F.O.I.A.

JULIUS ROSENBERG ET AL

FILE DESCRIPTION

HQ FILE

SUBJECT MORTON SOBELL

FILE NO. 101-2483

VOLUME NO. 38

SERIALS

1420-1459

NOTICE

THE BEST COPIES OBTAINABLE ARE INCLUDED IN THE REPRODUCTION OF THE FILE. PAGES INCLUDED THAT ARE BLURRED, LIGHT OR OTHERWISE DIFFICULT TO READ ARE THE RESULT OF THE CONDITION AND OR COLOR OF THE ORIGINALS PROVIDED. THESE ARE THE BEST COPIES AVAILABLE.

File No:	161-2483	Re: Joh ll	,	1	•	Dat	e:(month	/year)
Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of	Pages Released		Exemptions used or (Identify statute if	, to whom referre (b)(3) cited)	ed
1420	2/17/58	Ny rept Handind.	3/	3/2	b2,67C			
1421	2/17/58	Ny let HQ	3	3	,			
NR	2/21/58	Lee memoti Branigan	/_	1	,			
NR	3/5/58	NyalT HQ	2	2	62,670			
1422	2/26/58	Ny let HQ	9/15	2/15	670_			•
1422	2/. /	HQ let NY	1	1_	b7D			
1422	461	NY let He	6	6				
1424	4/1.1	Brangan memo to Belmont	2	2	<i>57D</i>			
1425		3rd party let Hanland.	1/4	1/4				
1425	4/23/58		1	1				
1425	5/2/56	HA O. + PA	1	1				
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File No:	101-2483	Re: Sobell		,	
Serial		Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. o	f Pages Released	Exemptions used or, to whom referred
NR	5/9/58	Barigan menste Relmont	1	1	
-WR	5/12/58	Ha let Col-	. /	1	
1424	(0/10)	Ny rest HQ	9	9	4
1427	418/58	Ny let Ha	3	3	b2,670
1428	7/2/	HOLET DOL	2	2	62,670
1429	7/12/58	CIATT HO		-	Disposition handled by CIA in 75 (2)
1430	84/58	AT let HQ	/	1	
1431	8/6/58	Halet NY	/	0	Refer to CIA
NR	9/25/56	Lee memo to Branigan	/	/	
1432	Vial	Nease memo to Todon	1/17	1/1	
143	3 414/59	Branijan menste Bedmont	3	3	
1430	11 1 4	please meno to Tobon	1	/	
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)/- 2483 Mat 38	_ Re:				Date:(month/year)
Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	'No. o			Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
1/27/59	Ha Cakle Tondon	1	1	b7D	
428/59	HQ let CIA	2	2	b1,670	
430/59	London let Hawlend	1 /1	1/1	ы	
2/27/59	Ha let Servion	/ .	1		
2/26/59	Branigan Merro & Belliant		1	61,610	
3/13/57	London Cable Ha	/	1	Ы	
3/16/59	Ha Cable Lordon	/_	1		
3/17/59	Sondon let Handing.	1/3	1/2	Ы	
3/27/59	HQ let CIA	2	2	ы	
3/26/59	Λ	2/	2/1		
4/1/59	London Cable HQ	1	1	bı	
4/7/59	AT lot Ha	8	8		
	127/59 128/59 130/59 2/27/59 2/20/59 3/13/53 3/10/59 3/20/59 4/1/59	Date (Type of communication, to, from) 1/27/59 HQ Catle Pondon 1/28/59 HQ let CIA 1/30/59 London let HQ WILLIA 2/27/59 HQ let Sendon 2/27/59 HQ let Sendon 3/26/59 Branigan ments Belliant 3/13/51 London Cable HQ 3/10/59 HQ Cable fordon 3/17/59 London let HQ and incl. 3/26/59 Branigan ments Belliand. 3/26/59 Branigan ments Belliand. 4/1/59 Jondon Cable HQ	Date (Type of communication, to, from) No. of Actual V27/59 HQ Cable For Low 1 V28/59 HQ let CIA 2 V30/59 HQ let Fraction 1 2/20/59 HQ let Fraction 1 3/26/59 Branigan memory Behant 1 3/10/59 HQ Cable for Dom 1 3/10/59 HQ Cable for Dom 1 3/10/59 HQ Cable for Dom 1 3/10/59 HQ let CIA 2 3/26/59 Branigan memory Behand 2 3/26/59 Branigan memory Behand 2 4/1/59 Jondon Cable HQ 1	Date (Type of communication, to, from) No. of Pages Vo7/59 HQ Calle For Don 1 V38/59 HQ let CIA 2 V30/59 London let HQ Wend 1 J/27/59 HQ let Screen 1 J/27/59 HQ let Screen 1 J/27/59 HQ let Screen 1 J/2/159 Branigan memory Blancot 1 J/16/59 HQ Cable for Don 1 J/16/59 HQ Cable for Don 1 J/2/59 HQ let CIA 2 J/26/59 Branigan memory behind 2 J/2/59 HQ let CIA 2 J/26/59 Branigan memory behind 1 J/2/59 Jondon Cable HQ 1 J/1/59 Jondon Cable HQ 8	Description (Type of communication, to, from) No. of Pages Actual Released No. of Pages

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File No:	1-2483 Lest SS	Re:			Date: (month/year)
Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. o	f Pages Released	Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
1444	4/15/59	RA 22 HQ	1		
1445	4/14/59	AT let HID	13	13	
1446	417/59	AT Det HQ	17	17	·
1447	5/7/59	London let HQ and 2 ind.	4	1/1	ы
1447	5/18/59	HQ let CIA	2	2	Ы
1448	5/15/59	AT let HQ	18	18	67D
1449	5/15/59	Branijan menoto Remont		1	b1,670
1450	5/26/59	London let Hamblad.	1/2	1/1	ы
1451	6/10/59	AT let HQ	8	8	
1452	7/57/59	London Cable Ha	/		Ы
1453	7/28/59	HQ let CIA	1	/	bl
NR	7/21/59	Baumgardner Meniote Belmont	3	3	
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File No:	-2483	_ Re: Jobell			Date:(month/year)
Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of	Pages Released	Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
NR	8/13/59	Ha let London	/	1	Ы
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	8/31/59	Ha let London	2	2	ы
1455	9/11/59	Bonn let Haandend.	1/3	%	4 pg refer army
NR	11/19/59	HQ let Sondon	/	1	ы
NR	10/14/59	Les memoto Branigan	/	1	
1456	11/4/59	NY rept HQ	17	13	61,62,670
1456	11/19/59	HQ ld NY	/		Ы
NR	12/4/59	Ny let Ha	/	<i>]</i> -	
	12/4/59	Braniaan morno to Primont	/]	
NR	12/4/319	HQ let Dof		1	
1458	12/30/59	Incomina let	/		Ы
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File No:	1-2483	Re: Jobell	,	,	Date:(month/year)
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

mont Form FD-283 (6-13-66)	S	ERET		The second secon
FI	EDERAL BUREA	AU OF INVE	STIGATION	4
Reporting Office NEW YORK	NEW YORK	2/17/58	1/13,17;2/5/58	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
TITLE OF CASE	SECT.	WILLIAM D.		Typed By:
MORTON S	OBRLL, was.	CHARACTER OF CA		
Synopolos	Business Certif			
DETAILS:	REINO HAYH intelligence age agency which com on May 6, 1957, resided at 306 1 York, New York,	rmelita Beauty Parete's Beauty Parete's Beauty Parete's Beauty Parete auty Shop or Hell ALL III - P* - PARETE ANEN, a defected ent related to Inducts intellige among other things among other things and that she had treet and 142nd	Parlor, Majestic arlor and Gilbert's ficates located lene Sobel Beauty FORWATION CONTAINED FISCHASSIFIED FIS	L ew
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Approved (O	1 to C	l Agent	Do not write in spaces below	
COPIES DESTROYED R2 1 MAR 10 1961 METALY P. H.B. EFFE FORM. 2-22 RECT FORM. 2-22	ork (100-37158)	ES FEB	21 1958 SEGRET	REC- 99

AT 100-1110

On Jamuary 13 and Jamuary 17, 1958, Sa William 5. BONOHUE examined the following Business Certificates at the New York County Clerk's Office, Supreme Court Building, Foley Square: New York

Business Certificate for Partners number 004112 in the same of Carmelita's Beauty Parlor; 3436 Breadway, New York, New York, which reflects that the beauty parlor is a partnership of EDUARDO STASZEGKI of 315 East 5th Street. New York. New York and ERUNHILDA OFFERS, 606 West 137th Street, New York and ERUNHILDA OFFERS, 606 West 137th Street, New York. Haw York. The certificate which was exactled May 1, 1957, and filed with the County Classical May 2, 1957, describes the partnership as successors in interest to HERMINISTERSHULDEZ.

The files of the New York Office contain no information identifiable with HERMINIA BERMUDEZ.

Majestic Beauty Parlor, 3423 Broadway, New York, Mew York, disclosed that the partners are JOSE E. RAMOS, 126 West 80th Street, New York, New York, and ANGELICALERIECIA, 3413 Broadway, New York, N

Certificate number 002548 of MARIA TERRESA METANCOURT, 640 Riversida Brive, New York, New York, doing Business as Totals Beauty Parlor, 3466 Broadway, New York, New York, This certificate Which was executed on March 13, 1957, and filed with the Centry Elerk on March 14, 1957, indicates that there is no predecessor is interesty to this business.

Certificate sumber 6496 of CRIARROTHURE delag - 357 musiness as the dilbert's Heauty Shoppe, 1420. Broadway, New York, New York. This certificate, which was executed May 21, 1952, and filed with the County Clerk on May 21, 1952, discloses that NUNEZ is successor in interest to GILBERT A TIBAJA.

Files of the New York Office contain no identifiable information concerning EILEERT A. JIBAJA.

STATE

MA JUVESTICA

Bequisition forms placed with the New York Founty Clark by SA DONOHUE for certificates in the name of the Melene Sobel Beauty Parlow and Merman's Beauty Tarlor were returned to SA DONOHUE marked no record.

, P.

SECRET 3.

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			Fal Bureau of Investigation
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		·	Name Check Unit - Room 6523 Service Unit - Room 6524 Forward to File Review Attention Return to J. P. Lee 1784
			Supervisor Room Ext.
			Type of References Requested: Regular Request (Analytical Search) All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive Subversive References Only Nonsubversive References Only Main References Only
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	Regular Request (Analytical Search) All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive) Subversive References Only Nonsubversive References Only Main References Only
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Office Me. Indum TES GOVERNMENT DIRECTOR, FBI (101-2865) DATE: 2/17/58 FROM SAC, NEW YORK (100-37158) MORTON SOBELL, was SUBTECT: ESPIONAGE - R Enclosed herewith are 7 copies of the report of SA WILLIAM D. DONOHUE dated and captioned as above. REFERENCE Report of SA WILLIAM D. DONOHUE at New York dated October 31, 1957. Der 1412 INFORMANTS Date of Activity Agent to File Number and/or Description Identity of Date Whom Where of Information Received Source Furnished Located T-1-.100-37158-CIA ALL INTORUMTION CONTAINED 1834 Washington, D. C. FEB 21 1958 (2-Bureau (101-2843) (RM) 3-New York (100-37158 WDD:pcs (5)



1. X 2. X	Subject's name is included in the Security Index. The data appearing on the Security Index card are current.
3	Changes on the Security Index card are necessary
4.	and Form FD-122 has been submitted to the Bureau. A suitable photograph is is not available.
.5. X3	Careful consideration has been given to each source
	concealed and T symbols were utilized only in those instances where the identities of the sources must
6.	be concealed. Subject is employed in a key facility and
·	is charged with security responsibility. Interested
7. X	agencies are this report is classified secret because
	(state reason)
	Information furnished by CIA was so classified.
ે8.□	Subject was not reinterviewed because (state reason)
The state of	
-	
9,□□	This case no longer meets the Security Index criteria
	and a letter has been directed to the Bureau recom-
io.X	This case has been re-evaluated in the light of the
	Security Index criteria and it continues to fall within such criteria because (state reason)
	MORTON SOBELL is still incarcerated and his wife and the
	committees to secure justice for MORTON SOBELL are
	actively engaged in efforts to have him released.

NY 100-37158

ADMINISTRATIVE

the Bureau is awais in the Pincese, REINO HAVMANEN may be available for interpley in the near future.

Then he becomes available for interview in the Pincase he will be questioned concerning information he furnished about the alleged beauty parlor with which HRIEN SOBELL was reportedly associated.

Binds he other logical investigation appears warranted at this time, the two on MORTON SOBELL will be placed in a pending inactive status at New York until the results of the reinterview with HAYHANEN becomes available in the Fincase.

W. A. Branigan TROX, J. P. LEE

R. MORTON SOBELL

Captioned case has been reviewed and careful consideration given to the advisability of any reinterviews, interviews or other action which may now appear warranted. the event such now appears desirable, necessary action is being initiated.

Bureau file: 101-1485

FEB 25 1958

S.EHG.

CQ FEB 25 1958

	Date: 3/5/58
Transmit	the following in PLAIN TEXT (Type in plain text or code)
Via	AIRTEL (Priority or Method of Mailing
•	(,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
TO:	DIRECTOR, FBI (100-387835) ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
FROM :	SAC, NEW YORK (100-107111) DATE 4-30-87 BY 3042 Aut-of
SUBJECT:	COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE FOR MORTON SOBELL' IS - C
34-23- 4	On 3/4/58, who has furnished re- ba, bad
TIBDIE 1	nformation in the past, advised SA WILLIAM G. that at a meeting of the NYC Sobell Committee,
on 2/28/	58, it was announced that MORTON SOBELL was
transfer	red to the Federal Penitentiary at Atlanta.
Georgia,	from Alcatraz. Iso furnished a
mimeogra	phed copy of a news release dated March 4th
announci	ng SOBELL's transfer and a mimeographed copy ter dated 2/23/58, from MORTON SOBELL to his
wife. wh	ich states in part that it is to be his last
night on	Alcatraz prior to his transfer to Atlanta.
Photosta	ts of the news release and letter are attached
for the	Bureau and interested offices.
3- Bure	au (100-387835) (4 Attachments) (RM)
	101-2483) (MORTON SOBELL)
2 - Atla	nta (100-) (Committee To Secure Justice
	for MORTON SOBELL) (4 Attachments) (RM)
I - Bost	on (100-) (Committee To Secure Justice for MORTON SOBELL) (RM)
1 - San	Francisco (100-35117) (Committee To Secure
,	Justice For MORTON SOBELL) (2 Attach-
	ments) (RM)
1 - New	
1 - New	York (100-37158) (MORTON SOBELL) (2 Attachments) (7-2)
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1 - New	York (100-134210) (SYLVIA MENKIND) (7-6)
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ENCLOSURES FILED WITH ORIGINA WGL:fef (15) 5 7 MAF MAR 17 1958 F259

NOT RECORDED
158 MAR 10 1958
INITIALS ON ORIGINAL

Date: 3/5/58

Transmi	t the	following	in		-	
Via				 		
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NY 100-107111

also advised that the Sobell Committee has contracted for a dinner party at the NYC owned Tavern On The Green on 4/21/58, The contract calls for a minimum of 400 persons, with a maximum of 700. Tickets will sell at \$10 each. Of this amount, \$4.50 is for the meal, \$2.50 for expenses, and the balance for contribution to the Sobell Committee. Two committees, Fetition and Ticket, headed by AARON KATZ and SYLVIA MALKIN or MENKIND (PH), respectively, were formed to push and publicize the party. In addition, SYLVIA MALKIN has arranged 7 unadvertised private parties to be held in March. Plans are also being made for an East Side Sotell Committee Party on also advised that AARON KATZ was ap-4/5/58. pointed as part-time organizer in the NY area and would be available at the Sobell Office daily from 2 to 10 p.m.

further advised that TED JACOBS and HELEN SOBELL had received a good reception on their recent trip to Boston as a result of SYLVIA MALKIN's efforts there several weeks ago.

