

CIA Director Queried In Agent Slander Suit

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By John Hanrahan
Washington Post Staff Writer

BALTIMORE, June 6—A Federal District Court Judge ruled today that CIA Director Richard M. Helms will be asked to give further information in a case in which one of his agents is charged with slander.

In setting a Sept. 19 date for obtaining the deposition from Helms, Chief Judge Roszel C. Thomsen made it clear that Helms could not be compelled to answer any questions if the CIA director feels that to do so would jeopardize national security.

"The security interests of the United States are at issue in this case," Thomsen said. "The Government is justified in being cautious about what it says. It has to be remembered that there are certain public interests that are paramount."

The \$110,000 slander suit was filed in 1964 by Eeril Heine, now 47, against Juri Raus, 39, of Hyattsville.

In a further note of caution, Thomsen warned the plaintiffs' attorneys:

"I don't know if your attack is on the CIA or not. But obviously, such a case as this would make a beautiful vehicle to attack the CIA. We can't have a congressional hearing here. Congress is the appropriate place to attack the CIA, not the courts."

The plaintiffs' lawyers, Ernest C. Raskauskas and Robert J. Stanford, assured the judge that they were not out to attack the intelligence agency, but seeking only to gain compensation for their client.

Heine, who now lives in Canada, claimed in the suit that the CIA, acting through Raus, was attempting to ruin his career as an anti-Communist lecturer by spreading stories among Estonian emigres that he was a Soviet agent.

The suit claims the Raus's allegedly slanderous remarks came in connection with a Nov. 9, 1963, meeting of Estonian emigres in New York.

Heine claims to have been a prisoner in a Russian prison camp and a guerrilla fighter before the Communist takeover of his country. He lectures and shows anti-Communist films.

The case came before Judge Thomsen last year. At that time he refused Heine permission to prosecute the suit on the grounds that CIA secrets would be revealed.

The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals ordered the case remanded to Thomsen's court for another hearing on specific points dealing with whether the CIA had actually given instructions to Raus concerning Heine.

During today's hearing, there was confusion from time to time as to who was representing the CIA interests.

Raskauskas periodically objected to Raus' lawyers, Paul R. Connolly and F. Barrett Prettyman Jr., expressing the CIA's position in the case.

Raskauskas said that Connolly and Prettyman "have not entered appearances" as the CIA attorneys, but yet continued to speak for the agency as well as Raus. Smiling, Thomsen overruled the objections, saying, "obviously, the relationship with the CIA is pretty close."