

F.O.I.A.

JULIUS ROSENBERG ET AL.

FILE DESCRIPTION

Sobell

FILE

SUBJECT

MORTON Sobell

FILE NO.

101-2483

VOLUME NO.

32

SERIALS

1146

thru

1200

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File No: 101-2483
sub E2

Re: murder

Date: 6/87
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
1146	9/9/54	NY let HQ	4	4	
1147	9/17/54	Barrigan memo to HQ	3	3	
1148	9/17/54	SF let HQ	6	6	
1149	9/22/54	Belmont memo to Barrigan	2	2	
1149	9/27/54	HQ to SF	1	1	
1150	9/27/54	HQ let Dof	1	1	
1151	9/28/54	Barrigan memo to HQ	1	1	
1152	9/29/54	HQ let Dof and ind.	1/1	1/1	
1153	10/6/54	SF 75	1	1	b2 b7D
1154	10/7/54	RA let HQ	1	1	b2 b7D
1155	10/21/54	3rd party let HQ and ind.	1/4	1/4	
1155	10/11/54	HQ let 3rd party	2	2	

29 29

Rev Rel Many Refer discussed in p. 100 FBI/DOJ

File No: 100-2003
Sub 32

Re: Latell

Date: 1/87
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
1156	10/13/54	SF let HQ	1	1	
1156	10/22/54	HQ let SF	1	1	
1157	11/1/54	HQ let NY	1	1	
1158	11/4/54	NY let HQ	2	2	
1158	11/10/54	HQ let NY	1	1	
1159	11/5/54	Boardman memo to Director	2	2	
1160	11/1/54	3rd party let HQ	2	2	
1160	11/8/54	HQ let SF	1	1	
1161	11/24/54	HQ let DOJ	2	2	
1162	11/23/54	Belmont memo to Boardman	2	2	
1163	11/12/54	SF A/T HQ and encl.	2/1	2/1	
1164	11/12/54	SF A/T HQ	3	3	b2, b7D

21 21

Rev. Rel. Bureau to file. 6/2/87

Inventory Worksheet
FD-503 (2-18-77)

File No: 101-2483
Part 32

Re: Isbell

Date: 6/87
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
1164	11/24/54	SF let HQ	1	1	
1165	12/2/54	Ny let HQ	1	1	
1166	12/2/54	HQ let DOJ and encl.	1/3	1/3	
1167	11/26/54	SF a/T HQ	1	1	
1167	12/3/54	HQ let DOJ	2	2	
1168	12/2/54	Heidelberg let HQ and encl.	1/5	1/5	re info re my
1169	12/23/54	3rd party let HQ and encl.	1/4	1/4	to be
1169	12/20/54	HQ let SA	1	1	
1170	12/22/54	SF let HQ	5	5	
1170	1/3/55	HQ let DOJ	1	1	
1171	12/29/54	Belmont memo to Friedman	2	2	
NR	1/7/55	Translation	3	3	

32 30

Rev. Rec. Dev. Reper. Preserved Proce

File No: 101-2483
let 32

Re: Loose

Date: 1/77
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
1173	1/12/55	HA let DOJ	1	1	
1174	1/18/55	NY let HQ	1	1	
1175	1/20/55	Belmont memo to Boardman	2	2	
1176	2/3/55	Paris let HQ	1	1	
1177	2/1/55	SF a/r HQ	1	1	
1178	1/27/55	State Dispatch	1	1	
1179	2/8/55	DOJ let HQ and encl.	1/2	1/2	
1179	2/11/55	HQ let DOJ	1	1	
1180	2/17/55	Press release	3	3	
1181	3/15/55	SF let HQ	1	1	
1182	4/1/55	HQ let DOJ	1	1	
1183	3/25/55	CIA rept	-	-	Depos handled by CIA(2)

17 17
Rec Rel Aug Re per Presumed Release 2
FBI/DOJ

File No: 101-2453
22152

Re: whistle

Date: _____
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
1184	4/27/55	NY rpt HQ	12 44	11 44	b1 b2 b7c
1184	4/27/55	NY let HQ	1	1	
1185	5/11/55	See memo to Boardman	2	2	b1
1186	5/10/55	PH a/t HQ	1	1	b2 b7c
1186	5/17/55	HQ let DOJ	2	2	
NR	6/20/55	HQ let DOJ	1	-	See memo to DOJ 65-58236-2212
NR	6/23/55	HQ let DOJ	1	-	" " 2213
1187	8/2/55	HQ let MAI	1	1	b7c
NR	8/24/55	PD let HQ	1	1	b2 b7c
NR	8/5/55	HQ let DOJ	1	1	
NR	8/4/55	Belmont memo to Boardman	2	2	
NR	9/8/55	Belmont memo to Boardman	1	1	

70 48
See Rel. Copy before released the page FBI/DOJ

Inventory Worksheet
FD-503 (2-18-77)

File No: 101-2483
let 22

Re: Heck

Date: 1/67
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
NR	9/8/55	HQ let DOJ	1		
1188	8/24/55	SF let HQ	2	2	
1189	8/31/55	Belmont memo to [unclear]	2	2	
1190	9/29/55	NY let HQ	1	1	
1191	9/29/55	NR let HQ	1	1	b7c
NR	10/18/55	HQ let DOJ	1	1	
1192	10/6/55	Ottawa a/T HQ	1	1	
1192	10/12/55	Branigan memo to Belmont	1	1	
1192	10/14/55	HQ let Ottawa	2	2	
1193	11/4/55	3rd party let HQ	1	1	
1193	11/8/55	HQ let DOJ	1	1	
1194	11/28/55	Hez let DOJ and encl.	1	1	

16 16
See Act New Rep. Preserved [unclear] FBI/DOJ

Inventory Worksheet
FD-503 (2-18-77)

File No: 101-2453
sect 32

Re: Shaw

Date: 6/57
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
1195	12/27/55	HQ let NY and encl.	1/2	1/2	
1196	12/27/55	HQ let DOJ	1	1	
1197	1/10/56	HQ let NY	1	1	
1198	1/10/56	HQ let DOJ and encl.	1/2	1/2	
1199	2/13/56	incoming let	1	0	b1
1199	2/14/56	HQ TT NY	1	1	b1
1200	2/20/56	outgoing let	1	1	b1
1200	2/16/56	NY TT HQ	1	1	b1

12 11 1
Rev Rel 100% Re fe Presumed Presue^{FBI/DOJ}

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (101-2483)
 Att: Assistant Director A. H. BELMONT
 FROM : SAC, New York (100-37158)
 SUBJECT: MORTON SOBELL, was
 ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: 9/9/54

ReNYlet 5/28/54, Bulet, 6/8/54 and San Francisco letter 9/2/54.

There are forwarded herewith to San Francisco the following items of property to be returned to SOBELL. For easy reference, property will be referred by item number set forth in NYlet 5/28/54:

PROPERTY	NY Exhibit No.
1. One key	118
7. American Airlines leatherette ticket and passport folder	90
18. Pamphlet entitled "Aerovias Guest" effective 4/15/50	106
21. Pamphlet of the Pan American World Airways entitled "Mexicana de Aviacion"	109
22. Street guide of Mexico City	110
23. Pamphlet of Elna Sewing Machine Company	111
24. Mexican museum and art gallery pamphlet	113
25. Hotel guide issued by Plateria Ortega, S.A. 5 de Mayo 13	117
26. Schedule of Pan American World Airways flights to Houston, Mexico, New Orleans, Panama	114

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 4/17/87 BY 3042 put-DAC

RECORDED - 162

EX-148 1-2483-1146

11 SEP 10 1954

RM
 2 - San Francisco (65-4228) (AMSD-RM-RRR) (Encs.35)

JAH:JMCK 342 COPIES DESTROYED
 11 0 MAR 13 1961

Letter to Director
NY 100-37158

PROPERTY	NY Exhibit No.
27. Pages 452 to 456 torn out of a travel book entitled "Mexico" with various markings on same	115
29. Two bills from the Gas Economico S.A. in sum of \$16.25	106
30. A receipt from "Elcentro Mercantil S.A." dated August, 1950	99
31. Receipt from "Elcentro Mercantil" dated 8/14/50	99
32. Receipt from "Elcentro Mercantil" dated 8/14/50 in sum of \$6.00	99
37. Receipt from the Bureau of Customs dated 6/23/50 at Dallas, Texas signed by SOBELL and listing the following: Leica Camera # 248674 Elmar 135F50-156589 Summitar F5cm1.2 #585463 Bolex L8WTVAR 128 Lens #70591	98
38. Laird and Lees vest pocket dictionary, English-Spanish	87
39. Black morocco wallet	89

Letter to Director
NY 100-37158

PROPERTY

NY Exhibit No.

40. American Airlines 88
leatherette ticket and
passport folder
41. American Airlines 134
passenger ticket #012A121896.
Ticket was issued for
SIDNEY SOBELL from NY to
Mexico City and to return

ReNYlet 5/28/54, page 6, Mr. ROBERT LYNCH, former
ASAC, NYO, advised that this ticket is still good and
redeemable. He stated that the ticket with appropriate
letter should be forwarded to Mr. V. J. LONG, Assistant
Comptroller, American Airlines, 910 South Boston, Tulsa,
Oklahoma.

PROPERTY

NY Exhibit No.

42. Divorce papers for 192
HELEN LEVITOV
GUREWITZ and CLARENCE
DARROW GUREWITZ dated
12/4/44, Arlington,
Virginia
43. Certificate of marriage 131
of MORTON SOBELL and
HELEN GUREWITZ
44. Birth certificate of 120
MORTON SOBELL
45. Certificate of Birth for 121
MARK SOBELL, son of subject
46. Birth registration for 124
HELEN LEVITOV

Letter to Director
NY 100-37158

PROPERTY

NY Exhibit No.

47. Birth registration for
SIDNEY FLORENCE GUREWITZ,
step-daughter of Subject 123
48. Certificate of marriage 122
of CLARENCE GUREWITZ and
HELEN LEVITOV
49. Operator's license of 129
MORTON SOBELL dated
1948
50. Social Security card 127
#055-16-7426 for
MORTON SOBELL
51. Amateur radio operator's 130
license for MORTON
SOBELL
52. Identification card of 128
Liberty Mutual Insurance
issued to HELEN E. SOBELL
53. Membership card of MORTON 126
SOBELL in NY Academy of
Sciences
54. Card captioned "Taller 125
de Plomeria y Hojalateria"
55. One pair of eye glasses 142
of MORTON SOBELL
56. One small Railway date 133
book of SIDNEY GUREWITZ
57. Three rent receipts - 141
2 for the month of July
and 1 for the month of
August, 1950

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : A. H. Belmont

DATE:

September 17, 1954

FROM : W. A. Branigan

SUBJECT: MORTON SOBELL, was.
ESPIONAGE - R

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 4/20/87 BY 3042 put-DTC

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

San Francisco
SYNOPSIS: You will recall Sobell interviewed in Alcatraz, 8/27/54, by SF agent for ostensible purpose of determining disposition of certain items taken from Sobell at time of arrest and with view such contact might lead to voluntary disclosures by him of espionage activities. Interview not productive; however, Sobell was impressed by courtesy of agent who left door open for recontact.

SF memorandum of 9/8/54 reports Sobell wrote letters to family and his attorney, Benjamin Dreyfus, well-known Communist lawyer, mentioning above interview. Letters not critical of agent. Letters indicate Sobell planning additional legal proceedings to obtain freedom. Memo also reports results of reinterview of Sobell by SF agent, 9/1/54, and discloses apparent basis for Sobell's contemplated action.

Sobell claims affidavit of FBI agent, which was basis for Sobell's arrest, was perjury in that agent alleged five separate contacts between Sobell and Julius Rosenberg and agent, did not testify to such contacts at trial.

Sobell apparently referring to sealed complaint drawn by USA, SDNY, 6/3/50, and filed by SA Rex I. Shroder, charging Sobell with espionage conspiracy and alleging as overt acts five separate meetings with Rosenberg. Foregoing information furnished to FBI and USA, SDNY, by Max Elitcher, main Government witness against Sobell. Not believed Sobell's claim has any legal merit since Shroder merely reporting information furnished by Elitcher, who subsequently testified at trial; further, Sobell was subsequently indicted, which superseded sealed complaint insofar as charges against Sobell were concerned.