For information.

POWERS

Office Memorandum . United States GOVERNMENT

DIRECTOR, FBI (101-2483)

DATE: FEB 2 6 1958

C. NEW YORK (100-32158)

MORTON SOBKLE ESPIONAGE - R

(60: HEW KORK) ALL INSTRUCTION CONTAINS

Enclosed are Photostats of the following

1. Letter from WILFRED DENNO, Warden, Sing Sing Prison, Ossining, New York, dated 12/13/57 to Simon and Schuster, Publishers, 630 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York.

Letter from GILES FLAYFAIR, Williamstown,

Massachusetts, dated 1/7/58 to Warden WILFRED DENNO.

3. Letter from Mrs. MCRTCN SCRELL to Warden WILFRED DENNO dated 1/7/58, with enclosures.

4. Letter from Warden DENNO to Mrs. MORTON SOBELL dated 2/14/58.

on 2/14/58, Warden WILFRED DENNO made the above material available to SA WILLIAM A. FLYNN, Jr., with the comment that he thought it might be of interest to the Bureau as the book in question [The Offenders" deals with the ROSKNBERG case.

He advised that he was furnishing it for

information purposes only as he was contemplating taking civil action against the publishers and the authors for the unauthorized use of his name.

DEMNO advised that the authors of this book, giles Playpain and DERRICK SINGTON, never consulted him despite the fact that they mention als have on the "Acknowledgement The files of the MYS contain so information identifi

WIED DERRICK STNOTON.

2 Bureau (101-2483) (Encl. 4) (RM)

4- New York (100-37158) WEC.D F26/04(1- 100-109849) (HELEN SOBELL) (#6) (1- 65-15348 (JULIUS ROSENBERG) (#6)

(1- 100-107111 (NCSJMS)(#7-2)

WDD:pcs let to ny (6) 3-6-5? JPL: 211

E1 FEB127 1958

NY 100-37158

Her lock letter to Bureau of 11/4/44 entitled 200

One Photostat copy of the material is retained in exhibit mection of the New York file on MORTON SOBELL.

Simon and Schuster Publishers Rockefeller Plaza 630 Fifth Avenue New York 20, New York

Gentle: en:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of the book which you sent with your condiments entitled "The Offenders".

I have just finished reading the article pertaining to the Mosenbergs, which I was naturally interested in due to the fact that they were confined at this institution for a considerable length of time.

I wish to call your attention to an inaccurate statement on lage 227 of the book which states, "Tiers of seats were erected in the execution chamber at Sing Sing Prison to accommodate an invited audience of record size. (The Warden of the prison was responsible for "inviting" the witnesses. He could presurably have been instructed or advised to limit the number to the minimum required by law.)" For your information, or whoever may have been responsible for writing this, I wish to advise that either the ones responsible were grossly misinformed or they are just plain liars. As a matter of fact, I wish to inform you that no seats were erected in the execution chamber to accommodate a large audience "of record size" as stated. As a matter of fact, there was no audience as such with the exception of one news representative from each one of the news services, a total of three, representing the United Press, Associated Press and International News Service. Forthermore, the worden of the prison was not responsible for inviting the witnesses as the records will plainly show, but the witnesses comprisons the three newspaper representatives mentioned above were invited by the U. J. Caverment as represented by the 0. 3. Lardall, who, in effect, was the one responsible for carrying out the execution on behalf of the government of the United States with the facilities of this institution being used for the carrying out of sentence. The other persons present at the execution were the U.S. Harshall, one of his as just nts, and A raonnel of the Dejartment of Correction necessary for the proper carrying out of sentence. Home of the persons invited w re the quests of the warden as such.

All of the above information I believe was gristed in the reas at the time sentence was carried out or was easily available, and it would appear to me that if the writers of this a terial could not verify such single facts I am wondering how accurate the rest of the aterial written is.

(continued)

Simon and Johnster

December 13, 1957

In order to set the records straight, I might state for your information that there were less persons present at the executions of the Rosenbergs than there are present at an execution conducted for the St to of New York, which specifies that twelve witnesses be invited. In the case of the Rosenbergs only thank administrates representing the news services were invited and which is In accordance with the regulations of the Federal Government that press be represented.

I felt that this should be called to your attention as the publishers.

Very truly yours,

WARDEN

LD: cm



Williamstown, Moss. Tel. Williamstown 550

January 7th, 1958

Dear Mr. Denno:

I have just received from Simon & Schuster your letter to them of December 13th, 1957, regarding THE OFFENDERS, of which I am co-author.

It is quite clear from what you say that we are to blame for a seriously inaccurate statement, and I think that you are fully justified in calling the attention of the publishers to it. I shall make sure that it is eliminated from any future editions of the book, and I must apologise unreservedly for any irritation or embarrassment it may have caused you personally.

I can only ask you to believe that the statement was made by us in good faith, and was not invented with a view to supporting our line of argument. I hope and I believe, too, that the rest of the book, however much its views may be disagreed with, is factually accurate, although I am bound to confess that the doubts you express on this score are perfectly understandable under the circumstances.

I should just like to add that I have written this letter entirelyxermax of my own volition, and not at the prompting of Simon & Schuster who sent me on your letter without corment.

four sen tooly, The Morton.

MRS. MORTON SOBELL

RECEIVED 30 Charlton Street TOF SING SING PRICON

New York 14, N. Y.

February 7, 1958

I'' 533 +3 F1 8 Mr. Wilfred Denno Warden of Sing Sing Prison Ossining, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Dennc:

I have just finished reading the book by Giles Playfair and Derrick Sington entitled, "The Offenders". I find your name listed among those to whom the authors acknowledge their indebtedness for help in the preparation of a very important and timely book. Since I have a particular sensitivity to the problems discussed in the book, I take the liberty of writing to you.

I am the wife of Morton Sobell who was convicted in 1950 on a charge of conspiracy to commit espionage. You undoubtedly remember his hame as a defendant together with the Rosenbergs, a case discussed in "The Offenders". Despite my husband's innocence he has aready spent 8 years in prison, 5 of them in Alcatraz.

I hope you will take the time to read the Reduction of Sentence Motion which I have enclosed. This motion was submitted in January 1953. The facts and the pleas made at that time are as true today as they were then. Now however, our family has added five more years of suffering, and unless we can enlist the attention and help of those, like you, who are aware of the problem, we see no end of our sorrow.

There are many who have asked for a new trial or freedom for my husband. Perhaps you will add your name to the enclosed letter, or perhaps you will advise me what you feel can be done. My husband is an innocent man he doesn't belong in any prison, much less the "maximum security, minimum privilege" prison of Alcatraz which violates every principle of human dignity. Please help me to free him.

Very sincerely yours,

ntin X dotall

(Mrs. Morton Sobeil)





Rev. C. Earl Page, First Congregational Church Spencer, Iowa
Rev. J. Kenneth Pfonl, Winston-Salem, N.C. Rev. Dreyden L. Phelps, Fellowship Church, Berkeley, Cal.
Dr. Irving E. Putnam, Methodist Church, Minneapolis, Minn.
Rev. Daniel Lyman Ridout, Administrative Secretary, Baltimore Area, The Methodist Church, Baltimore, Md. Dean Paul Roberts, Episcopal Cathedral, Denver, Colo.
Rev. Charles W. Stewart, Peoples A.M.E. Church, Brooklyn, N.I.
Church, Brooklyn, N.I.
Rev. Waltor Carl Subke, San Francisco, Cal.
Rev. Francis S. Tucker, Brooklyn, N.I.
Rev. R. Valenti, Preebyterian Church of the Holy Trinity, New York, N.Y.

RABBIS

7

::

Rabbi Moses J.S. Abels, former President Brooklyn Board of Rabbis, New York, N.Y. Rabbi Zwi Anderman, New York, N.Y. Rabbi Sidney Ballon, Nassau Community Temple, West Hempstead, N.Y. Rabbi Jerome S. Bass, Beth Emeth Cong., Philadelphia, Pa. Rabbi Ben Zion Bergman, Burbank, Cal. Temple, West Hempstead, N.Y.
Rabbi Jorome S. Bass, Beth Emeth Cong.,
Philadelphia, Pa.
Rabbi Sen Zion Bergman, Burbank, Cal.
Rabbi Sen Zion Bergman, Burbank, Cal.
Rabbi Sen Zion Bergman, Burbank, Cal.
Rabbi M. D. Bial, Temple Sinai, Summit. N.J.
Rabbi Jorome B. Cohen, Englewood, N.J.
Dr. Pranklin Cohn, Los Angeles, Cal.
Rabbi Benjamin Englander, Cong. B'nei
Iareal, Irvington, N.J.
Rabbi Julian B. Peibelman, Temple Sinai,
New Orleans, La.
Rabbi Morris Pishman, Community Synagogue,
Atlantic City, N.J.
Rabbi Socar Fleishaker, Ahavas Israel
Synagogue, Grand Rapids, Mich.
Rabbi Symour Freedman, Buffalc, N.T.
Rabbi Alfred L. Priedman, Union Temple,
Brooklyn, N.Y.
Rabbi Ephraim Frisch, New York, N.Y.
Rabbi Jacob Goldberg, Temple Sinai,
Philadelphia, Pa.
Rabbi Avery J. Grossield, Florence, S.C.
Rabbi A. Harry Gutstein, Sons of Israel,
Willimantic, Conn.
Rabbi Harry Halpern, East Midwood Jewish
Center, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Rabbi Samuel Horowitz, Cong. Beth Aaron,
Billings, Mont.
Rabbi Raymond Leiman, Cong. Rodoph
Sholom, Tamps, Fla.
Rabbi Raymond Leiman, Cong. Rodoph
Sholom, Tamps, Fla.
Rabbi Raymond Leiman, Cong. Both Arron,
Rabbi Raymond Leiman, Cong. Brai Israel,
Steubrille, Ohio
Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, New York, N.Y.
Rabbi Baymond Leiman, Reb Jork, N.Y.
Rabbi Daniel Manies, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Rabbi Daniel Raphael Margolies, Cong.
Beth An, West Englewood, N.J.
Rabbi Carl I. Miller, Temple Israel,
Gary, Ind.
Dr. Uri Miller, Baltimore, Md.
Rabbi Bannuel Rackman, Far Rockaway, N.Y.
Rabbi Samuel Rossinger, Temple Beth
Shalom, Santa Englewood, N.J.
Rabbi Samuel Rossinger, Temple Danuel,
Beaumont, Texas
Rabi Ervin Ruch, Flatbus: Jewish Jenter,
Brooklyn, N.Y.
Rabbi Sanford M. Shapero, Elmira, N.Y.
Rabbi Sanford M. Shapero, Elmira, N.Y.
Rabbi Jacob Singer, Chicago, Ill.
Laurelton, N.Y.
Dr. Joshus Trachtenberg, Temple Daeth,
Teanck, N.J.
Rabbi Jacob J.

PROFESSORS

PROFESSORS

Prof. David Blackwell, University of California, Prof. Derk Bodde, University of Pennsylvania, Prof. Derk Bodde, University of Pennsylvania, Prof. Derk Bodde, University of Pennsylvania, Prof. Murray Branch, Moorahouse College, Atlanta, Ga.
Dr. E. H. Brunquist, Prof. Emeritus
University of Colorado, Denver. Colo.
Dr. Ephraim Cross, City College, New York
Dr. Burris Cunningham, University of Cal.
Prof. Loyd H. Donnell, Illinois Institute
of Technology, Chasterton, Ind.
Prof. Loyd H. Donnell, Illinois Institute
of Technology, Chasterton, Ind.
Prof. Kermit Eby, University of Chicago
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Prof. Erwin R. Goodsnough, Tell University,
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University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.
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College Salt Lake City, Utah
Dr. Summer M. Kalman, Stanford University
Prof. Isaac Kolthoff, University of
Kinnesota, Minnespolle, Minn.
J. M. Kuehne, Prof. Emeritus, University
of Texas, Austin, Texas
Prof. Gerhard Loose, University of
Colorado, Boulder, Colo.
Prof. Gardner Murphy, Menninger
Foundation, Topaka, Kanass
Dean Francis M. Myers, U.-of Denver, Denver
Dr. Robert Reid Newell, Stanford University,
Prof. Linus Pauling, Nobel Prise
Scientist, Pasadena, Cel.
Prof. Dale Pontius, Roosevelt U., Chicago
Prof. Barry R. Rudin, Tale University,
Prof. Louise Pettibone Smith, Prof.
Emeritus. Wellesley College,
Prof. Sidney J. Socolar, U. of Chicago
Dr. Harry R. Rudin, Tale University,
Chicago, Ill.
Dr. Frank Weymouth, Los Angeles, Cal.
Prof. H. K. Wilson, Princeton, N.J.
Arthur E. Woodruff, U. of Chicago
Prof. Francis D. Wormuth, University
of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah

WRITERS

Elmer Davis, commentator, Washington, D.C.
Dorothy Day, editor Catholic Worker,
New York, N.Y.
Waldo Frank, author, Truro, Mass.
Maxwell Geissar, literary critic,
Harrison, N.T.
William Harrison, editor Boston
Chronicle, Boston, Mass.
Harold V. Knight, Exec.Dir., Denver
Branch ACLU, Denver, Colo.
Levis Mussford, Amenia, N.T.
Dr. Scott Nearing, author, Camp Rosier, Me.
Al S. Waxman, editor and publisher,
Los Angeles, Cal.
William Appleman Williams, historian,
Eugene, Oregon

OTHER EMINENT SIGNERS

OTHER EMINENT SIGNERS

Ently G. Balch, Nobel Prize Winner,
Wellesley, Mass.
Helen Marston Beardsley, Los Angeles, Cal.
Jessie F. Binford, Hull House, Chicago, Ill.
Pablo Casala, cellist, San Juan, Fuerto
Rico
Rico
Mary H. Glesson, Hull House, Chicago, Ill.
James Imbrie, Lawrenceville, N.J.
Dr. Leo Mayer, physician, New York, N.T.
Culbert L. Olson, Forser Governor of
California, who freed Tom Mooney and
Warren Billings, Los Angeles, Cal.
Dr. Clyde D. Phillips, physician,
Chicago, Ill.
Margaret T. Siskin, Los Angeles, Cal.
Dr. Jeresiah Stamler, physician,
Chicago, Ill.
Trevor Thomas, beginlesive-Rep., American
Fetends Gerrice Committee, San
Francisco, Cal.
M. Lesley West, Syracuse, N.T.



President Dwight D. Eisenhower The White House Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

It is because we share your deep concern for the spiritual health of our nation and for the principles of justice upon which it is founded that we address ourselves to you concerning the case of Morton Sobell.

