

VOLUME 2

HEADQUARTERS FILES

REVIEWED BY C. A. /m.Ref No: 102-404849Re: Helen ShibleyDate 6/78  
(month/year)

| Serial              | Date     | Description<br>Type of communication, by whom                          | No. of Pages |          | Exemptions used or, to whom referred<br>(Identify statute if (b)(5) cited) |
|---------------------|----------|--|--------------|----------|--|
|                     |          |  | Actual       | Released |  |
| 70<br>NOT<br>CORDED | 1/11/60  | HQ letter to NY  | 1            | 1        |  |
| 71                  | 2/29/60  | NY report to HQ  | 32           | 22       | 5  |
| 72<br>NOT<br>CORDED | 3/31/60  | HQ letter to NY  | 1            | 1        |  |
| 73<br>NOT<br>CORDED | 4/5/60   | NY airtel to HQ  | 1            | 0        |  |
| 74<br>NOT<br>CORDED | 8/26/60  | Ottawa letter to HQ<br>with enclosure page                             | 1            | 0        |  |
| 75                  | 11/18/60 | Mexico letter to HQ  | 1            | 0        |  |
| 76                  | 11/22/60 | WFO airtel to HQ   | 1            | 1        |  |
| 77                  | 11/28/60 | NY airtel to HQ  | 1            | 1        | 3  |
| 78                  | 11/30/60 | NY airtel to HQ  | 1            | 1        |  |
| 79                  | 12/2/60  | WFO airtel to HQ with long<br>LHM enclosure and 6 enclosures<br>opened | 6            | 2        | 7  |
| 80                  | 12/28/60 | HQ letter to another agency<br>with 1 enclosure page                   | 2            | 2        |  |
| NOT<br>CORDED       | 1/6/61   | WFO letter to HQ   | 2            | 0        | 3  |

Emergency Workload  
Review 12-18-77VOLUME 2

## HEADQUARTERS FILES

REVIEWED BY o/c / mb100-404849Helen Shull11/6/78  
(month/year)

| Serial         | Date     | Description<br>(Type of communication, to, from) | No. of Pages |          | Exemptions used or, to whom referred<br>(Identify statute if (b)(3) cited) |
|----------------|----------|--|--------------|----------|--|
|                |          |  | Actual       | Released |  |
| NOT<br>CORDED. | 1/6/61   | WFO letter to HQ                                 | 2            | 0        |  |
| 78             | 12/31/60 | Mexico letter to HQ                              | 2            | 0        | 5  |
| 79             | 1/12/61  | NY letter to HQ                                  | 2            | 2        |  |
| 80             | 1/27/61  | NY letter to HQ                                  | 2            | 2        |  |
| 81             | 2/1/61   | Mexico letter to HQ                              | 1            | 1        |  |
| 82             | 2/16/61  | Paris letter to HQ                               | 1            | 0        |  |
| 83             | 2/27/61  | London letter to HQ                              | 2            | 2        | 3  |
|                |          |  |              |          |  |
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U. S. Department of Justice

MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE

FEDERAL BUREAU

of

INVESTIGATION

SECTION 2  
MAILS 40-63

USE CARE IN HANDLING THIS FILE

Telephone Call 2441

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CONFIDENTIAL

|  |                                     |   |  |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| REPORTING OFFICE<br><b>MINNEAPOLIS</b>         | OFFICE OF ORIGIN<br><b>NEW YORK</b> | DATE<br><b>8/15/56</b>                              | INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD<br><b>6/27, 1956 - 7/23,<br/>30:8/7, 8, 13/56</b> |
| TITLE OF CASE<br><br><b>HELEN SOBELL, was.</b> |                                     | REPORT MADE BY<br><b>MORTIMER C. WATSON</b>         | TYPED BY<br><b>deb</b>   |
|  |                                     | CHARACTER OF CASE<br><br><b>SECURITY MATTER - C</b> |  |

Unable to establish that PAUL and PAULA ZIMMERLING uncle and aunt of MERIDEL LE SUEUR. Information on relatives set out. MERIDEL LE SUEUR and ALEXANDER TRIVENYNG reportedly had a daughter who in 1942 was of high school age and lived with an unidentified doctor in New York. U

- RUC -

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ACTIVELY ENGAGED  
SLIP (S) OF COMMUNICATED

## DETAILS:

Classified **V-424**  
Exempt from GDS, Category **2**  
Date of Declassification **Indefinite**

RECD. REC'D.  
DATE FORM.  
HOW FORW.  
BY

|  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| APPROVED<br><i>Rah</i>   | SPECIAL AGENT<br>IN CHARGE<br><i>DOH</i> | DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW.            |   |
| COPIES MADE:<br><br><b>4 Bureau (100-404849) (RM)<br/>3 New York (100-109849) (RM)<br/>2 Minneapolis (100-10803)</b> |  | 100-404849-<br><br><i>11 AUG 20 1956</i> | RECORDED - 55<br><br><i>INDEXED .51</i>   |
| COPIES DESTROYED<br><br><b>11 OCT 15 1956</b>  | CONFIDENTIAL<br><i>DOH</i>               | 100-404849-<br><br><i>11 AUG 20 1956</i> | SUBJ/CONTROL<br><br><i>11 AUG 20 1956</i> |

**58 AUG 27 1956**

MP 100-10803

[REDACTED] MERIDELLE DOLNEY'S aunt  
and uncle were Mr. and Mrs. PAUL ZEMMERING, 3225 Olinville  
Avenue, Bronx, New York City.

b7c  
b2d

b7d

On June 27, 1956, [REDACTED] University of Minnesota, Minneapolis,  
Minnesota, advised SA WATSON that their records show that  
PAUL ZEMMERING was admitted to the university in 1928 and  
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University, Washington Square College, 32 Waverley Place, New  
York City and that he had been admitted from Seward Park  
High School, which he attended from June, 1923 to June, 1926.  
He was placed on probation in June, 1928. [REDACTED]

b7d

The University of Minnesota records also showed  
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was a premedic. The records also showed that he received a  
Bachelor of Arts degree in 1930 and that subsequently his  
diploma was sent to 1475 Jessup Avenue, New York City. The  
record also reflected that on July 21, 1930, a transcript of  
his record was sent to the Scottish University Entrance Board,  
St. Andrews, Scotland. [REDACTED]

On June 28, 1956, [REDACTED] located a record for  
PAULINE ETHEL RUBEN, showing her entrance on September 24,  
1928. Her residence was given as 1216 James Avenue North.  
Her father was listed as ISRAEL RUEBN of the same address.  
She graduated from North High School, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
on June 13, 1928. These records showed only one year attendance  
at the university. [REDACTED]

b7a

MP 100-10803

~~Pauline Zimmering~~ Paula / RUBEN

285  
RUBEN  
Ethel M.  
Pauline

On June 29, 1956, [REDACTED] North High School, Minneapolis, Minnesota, furnished SA WATSON with the records of PAULINE RUBENS, which reflected that she was born June 22, 1910 in Sweden. Her home residence was 1216 James Avenue North. Her parent was given as ISRAEL RUBENS, 1216 James Avenue North, Minneapolis. She graduated June 13, 1928. Her credits were sent to the University of Minnesota, September, 1928 and to the Columbia University, New York City, in August, 1947. There is a notation in this file, which according to Mrs. COORIGAN, reflected that PAULINE RUBENS was now Mrs. PAUL ZIMMERING, B (3) 225 Olinville Avenue, Bronx, New York.

[REDACTED] also made available a record for BERTRAN RUBENS, who was born February 17, 1908 in Gutenberg, Sweden. This record listed his residence as 1012 Newton No., and his father as being ISRAEL RUBENS, manager of a wholesale tailoring concern. He graduated in June, 1926.

The records of the Clerk of the Hennepin County District Court, Minneapolis, Minnesota, were checked on June 27, 1956 by SA WATSON and reflected a certificate of arrival dated December 13, 1920 for ISRAEL RUBENOWITZ. This certificate of arrival reflected that he entered New York City on May 2, 1915 aboard the Philadelphia.

The file also showed a declaration of intention number 12833, dated March 8, 1917 which reflected that ISRAEL RUBENOWITZ was born November 15, 1888 in Russian Poland. His occupation was given as a peddler and he resided at 1419 8th Avenue North, Minneapolis. His last foreign residence was given as Gottenborg, Sweden; wife ANNA RUBEN was born in Sweden.

ISRAEL RUBEN The records also showed a petition number 9411 dated December 24, 1920 for ISRAEL RUBENS, 1023 James North, Minneapolis, Minnesota. His occupation was given as merchant. This file reflected that he was born November 15, 1885 in Poland. His children were listed as BERTHOLD RUBENS, born February 17, 1908 at Gottenborg and PAULINE born June 22, 1910, same city. ISRAEL RUBENS was naturalized July 14, 1921.

On June 27, 1956 [REDACTED] furnished SA WATSON the file on ISRAEL RUBEN. This file reflected that in April,

MP 100-10803

1932, he resided at 1216 James Avenue North, Minneapolis, Minnesota, and was employed as a salesman for the Nash Tailoring Company. In 1935 he resided at 2730 Portland Avenue South, Minneapolis. In 1937 he resided at 2811 Xerxes South, Minneapolis, Minnesota. In 1955 he resided at 2812 Xerxes, Apartment 103, Minneapolis, Minnesota. His wife was given as ANNA, and in 1955 he was owner of the Ruben Tailoring Company, 1010 Marquette, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

[REDACTED] had no record for a PAULA, PAULINE, or PAUL ZIMMERING; or a PAULA or PAULINE RUBEN. 62/

The indices of the Minneapolis Office contained no reference to PAULA, PAULINE, or PAUL ZIMMERING; no record of ISRAEL, ANNA, BERTRAM, BERTHOLD, PAULA, or PAULINE RUBEN. 4  
P.M. P.M. 2/17/56

The records of the Clerk of Ramsey County District Court, St. Paul, Minnesota, were checked on August 8, 1956 to determine whether MERIDEL LE SUEUR's former husband, HARRY ROBONOFF, was related to the RUBENS. 4  
No family.

The pertinent record of one FRANK RICE reflected a petition for naturalization, number 1312, on July 23, 1912 at St. Paul, Minnesota. He listed his occupation as peddler and his address as 199 States Street, St. Paul, Minnesota. This record revealed that FRANK RICE was born December 10, 1864 at Padagl, Russia and immigrated to the United States from Hamburg June 1, 1905. The records reflect that HARRY RICE, born Russia, May 15, 1893, was one of FRANK RICE's children. These records did not indicate a name ROBONOFF nor any relation to the RUBEN family. 4

The library of the Minneapolis Star Tribune was checked on July 30, 1956 for write-ups of the deaths of MERIDEL's parents, ARTHUR and MARION; however, no persons were mentioned which would reflect a tie up with the ZIMMERINGS. 4

MRS. H. J. [REDACTED] Macmillan, [REDACTED] Board of Education, Minneapolis, Minnesota, reflected that MERIDEL LE SUEUR was employed as an extra teacher under Works Progress Administration from November 16, 1936 to July 1, 1939. Their files contained no background information on MERIDEL LE SUEUR. 4  
H. J. Macmillan

[REDACTED] Board of Education, Minneapolis, Minnesota, advised SA WATSON on August 7, 1956 that their files reflected that ARTHUR LE SUEUR had been elected to the Minneapolis School Board in 1935. However, their records contained no background information on him. b7d

On August 8, 1956, a check was made by SA WATSON of the City Clerk's Office, Minneapolis, Minnesota, for background on ARTHUR LE SUEUR as an elected official of the city; however, no background is maintained of elected people. b7j

On June 27, 1956, [REDACTED] advised that MERIDEL LE SUEUR's file contained only recent information regarding her and no background information on her life. b7d

On June 6, 1956, [REDACTED] Minneapolis, Minnesota, advised SA WATSON that MERIDEL LE SUEUR had been a neighbor of his for a number of years in the 1940's. He asserted that he knew nothing regarding her relations and that although they were very noisy people, neither he nor anyone else in the neighborhood would associate with them. b7c

In 1945, inquiries at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, Carnegie Hall, New York City, New York, reflected that MERIDEL LE SUEUR entered the junior class October 26, 1917 and left December 19, 1917. She re-entered the school January 16, 1918 and left December 19, 1918. b7f

T-1, who has furnished reliable information in the past, furnished information in 1942 to the effect that he was unable to definitely state whether MERIDEL LE SUEUR was previously the wife of ALEXANDER LEO TRACTENBERG. He stated, however, that from general conversations between LE SUEUR and TRACTENBERG, he inferred that a young girl, who was at that time in grade school or junior high school, was the daughter of LE SUEUR and TRACTENBERG. Informant advised that LE SUEUR spent considerable time with TRACTENBERG insofar as social meetings were concerned. It was also noted that the young girl does not live with TRACTENBERG but resides with an unidentified doctor in New York City. b7j

~~CHICKADEE LIBRARY~~  
The Communist Party has been designated by  
the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to  
Executive Order 10450.. L

T-3, who has furnished reliable information  
in the past, advised on September 22, 1944 that ALEXANDER  
TRACTENBERG, then Director of the Publications of the  
Communist Political Association and co-owner of International  
Publishers, Inc., 381 4th Avenue, New York City, had in his  
possession a letter from MERIDEL which contained a paragraph  
regarding RACHEL and DEBORAH's personal life. Another  
paragraph of this letter read as follows: "I had a letter  
from PAUL the other day, who thinks also that I am coming to  
New York and urges me to stay with her. She says PAUL is in  
the south seas." L

T-4, who was furnished reliable information in  
the past, advised on February 17, 1943 that ALEXANDER TRACTEN-  
HERG had in his possession from M. LE SUEUR, 710 Cedar Street,  
St. Paul, Minnesota, a letter in which she thanked him for  
remembering the "kids" by sending birthday dresses. She also  
mentioned several personal items regarding RACHEL and DEBORAH. L

T-5, who has furnished reliable information in the  
past, stated that on November 30, 1947 ALEXANDER TRACTENBERG  
had in his possession a letter from D. B. STOFFER, postmarked  
St. Paul, January 27, 1947, which was signed DEBBY and BERNIE.  
The letter stated, "but I have thought of you often and all the  
swell times we had in New York. One of my realest  
memories I have is sitting on your lap in your office and  
talking, and also one time when you needed a shave - remember?  
I believe RACHEL was there then too." The letter contained  
another paragraph which read as follows: "Oh! I don't know  
if mom told you or not, but I am married now to BERNIE STOFFER." L

T-6, who has furnished reliable information in the  
past, advised on February 22, 1945 that MERIDEL LE SUEUR was  
going to New York on March 8, 1945 where she would be met by  
ALEXANDER TRACTENBERG "her godfather," who would take her to

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MP 100-10803

the doctor. This informant advised on March 7, 1945 that MERIDEL's address in New York would be 119 Washington Place, New York 14, New York. U

On August 13, 1956, [REDACTED] b7d  
Minneapolis Board of Education, Minneapolis, Minnesota, furnished SA WATSON the record of RACHEL LE SUEUR, born May 2, 1928 at Minneapolis. This record gave her mother's name as MERIDEL, born in Iowa. The family status was divorced. Her mother's occupation was given as an author. It was noted that all RACHEL LE SUEUR's education took place at schools in the vicinity of Minneapolis except one notation dated February 13, 1942 which had the comment "New York." The entry which followed was dated April 20, 1942 and gave the address as 2521 Harriet, Minneapolis, Minnesota. N.Y. L.P.