ACTION: Attached for approval is memorandum to AAG William F. Tompkins of the Department, advising of contemplated action of Sobell.

ABL:cm
101-2463

Attachment

55 SEP 28 1954

SEP 23 1954

11

DETAILS: You will recall that Sobell was interviewed by a Bureau agent of the SF office at Alcatraz 8/27/54 for the ostensible purpose of determining disposition to be made of certain items of personal property which were taken from him at the time of his arrest in August, 1950. Another purpose of this interview was to establish contact with him to determine if he might make some disclosures concerning espionage activities in which he was involved. You will further recall that this interview was not productive, however, Sobell was obviously impressed by the courtesy of interviewing agent who left the door open to recontact Sobell concerning the disposition of certain items of personal property.

San Francisco memorandum of 9/2/54 advises that Sobell thereafter wrote letters to his parents, his wife, and his attorney, Benjamin Dreyfus, well-known Communist lawyer, in which he mentioned his interview by an FBI agent. SF enclosed copies of these letters. An analysis of the contents of these letters reflects no particular vilification of the FBI agent. In fact, in one letter Sobell characterized the agent as "a nice chap." These letters indicate that a suggestion made by the interviewing agent during the interview of 8/27/54, that the National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case was exploiting Sobell and his wife, has raised doubt in Sobell's mind as to the actual motives of this Committee. These letters further indicate that Sobell is planning additional legal proceedings, to obtain his freedom, in the form of a perjury motion.

The SF memorandum also reports the results of a re-interview of Sobell by the San Francisco agent on 9/1/54. Sobell discussed various aspects of his case and continued to profess his innocence. During this interview he disclosed the apparent basis for his contemplated legal action when he accused the FBI agent who executed the affidavit which was the basis for Sobell's arrest in Laredo, Texas, in August, 1950, of committing perjury. According to Sobell, this affidavit alleged five separate contacts between Sobell and Julius Rosenberg, executed Soviet agent. Sobell claims that inasmuch as this agent did not testify at his trial concerning his contacts, it was perjury. Sobell admitted to the interviewing agent that 99% of the testimony of Max Elitcher, main Government witness against Sobell, was true, but indicated that the other 1% had been twisted to give a false impression. He also added that David Greenglass, main witness against Rosenberg, committed perjury. Interviewing agent advised Sobell that the FBI agent who signed the affidavit did not commit

perjury since he merely stated under oath information that had been received by the FBI during the investigation. It also was pointed out to Sobell that the trial judge instructed the jury to weigh the credibility of the witnesses and the jury chose to believe their testimony. Sobell again raised the question of his going to Mexico as being a vacation and not flight. He was reminded by interviewing agent that the evidence was otherwise.

The affidavit referred to above by Sobell is the sealed indictment which was drawn by the U.S. Attorney, Southern District, New York, on 8/30/50, and filed by SA Rex I. Shroder on the same date, which charged Sobell with espionage conspiracy and alleged as overt acts five separate meetings between Sobell and Julius Rosenberg. The substance of this complaint was based on information furnished by Max Elitcher to FBI agents and to the U.S. Attorney.

It is not believed that Sobell's claim of perjury has any legal merit since Agent Shroder was merely reporting information furnished by Elitcher, who subsequently testified at the trial. Further, Sobell was subsequently indicted, which indictment superseded the sealed complaint insofar as the charges against Sobell were concerned. It is also interesting to note that in two of the letters written by Sobell, mentioned above, he indicated that he had discussed this perjury motion with Professor Stephen Love, of Northwestern University, who has been assisting in various appeals of Sobell, and Love apparently did not think much of Sobell's argument.

ja

gm

SED

APL

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (101-2483)

FROM : SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (65-4228)

SUBJECT: MORTON SOBELL, Was.
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: September 17, 1954

As stated in report SOBELL was last visited by a Bureau Agent on September 2, 1954. Information was received from ROSE BAKER, Guard, Alcatraz Prison, that SOBELL engaged BAKER in conversation shortly subsequent to the above visit, at which time he remarked to BAKER that he had been visited by an FBI Agent and that the Agent was apparently under the impression that SOBELL had information of interest which he could furnish. SOBELL continued that he did not know exactly what the Agent had in mind inasmuch as any information known to him, SOBELL, would be ancient history. BAKER commented that this conversation with SOBELL struck him as being highly unusual in that SOBELL had not previously engaged in conversation with him.

An examination of SOBELL's communications record at Alcatraz reflects that he received no letters from his wife during the period from September 3 to September 9, 1954. Two letters were received by him from his wife on the 9th; two on the 14th and one on the 15th of September. In none of these letters was any mention made of the fact that SOBELL had been interviewed by a Bureau Agent. This is of interest, it being recalled that SOBELL in his letter to his wife dated August 31, 1954, pointedly asked his wife to respond to him so that he may know her position concerning this visit and in this same letter commented that in the past he had asked her to answer specific points which she had neglected to do. Prison officials have advised that no pertinent information was contained in the above mentioned letters SOBELL received from his wife. The letters were devoted almost entirely to a recount of the activities of various meetings of the SOBELL Committee and of the rallies being held in his behalf. She did specifically mention an office of this Committee was to be established in Los Angeles, California, and that huge rallies were to be held there in the near future.

In another letter HELEN SOBELL mentioned that she had requested permission of prison authorities to visit with SOBELL on September 28 and October 4, 1954. She commented that upon the visit on September 28 she would discuss matters more fully with him.

A further review of SOBELL's correspondence record reflects that he had addressed letters to his wife on September 2, 7, 10, 14 and 15, 1954. In these letters SOBELL had sharply criticized her for her neglect to write to him during the period from September 3 to September 9, 1954. No other matters of significance were contained in these letters, according to prison authorities.

RECORDED - 23
INDEXED - 23
OCT 7 1954

NEW YORK (100-37158) (REG.)

1961

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4-20-81 BY 3042

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (101-2483)
FROM: SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (65-4228)

September 17, 1954

Prison authorities were emphatic in their statements that in none of the letters written by SOHELL, subsequent to September 2, 1954, was any mention made by him of the visit of the Bureau Agent on September 2, 1954.

Prison authorities advised that SOHELL had written a letter to STEPHEN LOVE at Chicago, Illinois, urging him to expedite the order from the West Publishing Company of the cases which LOVE anticipated using in the preparation of his brief. Also received on September 16, 1954 for delivery to SOHELL were the following books from the West Publishing Company:

Federal Reporter, 167F.2d #6, 6/28/48, pages 881 through 1023.
167F.2d #4, 6-14-48, pages 641 through 744.
198F.2 #1, 9-22-52, pages 1 through 272.
Federal Supplement, Volume 95 #6, 4-6-52, pages 825 through 976.
34F. supp. 27, pages 417 through 448.

SOHELL was advised of the receipt of the above items from the West Publishing Company and was also advised that on the basis of the receipt of these items the prison authorities intended to return to him his letter to STEPHEN LOVE. SOHELL directed that this letter be dispatched to LOVE inasmuch as the above books were forwarded to him from the West Publishing Company as a result of a request he had made to BENJAMIN DREIFUS, 170/00.

Agent advised SOHELL that certain items of property previously discussed with him had now been received from New York; however, the AUSA, New York had requested that written authorization be obtained from SOHELL directing the delivery of these items to BENJAMIN DREIFUS. Accordingly, a written document to this effect was presented to SOHELL for his signature. The specific items to be delivered to DREIFUS were described as "Items of personal property." SOHELL objected to this phraseology stating that without a close personal examination of these items he had no way of telling whether the items were actually his or might have been taken from the room in which he resided in Mexico. He commented that after his wife returned to New York she discovered that some items of property given to her were not actually hers but had been removed from the Mexican residence. SOHELL was advised that he could make whatever changes he wished in the written document; whereby he struck the words "of personal property" and then signed the document directing the delivery of the specific items to DREIFUS.

SOHELL very cynically remarked that he was amused by the formality required for the return of the above items to him as contrasted with the manner in which the same items were taken from him at the time of his arrest. The

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (101-2483)
FROM: SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (65-4228)

September 17, 1954

interviewing Agent remarked that while he, the Agent, was not present at the time of this arrest, it was the Agent's recollection that at that time a receipt for this property had been proffered to SOBELL for his signature and that he had declined to sign the same. SOBELL stated that the only receipt offered to him was that for the funds taken from his person at the time of arrest. The Agent thereupon stated that whether the document be termed a receipt or an itemization of the property, nevertheless a document setting forth a complete itemization taken from SOBELL was proffered to him for his signature and that he declined to sign the same. SOBELL then remarked that if the reports of the FBI reflected this to be the case then this was "another lie." He was immediately asked to explain what he meant by the term "another lie." SOBELL then said "Oh well, the record is replete with lies, it doesn't matter."

After some pause the interviewing Agent remarked to SOBELL that his position seemed to resolve itself into the question of what was SOBELL's ultimate objective. He inquired as to the meaning of this remark. The interviewing Agent stated that the remark meant simply was SOBELL interested in furthering the cause of the Communist Party or other individuals or was he truly interested in doing something for the benefit of MORTON SOBELL. SOBELL remarked that his ultimate objective was solely to benefit himself. The Interviewing Agent then remarked that his actions belied his statements.

After some pause, SOBELL stated that he did not exactly understand what the interviewing Agent meant by his reference to helping the Communist Party. Whereupon the Agent replied that as had previously been brought to his attention the Party was attempting to capitalize upon the present plight of SOBELL. He was told that, at the risk of being accused of telling "another lie" or of making a self-serving statement, the Agent would relate to him a recent happening at a closed Communist Party meeting in the San Francisco area. He was advised that at this meeting a discussion arose as to the most effective cause to use for the collection of funds. In the course of the discussion mention was made of the SOBELL Committee and also mention was made of the FW. At this point SOBELL inquired as to the meaning "FW" and was advised that it referred to the "People's World." Continuing the Agent advised SOBELL that it was the consensus of opinion at this particular Communist meeting that the SOBELL cause had been "worked to its ultimate and that better results could be achieved by means of a FW drive." SOBELL inquired as to the inference to be drawn from this event. The Agent remarked that the inference must be clear since the Party had decided they could more effectively raise funds by concentrating on a FW drive.

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (101-2483)
FROM: SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (65-4228)

September 17, 1954

After a further pause, the interviewing Agent remarked that this situation was somewhat analogous to the remark made by Mrs. GREENGLASS at the time of the funeral of ETHEL ROSENBERG. SOBELL immediately interrupted the Agent to inquire if the latter had ever met Mrs. GREENGLASS and knew the type of person she was. The Agent replied in the negative. SOBELL said that he had never met Mrs. GREENGLASS but recalled that during the course of the ROSENBERG trial that certain remarks were attributed to her in the newspaper and he was certain that such remarks had never been made by her. He said that while he did not know her personally he nevertheless had a definite idea of her based upon his acquaintanceship with other persons in like circumstances to her who had come to this country when they were approximately the same age as Mrs. GREENGLASS.

At this point the Agent pointed out to SOBELL that such a characterization of Mrs. GREENGLASS did not appear to be entirely fair to her; that for SOBELL to say that he was aware of the type of person she was because of the fact that he had known other persons was certainly not a true test of Mrs. GREENGLASS. He was further reminded that irrespective of his opinion of Mrs. GREENGLASS the fact remained that she was the mother of ETHEL ROSENBERG and that when she was asked regarding her attendance at the funeral of ETHEL ROSENBERG she commented that it was not to be a funeral but that it was to be a political rally or demonstration. SOBELL had no further comment to make regarding this.

The interviewing Agent next remarked that the approach YAKOVLEV used to JULIUS ROSENBERG was an old one in that it had been used by various Soviet officials and personnel in the United States toward other individuals, and that YAKOVLEV like the others after making the approach returned to the safety and sanctity of the Soviet Union where they were not in jeopardy in any way and left the persons whom they had approached to assume all the risk.