Morton Sobell, now in his seventh year of imprisonment and confined in Alcatraz, is seeking a new trial to reverse his 30-year sentence on a charge of "conspiracy to commit espionage." Both he and his defenders maintain that he is innocent. Moreover, the trial record shows that the judge in passing sentence stated: "The evidence in the case did not point to any activity on your (Morton Sobell's) part in connection with the atomic bomb project."

We do not press upon you, Mr. President, the question of Morton Sobell's innocence or guilt--for we ourselves are not of one mind on that issue. Our faith in our democratic system of justice assures us that the truth will ultimately be established.

We believe it is vital that our nation safeguard its security, but it is important that we do not permit this concern to lead us astray from our traditions of justice and humanity. In this light, we further believe that Morton Sobell's continued imprisonment does not serve our nation's interest or security.

Therefore, most respectfully and earnestly, Mr. President, we look to you to exercise your executive authority either by asking the Attorney General to consent to a new trial for Morton Sobell or by the granting of Executive Pardon or Commutation. We take the liberty of urging your personal attention to this matter.

Name			
Address		-	
City	State		
My signature may be made public a		signers of	the Appeal.

The following have signed as individuals. Their associations are listed as means of identification only, and do not imply the sponsorship of their organizations.

JUDGES AND LAWYERS

Note:

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DIGES AND LEVERS

LOSE EREAR, Chicago, Ill.
Robert L. Brook, Los Angeles, Cal.
Landon L. Chapman, Chicago, Ill.
Frof. Thomas I. Dmerson, Tale Law School,
John F. Finerty, attorney in the SaccoVanzetti and Mooney-Billings cases,
Judge Morval K. Harris, Sullivan, Ind.
Robert W. Kenny, former Attorney General
of California, Los Angeles, Cal.
Philip A. Klapman, Chicago, Ill.
Conrad Lynn, New fork, N.I.
Daniel Marshall, Los Angeles, Cal.
Louis McCabe, Philadelphia, Pa.
Judge Patrick H. O'Brien, Detroit, Mich.
George Olshousen, San Prancisco, Cal.
Richard W. Petherbridge, El Centro, Cal.
Richard W. Petherbridge, El Centro, Cal.
Prof. Malcola Sharp, University of Chicago
Judge Edward P. Totten, Sants Ana, Cal.
R. L. Witherspoon, St. Louis, Mo.

MINISTERS

Rev. David Andrews, Methodist Minister,
Greensboro, N.C.
Dr. Roland H. Bainton, Yale Divinity
School, New Haven, Conn.
Rev. William Baird, Essex Community
Church, Chicago, Ill.
Dr. Harold J. Bass, The Church for
Today, Tacoma, Wash.
Rev. Reginald H. Bass, Community Church,
Brooklyn, N.Y.
Rev. Howard C. Bushing, San Francisco, Cal.
Rev. Fred Cappuccino, Christ Methodist
Church, Chicago, Ill.

Rev. W. Sterling Cary, The Church of the Open Door, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Rev. Dr.J. Raymond Cope, Berkeley, Cal.
Rev. Henry Hitt Crane, Central Methodist Church, Detroit, Mich.
Rev. Edwin T. Dahlberg, Delmar Baptist Church, St. Louis, Mo.
Rev. G. Shubert Frye, Synod of New York, Syracuse, N.Y.
Rev. Erwin A. Gaede, Los Angeles, Cal. Rev. Curtis R. Gatlin, New York, N.T.
Rev. Cormelius Greenway, Universalist
Church, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Rev. Wesley H. Hager, Grace Methodist
Church. St. Louis, Mo.
Rev. John Paul Jones, Union Presbyterian
Church of Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, N.T.
Rev. Joseph P. King, Baptist Church,
Chicago, Ill.
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Committee, Boston, Mass.
Rev. Dr. John Howland Lathrop, Unitarian
Church, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Dr. Paul L. Lehmann, Harvard University,
Dr. Bernard M. Loomer, Divinity School,
University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.
Bishop Edgar A. Love, Baltimore Area,
The Methodist Church, Bal. st.e, Md.
Rev. Archie Matson, Broadway Methodist
Church, Glendale, Cal.
Rev. Feter McCormack, Protestant Chaplain
of Alcatraz, San Francisco, Cal.
Rev. Sidney G. Menk, University Heights
Presbyterian Church, New York, N.Y.
Rev. James Myers, New York, N.Y. Rev. Curtis R. Gatlin, New York, N.Y.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COU SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

UNITED STATES OF ALERICA,

- against -

MOTION FOR PEDUCTION OF SENTENCE

MORTON SOBELL,

Defendant.

MORTON SOBELL, the defendant above-named, respectfully moves this Court, pursuant to Rule 35, Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, for an order reducing the sentence heretofore imposed upon him, and shows in support of this motion:

- 1- Sentence was imposed April 5, 1951, after defendant's conviction on his plea of not guilty, on a charge of conspiracy to commit espionage. (Former 50 U.S.C. Sec. 34) Sentence was imposed by Hon. Irving R. Kaufman. An order of the Supreme Court denying an application for a writ of certionari and/or the mandate of the United States Court of Appeals affirming judgment of conviction was received by this Court November 19, 1952.
- 2- Defendant is now werving his sentence at Alcatraz Island Penitentiary, California, having been transferred to that place from the Detention Headquarters in Wost Street on November 27, 1952. He has been in the custody of the Attorney General or his representatives continuously from August 18, 1950, and thus has already been imprisoned for almost two and one-half years.
- 3- There is annexed to this motion and made part hereof, the following communications which the writers have desired brought to the attention of the Court:
 - (a) Letter of Ers. Helen Sobell, wife of the defendant dated December 26, 1952.
 - (b) Letter of Mrs. Rose Sobell, mother of the defendant dated December 29, 1952.
- 4- This motion is an appeal to the discretionary power of the Court which, under Rule 35, is believed to be as broad as the power initially exercised at the time of the imposition of sentence. It is defendant's respectful submission that in the unique circumstances of this case, the Court should consider the question of sentence de novo. In support of such reconsideration, defendant urges the Court to take into account (a) matters that were not brought to its attention, or considered by it, at the time of the imposition of sentence; and (b) events subsequent to the imposition of sentence, which bear on the sentence imposed.
- 5- Insofar as defendant and his trial counsel are aware, the Court did not have the benefit of, and did not consider at the time of the imposition of sentence, any probation report or other independent study of the particular defendant's life, conduct and character. While the provisions of Pule 32, providing for such prescutence investigation, may not be mandatory on the Court, such an investigation would have been appropriate here. Counsel, in an effort to fulfill a duty to both wort and client, have attempted to gather some data on the point. But a basic impuliment—one with which the Court and its officers would not have been confronted

has existed--namely, that the business and scientific associates of Morton Sobell have been so affected by the "aton-spy" aura of his trial and convictions that they have declined to respond to inquires on his behalf made by his wife, for the purpose of this motion. Among such individuals, whose opinion the Courts, through the Probation Office, might have solicited, are Lyman Fink and George Hobbs of the General Electric Company; Rawley McCoy, Edward Garrett and Harry Bellock of the Reeves Instrument Company, and Benjamin Taylor, an independent consulting engineer.

- 6- Morton Sobell is an individual whose personal character is reflected obliquely in the letters of his wife and mother annexed to this motion. The outstanding fact of his life has been his devotion to his own scientific studies; as a scientist his preoccupation with constructive contribution to the field in which he has specialized has always been characteristic of him. Even before entering college this motivation led him to apply for and secure from the Foderal Radio Commission, December 16, 1932, a "ham" radio license to operate emateur station W 2DRH. His interest in his work and his desire to contribute to human knowledge led him to relinquish his comfortable civil-service government berth in the fall of 1941 and spend a year at the University of Lichigan in studies leading to the degree of Linster of Scientific Engineering.
- 7- His ultimate ambition to return to the academic field was later reflected in courses he took at N.Y.U. Graduate School of Arts and Science in 1949-50, while employed at Reeves Instrument Company. His qualification to do so was reflected in the "A" and "A-plus" grades he received at the University of Lichigan while in attendance there in 1941-42. This resulted in the tender to him of a University Fellowship by the Regents of the University of Michigan on recommendation of the Executive Board of the Graduate School. His respectful response to this offer, addressed to Dean C.S. Yoakum of the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies, speaks for itself as to the thoughts and emotion that led to the sacrifice of this career:

"612 E. Madison Street Ann Arbor, Michigan April 15, 1942

University of Michigan Graduate School Ann Arbor, Michigan

Dear Dean Yoakum:

I am very sorry to inform you that I will not accept the fellowship so kindly offered me.

I hope you will forgive me for troubling you with my application. Perhaps sometime in the not too distant future I will return to the University, sometime when the country does not need its men as screly as it does at this moment.

Sincerely yours,

MORTON SOBELL"

At this time. Mr. Schell had already been registered for over two months from February 25, 1942, of the National Roster of Scientific and Specialized Personnel of the War Manpower Commission, Reg. No. 8-27, 194.

So it was, that Morton Sobell came to accept employment with the General Electric Corporation at Schenectady, N.Y.

- 8- During the war years, Morton Sobell made manifest his patriotism in ways. He communicated with the United States Senate Committee Investigating the National Defense Program, (Truman Committee) on March 10 and March 20, 1944, in connection with a waste of capacitors, resistors, transformers and measuring instruments in the General Electric Plant. The files of the Truman Committee will show this correspondence under Reference W-3220s. It may be mentioned that throughout the period of hostilities, Norton Sobell was a regular Blood Donor of the American Red Cross in Schenestady; having centributed his blood over eight separate coessions, he became a member of the "Gallon Club" of the Red Cross. Among his contributions, through his work, to the war effort, was invention of a device which was such a significant centribution to the functioning of servomotors that it was awarded Patent No. 2 454980 by the United States Patent Caffice.
- 9- Morton Sobell has always been a devoted son, brother, husband and father. His personal and family life have not only been above represent he has justified the love and devotion reflected in the letters of his suffered mother annexed to this petition. Such matters are not unaximonly taken into resonant in the importation of sentence or on motion for reduction. It is appropriate that they be considered here.
- 10- As a defendant in this prosecution, Morton Sobell still maintains his innocence of the crime of which he was convicted. The action of the jury and appellate courts have closed this question for consideration on this motion. Yet, as the Court of Appeals pointed out, in affirming the conviction of his co-defendant a trial judge should consider the quality of the evidence on which a defendant has been convicted as one of the factors on which the severity of a sentence should be measured. Even on the worst aspect of the case made against him, by the single witness against him, there was no occasion testified to by Elitcher on which alleged overtures were made, where Sobell had taken the initiative in bringing about the visit or interview. On each of the few occasions involved, Elitcher had been the one to seek out and visit with Sobell.
- Il. The trial of the charge against Morton Sobell was an instance of an oppressive use of the charge of conspiracy to bring about a result which was inhumanly unfair and prejudicial. The fact that the Court of Appeals affirmed the conviction as legally permissible does not change the reality of the situation. Can it be safely said that in the absence of the misleading pre-trial publicity characterizing Sobell as an atom-spy and on consideration of the evidence against him separately on a trial from which the awful implication of atomic espionage would have been subtracted, that Morton Sobell would have been found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt?
- 12. A most significant circumstance which we commend to this Court's consideration, is the dissent of Judge Frank of the Court of Appeals from Sobell's conviction. In his sensitiveness to oppressive conduct affecting human freedom, Judge Frank perceived how the conjunction of the atomic espionage testimony with the testimony against Sobell had an adverse effect on him. His dissent points out that at the very least, it should have been made clear to the jury that even if they believed the testimony of Elitcher, it did not necessarily follow that Sobell had joined the grave over-all espionage conspiracy which was the object of the procedution. Moreover, he spoke for the entire court, at the portion of his opinion wherein he pointed out that if Mayottanspiracies were proved, then prejudicial error had been committed, for Sobell was jointly tried with major atomic energy spies whose acts and declarations were held binding upon him".

Though it has been held that there was no error, it cannot be denied that there was prejudice. And the administrative convenience which led the United Attorney to merge the initially separate accusations of conspiracy in this case is not necessarily to be condoned merely because it has been held legally correct for has to proceed as he did. Likewise, the course of conduct which included the misseling pre-trial publicity, the misleading bill of particulars, the kidnapping from Lexico, the use of loaded questions and ill attempts at "numor", the violation of the court's direction against exclusion of witnesses, the "reprehensible" comments have Perl indictment -- none of which, separately, were sufficient "error" to be a presented to the conviction, did not result in a judgment so impeccable and so clear that it is a prison sentence should necessarily follow.

14- The sentence imposed on Morton Sobell was the maximum term provided by statute. While his crime was of a type which is always regarded as serious, it is necessarily of the sort that should have resulted in such exceeding severity on (a) whose character and conduct have been as indicated above; (b) whose guilt based on testimony which may have been sufficient to go to the jury and yet did conclusively indicate individual heinousness (c) whose complicity was so limited after any aspect of the record. The circumstances of Lorton Sobell's case were such that the severity of the sentence imposed upon him can only be explained by the describle burden imposed on the Court in connection with the sentencing of the defendants Rosenberg. On the recent motion of the Rosenbergs for reduction of sentence imposed on them, however, the United States Attorney made, for the first time, the point that Sobell has unsuccessfully tendered repeatedly as reflecting the unfairness of his trial: "Ordinary espionage is one thing; atomic espionage is another". (SmM. 94)

15- Turning to the recorded sentences imposed in other cases of "ordinary espionage"--where the indictment was on the same statute as that involved here; where the conviction was not on a plea of guilty; a tremendous disparity is revealed. In all cases other than the mass trial involved in the Heine case, the average sentence imposed for violation of former 50 U.S.C. 34 was slightly over eight years' imprisonment. Gorin himself was sentenced to six years, Frances Gros (138 F 2d 254) to one and one-half years, for wartime espionage. In the Heine case, the average sentence imposed on the defendants who entered a plea of guilty was eleven years; even there, where sentence was imposed in the trying period, one month after Pearl Harbor, the average sentence on the defendants who had pleaded guilty was two and che-half years. The information on the basis of which these statements are made is as follows:

A. Reported espionage sentences:

John S. Farnsworth	4 to 12 years	98 F (2d) 541
Likhail N. Gorin	6 years	312 U.S 19
Hans H. Gros	10 years*	136 F (2d) 254
Frances Gros	la years*	138 F (2d) 261
Frank Grote	15 years**	140 F (2d) 413
Kurt Molzahn	10 years*	135 F (2d) 92
Hafis Salich	4 years	312 U.S. 19
Frederick W. Thomas	16 years ***	151 F (2d) 183

^{(*} Wartime sentence, beneficiary being wartime enemy.)
(** Actual "intent to injury" proved.)

^{(***} Leader of wartime ring for wartime enemy.)

B. Judge Byer's sentences in Brooklyn, Mass trial (wartime sentence).

(Cases reported 73 F. Supp. 858; 146F (2d) 254 and 151 F (2d) 813)

Ebeling, 5 years; Erlers, 5 years; Walen, 12 years; Scholz, 16 years; Klein, 5 years, Smunck, 10 years; Stigler, 16 years; Dold, 10 years, Duquense, 18 years; Walischew: 3 22 years; Heine, 18 years; Wheeler-Hill, 15 years; Ruper, 16 years.

(Sentence reported; based on N. Y. Times Jan. 3, 1942).