The Board of Education records for DEBORAH LE SUEUR showed that she was born August 2, 1929 at Minneapolis. All of DEBORAH's education was in Minneapolis schools with the exception of the period from September 1, 1937 to October 25, 1937, when she was enrolled at the public school in Hudson, Wisconsin and the period from September, 1941 to April 20, 1942 when she was also enrolled at the public school in Hudson, Wisconsin. U

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Careful consideration has been given to each source concealed and T symbols were utilized in the report only in those instances where the identities of the sources must be concealed.

Reference is made to report of SA JEROME M. GARLAND dated December 21, 1942 at New York, entitled "MERIDEL LE SUEUR," which possibly contains pertinent information of value but is unidentified as to source.

INFORMANTS

| Identity of Source | Date of Activity<br>and/or Description<br>of Information | Agent to<br>Whom<br>Furnished | File<br>Where<br>Located |
|--------------------|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
|                    |  |                               |                          |

b7d [REDACTED] (u)  
[REDACTED] (c) 61  
T-3 is anonymous  
T-4 is anonymous  
T-5 is anonymous  
T-6 is [REDACTED]

U  
b2

LEADS

THE NEW YORK OFFICE:

AT NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK:

1. Will attempt to determine through confidential informants and neighborhood investigations whether Dr. PAUL and PAULA ZIMMERING were the

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

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individuals who took care of one of MERIDEL LE SUEUR's children and whether this child addressed them as aunt and uncle. (u)

2. Will inform Minneapolis of any information developed on the subjects. (u)

REFERENCES:

Report of SA RICHARD T. BRADSKY dated June 22, 1956 at New York. (u)

Report of SA JEROME M. GARLAND dated December 21, 1942 at New York City, entitled MERIDEL LE SUEUR. (u)

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

(CONTINUED)

|  |                                     |   |  |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| REPORTING OFFICE<br><b>MINNEAPOLIS</b>         | OFFICE OF ORIGIN<br><b>NEW YORK</b> | DATE<br><b>8/15/56</b>                              | INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD<br><b>6/27, 28, 29; 7/23, 1<br/>30; 8/7, 8, 13/56</b> |
| TITLE OF CASE<br><br><b>HELMN SORILL, WAS.</b> |                                     | REPORT MADE BY<br><b>MORTIMER C. WATSON</b>         | TYPED BY<br><b>deb</b>   |
|  |                                     | CHARACTER OF CASE<br><br><b>SECURITY MATTER - C</b> |  |

SYNOPSIS:

Unable to establish that PAUL and PAULA ZIMMERLING uncle and aunt of MERIDEL LE SUEUR. Information on relatives set out. MERIDEL LE SUEUR and ALEXANDER TRACENBERG reportedly had a daughter who in 1942 was of high school age and lived with an unidentified doctor in New York.

- RUC -

## DETAILS:

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP(S) OF *Classification*  
DATE *4/10/78 DK*

Classified by *4847*  
Exempt from CDS, Category *2*  
Date of Declassification Indefinite  
*JK 10/7/77*

|   |                            |                              |  |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| APPROVED  | SPECIAL AGENT<br>IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW |  |
| COPIES MADE   |                            |                              |  |
| (4) Bureau (100-404849) (RM)<br>3 New York (100-109849) (RM)<br>2 Minneapolis (100-10803) |                            |                              |  |
|   |                            |                              |  |
|   |                            |                              |  |
|   |                            |                              |  |

MP 100-10803

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T-3, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on September 22, 1944 that ALEXANDER TRACTENBERG, then Director of the Publications of the Communist Political Association and co-owner of International Publishers, Inc., 381 4th Avenue, New York City, had in his possession a letter from MERIDEL which contained a paragraph regarding RACHEL and DEBORAH's personal life. Another paragraph of this letter read as follows: "I had a letter from PAUL the other day, who thinks also that I am coming to New York and urges me to stay with her. She says PAUL is in the south seas." [redacted]

T-4, who was furnished reliable information in the past, advised on February 17, 1943 that ALEXANDER TRACTENBERG had in his possession from M. LE SUEUR, 710 Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minnesota, a letter in which she thanked him for remembering the "kids" by sending birthday dresses. She also mentioned several personal items regarding RACHEL and DEBORAH. [redacted]

T-5, who has furnished reliable information in the past, stated that on November 30, 1947 ALEXANDER TRACTENBERG had in his possession a letter from D. B. STOFFER, postmarked St. Paul, January 27, 1947, which was signed DEBBY and BERNIE. The letter stated, "but I have thought of you often and all the swell times we had in New York. One of my realest memories I have is sitting on your lap in your office and talking, and also one time when you needed a shave - remember? I believe RACHEL was there then too." The letter contained another paragraph which read as follows: "Oh! I don't know if mom told you or not, but I am married now to BERNIE STOFFER." [redacted]

T-6, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on February 22, 1945 that MERIDEL LE SUEUR was going to New York on March 8, 1945 where she would be met by ALEXANDER TRACTENBERG "her godfather," who would take her to [redacted]

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MP 100-10803

the doctor. This informant advised on March 7, 1945 that MERIDEL's address in New York would be 119 Washington Place, New York 14, New York.

On August 13, 1956, [REDACTED] 82d  
Minneapolis Board of Education, Minneapolis, Minnesota, furnished SA WATSON the record of RACHEL LE SUEUR, born May 2, 1928 at Minneapolis. This record gave her mother's name as MERIDEL, born in Iowa. The family status was divorced. Her mother's occupation was given as an author. It was noted that all RACHEL LE SUEUR's education took place at schools in the vicinity of Minneapolis except one notation dated February 13, 1942 which had the comment "New York." The entry which followed was dated April 20, 1942 and gave the address as 2521 Harriet, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The Board of Education records for DEBORAH LE SUEUR showed that she was born August 2, 1929 at Minneapolis. All of DEBORAH's education was in Minneapolis schools with the exception of the period from September 1, 1937 to October 25, 1937, when she was enrolled at the public school in Hudson, Wisconsin and the period from September, 1941 to April 20, 1942 when she was also enrolled at the public school in Hudson, Wisconsin.

- RUC -

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MP 00-10803

Careful consideration has been given to each source concealed and T symbols were utilized in the report only in those instances where the identities of the sources must be concealed.

(u)

Reference is made to report of SA JEROME M. GARLAND dated December 21, 1942 at New York, entitled "MERIDEL LE SUEUR," which possibly contains pertinent information of value but is unidentified as to source. (u)

INFORMANTS

| Identity of Source | Date of Activity<br>and/or Description<br>of Information<br>Furnished | Agent to<br>Whom<br>Furnished | File<br>Where<br>Located |
|--------------------|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
|--------------------|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------|

b7d [REDACTED]

(u)

[REDACTED] (c) b1

(u)

T-3 is anonymous

(u)

T-4 is anonymous

(u)

T-5 is anonymous

(u)

T-6 is [REDACTED] b2

(u)

LEADS

THE NEW YORK OFFICE:

AT NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK:

1. Will attempt to determine through confidential informants and neighborhood investigations whether Dr. PAUL and PAULA ZIMMERING were the

(u)

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

individuals who took care of one of MERIDEL LE SUEUR's children and whether this child addressed them as aunt and uncle. (U)

2. Will inform Minneapolis of any information developed on the subjects. (U)

REFERENCES:

Report of SA RICHARD T. HRADSKY dated June 22, 1956 at New York. (U)

Report of SA JEROME M. GARLAND dated December 21, 1942 at New York City, entitled MERIDEL LE SUEUR. (U)

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~~TOP SECRET~~FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION GIR 3  
~~TOP SECRET~~

|                                    |                              |  |   |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|---|
| Reporting Office<br>NEW YORK       | Office of Origin<br>NEW YORK | Date<br>8/30/56                          | Investigative Period<br>5/9; 7/26, 27, 31; 8/3; 8-10/56 |
| TITLE OF CASE<br>HELEN SOBELL, was |                              | Report made by<br>RICHARD T. HRADSKY     | Typed by<br>HRA   |
|                                    |                              | CHARACTER OF CASE<br>SECURITY MATTER - C |   |

MRS. MORTON SOBELL

mrs 10-1

Investigation to verify that FLORENCE (GELLER) PASTERNAK and ROSE ZIMMERING were sisters reflects that ROSE ZIMMERING was ROSA GELLER before her marriage. LEO ZIMMERING, son of ROSE ZIMMERING, reported a change of address from Brooklyn, New York, to c/o SOBEL, 5618 Catherine Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, subsequent to October 16, 1940. This address was residence of MORTON SOBELL's mother and father, LOUIS and ROSE SOBELL. Birth certificate of LEO ZIMMERING reflects his mother's name as ROSA GELLER ZIMMERING and his father as JAKE ZIMMERING (only one "m" used in spelling ZIMMERING on birth records). New York County Clerk's Office records reflect that firm of Plotkin and Zimmering consisted of FRANK PLOTKIN and JACOB ZIMMERING, who were authorized to conduct a chicken market under that firm name.

RECD. 7/18  
REC'D. 8-18-56  
DATE FORM. 9-17-56  
NOW FORM. 7-6  
BY WHT/PD

|   |                            |                        |             |            |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------|------------|
| Approved<br>JFK/12/56   | Special Agent<br>in Charge | Do not use space below |             |            |
| Copies made:<br>Bureau (100-404849) (RM)<br>3-New York (100-109849)   |                            | 100-404849             | RECORDED-13 | INDEXED-13 |
| 100-404849<br>CIA by (6-14-56)<br>AGENCY digest by (6-25-56)<br>REQ. RECD.<br>DATE FORM. 8-6-58<br>NOW FORM. R/S<br>BY AFM: |                            | 17 AUG 31 1956         | EX-118      |            |
| 2618  | 21                         | PM                     | 26          | 26         |

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Classified by  
Exempt from U.S. Category  
Data of Declas. 10/10/2010  
Reason: Indefinite

63 SEP 21 1956

NY 100-109849

DETAILS: SUMMARY OF BACKGROUND OF CURRENT INVESTIGATION

[REDACTED]

TS

EMIL JULIUS KLAUS FUCHS, British atomic scientist, was arrested by British authorities on February 2, 1950, following his admission that he had passed information regarding the atomic bomb to Soviet agents in England, 1941-1943 and 1946-1949, and to an individual whose identity he did not know in the United States in 1944-1945. On March 1, 1950, FUCHS was arraigned on the charge of violating the British Official Secrets Act of 1911. FUCHS pled guilty to passing atomic secrets and was sentenced on March 1, 1950, to fourteen years in prison.

[REDACTED]

MORRIS PASTERNAK is the uncle of MORTON SOBELL, as he, MORRIS PASTERNAK and ROSE SOBELL, mother of MORTON SOBELL, are brother and sister. U

[REDACTED]

b7d

Mrs. MORRIS PASTERNAK and Mrs. JACOB ZIMMERLING were sisters.

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[REDACTED] MORRIS PASTERNAK, 47-25 48th Street, Long Island City, New York, and JACOB ZIMMERING, 1475 Jessup Avenue, Brooklyn, New York.

The New York City Street Directory reflects that Jessup Avenue is in the Bronx. *u*

On May 31, 1956, T-2, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that JACOB ZIMMERING, residing at 973 Hopkinson Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, registered at Local Board 148 Brooklyn, New York, on April 27, 1942. *u*

The informant stated that JACOB ZIMMERING subsequently moved to 3948 50th Street, Woodside, New York; that he stated his birth date was July 12, 1886, in Poland, and that Mrs. ROSE ZIMMERING, 973 Hopkinson Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, would always know his address. *u*

At the Municipal Reference Library, Municipal Building, New York, New York, Polka New York City Directory, 1933-1934, Emergency Unemployment Relief Committee edition, R. L. POLK and Company, Publishers, page 3567, reflects a listing as follows:

ZIMMERING, JACOB (ROSE; PLOTKIN and ZIMMERING)  
h. 1475 Jesup Avenue, Apartment 4B.