At this point SOBELL remarked that he supposed that at this time he should become angered because of the above remark as being an insult to his intelligence. The interviewing Agent stated that the meaning of this remark on the part of SOBELL was unknown and that any statement made was not intended to be an insult of any type. He was asked to further explain his reaction. He merely commented that he was not angry but presumed he should be angered by the above remark. He almost immediately inquired as to the identity of YAKOVLEV. He was advised that YAKOVLEV was a Soviet official who for a time was stationed in the United States. SOBELL next inquired if YAKOVLEV was one of the persons named in the indictment. He was advised that this was so. The interviewing Agent continued that the Agent could not recall the exact date that YAKOVLEV returned to Russia but that it was apparently soon enough to serve the purposes of YAKOVLEV but not soon enough for the welfare of other persons.

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (101-2483)
FROM: SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (65-4228)

September 17, 1954

After a further pause, SOBELL commented that the interviewing Agent could do nothing for him, SOBELL. The Agent remarked that this was so, that the Agent had repeatedly pointed out to SOBELL that he, the Agent, could do nothing for SOBELL that that was up to him. The Agent commented that he could do one thing for SOBELL and that would be to report what SOBELL's attitude had been during these interviews and that the Agent considered that his attitude, at least, had not been antagonistic. To this SOBELL replied that anything the Agent might say about SOBELL would, as a matter of course, be contradicted by SOBELL. He was asked what could be the meaning of such a remark, that without even knowing what the Agent might say concerning him he was taking the stand that he would contradict anything the Agent might say. The Agent stated that he had felt that more faith and credit had been given to the Agent's visits than was now displayed by SOBELL and that it was most unreasonable for SOBELL to take the attitude that anything the Agent said concerning him would, as a matter of course, have to be refuted by SOBELL. SOBELL then remarked that any appraisal or report by the Agent concerning SOBELL would, as a matter of fact, be an opinion on the part of the Agent. The Agent commented that this might be true but nevertheless SOBELL's demeanor and attitude could be described.

SOBELL next stated that he felt moved to refute statements of the Agent because of the basic premise behind the Agent's visit. When pressed for an explanation of this remark SOBELL explained that in his opinion the interviewing Agent approached SOBELL under the premise that he, SOBELL, was guilty. It was pointed out to SOBELL that at no time during any of the interviews had the Agent once stated that he felt SOBELL was guilty of anything. SOBELL was again reminded that it was not the function of the Agent to judge SOBELL's guilt. SOBELL was also reminded that in the past and again now the Agent was approaching him, not only as an Agent of the FBI, but as a husband, a father and a grandfather and that the Agent's interest was guided by all these factors.

SOBELL next remarked that if the Agent was truly concerned with his, SOBELL's, welfare, that the Agent might through a letter to Director BENNETT of the Federal Prisons, advise him that the Agent had had contact with SOBELL and had concluded that the latter was not a vicious, dangerous criminal and request a transfer to Atlanta or some other prison where SOBELL might be nearer his family. SOBELL was advised that such a letter on the part of the Agent would have no effect upon his transfer and that the only person who could influence this matter would be SOBELL himself. The Agent next remarked to SOBELL that there would conceivably come a time in the future when SOBELL might find advantage in the fact that he was acquainted with an Agent of the FBI. SOBELL commented that this was true.

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (101-2483)
FROM: SAN FRANCISCO (65-4228)

September 17, 1954

After some pause the Agent commented that the only question for SOBELL to resolve in his own mind and to his own satisfaction was whether or not he, SOBELL, was using the most effective means at his command to further his professed ultimate goal. He was reminded that he could take personal satisfaction in the fact that when legal maneuvers and committee activities failed in the future as they had in the past that the most effective means available to him would still remain. He was reminded that the most effective means was something that was personal within him and something that no one could take from him. SOBELL was reminded that he should have no reluctance in using these most effective means since it was apparent that SOBELL by being in prison was not doing anything for the betterment of himself, his family or the country. SOBELL agreed that this was so.

SOBELL was advised that upon the receipt of advice from the AUSA, New York, as to the release of other property to SOBELL, the Agent would recontact him. To this SOBELL agreed.

While waiting to be released from the interview room the interviewing Agent remarked to SOBELL that the Agent enjoyed these interviews with SOBELL. SOBELL commented that he too enjoyed the interviews but for a different reason than that of the Agent. SOBELL was immediately asked the meaning of this remark and was reminded that he was here interpreting the motives of the Agent and making some inference therefrom. SOBELL hastened to add that his remark did not mean that, what he meant was that being confined to prison he did not have too much opportunity to converse with outsiders. He further added that normally in the prison the presence of an individual wearing a suit indicated that such a person was a keeper and he derived pleasure from talking to a person wearing a suit who treated him with some respect. He explained that this was what he meant by his remark. The interview concluded on this amenable tone.

It is contemplated that SOBELL will again be interviewed in the near future; however, the impending visits of HELEN SOBELL on September 28 and October 4, 1954, pose a question of timing as to the next interviews. Further observations and comments of this office concerning this will be forthcoming.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. L. V. BOARDMAN *LvB*

FROM : A. H. BELMONT *AH* (7)

SUBJECT: MORTON SOBELL, with aliases
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: September 22, 1954

Super

Tolson	_____
Boardman	_____
Belmont	_____
Mohr	_____
Parsons	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Sizoo	_____
Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____
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Belmont

It will be recalled that on August 27 and September 1, 1954, an Agent of the San Francisco Office contacted Morton Sobell at Alcatraz Prison for the ostensible purpose of determining the disposition of certain items taken from Sobell at the time of his arrest. The contacts were also made with the thought that Sobell might volunteer information concerning his espionage activities. Following the contacts, Sobell wrote letters to his family and his attorney, mentioning the interview with him. He was not critical of the Agent who contacted him.

SAC Whelan called today and advised that it had been determined that Sobell's wife planned to visit with him at Alcatraz Prison on September 28 and October 4, next. ~~Sobell~~ Whelan stated that thus far, Mrs. Sobell has not acknowledged the fact that he has been interviewed by a Bureau Agent. Under the circumstances, SAC Whelan stated that the Bureau might desire to monitor the conversations between Mrs. Sobell and her husband to determine what action they contemplate.

SAC Whelan stated that he contacted the assistant warden of Alcatraz, a Mr. Lattimore, and determined from him that under existing arrangements, when a relative is permitted to visit a prisoner, there is no physical contact. The interview is conducted and the parties are separated by a glass partition. They speak into an electronic amplifying device. According to Whelan, it is possible to monitor their conversations through an outlet in the assistant warden's office. Whelan stated that Assistant Warden Lattimore had no objections to Bureau Agents monitoring the conversations but indicated that the matter should probably be cleared through Washington. Whelan noted that the monitoring device is a permanent installation and there would be no reason to detect the monitoring activities.

OBSERVATIONS:

Naturally, we are interested in the substance of the conversations between Mrs. Sobell and her husband. At the same time, if Bureau Agents are to do the monitoring, it would appear

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/20/87 BY 3042 *fwl-DE*

WAB:rmw

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EX-113 SEP 22 1954

LITRENT

that we would have to get clearance through Director James V. Bennett of the Bureau of Prisons. Bennett, from our past dealings with him, has never been particularly cooperative in matters of this nature.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that San Francisco be instructed that they should work out on a local basis the monitoring of the conversations if such can be done by the Alcatraz officials. It is not desired that the Bureau Agents monitor the conversations, but they should get the results of the monitoring as conducted at Alcatraz by the Bureau of Prisons personnel.

OK.
H.
Jaqueline
James V.
Ja
9.24.
Hors.

TELETYPE

URGENT
CODE IN FULL

SEPTEMBER 27, 1954

SAC, SAN FRANCISCO

101-2483-1149

RECORDED-61
EX-113

NORTON SOBELL, WAS., ESPIONAGE DASH R. RE TELEPHONE CALL FROM SAC PHILAN TO BUREAU SEPTEMBER TWENTY-TWO, LAST, REQUESTING AUTHORITY TO MONITOR CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN SUBJECT AND HIS WIFE AT ALCATRAZ SEPTEMBER TWENTY-EIGHT AND SUGGESTING BUREAU MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SAME THROUGH DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF PRISONS. BUREAU DOES NOT DESIRE THAT AGENTS OF YOUR OFFICE MONITOR SUCH CONVERSATIONS AND SUGGESTS THAT YOU WORK OUT ON LOCAL BASIS MONITORING OF SUCH CONVERSATIONS IF SUCH CAN BE DONE BY ALCATRAZ OFFICIALS. KEEP BUREAU CURRENTLY ADVISED OF IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS.

101-2483

APL:egp-28P

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/20/87 BY 3042 *put. ore*

INITIALED
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

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FILED BY

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Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

RECEIVED READING ROOM

SEP 27 1954

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

8:16 PM per me

66 OCT 4 1954

A.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

G. I. R. -1

Assistant Attorney General
William F. Tompkins

September 27,
1954

Director, FBI

MORTON SOBELL, with aliases
ESPIONAGE - R

Information has been received from a confidential source that a conference was held in San Francisco last month by subject's attorneys, Stephen Love, Daniel Marshall and Benjamin Dreyfus, who agreed that the next legal action will be to present a writ of Habeas corpus against James V. Bennett, Director, Federal Bureau of Prisons, E. B. Swope, Warden of Alcatraz Prison and the Attorney General, to have Sobell transferred out of Alcatraz Prison. According to this source, the papers necessary to present this matter to the courts will be ready during the next few months and this matter will be presented by Attorney Love to the court in Washington, D. C. The source further advised that Attorney Love will attempt to confer with Mr. Bennett during the time he is in Washington.

The foregoing is for your information.

cc - 1 - Mr. James V. Bennett
Director, Bureau of Prisons

100-387835

ALP:SP:SP

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SEP 27 1954
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SEP 29 1954

- Boardman
- Nichols
- Belmont
- Harbo
- Mohr
- Parsons
- Rosen
- Tamm
- Sizoo
- Winterrowd

OCT 7 1954

FBI - 102 ICE
REC'D 957WOM1

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WAB
APC

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT G. I. R. - J

TO : MR. A. H. BELMONT

DATE: 9/28/54

FROM : W. A. BRANIGAN

SUBJECT: MORTON SOBELL
ESPIONAGE - R

Tolson	_____
Boardman	_____
Nichols	_____
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Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

The San Francisco Office called at approximately 8:15 p.m. during the evening of September 27, 1954, to inquire if the Bureau had arrived at a decision with respect to approaching officials of the Bureau of Prisons for the purpose of securing permission for Agents to monitor the scheduled conversation between Morton Sobell and his wife at Alcatraz on September 28, and October 4, next. I advised them that a teletype had been directed to the San Francisco Office this afternoon, instructing that the Agents were not to monitor the conversation but that efforts should be made to work out on a local basis with the prison officials arrangements whereby they, the prison officials, would monitor the conversations and furnish the Agents with the results. It was pointed out that since the installation to intercept the conversations is a permanent one, it would appear prison regulations would permit the monitoring of the conversation.

San Francisco advised that inquiry had been made with the personnel at Alcatraz and they in turn had contacted the Bureau of Prisons officials in Washington, D. C. They were informed that the Bureau had not been in contact with them for permission to monitor the conversations and, therefore, they would not authorize the Alcatraz officials to permit our San Francisco Agents to do the monitoring. San Francisco informed that they would again approach Alcatraz prison officials predicated on the instructions received from the Bureau and will advise of any pertinent developments.

ACTION:

RECORDED-27

101-2483-1151

This is for your information.

20 SEP 30 1954

WAB:hmm

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/20/82 BY 3042

71 OCT 6 1954

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Assistant Attorney General
William F. Tompkins

September 29, 1954

Director, FBI

MORTON SOBELL, with aliases
ESPIONAGE - R

There is attached a photostat of an article which appeared in the September 22, 1954, issue of the "Daily Worker," East Coast Communist newspaper. It is noted that this article reports that an appeal has been made by Mrs. Rose Sobell, mother of Morton Sobell, to the four major political parties of New York State, urging the removal of her son from Alcatraz.

The foregoing is furnished for your information.