16- Morton Sobell, as an individual, by the destruction of his career and individual and by the terrible consequences already visited on his family, has been purchased severely for the crime of which he has been convicted. The court may well consider whether the function of a criminal's sentence—whether as deterrent, recommative or even retributive—has not been amply served in respect to him. It is some crux of our whole democratic philosophy and of our moral idealism that the dignity and soul of the individual human being is put on the highest plane of social values.

A reduction of Morton Sobell's sentence so that freedom and rehabilitation will be within endurable reach would be in accord with all that is just and humane in our tradition. The amesty of the law will be sufficiently vindicated by a sentence not greater than the average referred to above—with credit for the period of confinement already suffered. To have the sentence reduced to time already served would not be unreasonably lenient, when it is considered how Sobell and his family have already been punished.

Respectfully submitted,

HOWARD N. MEYER
HAR OLD M. PHILLIPS
EDWARD KUNTZ
Attorneys for Defendant
205 West 34 Street
New York 1, New York

Judge Irving R. Kaufman Federal Court Building New York City

Homorable Sir:

I am the wife of Morton Sobell. I know him as a husband, father, son and brother. As my husband he has loved and cherished me, helped me at every turn of the road in performing my duties as a woman, a wife and a mother. Berfore his invarceration, his devotion to the children found expression in loving care and attention with no thought for his own comfort or well being.

As a son he helped his parents from the time it was first possible for him ... do so, and continued to bring them comfort and honor in his work and in his life.

To his sister he rendered assistance, both financial and human.

We who are his family believe in his innocence of the crime with which he is charged. Knowing him as we do we must stand by him in this hour of great need. For us the sentence of thirty years is a sentence for each one of us, and we must suffer each day of his imprisonment.

For us the burden is triply hard because we are now separated from our level one by a distance of 3000 miles, and do not have the financial resources to exercise this great hardship. Even the name of Alcatraz Prison is one which strikes thereor into our hearts.

As a Judge who holds in his hands the disposal of human lives, will you not tempor your justice with mercy so that we who have suffered, and who must suffer more, will at least be able to look forward to some termination of our misery. May be at least have the hope of some day being reconstituted as a family so that the children who may not now even visit their father will know a father while they are in their formative stages. May it be granted to me that I may again feel the least of my husband about me before my life withers.

Please find it in your heart to reduce the living death of thirty years in prison to something which comes within the compass of human endurance.

Respectfully,

HELEN SOBELL (Mrs. Morton Sobell)

Judge Irving R. Kaufman Federal Court Building New York City

I am the mother of Morton Sobell, am almost reaching old age, having lived all my life honorably. I was raised as an orphan in a family of eight children. Worked hard all my life, but had a happy and fruitful life.

I have raised two children under extreme difficulties but tried to give them a good education. My son, Morton Sobell, was an outstanding boy, he graduated all schools with the greatest honors, the last one was Michigan University of which he was admitted the mathematical honor society where Einstein is also a member.

I will swear before God and man of my son's innocence, therefore honorable Judge Kaufman, will you listen to a mother's crying heart and make his burden lighter. Believe me, I would rather go to prison instead of my son. I will go to Temple every holy day and pray for you and your family.

I am appealing to you as a father help me, a mother whose eyes are never dry and whose heart is broken.

May God bless you.

LRS. ROSE SOBELL

January 1953

Your Honor:

Many, many months have passed since the fateful day upon which you sentenced me to thirty years imprisonment. Obviously, my thoughts have often dwelt upon this sentence; I have tried to understand it and reach that degree of comprehension which could make it possible to adjust to it. I have not been able to do so.

I cannot be so presumptuous as to attempt to pass "judgment" upon a judicial act. But I do not see how it can be that my entire life- for, in substance, that is what it is - should be forefeit, without hope or opportunity of redemption. I do not ask that it be taken into account that I still maintain my innocence of the grave crime of which I have been convicted; but I ask your Honor to consider (even within the limitations of the judgment of conviction) whether due regard has been given to my own past life and character in imposing a maximum sentence.

I have worked under, and by the side of many responsible scientists in my career. I ask that the court investigate and consider what their opinion of me, my work, my contribution to national defense has been, even in the period of the "cold war".

I respectfully suggest, that even though the case against me may have been enough, by legal standards, to warrant submission to a jury, that the Court should reconsider whether that case against me was so strong as to make me out a hopeless, confirmed criminal, one who is beyond possibility of rehabilitation?

May I not hope to be freed when I would still have some chance of living as a productive human being? Is it so clear that the verdict against me was not a product of the atom-spy atmosphere, which court and counsel could not contend with, that scoiety must irrevocably decide that a sentence such as five or seven years- serious enough in many similar cases - would not be enough?

Respectfully yours,

LICRTON SOBELL

Mrs. Helen L. Sobell 30 Charlton Street New York 14, New York

Dear Madams

In reply to your letter of February 7 informing me that you had just finished reading the book by Giles Playfair and Derrick Sington entitled "The Offenders", and that you find my name listed among those to whom the authors acknowledge their indebtedness for help in the preparation of a very important and timely book, I wish to inform you that I was not of any assistance whatsoever to the authors of this book and, as a matter of fact, I wrote to the publisher on December 13, 1957 that the book made inaccurate statements in the Rosenberg account pertaining to myself and this institution, and that if the rest of the book was not any more accurate than that particular account, I could not help but wonder how accurate the rest of the material written would be.

I also wish to state that I have received a letter from one of the co-authors acknowledging that they are to blame for a seriously inaccurate statement and that I was fully justified in calling the attention of the publisher to it.

The authors and publisher of this book did not have my permission at any time to use my name in connection therewith, nor did they receive any assistance from me in writing this book.

Very truly yours,

WARDEN

WLD: cm



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NO BON SOUTH

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

JPL: 145 D.T. 428 81 513042

NOTE: New York furnished Photostat of a letter written by Varden Denne of Sing Sing Prison to the authors of the book entitled The Offenders pointing out an inaccuracy is the book. New York also forwarded a finaccuracy is the book. New York also forwarded a finaccuracy is the poly received by Varden Denne from Photostat of the reply received by Varden Denne from Photostat of the reply received by Varden Denne from Photostat of the reply received by Varden Denne from Unauthorized use of his name on the acknowledgment unauthorized use of his name on the acknowledgment unauthorized use of his book stated that tiers of page of this book. The book stated that tiers of page of the book attended that the Varden was execution of the Bosenbergs and that the Varden was execution of the Bosenbergs and that the Varden was execution of the Bosenbergs and that the Varden was execution of the Bosenbergs and that the Varden was execution of the Bosenbergs and that the Varden was execution of the Bosenbergs and that the Varden was execution of the Bosenbergs and that the Varden was execution of the Bosenbergs and that the Varden was execution of the Bosenbergs and that the Varden was execution of the Bosenbergs and that the Varden was execution of the Bosenbergs and that the Varden was execution of the Bosenbergs and that the Varden was executed by Japan and Japan Washington was pritted by Japan and Japan was Japan was pritted by Japan and Japan was pritted by Japan and Japan was Japan was pritted by Japan and Japan was Japan was

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Office Mendiandum . United Stes Government DATE DIRECTOR, FBI (101-2483)

SAC, NEW YORK (100-37158)

* MORTON SORELL

ReBulet, 3/6/58.

The book "The Offenders" has been reviewed from the standpoint of possible Bureau interest and what appears to be relevant is being set out below. The book is being forwarded as an enclosure to this letter.

Brief biographical sketches of the authors appear at the end of the book. GTLES PLAYFAIR is referred a to as an English barrister who served with a British Wovernment wartime agency in New York between 1942 and 1946. He was a visiting professor at the University of North Carolina in 1953 and 1954. He is at "present" Professor of Drama and Director of the Adams Memorial Theater at Williams College, Massachusettes. DERRICK SINGTON was the chief witness for the prosecution at the trial of the Belsen war criminals and is a former foreign correspondent and editorial staff writer for "The Manchester Guardian" and a regular contributor to "The New Statesman."

With reference to the statement by WARden WILFRED DENNO, Sing Sing Prison, that he was contemplating civil, action against the publisher, Simon and Schuster, Inc., and the authors for unauthorized use of his name, the following

Bureau (101-24834 (Bood 1) (RM) - New York (100-37158)

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in the last paragraph of the preface, the authors state they received invaluable help and seoperation from the entire of the second from the s

Ron, JAMES V. BENNETT, Birector of BESS Mederal Bureau of Prigons, and his staff.

WILFRED BRENO, Warden of Sing Sing Prison.

Bondias Rick, Warden of Stillwater Prises, Minnesots, and his staff.

RUSSELLITEMPLE, Deputy Wardent of the State Penitentiary of North Carolina.

The Offenders is an argument against capital punishment. The reasons supporting the major premise that capital punishment is morally wrong are developed around six case studies—four involving crimes against the person, one of trime against International Law (Muremburg war crime prosecution) and the case of the ROSENBERGS. This is basically a sociological work and in a more specialized sense deals with criminology. The discussion concerning the ROSENBERGS appears to contain the only material of interest to the Bureau.

In addition to recounting the essential historical background of the ease; discussing the principal characters and the overthets of the conspiracy, uonalderable interpretation is set forth in an effort to reinforce the basic argument that the execution was wrong. The following are some of the more significant reasons the authors develop by direct statement or suggestion to support their contestion:

That the part played by ETHEL ROSENBERG was no more serious than that played by RUTH GREENGLASS and the part played by JULIUS ROSENBERG me more serious than that played by DAVID GREENGLASS: (p. 219)

the ROSENBERGS to death had the weight of American public opinion behind him at the time, but, "Whether he had justice behind him, too, is another matter." (p. 220) (p. 238)

ROSENBERGS was not settled beyond dispute at the trial.

(p. 221) The discussion of this topic is based largely on "The Judgement of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg" by JOHN WEXLEY, and "Was Justice Done"? by Professor MALCOLM SHARP. The authors dismiss the argument of WEXLEY that the ROSEMBERGS espionage case was a hoax, as untenable. It would presuppose the FBI wished to engineer a semisational spy trial for political reasons and persuaded MARRY SOLD to emplicate the GREENGLASSESS in order that they might be persuaded to implicate the ROSEMBERGS.

FF 100-77158

It is with reference to Professor SHARP's book that the authors imply that the GREENGLASSES made perjurious statements at the instigation of Government officials.

- That the people duped by the campaign to save the ROSENBERGS were not those who supported this movement but those who believed the objective of this campaign was to actually save the lives of the ROSENBERGS. (p. 225) President EISENHOWER and his advisors, according to the authors, were defeated by Communist propagands activities on behalf of the ROSENBERGS, by failing to stop the execution and by not having the execution farried out as quietly as possible.
- not one of prevention, deterrance or retribution, but of reformation—to force them to confess and repent. (p. 230-235).
- Justification for imposing the death sentence by indicating the activities of the ROSENBERGS resulted in Communist aggression in Kores. (p. 235)
- 7) Imposing the death sentence on the ROSEMBERGS was a violation of the spirit of the 1917 Espienage act under which the ROSENBERGS were convicted. 10. 237) The authors argue that the framers of the legislation had not intended that the discretionary power be used in peacetime against person who spied on behalf of a wartime ally.

Following the six dases, the authors present is a summary of their arguments against sapital punishment which includes one which they call the danger of irremediable injustice through the execution of imposent persons. (FF E91)

MY 400/1159

The paragraph which follows the above argument is devoted to an attempt to define treason. As an example of the relativity characteristic of treason, it is stated that the expression "The Crime of the Century" used by EDGAR MOOVER to describe the ROSENBERG espionage case. Is likely to be accepted only in communities which aympathize with his wan attitude toward Communism. They state that in Communist matiens HOOVER's title is regarded as a misnomer and in non-Communist ones the term is not widely accepted.

Office Memoundum • UNITED S **ES GOVERNMENT**

H. Belmont

1 - Belmont

DATE: April 16. 1958

Boardman

W. A. Branigan

- Branigan

ALL INFORMATION CONTYN

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Belmont Persons Rosea Tele. Roo

By letter dated 2-26-58 the New York Office advised that it had received information from Warden Wilfred Denno, Holloman Sing Sing Prison, that a book entitled The Offenders made some Gandy comments concerning the Rosenberg case. These comments dedt with the arrangements for the execution of the Rosenbergs and were untrue. Penno advised that he was contemplating taking civil action against the publishers and authors of this book for the unauthorized use of his name. By letter dated 3-6-58 the New York Office was instructed to obtain a copy of this book and to review same and forward to Bureau.

By attached letter dated 4-3-58, New York Office forwarded a copy of the book entitled "The Offenders" written by Giles Playfair and Derrick Sington? This book discusses several cases of crimes against property, the person and the State. These particular crimes resulted. in the execution of the criminals and this book argues against capital punishment. One of these cases discussed is the Rosenberg case. In this chapter, the axthurs conceded that the question of the guilt or innocence of the Rosenbergs is irrelevant from their point of view. The only question with which they are dealing is the sentence imposed upon the Rosenbergs. They feel that the Rosenbergs should not have been executed. They suggest that the Government should have attempted to cure the Rosenbergs. They state that the Rosenbergs upon their conviction should have been committed for an indefinite period to some type of treatment or education center and be placed in the custody of people with an expert knowledge of their political thinking and a genuine insight of the workings of their minds and that they should have been held in this center while a prolonged attempt was made to win them over to loyalty to the United States and democratic ideas. The authors admitted that no such establishment exists but that it could have been and still could be created and they suggest that in this work excommunists could perform a valuable service of atonement rather than sending their discarded associates to jail proto execution. Thankens.

The authors concede that they do not know if this method sign have worked in the case of the Rosenbergs but feel that as a broad, deterrent it would have been more sensible than execution RFC 95

ين كما لإنه ملأني Enclosures

*Playfair is reportedly and formerly practiced criminal law in Igodon. Bufiles reflect of

esing on is reportedly the first officer to enter Belsen concentration camp and was chief witness for the prosecution at the trial of the Belsen war criminals. He is former foreign corresponder and writer for "Manchester Guardian." Bufiles 3378 have no ident info re this individual.

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont Re: Morton Sobell 101-2483

The statements which Warden Denno objected to occurred during a description of the execution in which the authors state that it was as nearly public as the law could allow it. The book states that tiers of seats were erected in the execution chamber at Sing Sing to accommodate an invited audience of record size and the Warden was responsible for inviting the witnesses. The truth of the matter is the only witnesses to the execution was one representative each of the 3 major news services and these witnesses were invited by the United States Marshal. The warden is considering instituting civil suit against the authors for the unauthorized use of his name on the acknowledgment page of the book.

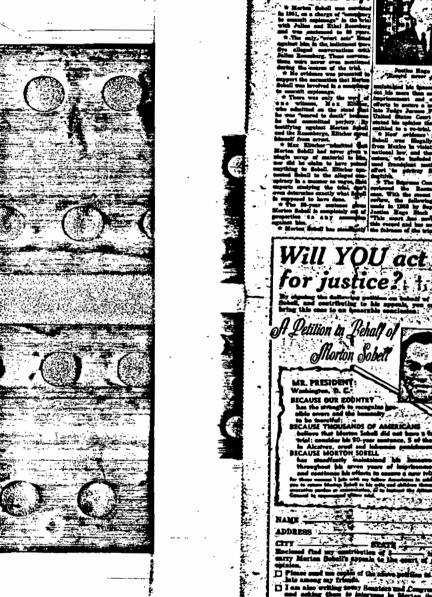
The chapter on the Rosenberg case recounts the essential historical background of the case fairly accurately and contains no unfavorable comments concerning the Bureau.