ZIMMERING, PAUL R., 1475 Jesup Avenue,  
Apartment 4B. *u*

Naturalization records of the United States District Court, Southern District of New York, 70 Columbus Avenue, New York City, reflect a Petition for Naturalization filed by ROSE ZIMMERING, 1475 Jessup Avenue, Bronx, New York, which reflected her occupation as housewife and her birth at Rodla, Poland on September 17, 1887. *u*

Mrs. RAFAEL ZIMMERING

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The petition reflects that she was married to RAPHAEL on August 15, 1904, at Buczyn, Poland. He was born on June 22, 1884, entered the United States at New York, New York, on December 29, 1908, for permanent residence and resided at 1475 Jessup Avenue, Bronx, New York.

The petitioner had three children, PAUL, born April 12, 1909, in Poland and residing temporarily in Bristol, England; LEO, born April 15, 1916, New York City, and ISRAEL, born July 12, 1920, New York City.

Dr. PAUL ZIMMERING was born April 7, 1909, Poland; received his Bachelor of Arts Degree at the University of Minnesota, 1930, and his medical education at the University of Bristol, England, graduating in April, 1937.

He was licensed in the State of New York, June 30, 1938, and was naturalized a United States citizen on June 8, 1942.

INVESTIGATION TO ASCERTAIN MAIDEN NAME OF ROSE ZIMMERING AND DETERMINE IF CHRISTIAN NAME OF ROSE ZIMMERING'S HUSBAND WAS JACOB OR RAPHAEL

Investigation was conducted to ascertain if the maiden name of ROSE ZIMMERING was ROSE GELLER to verify information that FLORENCE PASTERNAK and ROSE ZIMMERING were sisters.

A search to locate a birth record for ROSE ZIMMERING'S sons, LEO and ISRAEL, which would reflect the mother's maiden name, was made on July 31, 1956, at the Municipal Reference Library, Municipal Building, New York, New York.

Records of births in New York City for April 15, 1916, and July 12, 1920, were checked by SA RICHARD T. HRADSKY for the birth of LEO and ISRAEL ZIMMERING, but no record was located.

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The years of 1915 and 1917 were also checked for the birth month and day, of LEO ZIMMERING, and the years 1919 and 1921 for the birth month and day of ISRAEL ZIMMERING, but no record was noted which could be identified with LEO or ISRAEL ZIMMERING.

The Board of Elections records, Bronx, New York, for the year 1939, checked by SA THEODORE A. KORONTJIS on August 8, 1956, reflected that LEO ZIMMERING, 1475 Jessup Avenue, Bronx, New York, registered for the first time in the 104th Election District, Second Assembly District, Bronx, New York, in 1939.

He indicated his age as 22, single, 22 years in New York State, 13 years in Bronx, New York, and the election district, born in the United States and employed as a laborer at Lehman, 197 Grand. He registered as a voter of the American Labor Party.

T-3, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on September 9, 1954, that from the time of its inception in 1936, there existed within the American Labor Party a struggle for power among three groups. These were the Communist Party, the Socialist Party, and the Social Democrats. By the early 1940's, the Communist Party emerged as the controlling force within the American Labor Party in the major industrial areas in New York State. Generally these were the areas around Albany, Buffalo, Jamestown, Rochester, Schenectady, Syracuse, Troy, the Hudson River Valley, Columbia, Dutchess, Nassau, and Westchester Counties, and New York City, with the exception of Brooklyn. In 1942 the Communist Party was able to capture the American Labor Party in Brooklyn. T-3 knew this situation to continue up until at least 1949. The American Labor Party never developed into an organization of any real consequence in the nonindustrial areas of New York State.

T-4, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on May 4, 1956, that the Communist Party today, in the past, through its members in key positions in the American Labor Party, constitutes the force that controls it.

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BIRTH DATE OF LEO ZIMMERING  
REFLECTED AS MARCH 7, 1917,  
AT BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, ACCORDING TO T-2

On August 10, 1956, T-2, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that LEO ZIMMERING, 973 Hopkinson Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, registered for Selective Service on October 16, 1940; that he furnished his birth date as March 7, 1917, at Brooklyn, New York, and that the person who would always know his address was Mrs. IRENE ZIMMERING, his wife, 973 Hopkinson Avenue, Brooklyn, New York.

LEO ZIMMERING advised that he was self employed at 338 Johnson Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, telephone number EV 4-7337.

T-2 advised that on an unknown date subsequent to October 16, 1940, LEO ZIMMERING filed a notice of removal from 973 Hopkinson Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, care of SOBEL, 5618 Catherine Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and subsequent thereto care of KAPLAN, 1259 Alden Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

No record of ISRAEL ZIMMERING could be located by T-2.

Indices of the New York Office reflect that in July, 1950, SA WILLIAM F. GUILFOILE checked the employment application of MORTON SOBELL dated June 4, 1942, at the Schenectady Works, General Electric Company, Schenectady, New York, which reflected that MORTON SOBELL furnished his permanent address as 5618 Catherine Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, there his parents LOUIS and ROSE SOBELL, and sister, BEVERLY SOBELL, resided.

The Brooklyn Telephone Directory, August, 1941 issue, checked by SA RICHARD T. HRADSKY at the New York Telephone Company, 140 West Street, New York City, on May 9, 1956, reflected a listing for one JACOB ZIMMERING, 338 Johnson Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, telephone number EV 4-7337.

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INFORMATION FROM BIRTH RECORD  
OF LEO ZIMMERING

At the Board of Health, Brooklyn, New York, Birth Certificate Number 10498, checked by SA RICHARD T. HRADSKY on August 10, 1956, reflected that LEO ZIMERING, (spelled with one "m") a white male, was born on March 6, 1917, at 26 Montieth Street, Brooklyn, New York.

The certificate reflected the following information concerning his father and mother:

Father - JAKE ZIMERING, 99 Avenue D, New York, born in Russia, age 33, occupation laborer.

Mother - ROSA ZIMERING, 99 Avenue D, New York, name before marriage: ROSA GELLER, born in Russia, age 29, occupation wife.

The number of children born to this mother as of March 6, 1917, was three. The number of children living as of that date was two.

CHECK FOR IDENTITY OF  
PLOTKIN AND ZIMMERING

On June 7, 1956, at the Municipal Reference Library, Municipal Building, New York, New York, SA RICHARD T. HRADSKY checked Polks New York City Directory, 1933-1934, Emergency Unemployment Relief Committee edition, R. L. Polk and Company, Publishers, page 3567, which reflected an employment listing for JACOB ZIMERING as follows:

ZIMERING, JACOB (ROSE; PLOTKIN and ZIMERING) H.  
1475 Jesup Avenue, Apartment 4B.

T-5, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on July 27, 1956, that he had no record of the firm PLOTKIN and ZIMERING.

At the New York County Clerk's Office, Supreme Court Building, New York, New York, SA RICHARD T. HRADSKY on August 10, 1956, checked the Business Certificate Register, which reflected that Business Certificate Number

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10442 filed October 30, 1926, authorized FRANK PLOTKIN and JACOB ZIMMERING to conduct a business under the name of PLOTKIN and ZIMMERING.

The residence addresses were as follows:

FRANK PLOTKIN, 848 59th Street, Brooklyn,  
New York.

JACOB ZIMMERING, 625 East 15th Street,  
Brooklyn, New York.

The business to be conducted was that of a chicken market.

The indices of the New York Office reflect no reference to FRANK PLOTKIN or PLOTKIN and ZIMMERING.

The Communist Party, mentioned above, has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

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NY 100-109849

INFORMANTS

| Identity of<br>Source | Date of Activity<br>Or Description<br>of Information | Date<br>Received | Agent to<br>whom<br>Furnished | File Number<br>where<br>Located |
|-----------------------|--|------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| [REDACTED]            |  |                  |                               | b1 (75)                         |

T-2 Selective Service 5/31/56 SA RICHARD 100-37158-  
Selective Registration T. HRADSKY 1749  
Service Records, Card of JACOB [REDACTED] (u)  
Local Board 148, ZIMMERING.  
Brooklyn, NY

Selective Service 8/10/56 SA RICHARD Instant  
Registration Card T. HRADSKY Report  
of LEO ZIMMERING (u)

b7d

b7d

b7d

Careful consideration has been given to each source concealed and T symbols were utilized in this report only in those instances where the identities of the sources must be concealed. (u)

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

NY 100-109849

NY 100-109849  
Soleil  
in Motion

LEADS

NEW YORK

At New York, New York

\* Will report results of review of New York files to determine if a close relationship exists between the PASTERNAK and JOHN WILLIAMSON families.

\* Will report subject's activities with the National Committee to Secure Justice in the ROSENBERG Case.

REFERENCES

Bureau letter to New York, 4/19/56.

Report of SA RICHARD T. HRADSKY, 6/22/56,  
at New York.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

Lee  
H. Floyd

SAO, New York (100-109849)

September 19, 1956

Director, FBI (100-404849)

~~TOP SECRET~~

HELEN SOBELL  
SECURITY MATTER - D

ReRep of SA Richard T. Hradsky at New York,  
dated August 30, 1956. (U)

Inasmuch as efforts to establish the relationship, if any, between the Zimmerman family and the Sobell family is being conducted and reported in the Espionage - R case on Morton Sobell, subject's husband, it is not felt that the results should also be reported in the case on Helen Sobell unless you have specific information which pertains to Helen Sobell and which, therefore, should be included. It is expected, however, that you will conduct appropriate investigation relative to the communist activity of Helen Sobell and that the results of your investigation will be reported accordingly. (U)

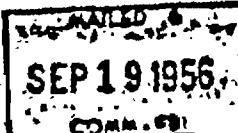
NOTE ON YELLOW: Report subm 10-31-56 11-8-52 11-7-56 G.H.

WHP:alcf  
(5)

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RECORDED - 24

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17 SEP 21 1956

Classified by 4842  
Exempt from CDS, Category  
Date of Declassification Indefinite

61 SEP 25 1956  
399

96 10/7/71

FILE # 100-404849

SUBJECT HELEN SOBELL

SERIAL 43 DATE 10-31-56

CONSISTING OF 11 PAGES of which  
page 7 para 4.6

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety,  
under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant  
to Executive Order 11652 as it contains  
information which would disclose an intelligence  
source. This serial bears the Classification  
Officers number [redacted]

FILE # 100-404849

SUBJECT HELEN SOBELL

SERIAL 43 DATE 10-31-56

CONSISTING OF 11 PAGES of which  
page 9 para. 42.3.3

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety, under (b)(7)(D) as information contained in this serial would identify an informant to whom an expressed promise of confidentiality has been given. This information includes dates and places of meetings which were attended by a limited number of people known to the informant and/or information from these meetings and situations in which an informant was in close contact with members of these organizations, disclosure of which would reveal his identity.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SECRET

|   |                                     |  |   |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| Reporting Office<br><b>NEW YORK</b>           | Office of Origin<br><b>NEW YORK</b> | Date<br><b>10/21/56</b>  | Investigative Period<br><b>9/20, 25; 10/9, 19, 22-23/56</b> |
| TITLE OF CASE<br><br><b>HELEN SOBELL, was</b> |                                     | Report made by<br><b>RICHARD T. HRADSKY</b>                                      | Type BY<br>cam  |
|   |                                     | CHARACTER OF CASE<br><br><b>SECURITY MATTER - C</b>                              |   |
|   |                                     | AGENCY <i>The Army</i><br>REQ. REC'D <i>8-18-60</i><br>REF'T FORM <i>8-29-60</i> |   |

HELEN SOBELL addressed National Committee To Secure Justice For MORTON SOBELL Rally at Carnegie Hall, on 5/15/56, and made plea for continued support and for funds for the Committee. "Daily Worker," east coast Communist newspaper, published subject's statement attacking the conclusions of the House Un-American Activities Committee report on the National Committee To Secure Justice in the ROSENBERG Case as malicious allegations.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
INVOLVED IN EXECUTING  
REPORT(S) OR CHECKLIST

DATE OF 3/7/56

*[Redacted]* Was speaker  
in Kansas City, Mo., in July, 1956, and

|  |                            |  |  |                                     |
|--|----------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| Approved<br><i>JTH/jgs</i>                         | Special Agent<br>in Charge | Do not write in spaces below             |  |                                     |
| Copies made:                                       |                            | 100                                      | 44-14247                                 | 43                                  |
| AGENCY<br>REC'D.<br>DATE REC'D.<br>HOW FORM.<br>BY |                            | SECRET                                   | NOV 1 1956                               | RECORDED-31<br>INDEXED-31<br>EY 118 |
| AGENCY<br>REC'D.<br>DATE REC'D.<br>HOW FORM.<br>BY |                            | 100-404849 (RM)<br>New York (100-109849) | 100-404849 (RM)<br>New York (100-109849) |                                     |

Classified by *484*Exempt from CDS Category *1 d*  
Date of Declassification Indefinite**64 NOV 19 1956**

NY 100-109849

in Los Angeles, in August, 1956. (S)

- P -

DETAILS:

On April 4, 1956, [redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, furnished a four page leaflet entitled "Innocent," the cover of which bore pictures of MORTON and HELEN SOBELL and a plea from Mrs. SOBELL proclaiming her husband's innocence. The article inside entitled, "Convicted Without Evidence," by Mrs. MORTON SOBELL, briefly decried the case against her husband by pointing out that there was no evidence proving espionage by her husband. The fourth page asked people to request Senator THOMAS C. HENNING, Jr., Chairman of the Senate Sub-Committee on Constitutional Rights, to include the SOBELL case on the agenda. Contributions were urgently requested to be mailed with a clipped coupon portion addressed to Mrs. MORTON SOBELL, Committee To Secure Justice For MORTON SOBELL, 940 Broadway, New York City.

[redacted] obtained this leaflet at a Smith Act Rally, Carnegie Hall, on March 28, 1956, sponsored by the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee.

The National Committee To Secure Justice in the ROSENBERG Case(NCSJRC), also known as: National Committee To Secure Justice For MORTON SOBELL in the ROSENBERG Case, the ROSENBERG-SOBELL Committee, the Committee To Secure Justice For MORTON SOBELL, SOBELL Committee.