101-2483
Attachment

APL:en

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
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SEP 30 1954

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Mother Appeals to All Parties to Help Move Sobell From Alcatraz

The mother of Morton Sobell has appealed to New York State's four major political parties to urge the removal of her son from Alcatraz.

Mrs. Rose Sobell, who lives in the Bronx, N. Y., has addressed a plea to the platform committees of the Republican, Democratic, Liberal and American Labor parties. She asked that the parties take action at their forthcoming state conventions to aid her son, sentenced to 30 years in the Rosenberg trial.

Sobell, who has been fighting for a new trial, contends that he is innocent, and that he was sent to Alcatraz, America's most secure prison, in an effort to force a "false confession" from him.

Mrs. Sobell's appeal follows: My name is Rose Sobell and I live at 4400 Davidson Avenue in the Bronx, N. Y. I have been a resident of New York State for many years, and it is in this state that I raised my family.

I am appealing to you, one of my state's major political parties, to help me secure justice for my son, Morton Sobell, who grew up in the Bronx and was graduated from City College of New York.

Although he has been fighting since he was sentenced to 30 years in prison, you may think that he is a criminal, but I am sure that you will find him innocent.



SOBELL

Rosenberg. He was convicted not on any evidence but on the testimony of only one witness. This witness was a man who faced a possible perjury indictment and stood to gain by saying my Morton was guilty. My son is appealing for a new trial, and when he wins such a trial, he will be able to prove his innocence. It will be shown that he was a victim of the hysteria that had reached us so many in 1950.

Many prominent Americans have already signed Federal Decree for Morton Sobell, and I am sure that you will join them in asking for his release.

and see what a gentle person he is, a scientist who longed to serve his country and humanity, you would see that even by the remotest stretch of the imagination, he should not be in Alcatraz.

Do you know that in Alcatraz a prisoner isn't even allowed to be visited by his children? And my son has two beautiful children. Even when I get to see him, I must talk to him through a telephone, and I am separated from my dear son by a thick prison glass.

It is clear to me that my son is being held in Alcatraz mainly for one reason—to try to force him to "confess." From the time of my son's arrest he has been under constant pressure to "confess." However, he has always spoken the truth and said that he had nothing to "confess." When every other pressure failed, the authorities sent my son to Alcatraz.

"We have seen this kind of degree being used in New York. I'm thinking of the case of Paul Schiffer. It was shown that he was forced to make a false confession. When the facts became known, he was released and is going to get a new trial."

I am asking you to approve the removal of my son from Alcatraz for two reasons. One is because my son Morton Sobell's mother naturally wants to see justice done for my son. The other is because I know that if such things happen to my son, they can and will happen to others in our country and in our state. I love my country and know that trying to force confessions from people is not the way of our democracy. When a man says he is innocent, he deserves a chance to prove it. I hope you will give careful consideration to my request.

This is a clipping from page 4 of the

Memorandum
Wm. F. Tompkins
9-29-54
encl. cc zhis
article
Apl/em

{ } Daily Worker
The Worker
New Leader

Date 9-22-54
Clipped at the Seat of Government.

Full
101-2483
5 Apr

ENCLOSURE

101-2483-1152

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

OCT 6 1954

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Boardman	✓
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Belmont	✓
Mr. Harbo	✓
Mr. Mohr	✓
Mr. Parsons	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tamm	✓
Mr. Sizoo	✓
Mr. Winterrowd	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Mr. Holloman	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

FBI, SAN FRANCISCO

10-6-54

7-24 PM

CCR

DIRECTOR, FBI

DEFERRED

MORTON SOBELL, ESP. R. [REDACTED] ADVISED THIS DATE THAT BENJAMIN DREYFUS, SF ATTORNEY ASSOCIATED WITH MORTON SOBELL DEFENSE HAD RECENTLY FURNISHED FOLLOWING INFO. DREYFUS DISCLOSED THAT FBI AGENTS HAD INTERVIEWED SOBELL AT ALCATRAZ FEDERAL PENITENTIARY, SF. DREYFUS THEORIZED THAT SOBELL HAD BEEN INCARCERATED AT AN INSTITUTION QUOTE SUCH AS ALCATRAZ TO BREAK HIM DOWN UNQUOTE. DREYFUS FELT FBI INTERVIEW UNDER THESE CONDITION CONSTITUED DURESS. DREYFUS WANTED TO GIVE CIRCUMSTANCES OF SAID INTERVIEW WIDE PUBLICITY SO AS TO DISCREDIT FBI. APPARENTLY STEPHEN LOVE, CHICAGO ATTORNEY, ALSO AFFILIATED WITH SOBELL DEFENSE DOES NOT WISH TO PUBLICIZE INTERVIEW AND DREYFUS IS RELUCTANTLY FOLLOWING LOVE'S COUNSEL IN THIS MATTER. AFFORD MAXIMUM SECURITY TO ABOVE INFO SO AS TO PROTECT [REDACTED]

HOLD PLS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/21/17 BY 8042

Mr. Belmont

DATE

4/21/17

BY

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OCT 11 1954

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Boardman _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Belmont _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Parsons _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tamm _____
Mr. Sizoo _____
Mr. Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Miss Gandy _____

AIRTEL

Transmit the following ~~TELETYPE~~ message to: AIR MAIL REGISTERED

FBI, LOS ANGELES

10/7/54

DIRECTOR, FBI

MORTON SOBELL, ESPIONAGE - R. ON 10/6/54 [REDACTED] ADVISED THAT ATTORNEY STEPHEN LOVE RECENTLY CONFERRED WITH JAMES V. BENNETT, DIRECTOR OF FEDERAL PRISONS, REGARDING THE TRANSFER OF MORTON SOBELL FROM ALCATRAZ PRISON. CONFERENCE RESULTED IN SPECIAL PERMISSION BEING GRANTED BY DIRECTOR BENNETT TO LET ATTORNEYS STEPHEN LOVE AND BEN DREYFUS AND WIFE, HELEN SOBELL, TO CONFER THIS WEEK IN PRIVATE WITH MORTON SOBELL AT ALCATRAZ PRISON IN REGARD TO THE LEGAL STATUS OF HIS CASE. HELEN SOBELL WILL DELAY HER RETURN TO NYC PENDING OUTCOME OF THIS CONFERENCE WITH HER HUSBAND.

RJB:pla
65-5082

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/21/87 BY 3042 [signature]

cc: 4 - San Francisco (AM REGISTERED)
(MORTON SOBELL)
(ROSENBERG-SOBELL COMMITTEE)
(HELEN SOBELL)
(BEN DREYFUS)

1 - Chicago (AM REGISTERED)
(STEPHEN LOVE)
3 - New York (AM REGISTERED)
(MORTON SOBELL)
(ROSENBERG-SOBELL COMMITTEE)
(HELEN SOBELL)

LA 100-41648 (LA ROSENBERG-SOBELL COMMITTEE)

LA 100-45973 (HELEN SOBELL)

Mr. Belmont

RECORDED - 33

EX-130

105-2483-1154

OCT 9 1954

Approved: [signature]

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

Per

OCT 22 1954

OCT 22 1954

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Sizoo
Mr. Winterrow
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

Box 766, Canby, Ore.
Oct. 21, 1954.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

It is now apparent that Julius and Ethel Rosenberg died unjustly from a legal point of view since Judge Kaufman did not have the authority to inflict the death penalty according to the precise and logical study of the case in the "Columbia Law Review" for Feb. 1954.

This same article points out the undue haste, which was unjust, of the U. S. Supreme Court in vacating Justice Douglas' stay of execution, about as badly a bungled case as has been seen in American law to date, with the exception of the one in Washington, State and Federal, involving Turman and Utah Wilson, who were absolutely innocent of the crime for which they paid the supreme penalty, also involving the beating, abduction, death and posthumous sexual violation of the body of JoAnn Dewey and these criminal persons, so far as is known to U.S. citizens, are still free to prey upon innocent or other women and girls.

It is a fact that suspect John William Coffield, who was definitely involved in the death of another girl and set free in Roseburg, Oregon, in a diabolically similar case, has not been investigated in the Dewey affair and, if guilty, brought to justice, while another man languishes in prison for the crime this man also was involved in, according to persons at the scene of the crime and trial.

Suspect # 2 in this Dewey mess is a person by the name of Arthur E. Anderson, who snatched a beer bottle from the hand of Utah Wilson, while the Wilson brothers were fishing, which beer bottle may have been the so-called evidence used to convict. This young man's father, the former Sheriff in the case, is reported to have had sexual relations with the Dewey girl. The FBI has been and still is on the spot in this notorious case, put there by the prosecuting attorney and others.

Mass hysteria of an understandable nature was definitely a part of these two now celebrated cases. It appears clear that it is the definite responsibility of government to see that we are governed by law and reason and not fear, which you know to be cast out by perfect love, according to the New Testament Johannine writer.

I would appreciate your personal interest in the case of Morton Sobell--from his case there is undoubtedly much to be learned of an invaluable nature to our free society and I think you will use the ways and means necessary to find out what he knows.

Very sincerely yours,
Allen Lambert
The Rev. Allen Lambert.

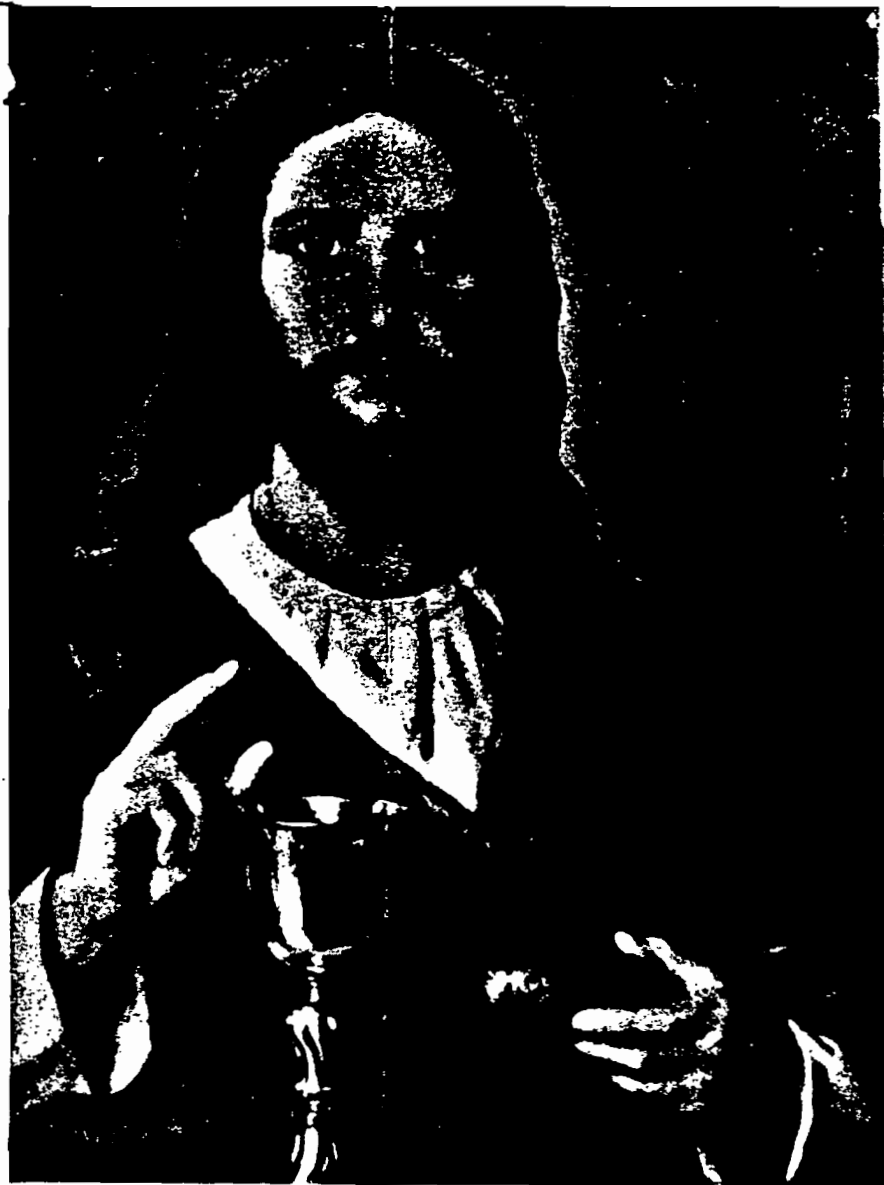
P.S. It would seem wise to transfer Sobell for a number of reasons.