ACTION:

For your information. It is recommended that the attached book be placed in the Bureau Library.

Man from Jem.

Mr Edgar Hoover? Listering to a speech on behalf of justice in the case of Moston Sabell, and the Creeding the enclosed paper: Kind of puts the F. B. J. in the same light as the dreaded Russian G. U. P.a. Vand the post German Gestaps. Thave always held the F. B. 2. in high esteem I always believed that the 7 B. 2 protected + helped the innocent and prosecuted the guilty. The truth will always come out on too, leger bless how anyone tries to suppress it. and Sol's judgment will be righten forever. O Pool # 145 ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED The Lord is just in all this warpel 37 = 30 42 fut to and bird in all His doings. 19 The Lord in near to all who tall upon tim, To all who call upon fin in truth. 19 He Sulfile the desire of all who love He seles hears their cry, and saw @ The Lord preserves all with But all the wicked He with I pray that truthe + justice will private anthe les 2 am sur et 95 EX-135 JOU SIS FRANÇAS



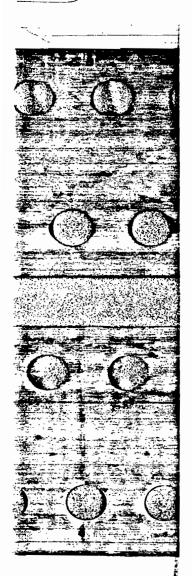
Why the President should free Morton Sobell The facts say: Public opinion says:



For further information read

Contact Sobell Committee acar you

101-2483-1425 Endour

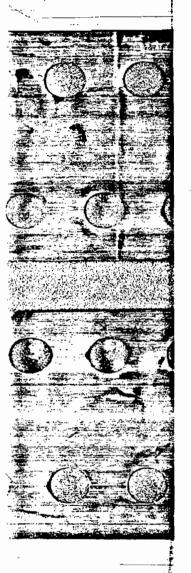


look at issues in Rosenberg-Sobell case New Books Add To Public Debate



"Tonight Is My Last Night In Alcatraz-Do You Hear Me?"

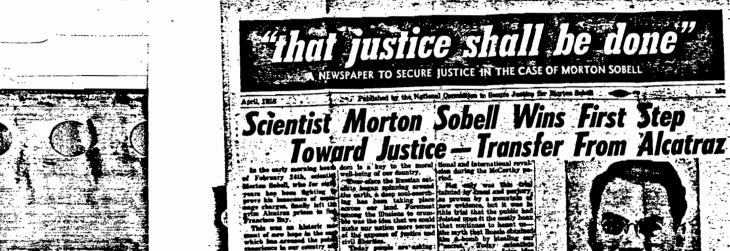




We Address Ourselves To You, Mr. President

America takes new Statements by scientists, Editors pose challenge To basis of convictions





"You freed my husband From Alcatraz — Will you Now help bring him home?"

Law Authority Urges Inquiry Into "Our Dreyfus Case"







Office Memberndum • UNITED ST TES GOVERNMENT

A. H. Belmon ro

DATE: April 23, 1958 .

Boardman Relmont

W. A. Bran

MORTON SOBELL, was.

ESPIONAGE ... R.

The attached letter was received from Henry Miernic Tele, Roo 10435 Birchdale, Downey, California. This letter enclosed a copy of a fact sheet edited by the National Committee to Secure Holloman Justice for Morton Sobell captioned, "That Justice Be Done." Miernicki's letter is hostile and states that the facts set out in the attached paper put the FBI in the same light as "dreaded Russian G.U.P.A.," (probably means "OGPU") and the past German Gestapo. The letter concludes with a lengthy Biblical quotation.

Bureau indices contain no identifiable information concerning Inasmuch as this letter is hostile toward the Bureau, no acknowledgment is being made.

Enclosures ACTION: For your information. A copy of this letter' will be forwarded to Los Angeles Office for its information. 101-2483

JPL:jab

Branigan :

REC- 95

23 APR 24 1958

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINE

BEC 33 Director, FRI (101-2483)_/425

RAPTORIES

deted delless which was addressed to the Divertof by one Beary Micratobly 10435 of rehidule, Journey, California, call with the Envelope in which this letter was contained. The se the briter's expressed hereils eithing to the Direct to expressed hereils eithing toward the Direct, the schmooledgment was made of this letter. These Properties.

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BJECT: MORTON BOBELI	, was	*UNAV	AILABLE SECTION
ESPIONAGE - I			Card U.T.D. MAY 15 1958
It is recommended that a Index Card be prepared or above - captioned individu	n the	~	The Security Index Card on the captioned individual should be changed as follows: (specify change only):
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W. A. Branigen

SINIE CAMINIEL, nee Schnarts, mas. Mrs. Sidney Sarfinkel Braic Anitin Mrs. Earry Auttin isterial escirity - R

By letter 10-21-57 Ben Mandel, Research Director, Senate Internal Security Subminities, sent Mr. Michels undated anonymous letter received by Committee stating the activities of Symie Amitin should be checked due to connection between her and Morton Sobell, convicted Soviet agent, while both worked at Reoves Instrument Corporation. Letter stated Amitin's brothers-in-law, Benjamin Memlock and Dr. Julius Jaffe, were procommunists. Mandel requested information to supplement this so it could be used for a hearing. Bufiles reflected no information on subject and certain information reflecting CP sympathies on part of Henlock and Jaffe. Mr. Mandel was evally centasted on 10-29-57 by Mr. Michels.

Attacked report and letter made at New York 4-29-58 by SA T. Chandler Josey reflects subject and her husband, Sidney Garfinhel, are engaged in divorce proceedings with sensational type accusations being nade by both parties. Garfinkel admitted he wrote anonymous letter and that he had no reason to believe his wife knew about Sobell's espichage activities. Carfinkel stated his wife was very liberal but he has be information she was a GP member; states Jaffe and wife stated that they believed the Resembergs were innocent and that Benjamin Healock, according to his wife, was exce arrested for distributing CP literat

ACTION:

1. It is recommended this meno and attached report and less be forwarded to Mr. Michols for his information in the event further? inquiry is received from Mr. Michols relative to his previous communi

199 MAY 20 1958

2. There is estacked a copy of a letter to the Internal Sedaris Tologo Nichols vision transmitting copies of reports in instant case and requesting Bounda presecutive epinion concerning the files of of fitle 18, Section 200 Beligh the part of Sidney Carfinkel in that he furnished false information Mohr Senete Internal Security Sudconnittee. INITIALS ON ORIGINAL

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May 9, 1958

概念は記される Assistant Attanta Seneral May 12, 1958 Internal Security Division er alminist, not be THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF TH THE MAL AND ALTER A re to ettacked the sopy such to Aport of Sportal Agent 2. Themelor Josey mode at the York, April 30, 1880, report of Sportal Agent Pillon D. Sportal at the Street Street, Sandard and at the Street, Sandard and a temporal at the Street Street, Sandard and Street Street, Sandard and Street Street, Sandard and Street Street, Sandard Street Street, Sandard Street Street, Sandard Street in the edeperantiqued until to estranged hashene of the subject, educated he strong as another to the Internal Security Subject, and the subject of the subject, and the subject of the subject on the Judiciary of the United States Senate, which letter contained Wine allegations concerning the subject. Too are requested to famile a entains concerning the actions of Sidney Perfinkel in connection with Stile Is, Section 2001, United States 105-4114 101-2425 (Wirten Tobell) rentpes to Selnes It hast, that stytten, trappined by The 190 to the convention by a publish TATION CONTAINED CLASSIFIED 7 BY 3042 MALLED **Z** MAY 1 6 19**58** . MAIL ROOM 🗀

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office NEW YORK	Office of Origin NEW YORK	6/18/58	Investigative Period 3/4,5,17,19;5/28,29	/58
TITLE OF CASE			RT D. CLOUGH, JR.	Typtilati
MORTON SOBELL, w	188.	ESPIC	e DNA GE –R	

REINO HAYHANEN reinterviewed,
3/5/58. Advised the message
"Mark" received instructing him
to give HELEN SOBELL \$5,000.00,
Bid not contain mention of a
beauty parlor and made no mention
of HELEN SOBELL as the proprietor
Lef a beauty parlor. HAYHANEN reiterated
ne never determined if subject's
wife was the proprietor of a
beauty parlor as he never actually
met HELEN SOBELL nor did he give
her any money. Subject transferred
from Alcatraz to Federal Benitentiary,
Atlanta, Georgia in February, 1958.

Property of PBI — This report is located to you by the EBI and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to whi

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NU. S. SOVERHMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1056 0-68881

WY 100-37158

DETATIS

Reinterview of REINO HAYHANEN, Defected Tilegal Soviet Intelligence Agent, March 5, 1958

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION INTERVIEW REPORT

March 19, 1958

REINO HAYHANEN advised that "MARK", RUDOLF IVANOVICH ABEL originally received the first message from Moscow saying that HELEN SOBELL lived in the vicinity of 137th Street and 139th Street, off Broadway, New York City. "MARK" told HAYHANEN that he was afraid of a cop he had seen on a corner near SOBELL's residence. HAYHANEN stated that he and "MARK" drove by SOBELL's residence on one occasion in HAYHANEN's car and "MARK" pointed out the residence to HAYHANEN, On this occasion, according to HAYHANEN, there was a cop on the corner and "MARK" told HAYHANEN that a cop was there on several occasions, when he, "MARK" went by BOBELL's residence. In fact, HAYHANEN stated "MARK" informed him that on one occasion he had actually entered the doorway of the residence of HELEN SOBELL, but left when he could not locate her name on the house directory list.

HAYHANEN advised when "MARK" was unable to find SOBELL's name in the house directory he checked the New York City Telephone Directory for her name without success. HAYHANEN then checked the Telephone Directory himself and found the name HELEN SOBELL, followed by beauty parlor, 1200 or 1400 block on Broadway, New York City. HAYHANEN advised he was later in the vicinity of 42nd Street on Broadway and checked the numbers of the buildings in that area, thus finding that the 1200 or 1400 block was near 42nd Street and Broadway. HAYHANEN stated he did not actually see the beauty parlor, as he was in a hurry at the time. HAYHANEN added that the message "MARK" received instructing him to give HELEN SOBELL \$5,000 did not contain any mention of a beauty parlor.

Interview with	REINO HAYHANEN	File #100-37158
on <u>3/5/58</u>	at Alexandria, Virginia ts LAWRENCE MC WILLIAMS and	Dictated: 3/14/58
By Special Agen	ts LAWRENCE MC WILLIAMS and	H HDWARD J. MURPHY; meb/mmg
Property of FBI	-This is loaned to you by t	the FBI, and neither

Property of FBI-This is loaned to you by the FBI, and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.

In relation to the address and location of the SOBELL beauty parlor, AYHANEN advised he cannot now accurately recollect whether he received the impression that the beauty parlor was in the vicinity of Broadway and 42nd Street either by walking through the area or obtaining that impression from the telephone directory.

HAYHANEN opined that he obtained the number 1482, 1492, or 1494 Broadway as the location of HILEN SCHELL's beauty parlor from the New York City Telephone Directory, when looking up HELEN SOBEL. He stated that the reason he had previously advised that the beauty parlor was in the vicinity of 139th Street or 142nd Street and Broadway was due to the belief that each block on Broadway contained only 100 building numbers. HAYHANEN added that thus the 1400 numbers on Broadway would be at 140th Street and Broadway, according to this reasoning.

HAYHANEN stated that the HELEN SOBELL listed in the New York City Telephone Directory as the proprietor of a beauty parlor was not necessarily identical with HELEN SOBELL, the wife of MORTON SOBELL, since he, MAYHANEN, did not find the HELEN SOBELL, of the beauty parlor in the Telephone Directory and had no way of knowing if this HELEN SOBELL was identical with the wife of MORTON SOBELL. In addition, HAYHANEN pointed out that the message "MARK" received Instructing him to give \$5,000 to HELEN SOBELL made no mention of HELEN SOBELL as the proprietor of a beauty parlor, He added he was never able to resolve this point since he never actually met HELEN SOBELL and never gave her the \$5,000.

HAYHANEN stated that, after he had advised Moscow by a message that he had made contact with HELEN SOBELL and had given the \$5,000 to her, he received an inquiry from Moscow in a message as to how he had arranged contact with "HELEN". HAYHANEN told Moscow in a message that he had met

HELEN SOBELL near an Eighth Avenue Subway station located in the vicinity of her residence. He told Moscow that he had recognized her from the photograph and information he had received from "MARK". HAYHANEN stated he did not tell Moscow he met her near the beauty parlor. HAYHANEN told Moscow that he tailed HELEN SOBELL on the street, met her as set out above, talked to her, gave her the \$5,000, instructed her to spend the money very carefully and then gave her a letter which she read and understood perfectly.

Concerning the letter HAYHANEN was instructed to give to HELEN SOBELL, HAYHANEN advised that "MARK" nad originally received this letter and that before "MARK" left for Moscow in June of 1955, he gave HAYHANEN the letter and instructed HAYHANEN to give the letter and the \$5,000 to HELEN SOBELL in his absence. HAYHANEN stated that the letter was supposedly from HAYHANEN's brother in Russia requesting HELEN SOBELL to accept as a favor the money he, HAYHANEN, the brother of 🔑 the writer of the note, would give to her. HAYHANEN explained to the interviewing agents that actually whoever gave the letter to HELEN SOBELL would allegedly be the brother of the writer in Russia. HAYHANEN emphatically stated that the letter was supposedly from the bearer's brother, not from HELEN SOBELL's brother. When queried regarding differences in statements concerning the letter being from the brother and his prior statement that the letter was purportedly from HELEN SOBELL's brother, HAYHANEN advised that he was confused at the time he furnished the original information. He is positive in his opinion that the letter was not from the purported brother of HELEN SOBELL, but was a letter from the brother of the bearer of the money.

HAYHANEN stated that he read this letter as "MARK" stated he could do so in order to be fully aware of what it contained in the event any questions were asked by HELEN SOBELL. He related that the letter described an event that occurred some years prior wherein the writer

of the letter had visited MORTON and HELEN SOBELL in their apartment, at which time MORTON and HELEN SOBELL were viewing slides on a wall in their apartment. HAYHANEN stated that the letter mentioned that the writer and the SOBELLs then conversed for some length.

HAYHANEN stated that while he cannot recall the exact wordage of the letter, he definitely recalls that while no such word as recruitment was set forth in the letter, the definite impression was obtained that the scene depicted of the meeting between the writer and the SOBELLS was the night they were either recruited or agreed to perform operations for the Soviets. HAYHANEN stated he is positive that the letter referred to both the husband and wife as regards to the meeting set forth in said letter and not to the husband alone.

HAYHANEN advised that the handwriting in the letter was unknown to him and the writing was not fluent English. He believed that the writing was disguised. He added that he does not know if the letter came from Moscow or if "MARK" wrote it or whether Soviet officials furnished this letter to "MARK". HAYHANEN stated that "MARK" had told him he received the letter, but he did not tell HAYHANEN how or where or from whom he had received it.

HAYHANEN was also unable to recall if the aforementioned letter was signed, though it is his indistinct impression that it was unsigned.