The National Committee To Secure Justice in the ROSENBERG Case maintains national headquarters in Room D, 940 Broadway, New York City, and the mailbox servicing this office is labelled "SOBELL Committee."

JULIUS and ETHEL ROSENBERG and MORTON SOBELL were convicted in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York, on March 29, 1951, of conspiracy to commit espionage on behalf of the Soviet Union. The ROSENBERGS were

NY 100-109849

sentenced to death on April 5, 1951, and MORTON SOBELL to thirty years imprisonment on the same date. JULIUS and ETHEL ROSENBERG were legally executed at Sing Sing Prison, Ossining, New York, on June 19, 1953, and MORTON SOBELL is currently serving his sentence at the United States Penitentiary, Alcatraz, California. U

[redacted] advised, in January, 1952, that the National Committee To Secure Justice in the ROSENBERG Case was formed on January 2, 1952, for the purpose of obtaining a new trial for the ROSENBERGS. b7d U

[redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised, on May 9, 1956, that the National Committee To Secure Justice in the ROSENBERG Case was attempting to keep alive the ROSENBERG case and to fight for the release of MORTON SOBELL. He stated that the Communist Party took an extremely active interest in assisting the committee. b7d U

The "Daily Worker," issue of October 8, 1951, page 1, columns 4 and 5, in an article entitled "150 Notables Form Emergency Civil Rights Committee"(ECLC) reflected that the formation of the Emergency Civil Rights Committee had been announced on October 7, 1951. It was shown that the purpose of the organization would be to help mobilize public opinion in support of the traditional American constitutional guarantees of civil liberties and to render aid to victims of abridgment of these liberties in politics, education and the professions. The founders, according to the article, included more than 50 members of the clergy and many educators and professionals. U

[redacted] who was in a position to furnish reliable information, on October 21, 1955, furnished information reflecting that the Communist Party (CP), felt that help should be extended in building a "united front civil liberties organization" in the United States which, while not led by the "left," would contain labor, liberal and "left forces" within it in a commonly agreed program, including defense of the rights of Communists. b7d U

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The information further indicated that the Communist Party felt that this aim can best be achieved by helping the Emergency Civil Rights Committee to become a national organization with local chapters operating on the basis of its program.

The headquarters of the Emergency Civil Rights Committee is located at 421 7th Avenue, New York City.

SUBJECT ADDRESSED MASS MEETING AT CARNEGIE HALL ON MAY 15, 1956

On May 15, 1956, the National Committee To Secure Justice For MORTON SOBELL, sponsored a mass meeting at Carnegie Hall, New York City, which was advertised in the "Daily Worker," east coast Communist newspaper, issue of May 15, 1956, page 3, column 1, as a SOBELL rally to hear the new facts in the MORTON SOBELL case and at which, for the first time, photostats of new documents introduced the previous week with the new legal motion filed for the freedom or new trial of MORTON SOBELL, would be shown.

The new legal motion referred to was a petition for a new trial pursuant to Title 28, United States Code, Section 2255, filed by attorneys for subject's husband, MORTON SOBELL, in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York, on May 8, 1956.

SA PHILIP H. SHERIDAN, who attended the above meeting, advised that HELEN SOBELL rented Carnegie Hall and made arrangements for the meeting and made a 10 minute plea for continued support and for funds for the National Committee To Secure Justice For MARTON SOBELL in the ROSENBERG Case.

HELEN SOBELL BRANDS HOUSE UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE REPORT ON NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE MALICIOUS ALLEGATIONS

In the August 27, 1956, issue of the "New York Times" newspaper, page 41, was published the conclusions of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, headed by

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SUBJECT'S APPEARANCES IN CANADA

(S)

[redacted] advised, on February 25, 1955, that the National Committee of the Canadian Soviet Friendship Society sent a delegation of 8 Canadians to the Soviet Union where it would be the guest of the Soviet Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries. b7d

On March 9, 1954, [redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, furnished a copy of the November, 1953, issue of "News Facts" of the Canadian Soviet Friendship Society, which reflected that DYSON CARTER was the editor of this publication. b7d

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The National Council of American Soviet Friendship has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

HELEN SOBELL WAS SPEAKER AT SOBELL DINNER IN KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, ON JULY 11, 1956.

On July 12, 1956,

[redacted] advised SA JACK H. PORTER, [redacted] that on the evening of July 11, 1956, a "SOBELL Dinner" was held at the Bellerive Hotel, 214 Armour Boulevard, Kansas City, Missouri, at which HELEN SOBELL discussed the legal aspects of her husband's case and efforts to obtain a new trial. She also requested that contributions be made and stated that checks could be made out to Mrs. SOBELL or the Committee. [redacted] stated that this meeting was sponsored by the St. Louis Committee To Secure Justice For MORTON SOBELL in the ROSENBERG Case and that at the meeting a suggestion was made that a Kansas City local of the Committee be formed, but that the suggestion was opposed because it was believed Kansas City was not the type of town for such a Committee. The matter was, therefore, dropped from discussion.

SUBJECT'S APPEARANCES IN LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, IN AUGUST, 1956.

MISS CYDNEY SOBELL NY

On August 8, 1956, [redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that on August 1, 1956, HELEN SOBELL addressed a meeting of the Los Angeles Area Chapter of the SOBELL Committee held at 903 North Mariposa Avenue, Los Angeles, California, at which she reported on her family saying that her son was in camp; that her daughter, SYDNEY, is working in New York; and that ROSE SOBELL, her mother-in-law, is in the hospital having had one eye operated on and that her other eye is to be operated on shortly. She stated that she had seen her husband, MORTON SOBELL, three times on this visit to San Francisco and had found him very cheerful; that he was optimistic about getting a new trial and told her that he would be seeing her in

NY 100-109849

New York, in February. HELEN SOBELL stated that the Committee had between August and October to work toward getting people to sign a new clemency appeal. 17d

On August 16, 1956, [redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that HELEN SOBELL was a speaker at a SOBELL Committee meeting held at 1283 Redondo Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, on August 2, 1956; that she dwelled at some length on the petition her husband's lawyers are filing in Federal Court, which she called the "MAZELTOF" petition. She explained that the case of Mazeltof versus the United States involved a decision which nullified all action taken against an individual which is contrary to any international treaty law; that applied to the SOBELL Case, this would mean he was illegally abducted and deported from Mexico contrary to an existing international treaty. 17d

On August 6, 1956, [redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that HELEN SOBELL met with functionaries of the Los Angeles Committee To Secure Justice For MORTON SOBELL, on August 5, 1956, at the Miramar Hotel, Los Angeles, California, for the purpose of starting a more active campaign to raise funds for the Committee. A list of attorneys and ministers was to be prepared so that literature could be mailed preliminary to a personal call from some member of the committee. 17d

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] U 87d

[REDACTED] U 624

[REDACTED] U 31d

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (S) 61

LEADS

NEW YORK

At New York, New York

Will conduct appropriate investigation relative to  
the Communist activity of HELEN SOBELL and report results  
of investigation.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

NY 00-109849

REFERENCE

Report of SA RICHARD T. BRADSKY, 8/30/56, at New York.

Bureau letter dated 9/19/56.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-404849)

DATE: 1/18/57

FROM : JK WRB SAC, New York (100-109849)

SUBJECT: HELEN SOBELL, was.  
2110 SM-CFBI (U.S.A.)  
JAN 28 1957

It is recommended that a Security Index Card be prepared on the above-captioned individual.

The Security Index Card on the captioned individual should be changed as follows: (Specify change only)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ALIASES \_\_\_\_\_

NATIVE BORN \_\_\_\_\_ NATURALIZED \_\_\_\_\_ ALIEN \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNIST \_\_\_\_\_ SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY \_\_\_\_\_ INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST LEAGUE \_\_\_\_\_

MISCELLANEOUS (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

TAB FOR DEICOM \_\_\_\_\_ TAB FOR COMSAB \_\_\_\_\_ RACE \_\_\_\_\_ SEX \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_ PLACE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

BUSINESS ADDRESS (Show name of employing concern and address) \_\_\_\_\_

## KEY FACILITY DATA:

GEOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ RESPONSIBILITY \_\_\_\_\_

INTERESTED AGENCIES \_\_\_\_\_ 100-404849-1

RESIDENCE ADDRESS 30 Charlton Street, New York, New York REGISTERED

REC'D JAN 23 1957

REGISTERED MAIL 3-261

RTH:MTR JAN 29 1957

SUBJ: TANTRO  
6/1/57

FILE # 100-404849

SUBJECT HELEN SOBELL

SERIAL 44 DATE 12-28-56

CONSISTING OF 18 PAGES of which  
page 8

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety, under (b)(7)(D) as information contained in this serial would identify an informant to whom an expressed promise of confidentiality has been given. This information includes dates and places of meetings which were attended by a limited number of people known to the informant and/or information from these meetings and situations in which an informant was in close contact with members of these organizations, disclosure of which would reveal his identity.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

|   |                                     |   |   |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| REPORTING OFFICE<br><b>NEW YORK</b>           | OFFICE OF ORIGIN<br><b>NEW YORK</b> | DATE<br><b>12/28/56</b>                             | INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD<br><b>11/13, 25, 29; 12/5-7, 13, 14/56</b> |
| TITLE OF CASE<br><br><b>HELEN SOBELL, WAS</b> |                                     | REPORT MADE BY<br><br><b>RICHARD T. HRADSKY</b>     | TYPED BY<br><br><b>rot</b>                                      |
|   |                                     | CHARACTER OF CASE<br><br><b>SECURITY MATTER - C</b> |   |

## SYNOPSIS:

Subject was speaker at San Diego, California, meeting on 4/17/56, the purpose of which was to form a Sobell Defense Committee in San Diego. She also addressed The Third Annual Tribute to the memory of JULIUS and ETHEL ROSENBERG meeting in Chicago, Illinois, on July 17, 1956, and appeared as speaker at the Sobell Committee meeting in St. Louis, Mo., on July 15, 1956. T-4 advised that an announcement was made at a Sobell Committee meeting in Los Angeles, California, on 7/11/56, that HELEN SOBELL had approached JOSEPH WELSH, the Constitutional Lawyer in Boston, Mass., who was the attorney that participated in the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee Hearings conducted by Senator JOSEPH MC CARTHY, to handle the appeal of her husband. Subject appeared at committee meetings in San Francisco on 8/2/56. Also made trip to Winston-Salem and Greensboro, N.C., according to T-7.

- P -

|   |  |                              |
|---|--|------------------------------|
| APPROVED<br><i>JK</i><br><i>6/6/58</i>  | SPECIAL AGENT<br>IN CHARGE                       | DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW |
| COPIES MADE:<br><br>4 - Bureau (100-404849) (RM)<br><br>3 - New York (100-109849)                                     | <i>100-404849-44</i>                             |                              |
| APPROPRIATE AGENCIES<br>AND FIELD OFFICES<br>ADVISED BY ROLLING<br>SLIP(S) (P) <i>Classification</i> <i>200-73842</i> | RECORDED - 80<br><i>100-404849-44</i>            |                              |
| AGENCY<br>REQ'D REC'D<br>DATE FORM.<br>HOW FOR?<br>BY<br><i>ice KAB</i>   | INDEXED - 80<br><i>100-404849-44</i>             |                              |
| DATE<br><i>4/13/78</i>  | DATE<br><i>4/13/78</i>                           |                              |
| COPIES DESTROYED<br><i>11 OCT 15 1966</i>   | DECIALIZED<br><i>by 41</i><br><i>on 10/17/77</i> |                              |

NY 100-109849

DETAILS: Subject Addressed Sobell Defense Committee  
Meeting, San Diego, California, on  
April 18, 1956

On April 17, 1956, T-1, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that HELEN SOBELL was the speaker at a meeting held at the home of HARRY C. STEINMETZ, 3518 Union Street, San Diego, California, on April 8, 1956, the purpose of which was to form a Sobell Defense Committee in San Diego, California; that she stated that she and her husband and children were kidnapped in Mexico by thugs hired by the FBI and that everything necessary to reopen the SOBELL case must be done. She requested contributions and suggested that those present telegraph and write letters to members of the State Assembly and to Congress, as well as sending communications directly to the President.

HARRY C. STEINMETZ, mentioned above, is Dr. HARRY C. STEINMETZ, who was dismissed from employment at San Diego State College on February 4, 1954, for failure to answer questions concerning Communist Party membership at a California State Board of Education hearing, January 28, 1954. On April 23, 1956, the United States Supreme Court refused to consider his appeal.

The Communist Party has been designated by the Attorney General pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

The National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case (NCSJRC), also known as: National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg Case, the Rosenberg-Sobell Committee, the Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell, Sobell Committee.

NY 100-109849

The National Committee To Secure Justice in the ROSENBERG Case maintains national headquarters in Room D, 940 Broadway, New York City, and the mailbox servicing this office is labelled "SOBELL Committee."

JULIUS and ETHEL ROSENBERG and MORTON SOBELL were convicted in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York, on March 29, 1951, of conspiracy to commit espionage on behalf of the Soviet Union. The ROSENBERGS were sentenced to death on April 5, 1951, and MORTON SOBELL to thirty years imprisonment on the same date. JULIUS and ETHEL ROSENBERG were legally executed at Sing Sing Prison, Ossining, New York, on June 19, 1953, and MORTON SOBELL is currently serving his sentence at the United States Penitentiary, Alcatraz, California.

[REDACTED] advised, in January 1952, that the National Committee To Secure Justice in the ROSENBERG Case was formed on January 2, 1952, for the purpose of obtaining a new trial for the ROSENBERGS. 67d

T-2, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised, on May 9, 1956, that the National Committee To Secure Justice in the ROSENBERG Case was attempting to keep alive the ROSENBERG case and to fight for the release of MORTON SOBELL. He stated that the Communist Party took an extremely active interest in assisting the committee.