ENCL. ATTACHED

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/20/87 BY 3042/pt-DLS

EXP. PROC.
OCT 26 1954
UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 100-2483-115

RECORDED-89 100-2483-115



This Is My Body

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4-20/87 BY 3042 *fwc-btc*

101-2483-1155

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
CANBY, OREGON

Portland Area Bishop
Dr. A. Raymond Grant
514 Jackson Tower
Portland 5, Oregon
Phone: CA 7334

District Superintendent
Dr. Milton Marcy
743 S. E. Lambert
Portland 2, Oregon
Phone: VE 1637

Warren Mueller
Lay Leader
Phone 2348

Allen Lambert, Pastor
Box 766 - 541 N. W. 2nd
Phone 4395

RALLY DAY AND WORLD WIDE COMMUNION
A Hearty Welcome to Everyone

Worship

11:00 AM

OCTOBER 3, 1954

Prelude Mrs. Bertha Dedman
Choral Call to Worship * All Stand, Please
Choir Director today, Mrs. Wyman Freeby
Hymn 147 * "Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know"
The Ritual for The Lord's Supper, Page 523*
The Gloria Patri 569*
Prayer in Unison, Page 523 *
The Lord's Prayer, Page 572* (all Sing)
The Beatitudes, Page 526 *
The Divine Word Jeremiah 29:10-14; Mark 14:25-25
Sermon "A Great Faith --How to Have It"
Hymn 416* "Blest Be the Tie That Binds."
Offering (Fellowship of Suffering and Service.)
Offertory Page 581 Choir
The Ritual, Page 528 *
Sanctus With Preface, 584 Choir
The Communion (Hymns 198, 144, 142)
All are invited - follow the ushers
The Prayer, Page 530 *
The Angus Dei, Page 586 * Choir
Choral Benediction *
Love to God in Silence *
Postlude *

THE PASTOR AND WIFE plan a trip to the National Methodist Conference on Family Life at Cleveland, Ohio, October 8-10, leaving by air on the 6th. They plan to participate in a 150th Anniversary celebration of the St. John's Lutheran Church of Sinking Valley (RFD 1, Tyrone, Pa.—the home of Fred Waring) on October 27 or the previous Sunday. They will visit relatives and friends for the first time in ten years. For special services the Rev. Lester Field of 388 Broadway, Woodburn, and the Rev. Clark Enz of Oregon City are available. The District Superintendent is very, very gracious indeed in serving the people as is our Bishop, whose phone numbers and addresses are placed in the Bulletin for your convenience. We will truly miss you!

OUR OFFERING TODAY will go for the world's needy, for the Commission on Chaplains and for the Committee on Camp Activities. In the event you are unprepared today, will you please get an envelope from your own box or get one from an usher and use it next Sunday. Mrs. Dedman will report our offering Monday a week to the Bishop.

COMING EVENTS

Five Tuesday nights beginning October 5, Leadership School in Oregon City Church 7:45 to 9:45 PM.
Courses on Paul, the MYF, The Child's Approach to Religion and Teaching Children.

W.S.C.S. at the home of Mrs. Carl Raines, Thursday 2 P.M.

Official Board, Tuesday night, the Parsonage 8 PM.

Forest Grove District Conference, October 15.

"THE LIFE OF FAITH is sometimes rigorous, we must live from day to day and trust in God. He does watch over us and care for us."



One Enduring Bond of Fellowship

MEN ARE ALWAYS impatient of frontiers. They want to go beyond. When only a small part of the earth had been explored, the seers and prophets were talking confidently about "all the world." They had even greater confidence than many who, millenniums later, have enriched the world.

Is it not a bit ironic that the modern period, in which mankind has made dazzling mechanical progress—conquering space through travel and communication, bringing people together—is the period in which hatred and distrust are still mounting, and bonds which long have held people together no longer hold?

Plainly, mechanical means of making the whole world a neighborhood are not responsible for breaking up the bonds. Such devices might have been used for drawing all mankind together.

The need is now not so much for new discoveries and new gadgets as for new ways to reknit and remake the bonds of human fellowship. Well-being is still contagious. It is still true that when human nature in the throes of ill-being is given half a chance, it will move toward recovery. Mankind is constructed that way.

World-wide Communion Sunday gives us the opportunity to reknit these bonds of human fellowship as we have fellowship with the Father through the blessed sacrament.

Prayer:

Help us, our Father, to see in thy fatherhood the reason for our brotherhood in the neighborhood that we call thy world.
AMEN.

RECORDED-89

October 11, 1954

INDEXED-89

101-3483-1155

EX-125

Reverend Allen Lambert
Post Office Box 766
Gandy, Oregon

Dear Sir:

Your letter of October 2, 1954, has been received and its contents noted.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is the investigative arm of the Department of Justice, one of the functions of which is to obtain evidence of violations of certain Federal laws. Julius and Ethel Rosenberg and Morton Sobell were indicted and convicted of conspiracy to commit espionage by a jury and sentenced by a Federal judge. They were afforded all appeals possible under the law of the land and their case was submitted to the highest court on several different occasions. As you are aware, their convictions were affirmed and sentences upheld in the various courts.

In connection with the incarceration of Morton Sobell in Alcatraz, I wish to advise you that the place of confinement of any individual convicted of a Federal crime is a matter for determination by the Attorney General and not by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/30/82 BY 3042 put-DE

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Belmont _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Tracy _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Rm. _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

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OCT 15 5 56 PM '54

MAILED 4

OCT 13 1954
COMM-FBI

OCT 25 1954

RECEIVED - BOARDMAN

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

19-23886-42

NOTE:

In the attached communication Lambert, Methodist Minister, expresses opinion that the Rosenbergs were illegally executed and compares Rosenberg case with rape and murder case in State of Washington in which 2 brothers, Utah and Turman Wilson, were convicted and executed. He claims miscarriage of justice in latter case. Lambert expressed hope that Director take personal interest in transferring Sobell from Alcatraz.

Bufiles reflect Wilson brothers apprehended by Bureau agents in March, 1950, on UFAP warrant and turned back to State for local prosecution. They were convicted and given death penalty. After appeals and several reprieves by the Governor of State of Washington, they were executed in February, 1953. Case was subject of considerable newspaper publicity and Bufiles reflect that Lambert had written lengthy letter to Governor of States of Washington in May, 1953, protesting injustice in Wilson case. (49-23886-41)

Bufiles also reflect that the name of Lambert appeared on a letter in March, 1954, which was a plea on behalf of one Wesley Robert Welles, then under sentence of death in California. There is no identifiable derogatory information in Bufiles on Lambert. (61-3615-176 page 31)

A formal acknowledgment is being made to Lambert in view of the contents of his letter.

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Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

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NOV 11 1954
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

RECEIVED
NOV 11 1954
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (101-2483)

DATE: October 1954

FROM : SAC, San Francisco (65-4228)

SUBJECT: MORTON SOBELL, was.
ESPIONAGE - R

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Boardman	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Sizoo	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

This is to advise that HELEN SOBELL visited her husband at Alcatraz Penitentiary on September 28 and October 4, 1954. Authorities at Alcatraz advised that they were unable to monitor such conversations without specific authority from their Washington headquarters. Acting Warden LATTIMORE stated that their Washington headquarters advised that authority for this monitoring could not be granted without a specific request from FBI headquarters in Washington and that, in the absence of such a request, these conversations could not be monitored.

San Francisco
On October 6, 1954, confidential source [redacted] BENJAMIN DREYFUS, attorney associated with MORTON SOBELL, attempted to give the circumstances surrounding the FBI interviews publicity so as to discredit the FBI, alleging that such constituted duress; however, he was overruled by SOBELL's other attorney, STEPHEN LOVE.

This office is unaware of the details SOBELL furnished to his wife or to DREYFUS relative to his version of the interviews conducted of him by SA ELLEDGE. This is unfortunate in view of the fact that, if this knowledge had been available, it would have been very significant from the standpoint of determining where, if anywhere, SOBELL's armor had been pierced and the best line of approach for future interviews. The version, however, disclosed in the letters written to his wife, parents and DREYFUS by SOBELL is not the same as that DREYFUS intended to capitalize on as mentioned above.

In view of the circumstances above, it is recommended by this office that SOBELL not be reinterviewed in the near future. If his curiosity has been aroused, he might even call for ELLEDGE after the elapse of some time and no further attempt is made by us to interview him.

RGF, WMW:1j, ekk
RBS

cc New York (100-37158) (REG)

RECORDED - 77

INDEXED - 77

EX - 109

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/24/82 BY 3042

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LIT-100

RECORDED - 77

SAC, San Francisco (65-4228)

October 22, 1954

101-2483-1156

Director, FBI (101-2483)

EX - 109

MORTON SOBELL, was.
ESPIONAGE - R

Burelet 10-13-54 recommending Sobell not be reinterviewed in the near future.

The Bureau agrees that no further interviews of Sobell should be conducted at this time. It is felt that Sobell has been given ample opportunity to express himself and if he is entertaining any thoughts of cooperating he is now aware of the name of the interviewing agent and can express a desire to see him.

CC - 2 - New York (100-37158)

NOTE: Sobell was interviewed on three occasions for the ostensible purpose of determining the disposition of certain items taken from him at the time of his arrest and further to afford him an opportunity to cooperate if he so desired. Sobell did not offer cooperation. Further interviews believed undesirable.

JPL:skw *skw*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4-20-87 BY 3042 *put the*

q

- Tolson _____
- Boardman _____
- Nichols _____
- Belmont _____
- Harbo _____
- Mohr _____
- Parsons _____
- Rosen _____
- Tamm _____
- Sizoo _____
- Winterrowd _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holloman _____
- Gandy _____

MAILED 6
OCT 22 1954
COMM - FBI

66 NOV 5 1954 *rest*

WAB

SAC, New York (100-37158)

November 1, 1954

Director, FBI (101-2483)

**MORTON SOBELL
ESPIONAGE - R**

Mr
Rerep of SA John A. Harrington, made at New York, July 28, 1954. It is noted the instant case was placed in a pending inactive status in rerep and a lead was set out to review the file in relationship to the Rosenberg and Perl cases.

You are instructed to carefully review the instant file and its exhibits to make certain all outstanding leads have been covered and all logical investigation conducted. At the completion of this review, you should submit to the Bureau your recommendations for further action in this case.

JPL:egp *egp*

NOTE:

Sobell was convicted along with Julius Rosenberg of conspiracy to commit espionage and is now serving a 30 year term at Alcatraz Penitentiary. Recently a series of 3 interviews with Sobell were conducted to discuss the disposing of certain property taken from him at the time of his arrest and to afford him the opportunity to cooperate if he so desired. Sobell did not offer cooperation. New York being instructed to completely review the case prior to any recommendation or future action.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/26/87 BY 3042 *file*

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Boardman _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Belmont _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Parsons _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tamm _____
Mr. Sizoo _____
Mr. Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Miss Gandy _____

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MAILED 8
NOV 1 - 1954
COMM - FBI

NOV 2 1954
132

101-2483-1157

NOV 9 1954

WABat

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (101-2483)
FROM : SAC, New York (100-37158)

DATE: 11/4/54

SUBJECT: MORTON SOBELL, was
ESP-R

Reference is made to San Francisco letter of 10/13/54 and Bulet of 10/22/54 concerning further interviews of SOBELL. NYO makes the following observations towards further interview with SOBELL:

It is requested that San Francisco advise whether all of the items of personal property which were sent to San Francisco by New York letter, dated 9/9/54, have been returned to him. If they have not been returned, they should be returned to him immediately. At this time he should be expressly told that the U.S. Attorney will not authorize the return of any further property to him and for this reason the agent visiting him will not contact him in the future except at his expressed request. If all of his property has been returned to him, SOBELL should be contacted immediately and advised that no further property will be returned to him and accordingly there will be no further contact with the agent except at his expressed request.