HAYHANEN stated that he received a message, in "MARK's" absence, and after the message inquiring as to how he had contacted HELEN SOBELL, in which he was instructed to see HELEN SOBELL again. HAYHANEN stated that this message contained no money. He added that this message told him to decide with "MARK" if HELEN SOBELL could be used as an agent. HAYHANEN advised that about this time "MARK" returned from Russia and told HAYHANEN to arrange a contact in

Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx, New York, with HELEN SOBELL. HAYHANEN stated that he, "MARK", would see her there with HAYHANEN introducing them to each other. HAYHANEN stated that he told "MARK" he would again try to contact HELEN SOBELL. He stated he waited awhile and then told "MARK" he could not find her.

HAYHANEN stated he told "MARK" about a cop on a corner of the street where HELEN SOBELL lived and that possibly she was being watched. He stated that "MARK" dropped the idea of trying to contact HELEN SOBELL and told HAYHANEN it was time for HAYHANEN to go to Moscow. HAYHANEN added that "MARK" told him that they would work it sut upon HAYHANEN's return to the United States. HAYHANEN stated that in regard to this second attempt to contact HELEN SOBELL, "MARK" had told him that he, "MARK", was to give HELEN SOBELL an additional \$5,000, which he had in a New York City bank.

With reference to HAYHANEN's prior remarks concerning HELEN SOBELL, wherein he on one occasion told interviewing agents that her name was ROSA SOBELL, HAYHANEN advised he does not know why he used such as her first name. He stated that the possibility exists that "MARK" made reference to her in this manner, though he is positive that "MARK" also made reference to her first name as HELEN.

Subject Transferred to Federal Penitentiary, 1958

on March 4, 1958, T-1 advised that at a meeting of the New York City Committee to Secure Justice for MORTON SCHELL on February 28, 1958, it was announced that MORTON SCHELL was transferred from Almebraz to the Federal Penitentiary at Atlanta, Georgia,



NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE FOR MORTON SOBELL IN THE ROSENBERG CASE

1. Following the execution of atomic spies Ethel and Julius Rosenberg in June 1953, the "Communist campaign assumed a different emphasis. Its major effort centered upon Morton Sobell," the Rosenbergs' codefendant. The National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case-a Communist front which had been conducting the campaign in the United States- was reconstituted as the National Rosenberg-Sobell Committee at a conference in Chicago in October 1953 and "then as the National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg Case." National headquarters remained at 1050.

6th Avenue, New York City. Co-chairman of the newest organization were Daniel Marshall and Joseph Brainin.

(Committee on Un-American Activities, Report, "Trial by Treason: The National Committee to Secure Justice for the Rosenbergs and Morton Sobell," August 25, 1956, pp. 118 and 120; also cited in Annual Report for 1955, House Report 1648; January 17, 1956, originally released January 11, 1956, p.30; 3

Office Memorandum · UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DIRECTOR, FBI (101-2483)

DATE: 6/18/58

SAC. NEW YORK (100-37158)

ORTON SOBELL, BSPIONAGE-R

Enclosed herewith to the Bureau are 7 copies of the report of SA HERBERT D. CLOUGH, Tr. dated and captionedass above as well as 7 copies of a letterhead memorandum reflecting the reliability of the informant utilized.

REFERENCE

Report of SA WILLIAM D. DONOHUE, dated 7/58 at New York

ADMINISTRATIVE

REINO HAYHANEN reinterviewed on 3/5/58 advised the message "Mark" received instructing him to give HELEN SOBELL \$5,000, made no mention of a beauty parlor and made no mention of HELEN SOBELL as the proprietor of a beauty parlor. reiterated that he had never determined if the subject's wife was the proprietor of a beauty parlor as he never actually met HELEN SOBELL and never gave her the \$5.00A.

A review of the information furnished by REINO HAYHAMEN failed to indicate that additional investigation is warranted in this case. This case will be placed in a closed status until such time information is received which would warrant the reinstitution of investigation,

INFORMANT

Date of Activity and/or Description Date of Information

Furnished

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REC-31

21 JUN 20 1958

Serial 1909

(2-Bureau (101-2483) (Encls.74) 3-New York (100-37158)

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United States Department of Instice

Sederal Bureau of Investigation

New York, New York June 18, 1958

Re: Morton Sobell, with aliases

Reference report of Special Agent Herbert D. Clough, Jr., dated and captioned as above.

T-1 utilized in reference report has Burgished reliable information in the past.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINS Put-DE

THIS IS LOANED TO YOU BY THE FBI, AND LEGITER IT HOR ITS CONTENTS ARE TO BE DISTUBLIFED OUTSIDE THE AGENCY TO WHICH LOADE

AGENCY CAB

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181-2483-1427 ENCLOSURE

Assistant Attorney General July 2, 1958 Internal Security Division mrton *so*bill Information has been received from an informan he has furnished reliable information in the past that the Philadelphia branch of the Connittee to Secure Justice for Morton Sebell held a meeting on June 20, 1958, Publick was attended by at the residence of has been reported thirty to thirty-five people. to this Bureau in the past as a Connunies farty nember. Sarah Hannord, national functionary of the Counittee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell, acted as chairman and showed moving pictures of a reproduction of the television program "Hightbeat" in which Melen Sebell, wife of Morton Sebell, was interviewed by John Fingate. Rose Sobella mether of Morton Sobell, was present at this neeting and mentioned that she and Sarah Mannond hall been in Fashington, D. C., where they visited Senators and Congressnen regarding a new trial for Sobell. Rose Sobell indicated that they were unsuccessful in their efforts to see some Congressmen. She mentioned they tried to speak with John L. Lewis of the Snited Mine Vorkers but could not do so They spoke with two of Lewis' attorneys and left somelliterature with them. According to the informant, Rose Bobell is of the opinion she had note progress in her efforts and believes that the public is beginning to feel Sobell was "framed." The believes that reprints of portions hat have been distributed are i of the trial t JULZ - 1958 informant also seviced that it med ednounced at the neeting that to Mester and talked with a for er gobernsted been President of Max to agreed with Bose Sebell that Herte shove is furnished to ENLO LUCES ELYED - BURROMAN SA AM '58 Boardman Belmont Mohr 101**-34**83 - 100-387635 (Vatl. Committee to Secure Justi Rosen Rosenberg Case) SEE NOTE PAGE 26 BOUTEDESTIAL Tele. Room

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Assistant Attorney General Internal Security Division

Mots: It is believed the abese information should furnished to the ALS, IS Div. for Als information connection with fature court action that might be by Sobell. Clansified Confidential to protect in

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Office Men. dum . UNITEL

DIRECTOR, FBI (101-2483)

DATE: 8/4/58

FROM SAC, ATLANTA (65-1361)

The following is transmitted for the

On 7/28/58, Associate Warden VIRGIL BRELAND Atlanta Peritentiary, advised SA GEORGE TREADWELL that mail shows subject's wife, HRLEN SOMELL is in Mexico City, Mexico, staying with the family of Dr. Souches Ponton at blu Emilio

Bureat (101-2483)

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TO

W. A. Branigan Prof

Date 9/25/58

FROM

J. P. LEF

E. M. Gregg

BUDGET - MORTON SOBELL, Was
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Captioned case has been reviewed and careful consideration given to the advisability of any reinterviews, interviews or other action which may now appear warranted. In the event such now appears desirable, necessary action is being initiated.

Bureau file: 101-2483

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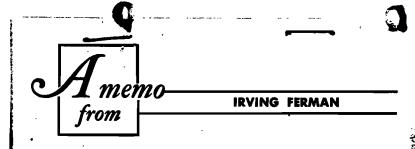
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Office Memorandum UNITED STALS GOVERNMENT TO Mr. Tolson January 12, 1959 FROM G. A. Ne SUBTECT: Tele, Room Holloman There is attached a copy of the report on the 85th Congress and Civil Liberties which Irving Ferman's Office prepared. He calls particular attention to the history of the Jencks legislation. There is also attached a release put out by the Sobell Committee which he, Ferman, thought we might be interested in. RECOMMENDATION: That these matters be referred to the Domestic Intelligence Division for appropriate analysis. SEPARATE MENSO being prepared on this.

MEMO to BELMONT from BAUMYANDANT 7878 1-20-59-JOC, Enclosures ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED - Mr. Belmont - Mr. Jones GAN: sak (4) ADDENDUM: (GAN: sak)1-13-59: Irving Ferman called me this morning to inquire if I had, received the Sobell report. I told him I had but had not yet reviewed it. /He stated he wanted to talk to some of his Congressional Sources about the matter but would like to first get our neartion after ewing the matter. It is therefore recommended that this be reviewed



Dear Gordon

Thought you

might be interested in the Report on the 85th Congress and Civil Liberties which my office has prepared.

I especially thought you might be interested in the history of the Jencks legislation, which appears on page 61.

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I thought you might

material which the Sobell Committee has released.

ENCLOSURE 161-2483-143

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Committee To Secure Justice For Morton Sobell

940 BROADWAY (Entrance on 22nd Street) NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

Algonquin 4-9983

December, 1958

Dear Sir:

We, Morton Sobell's wife and mother, together with members of our committee, are personally concerned with Morton's rights and well being. But beyond that, we feel a deep responsibility to the issues involved in the case as they affect our entire country. We have long been aware of the concern of many Mexican people and officials of the Mexican government because of the abduction of our family from Mexico City.

When we learned that the United States Senate Subcommittee on American Republics Affairs was conducting an inquiry into our country's relations with the Latin American nations, we felt it our duty to call the Senate's attention to a vital aspect of our case bearing on this inquiry.

Our committee therefore proceeded with the necessary research and prepared the enclosed memorandum which we hope will not only underscore the meaning of our case, but will contribute toward a better understanding and resolution of an important national and international problem. Naturally we expect that the facts presented here will result in a further investigation of the case of Morton Sobell and of the many requests for his freedom which have been made.

We ask you to read the enclosed memorandum which our committee has prepared for submission to the Senate Subcommittee. If you feel that the points raised merit consideration, we ask that you make your views known by writing directly to the Senate Subcommittee on American Republics Affairs, United States Senate, Washington, D.C. We would appreciate a copy of your letter if you care to make it available.

The enclosed prepared letter is for your convenience and, if you prefer to sign it, will be included among those brought to the attention of the Senate Subcommittee when we submit our memorandum.

The issues of the case have troubled our country for nine years. Our country and an innocent man can be helped by your consideration. We urge your attention.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED Sincerely,

HIREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 4728 87 BY 3042 Put Brose Sobell

Helen Sobell
Helen Sobell

TRE 101-2012 1432

Subcommittee on American Republics Affairs Senate Foreign Relations Committee United States Senate Washington, D.C.

Dear Sirs:

The Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell has sent me a copy of its memorandum addressed to your inquiry into relations with Latin American countries. I have read the memorandum and my conclusion is that it would be in the public interest for you to give careful consideration to the points which are raised.

	Yours truly,
-	
	(name)
	(address)
	(city and state)
(date)	
	ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

101-2483-1432 TICLOSURE G •



MEMORANDUM

to the

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AMERICAN REPUBLICS AFFAIRS

Foreign Relations Committee

United States Senate

Washington, D.C.

Submitted in behalf of:

Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell
940 Broadway
New York City 10, N.Y.

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ENCLOSURE

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INTRODUCTION

This statement is submitted in behalf of the Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell. The concern evidenced herein stems from the interest we have as Americans in the development and securing of good relations with our neighbors in the Western Hemisphere, as well as our particular interest in seeking justice in the case of Morton Sobell.

These dual interests are closely interrelated. At the core , of the problem of friendly relations between countries is the mutual respect and observance of territorial sovereignty. hope to show that the practice of international kidnapping of a person from the territory of a Latin American country so as to effectuate his return to the United States is a naked violation of the principle of territorial sovereignty and a source of suspicion and distrust between nations. In spite of frequent official pronouncements disclaiming and criticizing such forcible seizure, the law of the United States, established by <u>Ker v.Illinois</u>, 119 U.S. 436, has permitted the United States to assert jurisdiction over the person of an individual who has been kidnapped from a foreign country. Our attention is directed to this doctrine as a continuing incentive for international kidnapping and thereby an important cause for the deterioration of international relations and friendship with our neighbors. In this context the Sobell case, involving assertions of such international kidnapping with the participation of the United States government, that have never been answered on the merits, takes on importance and significance. We hope to show that this very case provides an opportunity to bring our national policy into conformity with the principle of territorial sovereignty by abolishing the Ker doctrine. end and with this interest the following statement is submitted.

RESPECT FOR NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY

One of the most significant, if not the single most important guarantee of good relations between the United States and its Latin American neighbors is the scrupulous regard and respect for national sovereignty. Only this indispensible approach, manifested in both actions and attitude, can thoroughly dispel the suspicions, fears, and often aversion to the United States that are exhibited by official and un-official reactions of Latin American countries.





Our country has long recognized the basic principle of international law of the inviolability of national sovereignty. Thomas Jefferson, as Secretary of State, wrote the French ministry in 1793 that:

"A sovereign according to modern international law, cannot exercise the prerogatives of sovereignty in any dominions but his own." 1

Specifically this doctrine of respect for national sovereignty has found expression in the area of unlawful intrusion upon a sovereign's territory to capture and return to the United States one accused of a violation of United States law. Mr. Moore, Secretary of State to President Madison, wrote as early as 1815:

"No principle is better established than that no government has a right to pursue offenders against its laws, cr deserters from its service, into the dominions of another: that such persons can be recovered by applications only to the government within whose jurisdiction they take shelter, and in obedience to its laws and treaties applicable to such a case. A departure from this principle being a violation of sovereignty, seldom fails to produce disagreeable consequences." 2

Subsequent Secretaries of State have reiterated this principle of non-violation of national sovereignty to recapture a "fugitive." Secretary of State Buchanan in 1845 stated:

"A nation claiming a fugitive from justice cannot invade the territorial waters of another state for the purpose of arresting such fugitive." 3

And in 1881 Secretary of State Blaine wrote in respect to the extradition treaty between the United States and Mexico:

"The treaty of extradition between the United States and Mexico prescribes the forms for carrying it into effect, and does not authorize either party, for any cause, to deviate from those forms, or arbitrarily abduct from the territory of one party a person charged with crime for trial within the jurisdiction of the other." 4

These pronouncements represent a recognition of the importance of respecting sovereign integrity. History reveals, though, a pattern of violations of sovereign territorial rights which have always brought as a consequence strained and tense relations between the United States and its neighbors in the Western Hemisphere. We do not deal with the numerous expeditions and sorties of United States marines to the various Latin American countries including Nicaragua, Honduras, Haiti and Cuba in the early twentieth century when these countries rocked with the tide of popular revolutions. Nor do we deal with the American Expeditionary force that entered Mexico in pursuit of Francisco Villa and remained stationed in that country from March 9, 1916 to February 6, 1917, when its final withdrawal was obtained.