HELEN SOBELL Speaker at Annual Tribute to  
JULIUS and ETHEL ROSENBERG, Chicago,  
Illinois, on June 17, 1956.

On June 19, 1956, T-3, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that on June 17, 1956, the Chicago Sobell Committee held a

NY 100-109849

Meeting at Wood Hall, 218 South Wabash Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, as the Third Annual Tribute to the memory of ETHEL and JULIUS ROSENBERG at which meeting HELEN SOBELL was a speaker. T-3 stated she appealed to the audience for money to provide legal assistance to secure a new trial for her husband; that she read a letter written by her husband addressed to their son MARK in support of her appeal and read statements from DR. HAROLD C. LAUREY, former Nobel Prize winner, and JEAN PAUL SARTRE, the French philosopher, who expressed their opinion that MORTON SOBELL had not received a fair trial. She also proceeded to give an account of her husband's seizure in Mexico and his return to the United States for trial. She stated that important Mexican officials, not named by her, agreed that her husband was illegally seized and deported.

HELEN SOBELL Requested Lawyer, JOSEPH WELSH  
to Handle Husband's Appeal

On July 13, 1956, information was received from T-4, who has furnished reliable information in the past, that at a meeting of the Los Angeles Sobell Committee, held at 903 Mariposa Avenue, Los Angeles, California, on July 11, 1956, it was announced that HELEN SOBELL had approached JOSEPH WELCH, the Constitutional Lawyer, in Boston, Massachusetts, who was the attorney that participated in the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee hearings conducted by Senator JOSEPH MC CARTHY to handle the appeal of her husband; that WELSH had originally refused to accept the case but that when HELEN SOBELL requested that he take the case a second time, WELSH stated that he would think about it; that if WELSH could be retained, it would be of tremendous importance since he is considered the leading authority in the United States on constitutional law.

The appeal referred to was regarding a petition for a new trial pursuant to Title 28,

NY 100-109849

United States Code, Section 2255, filed by attorneys for subject's husband, MORTON SOBELL, in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York on May 8, 1956, which was denied by the District Court.

Subject's Appearance in St. Louis, Missouri,  
in July 1956

On July 15, 1956, T-5, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that on July 12, 1956, HELEN SOBELL was the speaker of the evening at a meeting of the St. Louis Sobell Committee held at the Kingsway Hotel, 108 North Kingshighway, St. Louis, Missouri. Informant stated that HELEN SOBELL posed as the pathetic wife of a man who has been unjustly convicted and in her speech she dwelt upon the trial of MORTON SOBELL. She asked her listeners to bear in mind that MORTON SOBELL was convicted on the testimony of one man, MAX ELITCHER, who was a confessed perjurer. She mentioned that in the near future, MORTON SOBELL's attorneys would file a motion for a new trial and that Judge FRANK (Honorable JEROME FRANK, United States Court of Appeals, Southern District of New York) will be friendly based on his past statements. T-5 stated HELEN SOBELL quoted all friendly persons and papers; told of her trip to Canada and described a recent visit to Kansas City, Missouri, which she said was very successful as they conducted a letter writing-mailing plan about the MORTON SOBELL case. Informant stated HELEN SOBELL closed her speech on an emotional, dramatic note describing her husband being shut up away from his family; a son whom he hardly knows; little family touches such as birthdays and describing the kidnapping of her husband in Mexico; his arrest and brutal beating that the FBI was responsible for. T-5 advised that HELEN SOBELL has mastered the emotional appeal quite well and can impress an audience with this line of talk and is capable of gaining quite a

NY 100-109849

bit of sympathy as the poor little wife with two children. Informant stated that HELEN SOBELL invited everyone to help themselves generously to literature on the SOBELL case that she had spread out on a table, and to disseminate it about the community so that new friends can be gained for her husband.

MAX ELITCHER, mentioned above, is a self-admitted member of the Communist Party and was a Government witness in the trial of JULIUS and ETHEL ROSENBERG and MORTON SOBELL.

Subject Main Speaker at Oakland, California Meeting, on July 27, 1956

On August 2, 1956, T-6, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that HELEN SOBELL was the main speaker on July 27, 1956, at a meeting of the East Bay Sobell Committee, held at 160 Grand Avenue, Oakland, California, a local of the Bay Area Sobell Committee Organization which is located in San Francisco, at which letters on behalf of MORTON SOBELL addressed to President DWIGHT EISENHOWER were distributed. The letters called upon the President to exercise his executive authority by asking the United States Attorney-General to consent to a new trial for MORTON SOBELL or by granting Executive Pardon or Commutation.

HELEN SOBELL in Winston-Salem and Greensboro, North Carolina

On August 13, 1956, T-7, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised [REDACTED] that HELEN SOBELL had visited in Winston-Salem, North Carolina and had gone on to Greensboro, North Carolina; that the exact date of her trip was not known but that HELEN SOBELL had called upon religious leaders in both cities. *[Signature]*

On October 9,

b7d

NY 100-109849

1956, T-7 advised that no further information had been received indicating any activity by Communist Party members or sympathizers in Winston-Salem, on behalf of the National Committee to Secure Justice in the ROSENBERG Case in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. T-7 indicated his opinion was that Mrs. SOBELL was merely passing through these cities and that no organized effort to expand propaganda efforts on behalf of HELEN SOBELL's husband, in that area, resulted from her visit.

Visit of Subject to Los Angeles, California,  
Planned by SOBELL Committee

b7d

On November 29, 1956, T-8, who has furnished reliable information in the past advised that subject's activities in New York are unknown to him and he has no information concerning subject.

On December 5, 1956, T-9 and on December 13, 1956, T-10, who have furnished reliable information in the past, advised that the current activities of HELEN SOBELL in the New York area were unknown to them but they believe she is traveling for the Sobell Committee.

- P -

NY 100-109849

INFORMANTS (CONTINUED)

| <u>Identify of Source</u> | <u>Date of Activity Or Description of Information</u> | <u>Date Received</u> | <u>Agent to Whom Furnished</u> | <u>File No. Where Located</u> |
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[REDACTED] b7d  
[REDACTED] b7d  
[REDACTED] b7d  
Careful consideration has been given to each source concealed and T symbols were used in the report only in those instances where the identity of the source must be concealed.

LEAD

NEW YORK

At New York, New York

Will follow and report travel and CP activities of subject.

REFERENCE Report of SA RICHARD T. HRADSKY, 10/31/56,  
at New York.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (CONTINUED)

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

|   |   |                         |  |
|---|---|-------------------------|--|
| REPORTING OFFICE<br><b>NEW YORK</b>                 | OFFICE OF ORIGIN<br><b>NEW YORK</b>         | DATE<br><b>12/28/56</b> | INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD<br><b>11/13, 26, 29; 12/5-7, 13, 14/<br/>56</b> |
| TITLE OF CASE<br><br><b>HELEN SOBELL, MRS.</b>      | REPORT MADE BY<br><b>RICHARD T. HRADSKY</b> |                         | TYPED BY<br><b>rct</b>   |
| CHARACTER OF CASE<br><br><b>SECURITY MATTER - C</b> |   |                         |  |

## SYNOPSIS

Subject was speaker at San Diego, California, meeting on 4/17/56, the purpose of which was to form a Sobell Defence Committee in San Diego. She also addressed The Third Annual Tribute to the memory of JULIUS and ETHEL ROSENBERG meeting in Chicago, Illinois, on July 17, 1956, and appeared as speaker at the Sobell Committee meeting in St. Louis, Mo., on July 15, 1956. T-4 advised that an announcement was made at a Sobell Committee meeting in Los Angeles, California, on 7/11/56, that HELEN SOBELL had approached JOSEPH WELSH, the Constitutional Lawyer in Boston, Mass., who was the attorney that participated in the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee Hearings conducted by Senator JOSEPH MC CARTHY, to handle the appeal of her husband. Subject appeared at committee meetings in San Francisco on 8/2/56. Also made trip to Winston-Salem and Greensboro, N.C., according to T-7.

- 2 -

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|---|----------------------------|--|--|--|
| APPROVED  | SPECIAL AGENT<br>IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW                       |  |  |
| COPIES MADE:  |                            |  |  |  |
| 4 - Bureau (100-404849) (RM)<br>3 - New York (100-109849) |                            | <i>Declassified on 10/7/71</i><br><i>gj 489 1c</i> |  |  |

NY 100-109849

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NY 100-109849

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NY 100-109849

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NY-100-109849

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HELEN SOBELL in Winston-Salem and Greensboro, North Carolina

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[REDACTED] On October 9, 1956

NY 100-109849

1956, T-7 advised that no further information had been received indicating any activity by Communist Party members or sympathizers in Winston-Salem, on behalf of the National Committee to Secure Justice in the ROSENBERG Case in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. T-7 indicated his opinion was that Mrs. SOBELL was merely passing through these cities and that no organized effort to expand propaganda efforts on behalf of HELEN SOBELL's husband, in that area, resulted from her visit.

Visit of Subject to Los Angeles, California,  
Planned by SOBELL Committee

b7d

On November 29, 1956, T-8, who has furnished reliable information in the past advised that subject's activities in New York are unknown to him and he has no information concerning subject.

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NY 100-109849

INFORMANTS (CONTINUED)

| Identify of Source | Date of Activity Or Description of Information | Date Received | Agent to Whoa Furnished | File No. Where Located |
|--------------------|--|---------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
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Careful consideration has been given to each source concealed and X symbols were used in the report only in those instances where the identity of the source must be concealed.

LEAD

NEW YORK

At New York, New York

Will follow and report travel and CP activities of subject.

REFERENCE Report of SA RICHARD T. HRADSKY, 10/31/56,  
at New York.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (CONTINUED)

FILE # 100-404849

SUBJECT HELEN SOBELL

SERIAL 45 DATE 3-20-57

CONSISTING OF 11 PAGES of which  
page 10

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety,  
under (b)(7)(D) as information contained in  
this serial would identify an informant to  
whom an expressed promise of confidentiality  
has been given. This information includes  
dates and places of meetings which were  
attended by a limited number of people known  
to the informant and/or information from these  
meetings and situations in which an informant  
was in close contact with members of these  
organizations, disclosure of which would reveal  
his identity.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

|  |                              |  |  |
|--|------------------------------|--|--|
| REPORTING OFFICE<br>NEW YORK           | OFFICE OF ORIGIN<br>NEW YORK | DATE<br>3/20/57                              | INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD<br>11/26, 1956;<br>12/13, 20, 24, 28/56; 1/3, 14, 1957;<br>27, 18, 2/20-3/4, 5/57 |
| TITLE OF CASE<br><br>HELEN SOBELL, was |                              | REPORT MADE BY<br>RICHARD T. HRADSKY         | TYPED BY<br>mbm  |
|  |                              | CHARACTER OF CASE<br><br>SECURITY MATTER - C | (10-1)<br>Time 6-2   |

**SYNOPSIS:**

Book of poems entitled "You Who Know Life" written by HELEN SOBELL, advertised in "Daily Worker" and "National Guardian" at \$1.00 per copy. Book available through Sydmar Press. Investigation reflects subject residing at 30 Charlton Street, New York, N.Y., Apt. 5-D and name Sydmar Press is on subject's mailbox at this address.

**APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES**
**ADVISED BY BUREAU**
**CLIP(S) DECLASSIFIED**

ALL 4/10/76 DR/jm

Syndmar  
Press name combination of first syllables  
of children's names, HELEN SOBELL traveled to  
San Francisco and Los Angeles, California, in  
November, 1956 and addressed meetings of  
SOBELL Committees and visited in Washington,  
D.C., in February, 1957. Subject was present

**APPROVED**

JJ K/BS  
SPECIAL AGENT  
IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

**COPIES MADE**

4 - Bureau (100-404849) (RM)

111- - 41118 7-45 SE 41

3 - New York (100-109849)

8 MAR 25 1957

RECORDED - 70

AGENCY  
REQ REC'D  
DATE FORM  
NON FORM  
87

AGENCY of the Bureau  
REQ REC'D 3-15-66  
REP'T TOPS 8-15-66

REC'D 3-15-66  
SUBJ TO BUREAU  
Tolaged by FBI  
10177  
INTERVIEWED EX-182  
Interviewer (initials)

REC'D - 70

NY 100-109849.

**SYNOPSIS - Continued**

at the argument of her husband's appeal  
in U.S. Court of Appeals in NYC on March  
3 and 4th, 1957.

- P\* -

**DETAILS:**

Book of Poems by  
HELEN SOBELL Advertised  
in "Daily Worker" and  
"National Guardian"

The "Daily Worker," an East Coast Communist Party newspaper, December 13, 1956, issue, page 7, contained an article stating that a book of poetry entitled "You Who Know Life", written by HELEN SOBELL, would go on sale on December 17, 1956; that the book may be obtained through Sydmar Press, 30 Charleston Street, New York 14, or at the Workers Bookshop, 50 East Thirteenth Street, New York City.

The "National Guardian" newspaper, issue of November 26, 1956, page 5, reflected an article entitled "Alcatraz" which set out part of a poem written by HELEN SOBELL. The article stated that the poem was from a volume of poems by HELEN SOBELL entitled "You Who Love Life" which was available from Sydmar Press, 39 Charlton Street, New York, New York, at \$1.00 a copy.

The CP has been designated by the Attorney General pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

NY 100-109849

Investigation to  
Identity Sydmar Press

Investigation to identify Sydmar Press and the individuals possibly associated therewith was conducted.

[redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on December 20, 1956, that no record of the Sydmar Press was located.

The records of business names registered with the Clerk of the Court of New York County and with the New York City Department of Licenses were checked by SA RICHARD T. HRADSKY on December 28, 1956, but no record of the registration of the name SYDMAR PRESS was located.