It is also New York's opinion that during these further contacts with SOBELL conversation should be limited to the return of his property unless SOBELL brings up topics for conversation. NY believes that this plan of approaching SOBELL has been excellently handled and that he is fully aware of his position. Any further action in this regard must be initiated by SOBELL.

It is requested that the Bureau advise NY and San Francisco of any observations towards the foregoing.

Bureau is further advised that NY has carefully reviewed this case, together with the cases of JULIUS ROSENBERG and WILLIAM PERL. No leads have been developed as a result of these reviews that would assist in further developing the espionage activities of ROSENBERG, PERL, SOBELL or their associates.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 4/20/87 BY 304

San Francisco (65-4228) (AIRMAIL, REGISTERED)

JAH:MM

COPIES DESTROYED

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RECORDED - 36

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2 NOV 1954

404 2 2 05 5

Letter to Director
NY 100-37158

Accordingly when six weeks have elapsed from the date of the last contact with SOBELL and he has not requested to see an Agent, it is requested that San Francisco so advise NY. Upon receipt of this information, NY will submit a closing report incorporating in brief the contacts had with SOBELL by the San Francisco Office.

San Francisco is advised that Mrs. PERL, wife of WILLIAM PERL, was to visit him at the U.S. Correctional Institution at Terre Haute, Indiana for six hours on 11/3 and 4/54. She had previously been interviewed by agents of this office and the known facts concerning the espionage activities of WILLIAM PERL were disclosed to her. She advised that she would discuss these facts with her husband on these visits.

This office plans to interview Mrs. PERL on her return from visiting her husband. Unless information is received from her that would lead to a logical continuance of this investigation, this case will be closed as stated above.

It is requested that the Bureau advise NY of its opinion as to the foregoing.

SAC, New York (100-37198)

November 10, 1954

RECORDED - 36 Director, FBI (101-8483)-1158

MORTON SOBELL, was.
ESPIONAGE - R

Re New York let 11-4-54 suggesting San Francisco recontact Sobell to return all property not returned or, if this has been done, to inform Sobell the United States Attorney will not authorize the return of any more property and, therefore, no further visits will be made except at Sobell's request.

The Bureau agrees that Sobell is aware of his position as a result of the interviews already conducted and, in view of that fact, no further contact should be had with Sobell except at his own request. It is noted that San Francisco, by letter of 9-17-54, stated Sobell had signed the document directing the delivery of his property to his attorney.

New York should submit a report incorporating the facts of the contacts with Sobell by the San Francisco office and any pertinent information developed from the interview of Mrs. William Perl following her visit with her husband. After completion of the interview of Mrs. Perl and the receipt of the San Francisco comments regarding Mrs. Sobell's letter to the Director, New York should submit recommendations regarding the placing of the instant case in a closed status.

RE - 2 - San Francisco (65-1228)

NOTE: Sobell was convicted of conspiracy to commit espionage along with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg and is now serving a 30-year sentence at Alcatraz Prison. Sobell interviewed three times in August and September, 1954, ostensibly to determine the disposition of property taken from him at his arrest and further to give him the opportunity to discuss his own espionage activities. Sobell did not talk. Mrs. Sobell wrote the Director a letter dated 11-1-54, complaining of interviews of her husband by the FBI. San Francisco has been requested to submit its comments concerning that letter.

JPL:skw

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/24/87 BY 3042

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COMM - FBI

NOV 10 1954

MAILED 31

NOV 17 1954

NOV 10 1954

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

cc - Mr. Belmont
cc - Mr. Boardman

TO : The Director

DATE:

November 5, 1954

FROM : L. V. Boardman *LB*SUBJECT: MORTON SOBELL, was.
ESPIONAGE - RALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/20/82 BY 3042 *put-OK*

Tolson	_____
Boardman	_____
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Belmont	_____
Harbo	_____
Mohr	_____
Parsons	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Sizoo	_____
Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

ANK

There is attached a letter dated 11/1/54 from Mrs. Morton Sobell to the Director in which she complains of the interviews of her husband conducted by an agent of the San Francisco office. The background of this matter is as follows:

After the execution of the Rosenbergs and the exhaustion of Sobell's legal remedies, consideration was given by the field for an approach to Sobell to "feel him out" regarding revealing his knowledge of Soviet espionage operations. Despite the possibility of unfavorable publicity in the Communist press, it was felt the chance of Sobell making disclosures was of vital importance to the Bureau's espionage work. In July, 1954, the field submitted recommendations for contacting Sobell for the ostensible purpose of discussing the disposition of personal property, taken from him at the time of his arrest, and with the view such contact might lead to voluntary disclosures. By memorandum dated 7/15/54 the Bureau approved this method of approach. Sobell was interviewed on three occasions, 8/27, 9/1 and 9/16/54 by an agent of the San Francisco office, and detailed reports of these interviews were furnished to the Bureau. Sobell discussed the disposition of his property and, during the first interview, indicated he was not opposed to continuing such talks. He indicated no animosity toward the agent and commented on the courteous treatment he received. After the initial contact the interviewing agent felt recontacts should be made to possibly develop a personal relationship with Sobell, leading to an eventual disclosure of his espionage activities. After two additional interviews, San Francisco recommended discontinuance of contacts as Sobell had been afforded ample opportunity to cooperate and if he desired to do so in the future he could contact the agent.

During the interviews the agent made no promises to Sobell, but did indicate to him that Sobell might help himself but that this was a decision for him to make himself. No pressure of any kind was exerted on Sobell.

Attachment sent 11-8-54

101-2483

JPL:skw;en

(6)

55 NOV 22 1954

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As you are aware, Morton Sobell was convicted of conspiracy to commit espionage based on irrefutable evidence and all his appeals to the United States Supreme Court have been denied. Mrs. Sobell has an extensive pro-Communist background and is now a paid employee of the National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case, an organization which worked for clemency for the Rosenbergs and is now concentrating its efforts in having Sobell transferred from Alcatraz prison. It is believed the attached letter from Mrs. Sobell should not be dignified by an acknowledgment as the probability exists such a letter by you would be exploited by the committee for its own propaganda purposes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. It is recommended the attached letter from Mrs. Sobell not be acknowledged.
2. While this letter is undoubtedly Communist-inspired, a copy is being sent to San Francisco for information and comment.

3. Upon receipt of comments from San Francisco, it is recommended that an appropriate letter be furnished to the Attorney General.

MRS. MORTON SOBELL

506 WEST 135th STREET

NEW YORK 01, N.Y.

November 1, 1954

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Boardman	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Justice Department
Washington, D.C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/20/82 BY 3042 *put-DC*

Dear Mr. Hoover,

I have just returned from seeing my husband, Morton Sobell, in Alcatraz. The difficulties of a 3000 mile trip, the problems involved in a resettlement of my children's lives, even the forbidding experience of entering Alcatraz itself are no longer new to me. I am greatly concerned at this time with what your agents have been trying to do to my husband.

You must know that from the time that my husband, I, and my children were brutally and illegally kidnapped in August of 1950, by your agents, my husband has been constantly pressured to confess to a crime which he has not committed. All of the various types of pressures which were used culminated in the choice of Alcatraz as the place of imprisonment for my husband, and in his being sent there on Thanksgiving Day of 1952. There is nothing in my husband's history, in prison or out, which could justify a decision to send him to Alcatraz. He does not belong in any prison; he certainly does not belong in Alcatraz.

Recently, perhaps under the impression that a man who is beginning his fifth year in prison has lost some of his integrity, courage, or honesty, your agents have again begun their harassment of my husband. Perhaps too, your office may be motivated by the fact that so many and such powerful forces are protesting against the use of Alcatraz as a third degree method in the case of my young scientist. No matter what your reasoning may be, this harassment must be stopped.

On August 27th my husband was maneuvered into meeting with an F.B.I. agent who said he wanted to return to my husband some of our belongings which were taken from us at the time of the kidnapping in Mexico. He returned our daughter's return trip ticket from Mexico and our customs receipts that meant we would not have to pay duty on cameras etc. upon our return.

Obviously this could have been done with greater propriety, less expense, and more consideration through our attorneys. But the reason for this visit became all too obvious when your agent tried to persuade my husband that the people who believe in his

*Memo from Mr. Boardman
To: The Director*

11-5-54

*Memo S.F. J.P.L.
LENY 11/8/54 (2)*

*5 copies
Mr. Lee 11-17-54*

EXP

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101-2483-1460

NOV 15 1954

NOV 3 1954

innocence and who are working toward securing some measure of justice for him are not concerned with his welfare.

The second visit by your agent was free of all pretense. Starting with expressions of friendship and interest in my husband's welfare, your agent told my husband: "You cannot hurt the Rosenbergs now, nor can you help them. Why don't you start thinking about your own future."

In this way the F.B.I. agent implied that if my husband would malign dead persons, and if he would pretend to be guilty himself, there might be some reward.

In a third visit my husband was informed that confidential sources available to the F.B.I. had information that my husband was being deserted. Your agent said that my husband was needlessly sacrificing his youth, his home, and even the opportunity to see his children.

I am convinced that the truth must come to light. When it is known, my husband will be free to return to his family who love him, in honor and with dignity. You are using Alcatraz and your F.B.I. as a rack and pinion with which to destroy my husband. Brave men have always fought for truth and honor. Even though the days of his youth are being torn from him one by one, my innocent husband will not perjure himself. He will betray neither his ideals nor other innocent people.

To have suffered some fifty months of prison, to face the living death of 30 years in Alcatraz, to have been convicted in a conspiracy trial where no witness ever testified that my husband had ever given or received any secret material, this is injustice compounded. Do not add to this by further visits from your F.B.I. agents.

Very truly yours,

Mrs. Morton Sobell
Mrs. Morton Sobell

New York

"a. j. j. j."

11-1-60

RECORDED-80

SAC, San Francisco (65-4228)

November 8, 1954

101-2483-1160

Director, FBI (101-2483)

NORTON SOBELL, was.
ESPIONAGE - R

There is attached a copy of a letter, dated 11/1/54, addressed to the Director by Mrs. Sobell regarding the interviews of the subject. This is forwarded to you for your information and the comments of the San Francisco office are solicited.

Attachment

CC: 2 - New York (100-37188) (Attachment)

JPL:em
(6)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/29/87 BY 3042 put-1/1/87

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Sizoo
Mr. Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

cc. Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Lee

The Attorney General (orig. & 1 copy)

November 24, 1954

Director, FBI

MORTON SOBELL, with aliases
ESPIONAGE - R

As you are aware, Morton Sobell, a member of the Julius Rosenberg espionage network, is presently serving a thirty year sentence in Alcatraz Penitentiary. Following the final action of the United States Supreme Court in denying his appeals, consideration was given to the disposition of certain items of personal property taken from Sobell at the time of his arrest. The United States Attorney, Southern District of New York, reviewed these items and approved the return to Sobell of those items not deemed to be of value in the event of further legal action. An agent of our San Francisco office interviewed Sobell on three occasions: August 27, September 1, and September 16, 1954, for the purpose of discussing with him the disposition of these items. Our agent, of course, was instructed to accept any information relating to his espionage activities which Sobell might furnish voluntarily. During the interviews, Sobell was at all times agreeable and complimented the agent on the courteous treatment he received. Sobell did not divulge any information regarding his espionage activities. No threats or promises were made to him.

By letter dated November 1, 1954, Mrs. Helen Sobell, wife of Morton Sobell, directed a letter to me complaining of the interviews of her husband by the FBI. A copy of this letter is attached. No acknowledgment of this letter was made since, due to Mrs. Sobell's known Communist background and her present employment at the National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case, it was felt any acknowledgment would probably be used by that organization for propaganda purposes. The west coast Communist newspaper "Daily People's World" carried an article on Monday, November 15, 1954, stating Mrs. Sobell had protested to the Director about the interviews of her husband.

COMM - FBI

NOV 26 1954

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Belmont _____
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Winterrowd _____
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RECORDED - 9

CONFIDENTIAL

EX-125

NOV 29 1954

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The above is furnished to you for your information
and you will be kept advised of all future developments.

