this boy was a German kid in the employ of AERO. During intermission, GOLUB called VORONIN and in insolent tone of voice directed him to join them. Introductions were made. VORONIN spoke English. After the performance, HECHT who had decided that this should perhaps be the last meeting, hastily thanked his hosts and started to leave. GOLUB ignored his gesture and quickly suggested a walk. VORONIN joined in at this moment. When HECHT hesitated, GOLUB taunted, "What's the matter, are you afraid of being seen in public with us?" At this, HECHT gave in, and the four started on a short evening stroll. Before they parted again, VORONIN said, "I would love to have you come over to my place and meet my wife and little daughter," and asked for H's telephone number. HECHT was non-committal

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6. On February 27, VORONIN called [HECHT] and, speaking English, reiterated his previous invitation, suggesting a dinner on March 2 (Saturday). When the [H's] refused, pleading another engagement, VORONIN suggested the following Monday (March 4) at 6:30 p.m. which the [H's] accepted. On Monday the [H's] called at the VORONIN's address (Lånrotsgratan 14 D 52). The apartment was very gloomy...a television had been turned on to station Tallin. [HECHT] cryptically remarked that it was bad for the V's little girl. Mrs. V let this go by without retort. Drinks were brought in - vodka for the men and tokay wine for the women. After an hour or so of getting acquainted with V's wife and child, GOLUB appeared and stayed for dinner. Mrs. V was restless all the time GOLUB was around. [HECHT] said that he had worn a stick pin in his lapel and his wife had worn a large dinner ring, just in case they had to defend themselves. The [HECHT's] had already begun to be nervous.) During coffee, GOLUB asked [HECHT] to relate to them the life of an average American. [H] tried to tell the life of an average New York business man and both VORONIN and GOLUB seemed interested and impressed. GOLUB brought up the subject of the atomic bomb. He asked why the U.S. had dropped the bomb on Japan. "You wanted to keep us away from that part of the world!" [HECHT] attempted to give unbiased answers. Both V and G became quite vociferous and excited during this conversation. GOLUB began to refer to his watch. He said his wife was expecting him and at about 2130, after a short private consultation with V, he left. However, before he took leave, he said to [HECHT] "Our talks were so interesting; we'll have to go for a weekend trip somewhere in the near future, and we boys must get together for a stag lunch sometime soon." (This was an intentional exclusion of Mrs. [HECHT].) [HECHT] then invited GOLUB to visit the [HECHT's], but GOLUB refused the invitation and departed. VORONIN then came out with another invitation to the [HECHT's] to visit the VORONIN's again. At this point [HECHT] felt the time had come to end this one-sided game. He told Mr. VORONIN that he had been very pleased with his trip to the Soviet Union, that the impressions he had now of the country and people and the V's and Mr. G were nice ones - so far, but if things went along as they seemed to be going, this impression might turn into a bad one. V was very put out. Mrs. V weakly put in, "Your people are just like our people, I understand." V added, "We surely will see you once before you leave." [HECHT] said he hoped so, and since it was 2300 hours then, the [HECHT's] left.

7. [HECHT] said that Mrs. V had told him her age was 33; VORONIN's 37. Mrs. VORONIN had come to Central Asia from Hungary when a small child of 5. She was brought up in Russia and met VORONIN when they were both pursuing a career in the arts - she ballet and he the violin. [HECHT] surmised that her father must have been mixed up in the revolution at that time and was perhaps in exile.) VORONIN admitted to membership in the CP, but his wife shrugged her shoulders and said that she was not a member. She displayed little caution in her remarks about the Soviet Union and appeared dissatisfied with things in general.

8. At [HECHT's] reply to his query as to who owned the apartment in which the [HECHT's] lived, GOLUB asked, "Is it John MURKIN?" and added, "He is an understanding capitalist."

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9. ⁰⁶ [RECHT] described GOLUB as a man with a great sense of humor, very quick, very sharp and witty. He has a great sense of humor and constantly refers to himself as "I'm a Ukrainian." He is a child psychologist. He has served in Vienna, Warsaw, Budapest, Bucharest, Sophia. He is about 37, short, well-fed (stocky), black hair straight and brushed back, big flashy smile, lots of white teeth (may be false), brown eyes, very well-dressed. He has an English tailor in Helsinki and appears each time in a change of wardrobe. He wears double breasted suits - Western style. His main sport is skiing. He has a strong powerful handshake, piercing artificial glance, is very excitable, flirtatious, and the I-know-it-all type. He loves to eat and shakes his head from side to side when he talks. He is about 5'3-1/2" with glistening, clean-shaven skin. He looks like a Ukrainian peasant, but his conversation implies that he is well-educated and knowledgeable on diplomatic business, Marxism, and current events involving the Soviet Union. His knowledge of life beyond the borders of the Soviet Union is meagre. His table manners are fair.

10. Since the last meeting, ⁰⁶ [RECHT] met GOLUB once by accident on the street. GOLUB was alighting from a taxi with two ladies, and upon catching sight of ⁰⁶ [RECHT], he appeared flustered and in a hurry to get away. Unable to avoid an encounter, he merely asked what was new and sportively, but soft-tonguedly said, "I'll give you a bribe not tell my wife." The two ladies appeared to be Russians.

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