_ {

Further, we only note in passing, the border incidents constituting violations of sovereign rights that have occurred in the past, involving military encroachments and encounters. As early as the Civil War we were made aware of the fact that respect for national sovereignty required that national boundaries be strictly recognized. Thus, when in December, 1863, an American man-of-war entered Sambro Harbor in Nova Scotia to recover the Union steamer Chesapeake, the three remaining members of the crew of the Chesapeake who were delivered over to British authorities in Halifax were subsequently released "in view of the irregularity of their seizure by a foreign man-of-war in British water." 6

Mexican-American border violations involving troops and armed might have a long and extensive history. As far back as 1888 the United States registered protests over Mexican troops passing into United States territory. 7 And five years later the protests were coming from Mexico to the United States complaining of United States troops firing on a Mexican official in Mexican territory. 8 The period 1914-1918 witnessed countless incidents of firing across the border between United States and Mexican troops. 9 Even after the Expeditionary Force had left Mexico, there were incidents involving United States troop crossings into Mexico. 10

INTERNATIONAL KIDNAPPING AND TERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY

In this statement we are concerned with a separate but related aspect of the problem of recognition and respect for national sovereignty which we respectfully submit lies at the core of our relations with Latin American countries. This aspect is the unlawful and irregular kidnapping of persons in Latin American countries to obtain their return to the United States. This situation sharply raises the important issues of violation and total disregard of solemn extradition treaty obligations, violation of the internationally recognized right of asylum, and disregard for the established policies governing law enforcement and the administration of justice in the country whose sovereignty is so violated.

As already indicated, our State Department has officially stated the importance of recognizing the national sovereignty of a nation by not participating in an unlawful kidnapping of a person in such nation in defiance of its sovereignty and authority. In fact, Secretary of State Gresham characterized such activities as being "subversive of the fundamental principles of sovereignty." Il Yet here again the history of our relations with Latin American countries reveals a not infrequent resort to kidnapping, often with all the dressings of international intrigue, that has caused resentment and tension to grow.



A. EXPERIENCES IN INTERNATIONAL KIDNAPPING

Some of the more well known of these kidnappings primarily concerning Mexico deserve mention.

In 1905 one Martinez was kidnapped from Mexican soil by one Felix and delivered to United States officials to stand trial for an offense against the laws of California. The Mexican government protested the trial and demanded Martinez's return to Mexico stating that it was obvious that his seizure was without foundation in view of the fact that the United States had extradited Felix to Mexico to stand trial for the irregular seizure.12

In the 1930's one Luis Lopez, then in Mexico, was forced to cross the border into Texas where he was wanted for violating the Harrison Narcotic Act. It was stated that his abduction was planned with the previous arrangement of a United States deputy marshal and a Texas constable. After the Mexican authorities requested extradition of the kidnappers, which request was denied, the Mexican Embassy strongly requested the return to Mexico of Lopez on the basis that he "was brought into American territory in a manner which constitutes an invasion of jurisdiction by American officials committed in Mexican territory." 13

Back in the 1890's Mexico had occasion to register an official complaint against the invasion of its territory by six armed men in pursuit of one Jesus Holguin. The Mexican minister asked the United States to issue instructions "to prevent the future repetition of acts no less disagreeable than offensive to the sovereignty of the United States of Mexico." 14

Our relations with Latin America improved greatly during the 1930's and 1940's, when the policy of "big stick" diplomacy was formally renounced. But subsequent actions, including the Sobell case, have given rise to fears in Latin America that aspects of "big stick" diplomacy were being resorted to again.

Our relations with our Canadian neighbors have not been without several incidents of irregular return of persons which has aroused ill-feeling and tension. 15 The Mexican pattern is also paralleled in our relations with other Latin American countries. 16 Incidents involving the inviolability of territorial sovereignty have also occurred between European countries and the United States. 17

On the other hand, our government has emphatically and quite rightly protested any violation of United States territorial sovereignty for the purposes of abduction of a person, whether by an old imperial power during the period America was growing, 18 by our Mexican neighbor, 19 or by other countries. 20

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B. EXTRADITION TREATIES

These incidents provide the living background to the inconsistent pattern that has emerged from the conflict between the principle of respect for territorial sovereignty and the doctrine of self-help which has allowed the United States to assert jurisdiction over a person it has kidnapped from another country. The principle of territorial sovereignty has been embodied in solemn extradition treaties and numerous statements affirming the right to asylum.

The Extradition treaty represents, in an advanced and formalized sense, the recognition by the contracting parties of the importance of abiding by certain rules and procedure to protect the territorial sovereignty and integrity of the nations involved. The extradition treaty transforms what was a matter of comity and discretion into "a matter of duty, and the measure of that duty is the treaty." 21 Extradition treaties by our country may be traced back to article 27 of the Jay treaty with Great Britain on November 19, 1794. The first treaty wholly devoted to extradition was made with France on November 9, 1843. Since then we have executed treaties with almost every nation in the Western Hemisphere. Our courts have long recognized the status of the extradition treaty as part of the supreme law of the land and that obedience to its mandate is necessary to effectuate its policy. See, for example, United States v. Rauscher, 119 U.S.407; United States v. Hulligan, 74 F2d 220, 221 (CA 2); Dominguez v. State, 234 S.W. 79 (Ct. of Crim. Appeals of Texas).

If the practice followed the admitted principle so that any violation of territorial sovereignty was promptly and effectively thwarted by refusing to recognize the jurisdiction of the offending nation that had participated in the international kidnapping over the kidnapped person, the problem of international kidnapping would be minimized. In obtaining this result, the right of sovereignty is conserved by precisely determining the only conditions and limitations under which the fugitive shall be delivered up and by which a nation shall obtain valid jurisdiction over the person. Most important to our present consideration, it would wipe away an area of distrust and tension by taking the profit out of the state supported international kidnapping by forbidding the kidnapping nation from asserting jurisdiction over the kidnapped fugitive.

C. CRITICISM OF THE DOCTRINE OF KER V.ILLINOIS

But, the anomalous situation has arisen that such international kidnapping does not deprive the nation of jurisdiction over the kidnapped fugitive. The case of Ker v. Illinois, 119 U.S. 436, involving the kidnapping of one Ker from Lima, Peru, to the United States and his trial therein for larceny, is generally regarded as

establishing the concept that irregular removal of the fugitive involving a violation of territorial sovereignty and disregard of treaty obligations does not deprive the abducting nation of jurisdiction.

This doctrine has been the subject of extended and bristling criticism. The criticism has fundamentally been directed at the result of the <u>Ker</u> case in the abrogation of solemn treaty commitments and equal and fair relations between nations on an international law basis. The most thorough expression of the policy behind the inviolability of territorial sovereignty which must override and set aside the <u>Ker</u> doctrine is presented in the "Draft Convention of Jurisdiction With Respect to Crime" prepared by the special Harvard Law School Research In International Law. Both the proposed extradition provision on the lack of jurisdiction in the irregular seizure situation and the comment in support thereof eloquently present the role that such a rule would play in creating better relations between the United States and our Latin American neighbors by firmly committing ourselves to the faithful observance of international obligations. We take the liberty of quoting extensively from the Draft Convention.

"Art.16. Apprehension In Violation of International Law.

In exercising jurisdiction under this Convention, no State shall prosecute or punish any person who has been brought within its territory or a place subject to its authority by recourse to measures in violation of international law or international convention without first obtaining the consent of the State or States whose rights have been violated by such measures."

(1) "...The principle...is in part a restatement of existing practice and in part a reconciliation of conflict between contemporary doctrines. It is believed that its inclusion in a comprehensive convention in the subject of international penal competence is indicated by the most persuasive convention in

"It is everywhere agreed, of course, that 'recourse to measures in violation of international law or international convention' in obtaining custody of a person charged with crime entails an international responsibility which must be discharged by the release or restoration of the person taken, indemnification of the injured State, or otherwise. It is not everywhere agreed that there may be no prosecution or punishment in reliance upon custody thus obtained 'without first obtaining the consent of the State or States whose rights have been violated by such measures.' Thus the present article assures an additional and highly desirable sanction for international law in the matter of recovery of fugitives from criminal justice. It removes much of the incentive to such irregular or illegal recoveries as have been the source of international friction in the past. /c.o./ It provides an added incentive for recourse to regular methods in securing custody of fugitives. And if, peradventure, the custody of a fugitive has been obtained by unlawful methods, the present article indicates an appropriate

procedure for correcting what has been done and removing the bar to prosecution and punishment. The desirability of such a provision in a convention which embodies a comprehensive statement of the broad penal competence supported by contemporary practice would seem to require no emphasis." 623-24 (4) "It will be seen that the practical effect of the Anglo-American rule...is that the national law lends no support whatever to the observance of admitted international obligations. On the contrary, it takes advantage of an admitted violation of international obligation to proceed with the prosecution and punishment of a person of whom custody has been illegally obtained." 630

The outstanding international law authorities have joined in the criticism by appealing to the overriding principles of international law and justice. Professor Edwin D. Dickinson has stated:

"If the person or thing which is the subject of controversy has been brought within reach of the court's process by a breach of treaty or international law, the court should approve no arbitrary or face-saving distinctions. The court is an arm of the nation and its jurisdiction can rise no higher, by virtue of process served within the territory, than the jurisdiction of the nation which it represents. If there was no jurisdiction in the nation to make the original seizure or arrest, there should be no jurisdiction in the court to subject to the nation's law. In terms of American precedents, this means that the underlying principle of United States v. Rauscher is correct and that the distinction attempted in Ker v. Illinois is arbitrary, unsound, and should be repudiated;..." 24

It may be noted that the element of urgency that may sometimes be involved in this area can never serve as a bona fide reason for blatantly violating the territorial sovereignty of another nation. The principle violated is of such importance, particularly in securing good relations between the United States and its neighbors, that it overrides other considerations. Further, as a practical matter, provisional detentiom "in urgent cases" is often supplied by the extradition treaty provided that "the provisional arrest shall be made according to the rules established by the laws of the country of which extradition is requested." 25

The <u>Ker</u> policy reflects a political legacy and diplomatic approach of the United States government which is most harmful, which has become outdated, which has been previously renounced, and which should be abandoned.

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D. THE SOBELL CASE

As we have pointed out in the introduction our interest in this matter stems, in part, from the role that we believe self-help or international kidnapping played in the trial of Morton Sobell. It has been and is the contention of Morton Sobell that the United States was a party to and participated in his unlawful seizure from Mexican territory and his subsequent removal to and prosecution in the United States. It has further been, and is, his contention that the Mexican Government never consented to or participated in the abduction and, in fact, agents of the United States were informed of Mexico's objections to the invasion of its sovereignty. Further, it is contended that the irregular return was a clear violation of the extradition treaty between the United States and Mexico. 26

The abduction was squarely raised by Sobell in an application in the nature of habeas corpus (technically an application under Title 28 United States Code Section 2255). To our consternation and misgiving, the government never squarely answered these contentions on the merits. Rather, it rested on the criticized doctrine of the <u>Ker</u> case. Thus, the Sobell case presents a full-blown example of the type of situation that has and continues to cause suspicion and distrust of the United States. One may well ask why has the United States insisted on resting on the dry technical basis of the Ker case rather than fulfilling its duty to conform to international law and treaty obligations. As long as the United States insists on applying the Ker case, at the price of the territorial sovereignty of sister nations and in abrogation of extradition treaties, the suspicion persists that international kidnapping is indeed utilized by our country. In fact, the circumstances surrounding Sobell's return to the United States have aroused much feeling in Mexico. An official inquiry was made. Various newspaper articles appeared castigating the United States for the abduction and refusal to meet Sobell's charges. Protests have been registered by prominent Mexicans. Clearly, all these factors operate to the injury of the United States' name and interests in Mexico and all of Latin America.

The Sobell case provided and provides a dramatic vehicle for an affirmative declaration by our country that we will not tolerate the unlawfulness of international kidnapping, that the territorial sovereignty of our neighbors will not be violated and that treaty obligations are to be scrupulously observed. Such an affirmation of fundamental principles could have been readily achieved by accepting the principle that international kidnapping of an individual in violation of international law and in disregard of treaty obligations does not vest jurisdiction in the United States over the abducted person. Accepting that principle, the United States could have then preserved its jurisdiction by meeting the issues on the merits, particularly whether agents or representatives of the United States participated in the abduction.

The Sobell case would provide a uniquely opportune occasion for our adoption of the above fundamental principles. The very publicity given to this case, the partisanship which it roused in a period of

great emotionalism, and the international support that Morton Sobell has received—all have kept this case in the spotlight. By identifying our country with the principles of territorial sovereignty and respect for treaty obligations, we assert the primacy of these elements which are indispensible for a successful good neighbor policy over all other considerations.

Finally, until we have proved by deeds that the sovereignty of our Latin American neighbors cannot be violated even when we deem the individual sufficiently "important" to warrant his abduction we have not accorded the Latin American nations the respect for their territorial sovereignty which is the rock-bottom guarantee for the development of friendly relations between nations. Those who have been actively engaged in securing justice for Morton Sobell present his case as a striking example of the invasion of the territorial sovereignty of Mexico and a golden opportunity to destroy the ill-feeling toward our country exhibited in Latin America by using his case to repudiate the doctrine of Ker v. Illinois and firmly commit the United States to the faithful observance of sovereignty and treaty obligations.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we respectfully request the Senate Committee to direct a part of its deliberations and investigations to the effect that the doctrine of the Ker case, permitting the assertion of jurisdiction over the person of a fugitive who has been kidnapped from another country, has had upon our relations with Latin American countries. We do not intend or imply that this Committee should review the Sobell case or make any findings thereon which is strictly the function of our Judiciary. Rather, we do urge that the paramount issues of foreign policy and international relations be used as a yardstick in determining whether the $\underline{\mathrm{Ker}}$ doctrine has been detrimental to the best interests of the United States, as we believe it has. The question of corrective legislation with respect to the Ker doctrine is a paramount issue. In coming to grips with this issue, the Committee should judge both the protests that have been raised concerning the circumstances surrounding Morton Sobell's return to the United States and the benefits to be obtained by rectifying, by legislation or other authorized means, the violation of territorial sovereignty that These benefits go straight to the heart of our relations with our Latin American neighbors. In the diligent discharge of the obligation to our country and to its position as a moral and political leader in the world, we dare not disregard these benefits.

FOO TNO TES

- 1. Thomas Jefferson, Secretary of State, to M. Ternant, French Minister, May 15, 1793; II Moore, <u>Digest of International Law</u>.
- Mr. Monroe, Secretary of State, to Mr. Anthony St. John Baker, Dec. 6, 1815, MS Notes to Foreign Legations II, 113; II Moore, <u>Digest of International Law</u>.
- 3. IV Moore, <u>Digest of International Law.</u> p. 329; Mr. Buchanan, Secretary of State, to Mr. Weri, Sept. 27, 1845, MS Inst.Brazil, XV 119.
- 4. Mr. Blaine, Secretary of State, to Mr. Roberts, May 3, 1881, 137 MS Dom Let 326; IV Moore, <u>Digest of International Law</u>.
- 5. See II Hackworth, Digest of International Law. pp. 289-298.
- 6. II Moore, <u>Digest of International Law</u>, p. 366; see also the incident of the Confederate cruiser Florida, seized in October 1864 by the Union ship Wachusett in the port of Bahia, Brazil. Secretary of State Seward conceded the violation of Brazilian territorial waters and announced the proposed court-martial of the Wachusett personnel, dismissal of the United States consul who advised the attack, release of the parties on the Florida, and a salute to the Brazilian flag. Moore, <u>ibid.</u>, at 367; see Dana's Wheaton, Sec. 430, note 209.
- Mr. Bayard, Secretary of State; to Mr. Bragg, Minister to Mexico, April 26, 1888, MS Inst. Mexico, XXII .189.
- 8. II Moore, <u>Digest of International Law</u>, p. 370; For. Rel. 1893, 448, 449, 450, 452, 453.
- 9. II Hackworth, Digest of International Law, pp. 282-289.
- 10. See, for example, the correspondence between Secretary of State Lansing and Ambassador Bonillas concerning the entrance of American forces into Mexico in 1919 to pursue the bandits of two American aviators who had landed in Mexico. Secretary Lansing to Ambassador Bonillas, Aug. 26, 1919, MS Dept of State, file 812.0144/151; Senor Bonillas to Mr. Lansing, Sept. 23, 1919, ibid, 812.0144/184.
- 11. Mr. Gresham, Secretary of State, to Mr. Broadhead, Minister to Switzerland, Oct. 31, 1894, For. Rel. 1894, 674.
- 12. II Moore, Digest of International Law, at 321.
- 13. The Mexican Embassy to the Department of State (aide-memoire), Apr. 12, 1935, MS Dept. of State, file 211.12 Hernandez, Tomas/152; quoted in IV Moore, <u>Digest of International Law</u>, 224-225.