Attachment

101-2483

cc - 1 - Mr. William F. Rogers (Attachment)
Deputy Attorney General

cc - 1 - Assistant Attorney General (Attachment)
William F. Tompkins

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : L. V. Boardman *LB*DATE:
November 23, 1954

FROM : A. H. Belmont

SUBJECT: MORTON SOBELL, was.
ESPIONAGE - RALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/21/87 BY 3042 *put-Div.*

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Nichols	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Belmont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Harbo	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mohr	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parsons	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rosen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tamm	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sizoo	<input type="checkbox"/>
Winterrowd	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tele. Room	<input type="checkbox"/>
Holloman	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gandy	<input type="checkbox"/>

It will be recalled Morton Sobell was interviewed by an agent of the San Francisco office at Alcatraz Penitentiary on 3 occasions in August and September, 1954. These interviews were authorized by the Bureau to "feel out" Sobell relative to revealing his espionage activities, although the ostensible purpose was to discuss disposition of certain property taken from him at the time of his arrest. This property consists of items such as airlines ticket and passport folder; airlines ticket for Sobell's daughter, New York-Mexico City and return; Elma Sewing Machine Company pamphlet; Mexico City street guide; sales receipts for purchases made in Mexico City; marriage certificate; birth certificates, and the like. U.S. Attorney, Southern District, NY, has authorized the return of these items. We are returning the property piecemeal as a pretext to conduct a series of interviews with Sobell, which procedure is a proper one to follow. Sobell has made no demand for the return of his property. It will be further recalled that by letter to the Director, dated 11/1/54, Helen Sobell, wife of subject, complained of interviews of her husband by the agent and an article appeared in the "Daily People's World," west coast Communist newspaper, 11/15/54, stating Mrs. Sobell had protested to the Director. By memorandum to the Director 11/5/54 it was recommended and approved that this letter not be acknowledged, since any answer probably would be exploited by Mrs. Sobell's employer, the National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case, for propaganda purposes. It also was recommended and approved, following receipt of San Francisco's comments, that an appropriate letter be directed to the Attorney General, furnishing the above information. SF airtel of 11/12/54 recommended answering Mrs. Sobell's letter. Despite San Francisco's recommendation, it is felt the Bureau's position should not change and no reply should be sent to Mrs. Sobell. It will also be recalled that during the last interview of Sobell, 9/16/54, he was informed he would be recontacted and he indicated agreement. Following the meeting between Sobell and his wife on 10/4/54, SF recommended no interview of Sobell in the near future. By airtel 11/12/54 SF requested permission to retain items of Sobell's property and to return same on reinterview of Sobell, to be conducted when deemed advisable. It is felt Sobell should be reinterviewed since the publicity indicates the NCSJR might be afraid Sobell is weakening and is attempting by publicity

Attachments (2) *sent* 11-26-54
101-2483

JPL:egg;em (5)

CC: Mr. Boardman

Mr. Belmont

Mr. Branigan

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EX-125

13 NOV 29 1954

(* NCSJR)

101-2483-1162

egg

to discourage further interviews. It is noted in the three interviews conducted, Sobell was agreeable and indicated he enjoyed the interviews. The agent who conducted the previous interviews has suffered a heart attack and it is not known when he will return to duty. In view of his physical condition, San Francisco should be advised to have another agent conduct subsequent interviews of Sobell.

ACTION:

1. There is attached for your approval a letter to San Francisco, instructing that Sobell should be reinterviewed, and instructing it to designate another agent to conduct the interview.

[Handwritten signature]
11-27

2. There is attached for your approval a letter to the Attorney General advising him of the contacts with Sobell and the reaction of Mrs. Sobell and the Communist press to the interviews.

[Handwritten signature]

3. The Bureau's previous position is sound and no acknowledgement is being made of Mrs. Sobell's letter.

[Handwritten signature]

OK

[Handwritten initials]

OK

WAB
[Handwritten initials]

me
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FD-16	Mr. Tolson
	Mr. Boardman
	Mr. Nichols
	Mr. Belmont
	Mr. Harbo
	Mr. Mohr
	Mr. Parsons
	Mr. Rosen
	Mr. Tamm
	Mr. Sizoo
	Mr. Winterrowd
	Tele. Room
	Mr. Holloman
	Miss Gandy

Transmit the following Teletype message to: 11-12-54
FBI SAN FRANCISCO (65-4228)

DIRECTOR, FBI (101-2483)

MORTON SOBELL, WAS., RSP., - R. REBULET 11-8-54 ATTACHING A
LETTER RECEIVED BY THE DIRECTOR FROM MRS. SOBELL. AS TO BE
EXPECTED, THIS LETTER IS COMPRISED OF FALSE STATEMENTS, HALF
TRUTHS AND MALICIOUS INNUENDOS. IT IS THE OPINION OF THIS
OFFICE THAT THIS LETTER OF MRS. SOBELL'S SHOULD BE ANSWERED NOT
WITH THE THOUGHT OF ENGAGING IN VOLUMINOUS CORRESPONDENCE WITH
HER BUT WITH THE THOUGHT OF SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT AND
PRESENTING THE SITUATION IN ITS TRUE LIGHT. IF HER LETTER IS
PUBLISHED THE REPUTATION WOULD BE CLEARLY AND EFFECTIVELY MADE.
THE TENOR OF MRS. SOBELL'S LETTER WOULD INDICATE THAT SHE IS
EXTREMELY PERTURBED BY HER HUSBAND'S CONVERSATIONS WITH US AND
UNFORTUNATELY WE DO NOT HAVE THE BENEFIT OF HOW THESE INTERVIEWS
WERE EXPLAINED BY MORTON SOBELL TO HIS WIFE. IT MIGHT WELL BE
THAT SHE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO PERSUADE HIM NOT TO SEE THE AGENTS IN
THE FUTURE AND IS ATTEMPTING TO UTILIZE THIS MEANS TO INSURE THAT
AGENTS DO NOT CALL ON HIM IN THE FUTURE INASMUCH AS IF MORTON
SOBELL DOES TELL THE TRUTH HE WILL EMBARRASS HER COMMUNIST FRIENDS
AND THE VARIOUS FRONTS AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE OPERATED IN HIS
BEHALF AND BE A CRUSHING BLOW TO THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND ITS FRONTS.

IT IS SUGGESTED THAT THE LETTER MIGHT BE ANSWERED ALONG THE FOLLOW-

RGF:vw
Attachment
Approved: *Wey*

(REGISTERED MAIL)

Sent

cc: New York (REG.) (100-37158)

RECORDED-37 101-2483-1163

NOV 13 1954

*Let Attorney General
and Department
Deputy Attorney Gen. Rogers
Per
11/24/54
J.P. L. have*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/21/87 BY 3042 put-284

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

AIR-TEL

PAGE TWO

ING LINES AS GENERALLY SET FORTH IN THE ATTACHMENT. RELATIVE
TO THE FACTS SURROUNDING THE INTERVIEWS WITH MORTON SOBELL
SUCH HAVE BEEN SET FORTH COMPLETELY IN SF LETTERS TO THE BUREAU
DATED 8-31-54, 9-2-54, AND 9-17-54.

WHELAN

REGISTERED

CC: MR. BELMONT
~~AND SUPERVISOR~~
DOM. INTEL. DIVISION

Approved: _____ Sent: _____ M Per: _____
Special Agent in Charge

San Francisco, California
November 12, 1954

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Boardman	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Sizoo	_____
Mr. Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

Dear Mrs. Sobell:

This is to acknowledge your letter of November 1, 1954.

The misstatements of fact contained in your letter are so gross they are ridiculous.

There can be no question about the "propriety" of an Agent of the F.B.I. courteously discussing and arranging with your husband, or anyone, matters of interest. In this case, your husband did not protest, object or refuse. All discussions the Agents and your husband had were conducted with his consent.

The F.B.I. has always honored the rights and privileges of all individuals. It has never, and never will, make threats or promises, offer rewards, or malign any person, living or dead. Your husband specifically and clearly understands this.

I see no need to correspond further upon this matter.

Very truly yours,

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DATE 12/21/87 BY 3042 put PDC

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11 0 MAR 13 1961

101-2483-1163

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

Mr. Tolson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Boardman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Nichols	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Belmont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Harbo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Mohr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Parsons	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Rosen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Tamm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Sizoo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Winterrowd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tele. Room	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Holloman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Miss Gandy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

FBI, SAN FRANCISCO (65-4228) 11-12-54 AIR-TEL

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

DIRECTOR, FBI (101-2483)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/21/87 BY 3042 *Ret*

MORTON SOBELL, WAS., ESP. - R. RENYLET 11-4-54. VARIOUS ITEMS OF PERSONAL PROPERTY HAVE NOT BEEN RETURNED TO SOBELL TO DATE. SF RECOMMENDS THAT THESE ITEMS BE RETAINED UNTIL SUCH TIME AS A FUTURE VISIT WITH SOBELL APPEARS ADVISABLE OR UNTIL HIS SITUATION INDICATES THAT A FUTURE VISIT WOULD BE PRODUCTIVE. THE SELECTION OF THE TIME OF A SUBSEQUENT CONTACT OF SOBELL WILL DEPEND UPON VARIOUS FACTORS, SUCH AS THE SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF LEGAL MANEUVERS ON HIS PART, IMPENDING VISITS BY SOBELL'S WIFE, AND PERTINENT DATA WHICH MAY BE PROVIDED BY [REDACTED] HAS ADVISED THAT DURING RECENT WEEKS, HELEN SOBELL HAS SEVERELY CRITICIZED STEPHEN LOVE, CHICAGO ATTORNEY HANDLING SOBELL'S CASE. SHE HAS COMPLAINED TO BENJAMIN DREYFUS THAT LOVE HAS NOT BEEN AGGRESSIVE ENOUGH IN HIS DEFENSE OF SOBELL, AND DREYFUS HAS AGREED WITH THIS CRITICISM. INFORMANT WAS OF OPINION THAT LOVE WOULD SOON BE REPLACED BY ANOTHER ATTORNEY. IT IS THE BELIEF OF SF THAT ALL THE REMAINING ITEMS OF PROPERTY SHOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED WITH SOBELL DURING THE NEXT VISIT, IN THAT ADDITIONAL CONTACTS MAY LOGICALLY BE MADE WITH SOBELL. IT IS NOTED THAT BULET 7-15-54 INSTRUCTED THAT SOBELL'S PROPERTY SHOULD NOT ALL BE DISCUSSED DURING THE FIRST VISIT IN ORDER THAT A VALID REASON WOULD EXIST FOR ADDITIONAL CONTACTS. SF FEELS THAT IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO INFORM SOBELL THAT HE WOULD NOT BE SUBSEQUENTLY CONTACTED UNLESS HE EXPRESSLY REQUESTED THAT HE BE VISITED BY AN AGENT. WHILE IT IS REALIZED THAT

RGF: LJ
REG.
CC - NEW YORK (REG.) (100-37158)

Victims - Parliament to Board of Inquiry 2483 11/64

RECORDED-37

NOV 15 1954

Mr. Belmont
Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Memo to
San Francisco CCNY
11-19-54 JPC:at

110 13 1961

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FBI, SAN FRANCISCO (65-4228)