The records of the Credit Bureau of Greater New York were checked by SA G. M. LENAHAN on December 28, 1956, but no record was located.

The New York Office indices reflected no record of Sydmar Press.

On January 14, 1957, [redacted] New York Telephone Company, 140 West Street, New York City, advised SA ROBERT D. WARDEN that telephone # Watkins 9-9061 was listed to HELEN SOBELL, 30 Charlton Street, New York City, a writer who was employed at the Committee to Help MORTON SOBELL but that no record of a listing for Sydmar Press was located in his records. b7d

[redacted] who have furnished reliable information in the past, advised on January 3, 1957 and January 4, 1957, respectively, that they did not know if HELEN SOBELL was associated with any other individuals in the Sydmar Press. b7d

NY 100-109849

The Manhattan Street Directory reflects no Charleston Street in Manhattan.

On January 17, 1957, investigation at 30 Charlton Street, New York City, determined that the directory of tenants of this apartment house reflected that H. SOBELL resided in apartment 5-D.

Examination of the mailbox bank reflected the name HELEN SOBELL on a mailbox therein and above the name of HELEN SOBELL was the name Sydmar Press.



H-306-11

1/13/57

PLD

[REDACTED] advised that the addition of names of small businesses is frequent in the Greenwich Village area and if the mailbox bears the proper name, mail addressed there is left without question.

~~CHAWITZ~~ HELEN SOBELL was Mrs. CLARENCE DARROW nee LEVITOV, before her marriage to MORTON SOBELL.

Subject's Visits to San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego, California, and Washington, D.C.

The December 24, 1956, issue of the "National Guardian" reflects an article by HELEN SOBELL recounting her travel to San Francisco to visit her husband on November 21, 1956, the day before Thanksgiving to commemorate MORTON SOBELL's 5th Thanksgiving in Alcatraz Prison. She wrote that they had discussed his brief that was to be filed in the United States Circuit Court of Appeals in New York City, asking for a new trial and that MORTON had expressed his approval of it as showing the fraud and perjury in his trial.

NY 100-109849

The article also mentioned that she had visited Los Angeles and told her husband on 2 succeeding visits on November 30 and December 1, 1956, how the SOBELL Committee members in San Francisco and Los Angeles were working for his release.

On November 29, 1956, [redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that HELEN SOBELL had addressed a meeting of the Los Angeles Area Chapter of the SOBELL Committee at 1660 Radcliff, Los Angeles, California, on November 25, 1956, which was attended by approximately 125 persons. She spoke about her husband's case and made an appeal for funds which raised \$102.00 for the Committee's activities. b7d

On January 14, 1957, [redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that at a meeting of the San Diego Sobell Committee held at 6915 Wisconsin Street, La Mesa, California, on January 7, 1957, a letter and a book of poetry, "You Who Love Life" was read, and announcement made that the book can be obtained from the National Sobell Committee in New York City at \$1.00 per copy. b7d

On February 20, 1957, [redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that on February 19, 1957, HELEN SOBELL attended a meeting at 1515 Ogden Street, N.W. Washington, D.C., which apparently was a meeting of the Washington Sobell Committee. b7d

NY 100-109849

[REDACTED] stated that HELEN SOBELL left Washington, D.C. possibly by plane on February 20, 1957, for Los Angeles, California to attend a dinner in connection with the SOBELL Committee there.

[REDACTED] On March 4 and 5th, 1957, HELEN SOBELL was observed by SA RICHARD T. HRADSKY among the spectators who were present in the courtroom of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, United States Court House, Foley Square, New York City, to hear subject's husband's appeal for a new trial argued. Among the defense attorneys for MORTON SOBELL was a Mexican lawyer name LUIS SANCHEZ PONTON who is possibly the "prominent Mexican Attorney" referred to by HELEN SOBELL as reported by [REDACTED]. PONTON was identified to the Court of Appeals as Professor of Law at the University of Mexico and former Minister of Education of Mexico.

The February 13, 1957, issue of the "New York Post" a daily New York City newspaper, page 30, Night Extra edition, reflects PONTON is a senior professor of law at the University of Mexico, a former Minister of Education and former Mexico Ambassador to Switzerland and the Soviet Union.

NY 100-109849

APPENDIX

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE  
IN THE ROSENBERG CASE

The National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case (NCSJRC) maintains national headquarters in Room D, 940 Broadway, New York City, and the mailbox servicing this office is labelled "Sobell Committee."

JULIUS and ETHEL ROSENBERG and MORTON SOBELL were convicted in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York, on March 29, 1951, of conspiracy to commit espionage on behalf of the Soviet Union. The ROSENBERGS were sentenced to death on April 5, 1951, and MORTON SOBELL to 30 years imprisonment on the same date. JULIUS and ETHEL ROSENBERG were legally executed at Sing Sing Prison, Ossining, New York, on June 19, 1953, and MORTON SOBELL is currently serving his sentence at the United States Penitentiary, Alcatraz, California.

[REDACTED] advised in January, 1952, that the NCSJRC was formed on January 2, 1952, for the purpose of obtaining a new trial for the ROSENBERGS.

A confidential informant, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on May 9, 1956, that the NCSJRC was attempting to keep alive the ROSENBERG case and to fight for the release of MORTON SOBELL. He stated that the Communist Party took an extremely active part in assisting the committee.

Workers Bookshop

LOUIS F. BUDENZ, former Managing Editor of the "Daily Worker" an East Coast Communist newspaper, and self-confessed former member of the CP until 1945, advised SA WILLIAM J. MC CARTHY on March 29, 1947, that the Workers Bookshop, 50 East 13th Street, New York City, was one of a number of outlets for Communist literature which were set up by the CP members and officers of the CP were encouraged to buy from these outlets. The above address is the 13th Street entrance to the premises at 35 East 12th Street, formerly occupied the National Headquarters of the CP, USA.

NY 100-109849

APPENDIX - Continued

"NATIONAL GUARDIAN";  
WEEKLY GUARDIAN ASSOCIATES, INCORPORATED

The 1949 report of the California Committee on Un-American Activities cited the "National Guardian" as a publication, launched in New York in 1948 aiming at national circulation, which it found to be from its inception notoriously Stalinist in its staff, writers, management and content. (1949 report of the California Senate Fact Finding Committee on Un-American Activities, page 394.)

The masthead of the "National Guardian," issue of May 14, 1956, reflects that it is published weekly by Weekly Guardian Associates, Incorporated, 197 East 4th Street, New York City.

- P -

LEAD

NEW YORK

At New York, New York

Will follow and report subject's activities  
and her travel in her employment with the National Committee  
to Secure Justice for MORTON SOBELL.

REFERENCE

Report of SA RICHARD T. HRADSKY, 12/28/56, NY.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE - Continued

SAC, New York (100-109849)

April 9, 1957

RECORDED: 8 Director, FBI (100-404849) - 45

HELEN SOBELL  
SECURITY MATTER - CReport of SA Richard T. Bradasky dated 3-20-57  
at New York.

It is noted that the status of referenced report is set forth as pending inactive and a lead is set forth to follow subject's activities and her travel in connection with her employment with the National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell (NCSJMS).

Inasmuch as the character of this case is security matter - C, your investigation must be conducted in accordance with Section 87D of the Manual of Instructions. In the event you have specific leads concerning the background or communist activity of Helen Sobell, you should maintain this case in a pending status. Otherwise, place this case in a closed status to be reopened in accordance with the provisions of the annual report program for security matter - C cases. You will, of course, be expected to report information concerning the subject's activity in the NCSJMS in the reports which you submit concerning the NCSJMS.

In line with the above, advise the Bureau concerning the current status of this case in your office.

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Subject is in SI. She is the wife of Morton Sobell, who is incarcerated in Alcatraz Prison. The activity of Helen Sobell is generally confined to activity with the NCSJMS. It is noted that she is employed by that organization and her duties are confined largely to travel, making speeches and collecting funds on behalf of the NCSJMS.

WHD:sbf:mry

(6)

276-98

MAILED TO :  
APR 9 1957  
COMM-FBI

BBB 15162  
WHD

53 APR 15 1957

Office M... um - UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-404849) DATE 4/18/57  
FROM : JK SAC, NEW YORK (100-109849) *Rebulet*  
SUBJECT: HELEN SOBELL  
SM - C

Rebulet, 4/9/57.

Please be advised that this case is being placed in a closed status in the NYO to be reopened in accordance with the provisions of the annual report program for Security Matter - C cases.

Information concerning subject's activity in the National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell (NCSJMS) will be reported in reports submitted concerning the NCSJMS. - C.

RECORDED - 49

TEX 105

20 APR 22 1957

- ③ - Bureau (100-404849) (RM)  
1 - NY (100-107111)  
1 - NY (100-109849)

66 APR 29 1957  
(b) 29 1957

FILE # 100-404849  
SUBJECT HELEN SOBELL  
SERIAL 47 DATE 8-28-57  
CONSISTING OF 2 PAGES

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety,  
under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant  
to Executive Order 11652 as it contains  
information which would disclose an intelligence  
source. This serial bears the Classification  
Officers number [redacted]

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

URGENT 10-12-57  
TO DIRECTOR  
FROM SAC NEW YORK

OCT 12 1957  
1-56PM CM  
TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. A. T. Felt  
Mr. E. T. Bryson  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Gruen  
Mr. Parsons  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Trotter  
Mr. Nease  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Holloman  
Miss Gandy

RECORDED - 33 100-4444-44-44  
**HELEN SOBELL**, WAS, SM-C. SUBJECT GUEST ON JOHN WINGATE-S NY CHANNEL FIVE, WABD, DUMONT TELEVISION SHOW, "NIGHT BEAT", ELEVEN THIRTY P.M. TEN ELEVEN FIFTYSEVEN. SUBJECT CLAIMS HUSBAND, MORTON SOBELL, INNOCENT OF ANY CRIME. SECRET OF ATOM BOMB NO SECRET AT ALL. SHE REFERRED TO PRESENT APPEAL TO US SUPREME COURT. STATED THREE MOTIONS PRESENTLY BEFORE COURT FOR REVIEW. ONE, PROSECUTION USED PERJURED TESTIMONY. CLAIMS SHE HAS DOCUMENTARY PROOF OF PERJURY. TWO, EXTRADITION LAWS VIOLATED WHEN MORTON SOBELL "KIDNAPPED" FROM MEXICO. THREE, GREENWALD-HALPERIN CASE RULING OF US SUPREME COURT, WHERE PREJUDICIAL REFERENCE TO DEFENDANT-S FIFTH AMENDMENT PLEA RESULTED IN REVERSAL. SUBJECT ASKED BY WINGATE WHY HUSBAND DID NOT TAKE STAND IN HIS OWN BEHALF. SHE SAID THEIR ATTORNEY TOLD THEM THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT MADE A CASE AGAINST HIM. WINGATE QUOTED EMMANUEL BLOCH'S POST-TRIAL TRIBUTE TO JUDGE KAUFMAN AND STATED THERE WAS SEEMING INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN THIS STATEMENT AND PRESENT STAND OF HELEN SOBELL THAT TRIAL WAS UNFAIR. HELEN ANSWERED THAT BLOCH LATER REGRETTED MAKING HIS ORIGINAL TRIBUTE. HELEN SOBELL DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF COMMUNIST SUPPORT IN PRESENT CAMPAIGN TO FREE HUSBAND. WOULD ACCEPT SUPPORT FROM ANYONE AND WOULD NOT REPUDIATE COMMUNIST SUPPORT IF OFFERED.

MR. Belmont

END AND ACK

2:00 PM OX FBI WA NM R2-49TU DISC

2 OCT 21 1957 E2021

FBI

Date: 10/14/57

Transmit the following message via AIR-TKL

Mr. Nichols  
Mr. B. Chapman  
Mr. B. C.  
Mr. E. T.  
Mr. P. Johnson  
Mr. D. C.  
Mr. T. H.  
Mr. T. Rader  
Mrs. Nichols  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Holloman  
Miss Gandy

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
ATT: Assistant to the Director L.B. NICHOLS  
FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (100-109849)  
TITLE: HELEN SOBELL, was  
SM-C

Attached hereto are three verbatim copies of a recording of HELEN SOBELL's appearance on JOHN WINGATE's NY Channel 5, WABD, Dumont Television Show "Night Beat", Eleven Thirty P.M., 10/11/57.

POWERS

MRS.

3-Bureau (RM) (Encs. 3)  
1-NY 100-109849 (Attachment -1)  
1-NY 100-37158 (MORTON SOBELL) (Attachment-1)  
1-NY 100-107111 (NCSJMS) (Attachment-1)

WDD:jmg  
(7)

RECORDED 24

Ex-137-17-F-1-404849-1  
30 OCT 15 1957

Sent

M Per

Approved:

64 OCT 29 1957 Agent in Charge

REC'D

OK SEC

SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED FILED

"Nightbeat," 11:00 P.M., Channel 5, October  
11, 1957, Interview With HELEN SOBELL

JOHN WINGATE - W

HELEN SOBELL - S

W: On April 5, 1951, an American engineer, MORTON SOBELL, was sentenced to 30 years in prison on charges of helping to transmit atomic bomb secrets to Russia, parole was not recommended. His co-defendants, JULIUS and ETHEL ROSENBERG, got the death penalty. The convictions, the penalties, and the conduct of the trial itself have been argued by law professors, religious leaders of all denominations, and by the man on the street. The ROSENBERGS are now dead, executed in Sing Sing Prison. MORTON SOBELL is still alive, still protesting his innocence, as he begins his eighth year behind bars in Alcatraz Prison.