- 14. II Moore, <u>Digest of International Law</u>, 379; For Rel. 1893, 455, 456, 462, 466, 467.
- 15. See, for example, the answer of Secretary of State Seward to the protest of the arrest of a United States Army deserter by a United States Army officer "within unquestioned Canadian territories of Great Britain." The Secretary of State admitted the violation of sovereignty and informed the British Government that the officer making the arrest would be discharged from the service and the captured deserter would be discharged from his enlistment. Mr. Seward, Secretary of State, to Mr. Stanton, Secretary of War, April 15, 1863, 60 MS Dom. Let. 231.

In Oct.1872, Britain protested the seizure and abduction of a United States citizen in Ontario, Canada. When the protest was received "immediate steps were at once taken to have him returned to the authorities and jurisdiction of Canada." I Moore, Extradition, Sec. 190, pp. 283-284.

- a. Panama: In 1915 one Bermudez was seized in Panama by United States Canal Zone police and brought to United States to stand trial. The Panama Government demanded his return and the United States acceded to the demand as a matter of comity. II Hackworth, Digest of International Law, 311-312.

 In 1933 the American-Panamian Claims Comm. allowed a claim against the United States when Guillermo Colunje was induced by a Canal Zone detective to leave Panama and come into the Canal Zone where he was immediately arrested and detained. The case was subsequently noll prossed. II Hackworth, Ibid.,313. b. Brazil: Seizure of Confederate ship and crew by Union cruiser in the port of Bahia, Brazil in October 1864. II Moore, Digest of International Law, 367.

 c. Peru: Ker v. Illinois, 119 U.S. 436.
- 17. See, for example:
 a. Spain: When it was alleged that an Algerian sloop was captured by the United States off the coast of Spain, Secretary of State Monroe, in response to protest, wrote to the Spanish ministry that if the jurisdiction of Spain had been infringed, the brig would no longer be detained. Mr. Monroe, Secretary of State to the Chev. de Onis, Span. Min., Feb. 7, 1816, MS, Notes to For. Leg. II, 128.

b. Great Britain: England, in 1891, refused the request of Secretary of State Blaine, to arrest a person who had escaped from jail at Constantinople and who was then supposed to be on his way from New York to England. IV Moore, <u>Digest of International Law</u>, 280.

In 1894 the English authorities refused to allow a detective who had a United States Department of State arrest warrant for a person accused of violating the laws of New York to board a ship of the Hamburg-American Line. The boat was to touch Southampton. IV Moore, Ibid., 284.

- 18. See the case of Juan Garcia, a political refugee from Spanish Cuba who had escaped to New Orleans. In 1849 it was reported that he was kidnapped from New Orleans, by order of the Spanish or Cuban government and returned to Havana. Secretary of State Clayton informed the American Consul in Havana to investigate and if the story was verified that "the Spanish authorities ... had been concerned in so gross an outrage upon the sovereignty of the United States to demand ... the prompt surrender of the person in question, in order that he might be sent back to New Orleans, as well as the punishment of every individual concerned in the crime.... IV Moore, Digest of International Law, 329.
- In 1911 two Americans, Converse and Blatt, were kidnapped on American territory, by Mexicans including soldiers and brought into Mexico to be held on a charge of sedition. The Department of State addressed a note to Mexico that if the facts as stated were established "The United States Government would be obliged to request that they be immediately returned" and if they had actually committed an extraditable offense "the Mexican Government would naturally possess the right to institute, in accordance with the treaty, regular proceedings for their return to Mexico and trial and punishment." II Hackworth, Digest of International Law, 309-310.

In 1886 one Arresures was arrested in Eagle Pass, Texas, without authority of law, by three Texas sheriffs, on an invalid extradition order. He was taken into Mexico and left with a Mexican police officer, Mondragon. The day after his kidnapping the United States consul asked for his release, without success. The next day Arresures was killed by members of Mandragon's force. Secretary of State Bayard, thereafter, wrote:

"... the fact that he was, at the time of his arrest and abduction, residing on the soil of the United States, would entitle this Government to call upon Mexico for redress. Had the case been presented to this Department in time, it is not doubted that Mexico would have admitted the right of this Government to ask for the prisoner's return; and as that has become impossible, it may be reasonably expected that she will not now deny the only reparation that may be made."

"It is no palliation of Mondragon's guilt that his co-conspirators in the abduction were officials of Texas, who wrongfully used the process of that State to effect the abduction."

vard. Secretary of State. to Mr. Manning. Min. of Mexicon.

Mr. Bayard, Secretary of State, to Mr. Manning, Min. of Mexico, Feb. 26, 1887, MS Inst Mexico XXI 646.

20. See, for example:
 a. Canada: The case of Laford who was returned to Illinois when it was revealed that he had been seized in that State and sent to Canada to stand trial without a warrant. IV Moore, <u>Digest of International Law</u>, 224.

The case of Peter Martin, a United States citizen, who had been convicted of various offenses in Laketon, British Columbia. He was being transported through Alaska to a jail in Victoria, B.D. when he assaulted one of his guards. Secretary of State Fish stated that Martin could not be tried for the assault since it was committed on United States territory. Further, if the guards actually passed over United States territory while transporting Martin "they committed, in so doing, a violation of the sovereignty of the United States, which rendered his further detention unjustifiable." II Moore, Digest of International Law, 371.

b. Switzerland: See the case of Constance Madeleine His, an American citizen, who was abducted from New York to Switzerland by her Swiss father. The United States protested the abduction and requested the child's return. Papers relating to the Foreign Relations of the United States, 1894, pp. 648-650.

- 21. Foreign Relations, 1890, pp. 560, 564.
- 22. See, II Moore, Digest of International Law, p. 757.
- 23. Printed in 29 Amer. J. of Int'l. Law Supp. (Sec. 2) (July 1935).
- 24. Dickinson, "Jurisdiction Following Seizure Or Arrest In Violation of International Law," 28 Amer. J. of Int 1. Law 231 (1934).
- 25. See: Article VII Central American Extradition Convention, 68 Bul. Pan. Amer. Union 416, 420 (June 1934).
- 26. Treaty on Extradition between the United States and Mexico, signed Feb. 22, 1899, 31 Stat. 1818.

Office Memorandum • United States Government

:A. H. Belmo

1 - Belmont 1 - Branigan

DATE: January 14, 1959

Tele. Room

- Nease

- Dalbeù

1 - O'Connor

SUBJECT: MORTON SOBELL

ESPIONAGE - RUSSIA

: W. A. Branigan

By memorandum dated 1-12-59 from Mr. Nease to Mr. Tolson Gondy it was stated that Irving Ferman, Washington representative of the American Civil Liberties Union, furnished a copy of a circular letter put out by the Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell (hereafter referred to as Committee) dated December, 1958. This letter states that the United States Senate Subcommittee on American Republics Affairs was inquiring into our relations with Latin American countries. This letter enclosed a form letter addressed to the Subcommittee and a memorandum of the Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell attached thereto. The form letter urged the Subcommittee to carefully consider the points raised by the Committee memorandum. *On 1-13-59* Irving Ferman contacted Mr. Nease and stated he wanted to talk to some of his Congressional sources about this Sobell report but would like to get reaction of the Bureau after the matter has been reviewed.

Morton Sobell was convicted in 1951 along with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg of conspiracy to commit espionage and on 4-5-51 was sentenced to 30 years in prison. He is now incarcerated at the U.S. Penitentiary, Atlanta, Georgia. After the arrest of David Greenglass, Sobell fled the United States to Mexico. He was located there by Mexican authorities and was brought to the U.S. border and upon crossing the border into the United States was arrested by our Agents.

An analysis of this memorandum reflects that it reviews in detail various statements made by past Secretaries of State relating to violations of national sovereignty. It also reviews various cases involving alleged violations of Mexican and Canadian sovereignty. references made to these statements and cases have not been checked for accuracy.

The Committee memorandum discusses the case of Ker versus Illinois, 119 U.S. 436 (decided in 1886). This case held that the United States citizen charged with a crime committed in the United States and apprehended on foreign soil is given no immunity by the United States courts, laws or extradition treaties to avoid trial on his forced return to the United States even though extradition was not used to retern him. The Committee claims this decision has been the subject of much criticism but concedes it is governing law. P 20 bH 23

101`-2483. JPL:jdb



Memorandum to Mr. Belmont Re: Morton Sobell 101-2483

The memorandum briefly reviews the Mexican portion of the Sobell case and contends that his irregular return to the United States violated the existing extradition treaty between Mexico and the United States. It also points out this question was raised in a motion for a new trial and the Government rested its case on the Ker doctrine. The Committee claims the Government should have fulfilled its duty to conform to international law and treaty obligations rather than resting on the dry technical basis of the Ker case. The Committee points out that as long as the United States insists on applying the Ker case the suspicion continues that international kidnaping is utilized by our country. The report states that Sobell's return to the United States aroused much feeling in Mexico and an official inquiry was made.

As of 10-17-56 the Department of State reported it had received no protest from the Mexican Government nor had it received any report of any investigation conducted by Mexican officials concerning Sobell's deportation.

The conclusion portion of this memorandum requests the Subcommittee to direct part of its deliberations and investigations to the effect which the Ker case doctrine has had on our relations with Latin American countries. The Sobell Committee states it "does not contend or imply" that the Subcommittee should review the Sobell case or make any findings thereon which is "strictly the function of our judiciary."

OBSERVATIONS:

The question concerning Sobell's deportation from Mexico was not raised at the trial. On the day of sentencing, 5 days after the conclusion of the trial, Sobell raised the question. The trial judge disposed of his motion as one not timely made. On 5-8 and 25-56 Sobell filed motions for a new trial in the U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York. District Judge Irving R. Kaufman, who was also the trial judge, prepared a 48-page opinion dated 6-20-56 which denied both motions. This opinion reviewed the entire Sobell case and specifically held that Sobell had no rights under the extradition treaty inasmuch as the treaty was not used to remove Sobell from Mexico. The judge held that streaties were made between countries and an individual did not become clothed with any of the rights of that treaty until such time as it was used. The judge also pointed out there is no question of the power of the court to try Sobell for the offenses charged.

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont Re: Morton Sobell 101-2483

On 5-14-57 this decision was unanimously affirmed by the Circuit Court of Appeals, Second Circuit, in an opinion prepared by Judge Harold R. Medina. Judge Medina stated that the charges of the defendant were utterly groundless but in view of the serious and sensational character of the charges, the court would set forth its reasons for holding the trial judge was correct. Circuit Court of Appeals specifically relied on the Ker case in its opinion. United States Supreme Court refused to grant a writ of certiorari.

None of the information in this memorandum prepared by the Sobell Committee on the Sobell case is new. These charges have been raised and have been legally adjudicated on previous occasions. It should be noted that the Committee here is not asking for a review of the Sobell case but is asking the Subcommittee to consider the Sobell case in connection with any remedial legislation passed to reverse the doctrine of the Ker case.

ACTION:

It is recommended that this memorandum be routed to Mr. Nease for his information in connection with any discussions he may have with Irving Ferman about the facts of the Sobell case set out in the Sobell Committee memorandum.

WAS PA

Kemp

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO

Mr Tolson

DATE: January 19, 1959

PROM

G. A. North

SUBJECT:

MORTON SOBELL ESPIONAGE - RUSSIA Officer

Rosen Trotter W.C. Sullivan Tele. Room

It will be recalled that Irving Ferman called to our attention a letter and memorandum put out by the Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell which has for its purpose to influence the Subcommittee of the U. S. Senate on American Republics Affairs to consider remedial legislation to reverse the doctrine of the Ker case.

Ferman spoke to me again this morning concerning this matter and stated he thought this was clever of this outfit to attempt to influence the Subcommittee and that he thought it was important enough for him to take the matter up with Senator Wayne Morse who he thinks can upset these plans.

He wanted to know if I agreed with him and I told him I certainly did in that I thought it would be detrimental to the country to have any remedial legislation passed to reverse the doctrine of the Ker case.

1 - Mr. Belmont

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TO LEGAL ATTACHE LONDON PROU DIRECTOR PRI (101-2483) MORTON SOBELL, WAS, ESPIONAGE - B. SOBELL WAS CONVICTED WITH JULIUS AND EXHEL ROSENBERG OF CONSPIRACT TO COLOUT ESPIONAGE AND IN WOR SERVING THREE ZERO-YEAR SERVINGE, PERLIN HAS BEEN IDENTIFI EST MANTER ONE HIME POUR PIVE-FOUR SEVEN AND HAS DEEN ACTI IN CP PRONT GROUPS RINCH THAT THESE, HE HAS MADE SHYDLAL SO MEXICO IN ONE NINE SIVE SIX AND PIVE THE PROPERTY CARE, FOR MAY ADVISE YOUR SOURCES TRIP AND PURPOSE OF BAND. APVISE IF YOUR SOURSESS BETAIN AND 835 (National Committee to 5 80 1959 Sob 65-58805 (Klaus JPLIETA Sent via State Department at CODE ROOM Mail Room 🗀 TELETY E UNIT Confidential

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Fushe was sentenced in March, 1950, to serve 14 years in prison for violation of the Official Secrets Act. According to recent newspaper publicity, Puche is due to be released from prison some time during the Summer of 1959.

Our Legal Attache, London, is furnishing this information to the British Security Division (by form 9-00)

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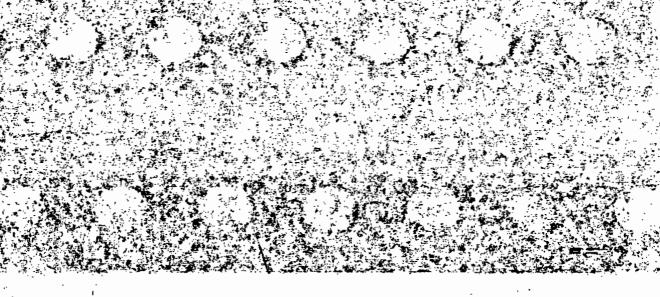
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porti I is not known what Perlin intends to gain from the interview of Fushs. Fushe did not know Morton Sobell or Julius and Ithel Rosembery. His only explanate contact was Harry Gold and Gold did not know Sobell or the Rosembergs. Classified "Confidential" since it is information furnished by a confidential information in it is not known how this information obtained the information.



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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT : ODfrector, FBI (101-2483) DATE: January 30, 1959 Legat, London (65-915) Classified by 3042 Declassify on: OA



TOP SECRET

United States Department of Instice

Mederal Mureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.
January 30, 1959

Re: MORTON SOBELL

Tel further informed that this

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