

FILE DESCRIPTION

NEW YORK FILE

SUBJECT Helen Sobell

FILE NO. 100-109849

VOLUME NO. 1A

SERIALS 1A-20

thru

1A-23

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VOLUME 1A Supp

REVIEWED BY neb/1gsp

File No: 100-109849

Re: Helen Sobell

Date: 11/27
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		*	Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released		
1A	7/22/65	Outside envelope	1	1		b1
1A20	5/24/65	Letter re: CSJMS	3	3		
1A21	12/13/67	Envelope containing picture	2	2		
1A22	3/5/69	Envelope containing picture	3	3		
1A23	1/23/70	Envelope containing picture	2	0		b1

*Designated to or from Bureau and/or Albuquerque, New York

U. S. Department of Justice

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

FEDERAL BUREAU

of

INVESTIGATION

Bureau File Number 100-404849

CASIFICATION NO. 100
109849

Volume Number 1A
Serials 1A-30
[Signature]

See also Nos. Sub A - Newspaper Clippings
Main File

OKMC

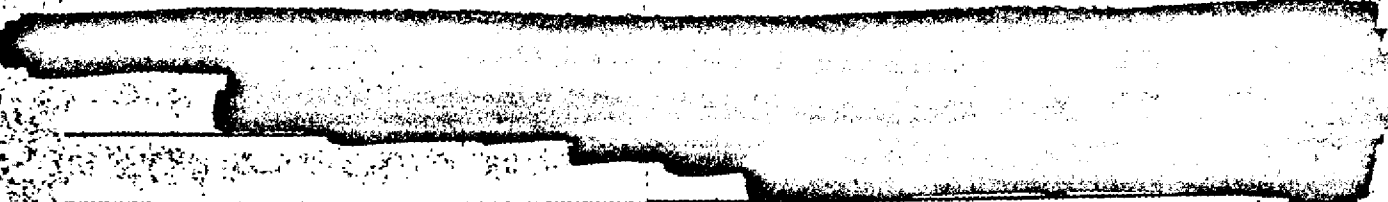
(Title) _____

(File No.) _____

7/22/65. Copy issued by the Committee to Secure Justice for
Morton Sobell + a newspaper clipping from NY Times dated 3/21/65
see ser 1446.

1/18/68 Picture of Helen Sobell which was part of Christmas
message sent by Helen + Morton Sobell. original
picture which included Morton Sobell is
located 100-107111-181663. Letter asked for
contributions to committee to see Morton
Sobell 3 to S1 unit

2/18/69 5 photos of Helen Sobell + 3 photos of Helen + Morton
Sobell



Disposition:

b1

100-109849-1A SUPP

INDEXED
FILED
JUL 22 1965
FBI - NEW YORK

*See
p. 1446*

File No. N 100-109849-1A20

Date Received 6-25-65

From New Haven
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)


(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

By _____
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned Yes
No

Description: *Flyer issued by the
Committee to Secure Justice
for Morton Sobell and
a newspaper clipping from
the N.Y. Times dated
3-21-65*

gmr *gmr* *gmr*

gmr
gmc

100-109849-1A20

Secure Justice For Morton Sobell

150 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10011

Tel: 243-6030

May 24, 1965

Mrs. Morton Sobell
Mrs. Rose Sobell
Chairmen

Dear Friend:

This year it will be different, and yet we will remember the sorrow and anger we felt twelve years ago at the execution of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg.

HONORARY SPONSORS
(partial listing)

- Rev. Gross W. Alexander
- Dr. Milnor Alexander
- David Andrews
- Rabbi J. S. Bass
- Helen M. Beardsley
- Leo Berman
- Rabbi Samuel Bernstein
- Warren K. Billings
- Rabbi Ballour Brickner
- A. Burns Chalmers
- Harold A. Craneheld
- David Dellinger
- Lloyd Donnell
- Rev. John E. Evans
- Rabbi Morris Fishman
- Rev. Kenneth Ripley Forbes
- Waldo Frank
- Rev. G. Shubert Frye
- Rev. Erwin A. Gaede
- Maxwell Geismar
- Rabbi Robert E. Goldberg
- Prof. Erwin R. Goodenough
- Rabbi Avery Grossfield
- Dr. A. Eustace Haydon
- Russell Johnson
- Rev. John Paul Jones d.
- Rev. Joseph P. King
- Dr. Paul L. Lehmann
- Donal E. J. MacNamara
- Daniel G. Marshall
- Dr. Leo Mayer
- Milton Mayer
- Rev. Peter McCormack
- Hon. Stanley Moffatt
- Dr. Gardner Murphy
- Reinhold Niebuhr
- Dr. Linus Pauling
- Rev. Dryden Linsley Phelps
- Prof. Dale Pontius
- Howard B. Radest
- Prof. Anatol Rapaport
- Prof. Oscar K. Rice
- Henry Roth
- Lord Bertrand Russell
- Prof. Malcolm Sharp
- Dr. D. R. Sharpe
- Sidney Silverman, M.P.
- Rev. Francis S. Tucker
- Dr. Harold C. Urey
- Mrs. Clara M. Vincent
- Rabbi Jacob J. Weinstein
- Prof. Francis D. Wormuth