Mrs. SOBELL good evening and welcome to "Nightbeat." Let me read to you first the statement of Judge IRVING KAUFMAN as he sentenced your husband and JULIUS and ETHEL ROSENBERG on April 5, 1951. He said, "I consider your crime worse than murder. I believe your conduct in putting into the hands of the Russians the A Bomb has already caused the Communist aggression in Korea with resultant casualties exceeding fifty thousand. Who knows but that millions more of innocent people may pay the price of your treason."

What was your reaction then, what is it now, as you hear those words about your husband?

S: I knew then as I know now, that my husband is innocent of the crime that he was charged with and I knew that Judge KAUFMAN'S statement on sentencing was not a good statement, it was not a true statement, because I myself have read the opinions of many scientists even on that point that he raises, the secret of the atom bomb has been said for many years by scientists to be no secret at all, and today particularly with the new events that have happened, many more scientists are re-evaluating

what is taking place in our country on the scientific front. But the thing that is most important to me, and the thing that I have been devoting my life to these past years, is proving my husband's innocence of any kind.

W: Mrs. SOBELL do you realize you say this at a time when the earth's satellite is spinning about us, when Russia has launched an ICBM, that you protest his innocence now. The Supreme Court of the United States may decide whether your husband was properly convicted in that decision may be forthcoming this Monday next. Just very briefly can you tell me the legal details that base your appeal?

S: We're going to the Supreme Court at this time with three motions, any one of which could enable the Supreme Court to give us a hearing and new trial. The first one of these motions charges that the prosecution knowingly used perjured testimony in bringing about my husband's conviction. This has to do with the fact that the prosecution said that my husband had been deported from Mexico by the Mexican Government. It is a fact that the prosecution itself arranged the kidnapping of my husband from Mexico and then knowing that they themselves were responsible for this illegal act, they then used this in the trial itself to prejudice my husband and to make the most insubstantial case. The case that they had that was most insubstantial to support that case and to bring about his conviction by the use of perjured testimony. Our motion before the Supreme Court has documentation evidence, it has affidavits, these are not allegations that are lightly made, these are important statements. It is our belief and our hope that since these statements have not been examined in any court of law that the Supreme Court will take this matter into its jurisdiction as it has never done before and rule that there be a hearing on this case.

W: We just wanted your reasons Mrs. SOBELL. Now may I ask about what you alleged to have been a kidnapping from Mexico, let me ask you this, you're a mother, there are many American mothers, can you at least see even if it were so, and that not's known, why if a man was thought by the prosecution to be giving secrets to a foreign

country they'd attempt to kidnap him or do anything else?

S: Yes, I believe

W: Can you at least see that?

S: I can see. But I can see too that when the prosecution has realized that it has made a mistake it's a very difficult thing for it to go back, and I think too that it should make every effort to at least inform the person who is under suspicion that he's wanted, there should be some attempt made to have that person informed of the evidence against him and not to have a brutal kidnapping take place. And I think (interrupted by WINGATE)

W: Now just briefly your third point.

S: I haven't (interrupted by WINGATE)

W: Well you've told us.

S: Well the first one has to do with the knowing use of perjured testimony with respect to this kidnapping which was so important because it helped the rest of the Government's very insubstantial case.

W: Mrs. SOBELL we just want the point.

S: The second point has to do with the fact that an international law, the Extradition Law between the United States and Mexico was violated when my husband was kidnapped and this is a matter which is of great significance to both the Mexican Government and to our government, and to international relations generally. The third point has to do with a decision that was recently made by the Supreme Court in the GRUENWALD - HALPERN case. This is a decision that is based on a constitutional point, the use of the Fifth Amendment. In the case of these two Washington attorneys, GRUENWALD and HALPERN, the Supreme Court held that their trial was invalidated because the prosecutor in that trial referred back to the fact that these defendants had used the Fifth Amendment when they had appeared before the Grand Jury.

This same thing happened in our case, it happened with respect to ETHEL ROSENBERG.

W: Mrs. SOBELL let's go, and we don't want to retry that trial, to this question, why didn't your husband ever take the stand to defend himself.

S: Our attorneys advised my husband that there was no case that had been made against him.

W: No case that had been made.

S: That there was no case against him. There was only one witness who gave any kind of testimony as far as my husband was concerned and this one witness was a man who said on the witness stand that he was scared to death. He said that he had committed perjury in another instance and that he was liable to a five year prison sentence. This was the one witness, as a matter of fact, Judge KAUFMAN when he summed up the case for the jury, said, if you do not believe the testimony of MAX ELINGER as it applies to MORTON SOBELL, then the defendant must be acquitted.

W: All right you have (interrupted by SOBELL)

S: This was one witness who testified against my husband.

W: Mrs. SOBELL you have here tonight challenged the prosecution, you've made it clear since that's the basis of part of your appeal that you don't think the prosecution conducted the trial fairly. Why then Mrs. SOBELL did the late EMANUEL BLOCK, the chief defense counsel, say to Judge KAUFMAN, and let me quote, at the end of the trial, "I for one, and I think all my co-counsel, this would include the Sobell lawyer, Edward Kuntz, feel that you've been extremely courteous to us and you've afforded us lawyers every privilege that a lawyer should expect in a criminal case. We feel the trial has been conducted with that decorum and dignity that befits an American trial." Mrs. SOBELL this from the chief defense counsel

S: Mr. BLOCK was not our attorney.

W: He spoke for court counsel your attorney.

S: More important than that he spoke of decorum and he spoke of dignity, but the fact is that there was injustice in that trial before that court.

W: Mrs. SOBELL just once again how can you reconcile the fact that chief defense counsel referring to co-counsel for your husband obviously implied dignity and fairness?

S: He didn't say fairness, I think you'll look a long time before you'll find the word fairness there.

W: The implication of the sentence is quite clear it seems to me.

S: Perhaps it's clear to you, I know that Mr. BLOCK himself was very disturbed by those words later.. He was going through a formality, I believe. This was not a fair trial, it took place in an atmosphere of great tension, of great anxiety on the part of the American people, and I think that it's an important thing to say that this trial that was on the atom bomb project. You have referred to my husband too as an atom bomb spy. You have said that he helped in transmitting atom bomb information to the Russians. My husband is innocent of any crime, he hasn't transmitted any information, but Judge KAUFMAN himself on page 1620 of the trial transcript, if you please, has said of my husband in sentencing, there is no evidence of any participation on your part in any activity having to do with the atom bomb project.

W: Mrs. SOBELL we simply wanted to ask you about your reaction to the chief defense counsel's statements. Now may I go to this, what about the many charges that you and the group tours the country under the auspices of Communist Party front groups. What about those charges?

S: I go to any group who will hear me speak. I work with any one who will work with me. I have worked with people from all walks of life. I think it's an important thing for you to know that there are people of great eminence who have taken the case of my husband very much to heart. Senator WILLIAM LANGER is not a Communist certainly, and he has spoken on a public platform in support of my husband. ELMER DAVIS has made statements in favor of my husband.

W: Mrs. SOBELL my question was what about the charge of Communist front groups. Let me put it like this, where do you get the finances to carry on?

S: We get our finances through contributions that come to our office through house parties that are run by people who are interested in the case. As far as I know, there is no activity by the Communist Party on behalf of my husband, the work that is done on his behalf is done by me, by his mother, by people who have read the trial transcript which has been printed in thousands of copies who believe that there is an injustice committed here, and who have taken this matter to their hearts and feel that America is not a land of injustice.

W: Mrs. SOBELL does any of your money come from Communist sources?

S: As far as I know, no. I am sure that there may be Communists, that there may be Liberals, or Republicans or Democrats who contribute and when you are in a position such as we are in, when you are fighting for a person's life, and you know that person to be innocent, you don't ask a person.

W: I just wanted the question. You said that there may be. Now would you here and now repudiate any Communist support?

S: I would not ask any person who was willing to take up my husband's fight what his political affiliation was.

W: Does it bother you then knowing you may, to use your verb, accept money from Communists after you and your husband maintain all along you are not?

S: I am fighting for justice for a person who has suffered for eight years in Alcatraz.

W: I am asking you Mrs. SOBELL whether you are bothered by possible Communist support after you and your husband maintained you were not?

S: I can't be concerned with the questions that are hypothetical in this sense. We need (interrupted by WINGATE)

W: Why can't you say whether you are concerned about that?

S: I believe that every person who has an interest in this case, and I believe every American has an interest in this case, every person has the right to contribute to my husband's freedom. I think it will be a good day for America when an injustice that has been done to an innocent man is corrected and when my husband is vindicated and comes home not only a free, but an honored man.

W: Mrs. SOBELL the classic concept is that husband's don't always tell their wives everything. In view of this can you be 100% sure your husband, MORTON SOBELL, told you everything about his involvement in the case in his relationship with JULIUS ROSENBERG.

S: I can be sure, I know my husband very well. But I would never advance that as a logical argument. My husband and I live very closely together, we work very closely together.

W: You then are sure?

S: But I am positive, but I would say to you what is there that has ever been presented that would ever make me change my mind.

W: Mrs. SOBELL I'm sorry ma'am, that is not the question, you've answered the question. Let me ask you this bluntly, if you knew your husband was guilty would you sit here and admit it?

S: My husband is the most honest, the person of the greatest integrity I've ever known.

W: Mrs. SOBELL that is not the question.

S: This is a question that says when did you stop beating your wife? My husband is innocent.

W: I'm sorry ma'am it doesn't say that. If you knew he was guilty would you sit here and admit he was guilty?

S: No, I would not.

W: You wouldn't?

S: If I knew my husband were guilty I don't think I, if I knew my husband were guilty I might wait at home for him, I might love him, but I wouldn't go out and go to people every place and say to them look here is an injustice that has been committed. I wouldn't take my problem, which would then be my problem, any other place, I would sit home with it, it's because I know that this is something that effects people generally that I can come here as I go other places.

W: Mrs. SOBELL here on this program though, which was the question, you would not admit it if you knew he were guilty?

S: If I were on this program and if I knew my husband were guilty I would admit that he was guilty. But I'm saying I would never have come here if my husband had been guilty.

W: We've often heard it charged by some persons that all the Communist spies apprehended in this country have been Jewish. You yourself have told us that letters are frequently sent to you by extremists who make that charge. How do you answer them, very briefly what do you say?

S: Most of these letters are anonymous letters. They can't be answered, they aren't meant to be answered.

W: One last quick question, do you believe that when all the facts become known to those like yourself who still feel justice was not served that they'll then agree with Judge KAUFMAN who said when passing sentence "It's not in my power to forgive you, only the Lord can find mercy for what you have done"?

S: I believe that this applies more to what was done to my husband and to ETHEL and JULIUS ROSENBERG. I think that only the Lord will find mercy for what has been done to them.

W:

Thank you for coming on "Nightbeat." When the ROSENBERGS were sentenced to their death and MORTON SOBELL to 30 years in Alcatraz, most of the world was convinced and indeed still are that traitors had been apprehended, and that a danger to our security had been removed. To a skeptical minority the sentences were what they've termed a monstrous injustice. HELEN SOBELL, as MORTON SOBELL'S wife, is one of this minority. She has put her cause now to establish what she calls my husband's complete and utter innocence. Next week the Supreme Court of the United States is expected to rule on the SOBELL appeal to determine if he was properly convicted.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

|   |                                     |   |   |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| Reporting Office<br><b>NEW YORK</b>           | Office of Origin<br><b>NEW YORK</b> | Date<br><b>2/28/58</b>                              | Investigative Period<br><b>2/12-14/58</b> |
| TITLE OF CASE<br><br><b>HELEN SOBELL, was</b> |                                     | Report made by<br><br><b>WILLIAM D. DONOHUE</b>     | Typed by<br><br><b>3b</b>                 |
|   |                                     | CHARACTER OF CASE<br><br><b>SECURITY MATTER - C</b> |   |

SYNOPSIS

*See Det*  
*Full document*  
*Full Det or*  
*16-73-1*  
*for wanted*  
*Spec. info & supplies*  
REINO HAYHANEN, confessed Soviet spy, testified in Federal District Court, Brooklyn, NY, on 10/15/57, in the trial of Colonel RUDOLPH IVANOVICH ABEL that on two occasions he had been ordered to arrange for payment of \$5,000 to Mrs. HELEN SOBELL. The money was not paid, but HAYHANEN stated he had received a secret message from Moscow instructing him to find out whether Mrs. SOBELL would serve as a Soviet agent. HELEN SOBELL branded this testimony as a "smear" at a time when MORTON SOBELL's appeal was before the USSC. Subject appeared on JOHN WINGATE's NY Channel 5, WARD Dumont Television Show

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP(S) ON *declassification*

DATE *4/10/78*

*Post to  
not*

AGENCY *Intelligence*  
REQ. REC'D *8-16-60*  
REP'T FORM *8-19-60*

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| Approved <i>E.G. B.</i>  | Special Agent<br>in Charge | Do not write in spaces below |        |        |
| Copies made:<br>4-Bureau (100-404849) (RM)<br>3-New York (100-109849)  |                            | 100-404849-50                | REG-53 | EX-136 |
| 1cc- State by (Co-1944)<br>CIA by (Co-1944)<br>AGENCY of get made by (Co-28)<br>REQ. REC'D. —<br>DATE FORM. 1-6-58<br>NOW FORM. 1-6-58<br>RFM. — |                            | 68 MAR 3 1958                |        |        |

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"Night Beat" on 10/11/57, and answered questions relating to the appeal of her husband to the USSC. Subject has appeared before various groups in Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia, New York and Canada, soliciting support for release of her husband from Federal Penitentiary at Alcatraz, a new trial, commutation of sentence or freedom. The USSC on 10/28/57, rejected SOBELL's petition for court to reverse itself and review his conviction. On 11/12/57, court rejected appeal based on SOBELL's allegation that he had been kidnapped by US agents, and his conviction was tainted by fraud and tainted by false and perjured evidence. On 1/6/58, court denied petition of SOBELL to have it reconsider its refusal of 11/12/57.