This time, when we join together in a quiet hour of music to pay tribute to the Rosenbergs and to gather strength to continue our fight for the freedom of Morton Sobell, we will stand on the eve of an historic development. A powerful new book is being published by Doubleday, one of our nation's foremost publishing houses. This book "Invitation to an Inquest -- A New Look at the Rosenberg-Sobell Case" by Walter and Miriam Schneir contains new evidence so shattering that it must explode with a devastating effect.

This year it will be different. History has provided us with a mighty instrument. Let us use it for the freedom of Morton Sobell and the vindication of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg.

Faithfully,

Helen Sobell
(Mrs. Morton Sobell)

* * * * *

* MEMORIAL TRIBUTE	Thursday, June 17, 1965	*
* Colonial Room	7 to 8:45 P. M.	*
* Sheraton-Atlantic Hotel	No Admission Charge	*
* Broadway at 34th Street		*

* * * * *

YOUR PRESENCE WILL BE A LIVING TRIBUTE

YOUR CONTRIBUTION CARRIES ON THE FIGHT

100-109849-1A20

These Nobel laureates have asked for Morton Sobell's freedom:

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Emily Balch | Dr. Burris Cunningham | Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. |
| Dr. Linus Pauling | Clarence Pickett d. | |
| Salvatore Quassimodo | Lord Bertrand Russell | Jean-Paul Sartre |
| | | Dr. Harold C. Urey |

The New York Times.

SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 1965.

WIFE STILL SEEKS SOBELL FREEDOM

She Puts Cost of 15-Year Fight at a Million

By PETER KIHNS

One of the most massive efforts ever made to free any prisoner has been going on for nearly 15 years on behalf of Morton Sobell, convicted of conspiracy to commit espionage. His wife, Helen, says it has cost probably \$1 million thus far.

The most recent Government statement has been a Department of Justice reply to an appeal by Mrs. Sobell to Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson.

In this, Reed Cozart, pardon attorney, wrote that if Sobell filed a clemency petition "based on his belief that his sentence was excessive, based on his institutional adjustment, etc., we would be glad to give it consideration."

But Mr. Cozart's letter, dated Feb. 5, said "there would be no basis for acting favorably upon a petition predicated upon his plea of innocence primarily," and the Government was "bound by the legal adjudication of his guilt in this case."

Sentenced in 1951

Sobell, who will be 43 April 11, has been in custody since Aug. 18, 1950. He was sentenced to 30 years imprisonment April 5, 1951, in the same case in which Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were executed June 19, 1953.

Since January, he has been in Lewisburg, Pa., penitentiary, after five and a half years in Alcatraz and the rest of his term in Atlanta and Springfield, Mo., Prison Medical Center.

Mrs. Sobell, a petite, black-haired former physicist, is chairman, with her mother-in-law, Mrs. Rose Sobell, of a Committee to Secure Justice



FREEDOM SOUGHT: Morton Sobell, who was convicted in atom-spying case.

for Morton Sobell, successor to a similar group named for the Rosenbergs.

For the last decade, she says this has worked on a budget of about \$50,000 a year, with offices currently here at 150 Fifth Avenue, at 20th Street, and in eight other cities.

For the last year, she has been teaching in a private school "to find something to give me perspective" after devoting herself completely to the case since 1950. The Sobells have a son, Mark, 15.

Petition for Pardon

The committee is currently circulating a petition to President Johnson urging a pardon for Sobell. Mrs. Sobell says this has amassed 8,000 signatures in a year from Americans calling her husband innocent, and is to be submitted when 10,000 are gathered.

Also under way is a plan for a new habeas corpus suit in Federal Court, offering what Mrs.

Sobell says is still-unrevealed but "important new evidence of the innocence of the Rosenbergs and my husband," to be filed probably about June.

William M. Kunstler, who with Arthur Kinoy has been Sobell's counsel since September, says the Supreme Court has had the case before it six times from 1952 to 1963, but never yet allowed arguments.