- C -

DETAILS:

RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT

HELEN SOBELL'S ACTIVITIES

On February 10, 1958,

[redacted] disclosed that Mrs. HELEN SOBELL is currently employed by this committee and resides at 30 Charlton Street, New York, New York. b7

The "New York Times" in its issue of October 16, 1957, page 23, columns one through four, reflects the following:

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"RED ORDER TO PAY MRS. SOBELL CITED"

"Soviet Defector Says Abel Told Him to Give \$5,000 to Convicted Spy's Wife"

"BY MICHAEL CLARK

"Reino Hayhanen, a confessed Soviet spy, testified in Brooklyn Federal Court yesterday that on two occasions he had been ordered to arrange for the payment of \$5,000 to Mrs. Helen Sobell, wife of Morton Sobell, a convicted spy."

"The Government witness, who defected to the West last May, said the orders had come from Col. Rudolf Ivanovich Abel, on trial as the asserted head of a Soviet spy-network in the United States. Hayhanen added that the money had not been paid but that he had received a secret message instructing him to find out whether Mrs. Sobell would serve as an agent."

"Denying the allegations, Mrs. Sobell said in a statement later: 'This meaningless testimony is just a way of smearing me at a time when my husband's case is before the Supreme Court in a request for a new trial.'

"Morton Sobell was co-defendant in the 1951 trial of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. The Rosenbergs, sentenced to death for betraying atomic secrets to the Soviet Union, were executed at Sing Sing prison on June 19, 1953. Sobell was sentenced to thirty years and is now serving his term in Alcatraz."

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### "Moscow Orders Cited"

"Under direct examination by William P. Tompkins, Assistant Attorney General, Hayhanen quoted Abel as saying in the spring of 1955 that he had been instructed by Moscow to find Mrs. Sobell and to give her \$5,000."

"According to Hayhanen, Mrs. Sobell was known to Abel as Agent Stone's wife. The witness later testified that he knew Mrs. Sobell to be the wife of an agent who had been prosecuted as a Soviet agent and sentenced to thirty years in prison. He said he had learned from Abel that it was Soviet custom to use man-and-wife teams whenever possible."

"However, the witness said, since Mrs. Sobell's Manhattan apartment was guarded by the police, it was decided to bury the money in Bear Mountain Park on the Hudson. The witness testified that he and Abel had done this together shortly before the latter's trip to Moscow in June, 1955."

"Hayhanen indicated that although he had been left with the job of seeing that Mrs. Sobell got the money, this mission had not been carried out. Nevertheless, he said, he had reported through a drop-a hidden place where secret messages are left-that he had located Mrs. Sobell and given her the money."

"In reply, he said, 'I was told to locate her again and find out whether she would serve as an agent.'

The same article disclosed that HAYHANEN also testified that in about July of 1956 ABEL suggested that HAYHANEN take a

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vacation in Moscow... But, first HAYHANEN said AEEEL had told him to locate Mrs. SOBELL once more and give her another \$5,000. He told the court that this had not been done.

On October 11, 1957, Mrs. SOBELL appeared as a guest on JOHN WINGATE's New York Channel 5 WARD Dumont Television Show "Night Beat". The following is a transcription of this interview:

JOHN WINGATE

HELEN SOBELL - 8

On April 5, 1951, an American engineer, MORTON SOBELL, was sentenced to 30 years in prison on charges of helping to transmit atomic bomb secrets to Russia. parole was not recommended. His co-defendants, JULIUS and ETHEL ROSENBERG, got the death penalty. The convictions, the penalties, and the conduct of the trial itself have been argued by law professors, religious leaders of all denominations, and by the man on the street. The ROSENBERGS are now dead, executed in Sing Sing Prison. MORTON SOBELL is still alive, still protesting his innocence as he begins his eighth year behind bars in Alcatraz Prison.

Mrs. SOBELL, good evening, and welcome to "Nightbeat." Let me read to you first the statement of Judge IRVING KAUFMAN as he sentenced your husband and JULIUS and ETHEL ROSENBERG on April 5, 1951. He said, "I consider your crime worse than murder. I believe your conduct in putting into the hands of the Russians the A Bomb has already caused the Communist aggression in Korea with resultant casualties exceeding fifty thousand. Who knows but that millions more of innocent people may pay the price of your treason."

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What was your reaction then, what is it now, as you hear those words about your husband?

I knew then as I know now, that my husband is innocent of the crime that he was charged with and I knew that Judge KAUFMAN'S statement on sentencing was not a good statement, it was not a true statement, because I myself have read the opinions of many scientists even on that point that he raises, the secret of the atom bomb has been said for many years by scientists to be no secret at all, and today particularly with the new events that have happened, many more scientists are re-evaluating what is taking place in our country on the scientific front. But the thing that is most important to me, and the thing that I have been devoting my life to these past years, is proving my husband's innocence of any kind.

Mrs. SOHLL do you realize you say this at a time when the earth's satellite is spinning about us; when Russia has launched an ICBM; that you protest his innocence now? The Supreme Court of the United States may decide whether your husband was properly convicted in that decision may be forthcoming this Monday next. Just very briefly can you tell me the legal details that base your appeal?

B: We're going to the Supreme Court at this time with three motions, any one of which could enable the Supreme Court to give us a hearing and new trial. The first one of these motions charges that the prosecution

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knowingly used perjured testimony in bringing about my husband's conviction. This has to do with the fact that the prosecution said that my husband had been deported from Mexico by the Mexican Government. It is a fact that the prosecution itself arranged the kidnapping of my husband from Mexico and then knowing that they themselves were responsible for this illegal act, they then used this in the trial itself to prejudice my husband and to make the most insubstantial case. The case that they had that was most insubstantial to support that case and to bring about his conviction by the use of perjured testimony. Our motion before the Supreme Court has documentation evidence, it has affidavits, these are not allegations that are lightly made, these are important statements. It is our belief and our hope that since these statements have not been examined in any court of law that the Supreme Court will take this matter into its jurisdiction as it has never done before and rule that there be a hearing on this case.

We just wanted your reasons Mrs. SOHELL. Now may I ask what you alleged to have been a kidnapping from Mexico, let me ask you this, you're a mother, there are many American mothers, can you at least see even if it were so, and that not's known, why if a man was thought by the prosecution to be giving secrets to a foreign country they'd attempt to kidnap him or do anything else?

S: Yes, I believe.

W: Can you at least see that?

S: I can see. But I can see too that when the prosecution has realized that it has made a mistake it's a very difficult thing for it to go back, and I think too that it should make every effort to at least inform the person who is under suspicion that he's wanted, there should be some attempt made to have that person informed of the evidence against him and not to have a brutal kidnapping take place. And I think (interrupted by WINGATE)

W: Now just briefly your third point.

S: I haven't (interrupted by WINGATE)

W: Well you've told us.

S: Well the first one has to do with the knowing use of perjured testimony with respect to this kidnapping which was so important because it helped the rest of the Government's very insubstantial case.

Mrs. SOBELL we just want the point.

S: The second point has to do with the fact that an international law, the Extradition Law between the United States and Mexico was violated when my husband was kidnapped and this is a matter which is of great significance to both the Mexican Government and to our government, and to international relations generally. The third point has to do with a decision that was recently made by the Supreme Court in the GRUENWALD HALPERN case. This is a decision that is

based on a constitutional point, the use of the Fifth Amendment. In the case of these two Washington attorneys, GRUENWALD and HALPERN, the Supreme Court held that their trial was invalidated because the prosecutor in that trial referred back to the fact that these defendants had used the Fifth Amendment when they had appeared before the Grand Jury. This same thing happened in our case, it happened with respect to ETHEL ROSENBERG.

M: Mrs. SOBELL let's go, and we don't want to retry that trial, to this question, why didn't your husband ever take the stand to defend himself.

S: Our attorneys advised my husband that there was no case that had been made against him.

M: No case that had been made.

S: That there was no case against him. There was only one witness who gave any kind of testimony as far as my husband was concerned and this one witness was a man who said on the witness stand that he was scared to death. He said that he had committed perjury in another instance and that he was liable to a five year prison sentence. This was the one witness, as a matter of fact, Judge KAUFMAN when he summed up the case for the jury, said, if you do not believe the testimony of MAX ELIEZER as it applies to MORTON SOBELL, then the defendant must be acquitted.

M: All right you have (interrupted by SOBELL)

S: This was one witness who testified against my husband.

Mrs. SOBELL you have here tonight challenged the prosecution, you've made it clear since that's the basis of part of your appeal that you don't think the prosecution conducted the trial fairly. Why then

Mrs. SOBELL did the late EMANUEL BLOCH, the chief defense counsel, say to Judge KAUFMAN, and let me quote, at the end of the trial, "I for one, and I think all my co-counsel, this would include the Sobell lawyer, Edward Kuntz, feel that you've been extremely courteous to us and you've afforded us lawyers every privilege that a lawyer should expect in a criminal case. We feel the trial has been conducted with that decorum and dignity that befits an American trial." Mrs. SOBELL this from the chief defense counsel.

S: Mr. BLOCH was not our attorney.

W: He spoke for court counsel your attorney.

S: More important than that he spoke of decorum and he spoke of dignity, but the fact is that there was injustice in that trial before that court.

W: Mrs. SOBELL just once again how can you reconcile the fact that chief defense counsel referring to co-counsel for your husband obviously implied dignity and fairness?

S: He didn't say fairness, I think you'll look a long time before you'll find the word fairness there.

W: The implication of the sentence is quite clear it seems to me.

S: Perhaps it's clear to you, I know that Mr. BLOCH himself was very disturbed by those words later. He was going through a formality,

"I believe." This was not a fair trial, it took place in an atmosphere of great tension, of great anxiety on the part of the American people, and I think that it's an important thing to say that this trial that was on the atom bomb project. You have referred to my husband too as an atom bomb spy. You have said that he helped in transmitting atom bomb information to the Russians. My husband is innocent of any crime, he hasn't transmitted any information, but Judge KAUFMAN himself on page 1620 of the trial transcript, if you please, has said of my husband in sentencing, there is no evidence of any participation on your part in any activity having to do with the atom bomb project.

Mrs. SOBELL, we simply wanted to ask you about your reaction to the chief defense counsel's statements. Now may I go to this, what about the many charges that you and the group tours the country under the auspices of Communist Party front groups. What about those charges?

S: I go to any group who will hear me speak. I work with any one who will work with me. I have worked with people from all walks of life. I think it's an important thing for you to know that there are people of great eminence who have taken the case of my husband very much to heart. Senator WILLIAM LANGER is not a Communist certainly, and he has spoken on a public platform in support of my husband. ELMER DAVIS has made statements in favor of my husband. N.Y.

E.W.: Mrs. SOBELL my question was what about the charge of Communist front groups. Let me put it like this, where do you get the finances to carry on?

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S: We get our finances through contributions that come to our office through house parties that are run by people who are interested in the case. As far as I know, there is no activity by the Communist Party on behalf of my husband, the work that is done on his behalf is done by me, by his mother, by people who have read the trial transcript which has been printed in thousands of copies who believe that there is an injustice committed here, and who have taken this matter to their hearts and feel that America is not a land of justice.

W: Mrs. SOBELL does any of your money come from Communist sources?

S: As far as I know, no. I am sure that there may be Communists, that there may be Liberals, or Republicans or Democrats who contribute and when you are in a position such as we are in, when you are fighting for a person's life, and you know that person to be innocent, you don't ask a person.

W: I just wanted the question. You said that there may be. Now would you here and now repudiate any Communist support.

S: I would not ask any person who was willing to take up my husband's fight what his political affiliation was.

W: Does it bother you then knowing you may, to use your verb, accept money from Communists after you and your husband maintain all along you are not?

S: I am fighting for justice for a person who has suffered for eight years in Alcatraz.

W: I am asking you Mrs. SOBELL whether you are bothered by possible Communist support after you and your husband maintained you were not?

S: I can't be concerned with the questions that are hypothetical in this sense. We need (interrupted by WINGATE)

W: Why can't you say whether you are concerned about that?

S: I believe that every person who has an interest in this case, and I believe every American has an interest in this case, every person has the right to contribute to my husband's freedom. I think it will be a good day for America when an injustice that has been done to an innocent man is corrected and when my husband is vindicated and comes home not only a free, but an honored man.

Mrs. SOBELL the classic concept is that husband's don't always tell their wives everything. In view of this can you be 100% sure your husband, MORTON SOBELL, told you everything about his involvement in the case in his relationship with JULIUS ROSENBERG.

S: I can be sure, I know my husband very well. But I would never advance that as a logical argument. My husband and I live very closely together, we work very closely together.

W: You then are sure?

S: But I am positive, but I would say to you what is there that has ever been presented that would ever make me change my mind.

W: Mrs. SOBELL I'm sorry marine that is not the question, you've answered the question. Let me ask you this bluntly, if you knew your husband was guilty would you sit here and admit it?

S: My husband is the most honest, the person of the greatest integrity I've ever known.

W: Mrs. SORELL that is not the question.

S: This is a question that says when did you stop feeding your wife? My husband is innocent.

W: I'm sorry make it doesn't say that. If you knew he was guilty would you sit here and admit he was guilty?

S: No, I would not.

W: You wouldn't?

S: If I knew my husband were guilty I don't think I, if I knew my husband were guilty I might wait at home for him, I might love him, but I wouldn't go out and go to people every place and say to them look here is an injustice that has been committed. I wouldn't take my problem, which would then be my problem, any other place, I would sit at home with it, it's because I know that this is something that effects people generally that I can come here as I go other places.

W: Mrs. SORELL here on this program though, which was the question, you would not admit it if you knew he were guilty?

S: If I were on this program and if I knew my husband were guilty I would admit that he was guilty. But I'm saying I would never have come here if my husband had been guilty.

We've often heard it charged by some persons that all the Communist spies apprehended in this country have been Jewish. You yourself