Mrs. Sobell says the late President Kennedy, between his 1960 election and 1961 inauguration, told her he would free her husband. Two aides, she says, told her he would set up a committee of law professors on the case, but she thinks right-wing pressures caused delay.

Parole Denied

The Federal Parole Board has annually denied Sobell parole since he first became eligible in July, 1962, although without explanation, Mrs. Sobell says.

She contends he could fulfill needed requirements—a family awaiting him, an offer of full-time employment, and agreement by Rabbi Balfour Brickner, of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, to be his parole adviser.

The Sobell committee has published 8,000 copies of an eight-volume, 1,715-page trial transcript, selling this nowadays at \$8 a set, to provide what Mrs. Sobell calls a "complete presentation." She estimates it has distributed 10,000 copies of a 672-page book by John Wexley and 5,000 of a volume by Malcolm Sharp on the Rosenberg-Sobell case.

Mrs. Sobell says she has herself addressed probably 1,000 meetings, at which many of the funds have been raised, including trips in 1962 and 1963 to Western Europe.

Maintaining her husband's innocence, she insists there never was any testimony that he "transmitted or received any secret material."

Testimony of Engineer

Sobell's conviction depended on testimony of a former fellow Navy engineer, Max Elitcher, which Mrs. Sobell contends was uncorroborated. She holds Mr. Elitcher was himself liable to a

perjury prosecution.

Mr. Elitcher's testimony basically was that (1) Sobell had gotten him to join the Young Communist League in 1939, (2) Rosenberg in 1944 told him Sobell was helping get military information for the Soviet Union, and Sobell became angry at hearing this later, (3) Sobell in 1947 asked if he knew anyone who could be approached for spying, (4) Sobell supported Rosenberg in trying to induce him to stay in the Navy in 1948 for spying, and (5) Sobell in 1948 took a film can from Flushing to Manhattan, saying he had information for Rosenberg.

Sobell did not testify in his own defense. He said this was on advice of his lawyers, who were convinced the prosecution case was weak. But his wife says he has consistently asserted his innocence and has insisted he was never a member of the Communist party.

Persons who have declared faith in her husband's innocence, Mrs. Sobell says, include Dr. Harold C. Urey, Dr. Linus Pauling, and Bertrand Russell, Nobel prize winners, and the Rev. Peter McCormack, who lost his post as Protestant chaplain at Alcatraz after taking this stand.

Among persons who consider the case merits review or the sentence excessive, Mrs. Sobell cites Senator Lee Metcalf, Democrat of Montana, as having written Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy in 1961 that the conviction was on "very dubious evidence." The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., she says, has called the sentence "cruel and unusual," regardless of guilt or innocence.

At Lewisburg, Sobell is earning 35 cents an hour for a 30-hour week working in a metal cabinet-making factory, Mrs. Sobell says. At Springfield, she says he designed a simulator for training X-ray technicians. In Atlanta, she says he had charge of making mail sacks, and redesigned equipment to cut down a fire hazard from two or three fires a month to perhaps one a year.

100-109849-1A20

Reprinted as a Public Service by the

Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell

150 Fifth Ave., New York, N. Y. 10011

Tel. 213-6030

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>sk</i>	FILED <i>sk</i>
DEC 13 1967	
FBI—NEW YORK	

File No. 100-109849-1A21

Date Received 12/13/67

From [REDACTED] b1
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

By [REDACTED] bx
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned Yes

No

Receipt given Yes

No

Description:

Picture of Helen Sobell
 which was part of Christmas
 message sent by
 Helen and Morton Sobell.
 Original picture which
 included Morton Sobell is
 located 100-107111-1B1663.
 Letter asked for contribution
 to Committee To Free Morton
 Sobell. 3 to SI unit
 100-109849-1A21



100-109849-1A21

File No. 100-109849-1A22

Date Received 3/5/69

From Photo Lab
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

By [REDACTED] BK
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned Yes
 No

Receipt given Yes
 No

Description:

5 - photos of Helen Sobell
3 - photos of Helen + Martin
Sobell

(above appeared in the
1/24/69 issue of "Time"
magazine. Negative for
above file
Martin Sobell

SEARCHED <u>100-17152</u>	INDEXED <u>15</u>
SERIALIZED <u>15</u>	FILED <u>15</u>
MAR 6 - 1969	
FBI - NEW YORK	

100-109849-1A22



100-109849-1A22



100-109849-1A22



FILE # 100-107111

SUBJECT ROSENBERG/SOBELL COMMITTEE

SERIAL 1A 23 DATE 1-23-70

CONSISTING OF 2 PAGES OF WHICH
(1,2)

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 2040.