11-12-54

AIR-TEL

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

DREYFUS MIGHT PUBLICIZE THESE VISITS IN AN EFFORT TO DISCREDIT THE BUREAU, AS ⁶² 67D

[REDACTED] REPORTED ON 10-6-54, IT IS FELT THAT THIS POSSIBILITY HAS ALWAYS BEEN PRESENT, AND THAT VISITS TO SOBELL WERE INITIATED IN THE LIGHT OF THAT CALCULATED RISK. IT IS NOTED THAT THE THREE INTERVIEWS OF SOBELL HAVE CONCLUDED ON AN AMENABLE TONE, AND AS REFLECTED IN SF LET 9-17-54, SOBELL INDICATED THAT HE ENJOYED THE INTERVIEWS. SF BELIEVES THAT IN FUTURE INTERVIEWS WITH SOBELL, THE INTERVIEWING AGENT SHOULD NOT BE RESTRICTED TO TOPICS INITIATED BY SOBELL. IN ANY GIVEN INTERVIEW, THE TOPICS DISCUSSED, AND THE ENTIRE SCOPE OF THE INTERVIEW MUST NECESSARILY BE LIMITED AND CIRCUMSCRIBED BY THE REACTION OF SOBELL AT THAT TIME. SHOULD IT APPEAR THAT SOBELL IS IN A RESPONSIVE MOOD, IT WOULD SEEM ILL-ADVISED TO LIMIT THE INTERVIEWING AGENT TO TOPICS INITIATED BY SOBELL. IT IS FELT THAT DURING THE PREVIOUS INTERVIEWS, DOUBTS, IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS WERE INSTILLED IN SOBELL'S MIND AND THERE IS NO WAY AT THIS TIME TO DETERMINE HOW MUCH HIS FAITH HAS BEEN SHAKEN OR HOW MANY OF THESE IDEAS HE MAY ADOPT. IT IS NOT FELT THAT THREE INTERVIEWS ARE SUFFICIENT TO FULLY EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF BREAKING SOBELL, PARTICULARLY AS THESE INTERVIEWS WERE INTENTIONALLY CONDUCTED IN A MANNER WHICH WOULD NOT AROUSE AN ANTAGONISTIC FEELING ON THE PART OF SOBELL. IN THIS CONNECTION AS THE BUREAU HAS BEEN ADVISED UNDER SEPARATE CAPTION, SA ELLEDGE WHO HAS BEEN HANDLING THE INTERVIEWS IN THIS CASE HAS SUFFERED A HEART ATTACK AND IT IS NOT KNOWN AT THIS TIME WHEN HE WILL BE ABLE TO RETURN TO DUTY. IT IS NOT BELIEVED WISE THAT ANY OTHER AGENT ATTEMPT TO CONTACT SOBELL IN VIEW OF THE OUTSTANDING PROGRESS AGENT ELLEDGE HAS MADE IN THIS CASE. AS ILLUSTRATED BY

- 2 -

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FBI, SAN FRANCISCO (65-4228)

11-12-54

AIR-TEL

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

HELEN SOBELL'S LETTER TO THE DIRECTOR IT IS BELIEVED THAT SHE IS EXTREMELY WORRIED RELATIVE TO THE APPARENT REACTION OF SOBELL TO THE AGENT'S VISITS AND IS VERY WORRIED THAT HER HUSBAND MIGHT "SEE THE LIGHT" ALONG THE LINES OF THE THOUGHTS DISCUSSED WITH HIM BY AGENT ELLEDGE. IT IS BELIEVED THAT IT WOULD APPEAR THAT SOBELL'S DISCUSSION WITH AGENT ELLEDGE IS ON A PERSONAL BASIS AS HE HAD PREVIOUSLY REFUSED TO TALK TO AGENTS OF THIS BUREAU AND THE FACT THAT HE HAS BEEN IN ALCATRAZ WOULD HARDEN RATHER THAN SOFTEN HIM IN THIS REGARD. SUCH HAS BEEN THE GENERAL EXPERIENCE OF THIS OFFICE IN CONNECTION WITH INMATES THERE, PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF THE ATTITUDE TOWARD LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ~~IT IS~~ INSTILLED IN THEM BY THE INMATES NOT ONLY THROUGH CONVERSATIONS BUT ACTUAL REPRISALS TAKEN AGAINST INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE THOUGHT TO HAVE COOPERATED WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS. THE BUREAU IS REQUESTED TO ADVISE NY AND SF OF ANY OBSERVATIONS IN THIS MATTER, AND UACB IT IS THE INTENTION OF SF TO REINTERVIEW SOBELL WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES ARE MOST PROPITIOUS.

CC: MR. BELMONT
AND SUPERVISOR
DOM. INTEL. DIVISION

- 3 -

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

J. P. Lee

4-28
SAC, San Francisco (65-4288)

November 24, 1954

101-2483-1164
Director, FBI (101-2483)

MORTON SOBELL, was.
ESPIONAGE - R

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/21/87 BY 3042 Jut-DK

Reurairtel 11/12/54, requesting authority to retain items of Sobell's property until another interview of Sobell appears advisable and recommending further interview with Sobell.

The Bureau agrees with your observation that Mrs. Sobell's letter to the Director indicates she is worried relative to the reaction of her husband to the interviews previously conducted. In view of this fact, you are instructed to reinterview Sobell, as soon as it is deemed advisable, for the purpose of continuing the discussion of the disposition of his property.

The Bureau feels the interviews should be conducted without undue delay, inasmuch as Sobell has been informed there will be other items returned to him. Since the return to duty of SA Elledge from sick leave is indefinite, another agent should be designated to conduct the interviews. The agent so designated should be experienced and should be thoroughly familiar with all factors of the instant case and with the results of the prior interviews conducted by SA Elledge. The time for this interview should be carefully chosen by you in relation to contemplated or past visits of Mrs. Sobell to her husband. No threats or promises of any nature should be made to Sobell.

The Bureau does not agree with your recommendation that Mrs. Sobell's letter to the Director be acknowledged, since any acknowledgment would, undoubtedly, be exploited by the National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case for propaganda purposes.

The Bureau and New York should be promptly advised of all developments.

Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Malone _____
Gandy _____

65-2 - New York (100-37158)

61 DEC 3 1954 F291

NOV 26 1954
MAILED 31

DEPT OF JUSTICE
FBI

NOV 24 1954

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (101-2483)

FROM : SAC, New York (100-37158)

SUBJECT: MORTON SOBELL, was.
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: 12/2/54

ReBulet dated 11/10/54, and San Francisco airtel dated 11/12/54.

The Bureau has advised that on 11/24/54, Mrs. HENRIETTA PERL, wife of WILLIAM PERL was telephonically contacted, and she stated that she believed that her husband was innocent of any espionage activity.

In view of this fact, the New York Office is now prepared to submit a closing report, which will incorporate a short recital of the contacts made by the San Francisco Office with subject, and of the interview with Mrs. PERL. Upon receipt of instructions from the Bureau to San Francisco as to whether SOBELL should be recontacted for the purpose of returning the remaining property, and upon the making of this contact by the San Francisco Office, this office will submit a closing report in this matter.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/21/87 BY 3042 *put dsc*

RECORDED - 54

INDEXED - 54

20 DEC 3 1954

1 - San Francisco (65-4228)

JAH:AOB

51 DEC 8 1954

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Tickler -

Mr.

Mont.
te

Mr. William P. Rogers (Original & 1)
Deputy Attorney General

December 2, 1954

Director, FBI

⁶
MORTON SOBELL, with aliases
ESPIONAGE - R

In my memorandum to the Attorney General dated November 24, 1954, information was furnished concerning the interviews conducted of the subject at Alcatraz Prison and the resulting publicity which appeared in the Communist press.

There are attached Photostats of an article which appeared in the "Daily Worker," east coast Communist newspaper, on November 15, 1954, and a letter to the editor, "Daily Worker," which appeared in the November 19, 1954, issue of that newspaper.

This is furnished to you for your information.

me
Attachment
101-2483

DECLASSIFIED BY 3042 *Just DLE*

ON 4/21/87

cc - 1 - Assistant Attorney General (Attachment)
William F. Tompkins *me*

me
NOTE: Three interviews of Sobell have been conducted for the ostensible purpose of discussing return of items of property taken at the time of his arrest and to give him an opportunity to reveal his espionage activity. Sobell was agreeable during the interviews but revealed nothing. Mrs. Sobell wrote a letter dated November 1, 1954, to the Director protesting communities which was not acknowledged due to her Communist Party background. San Francisco has been instructed to conduct the interviews re a balance of property not returned. AG was advised of results interview.

JPL:ss
(6)

RECORDED-31

DEC 8 1954

MAILED

DEC - 2 1954

COMM - FBI

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

51 DEC 9 1954

Mr. Tolson ☒
 Mr. Boardman ☒
 Mr. Nichols ☒
 Mr. Belmont ☒
 Mr. Harbo ☒
 Mr. Mohr ☒
 Mr. Parsons ☒
 Mr. Rosen ☒
 Mr. Tamm ☒
 Mr. Sizoo ☒
 Mr. Winterrowd ☒
 Tele. Room ☒
 Mr. Holloman ☒
 Miss Gandy ☒

Sobell Defies Threats By FBI; Refuses to Lie

The wife of imprisoned scientist Morton Sobell disclosed yesterday that FBI agents had visited Sobell in Alcatraz and implied that he would receive leniency if he would say that he is guilty and that Ethel and Julius Rosenberg were guilty.

Mrs. Sobell, who recently returned from visiting her husband, said she had written a demand to J. Edgar Hoover that FBI agents stop harassing her husband.

Sobell, sentenced to 30 years in the Rosenberg trial, has maintained his absolute innocence and has been seeking a new trial. According to Mrs. Sobell, many prominent Americans have urged federal authorities to remove Sobell from Alcatraz to a regular federal prison.

Mrs. Sobell said that her husband has been subjected to three recent visits by the FBI. The first visit was ostensibly to return to Sobell his daughter's plane ticket confiscated at the time Sobell and his family were seized in Mexico in August, 1950. Also returned were the receipts from the customs for cameras and other items declared enroute to Mexico.

The second visit was described by Mrs. Sobell as "free of all pretense." In her letter to J. Edgar Hoover, she said:

"Starting with expressions of

friendship and interest in my husband's welfare, your agent told my husband: 'You cannot hurt the Rosenbergs now, nor can you help them. Why don't you start thinking about your own future?' In this way the FBI agent implied that if my husband would malign dead persons, and if he would pretend to be guilty himself, there might be some reward."

THIRD VISIT

Mrs. Sobell continued: "In a third visit my husband was informed that confidential sources available to the FBI had information that my husband was being deserted. Your agent said that my husband was needlessly sacrificing his youth, his home and even the opportunity to see his children."

In a letter to his wife, Morton Sobell wrote, in commenting on the FBI visits: "I will never soil these hands. A person must live with himself for a long time—and his children—and their children must live with his name and what it means after his time. And it's so simple. There is no slightly soiled dirt, all dirt is dirty."

Helen Sobell asserted that despite the use of Alcatraz as a third degree method, her husband had not lost any of his integrity.

She pointed out that her husband had long been under pressure to say he was guilty, and cited the remarks of Judge Irving Kaufman in denying Sobell a reduction in sentence. Kaufman said in a ruling on Jan. 9, 1953:

"It is still more deplorable and grievous that Sobell has not seen fit to follow the course of David Greenglass, Harry Gold and Klaus Fuchs, who, after pleading guilty, gave substantial aid in detecting and bringing to justice other espionage agents whose acts were endangering our national security."

Rather Sobell has chosen to follow in the footsteps of the defendants Rosenberg, and, like them, adhere to misguided loyalties. His choice has been deliberate, and the enormity of his offense becomes even greater, for apparently, he still feels no remorse or contrition.

"The application is denied."

The National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell has been conducting a campaign to have Sobell removed from Alcatraz pending a new trial. It is asking that people write to James V. Bennett, Director of Prison, Justice Department, Washington, D. C., requesting Sobell's transfer.

This is a clipping from page 2 of the

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(4) Daily Worker
 The Worker
 New Leader

Date 11/13/68
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 Government.

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101-2483-1166
 Enclosure

Belmont
Conrad

ICE
DAH

MRS. SOBELL'S LETTER OF PROTEST TO FBI

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Justice Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I have just returned from seeing my husband, Morton Sobell, in Alcatraz. The difficulties of a 2,000 mile trip, the problems involved in a resettlement of my children's lives, even the forbidding experience of entering Alcatraz itself are no longer new to me. I am greatly concerned at this time with what your agents have been trying to do to my husband.

You must know that from the time that my husband, I, and my children were brutally and illegally kidnapped in August of 1950 by your agents, my husband has been constantly pressured to confess to a crime which has not committed. All of the various types of pressures which were used culminated in the choice of Alcatraz as the place of imprisonment for my husband, and in his being sent there on Thanksgiving Day of 1952.

There is nothing in my husband's history, in prison or out, which could justify a decision to send him to Alcatraz. He does not belong in any prison; he certainly does not belong in Alcatraz.

Recently, perhaps under the impression that a man who is beginning his fifth year in prison has lost some of his integrity, courage, or honesty, your agents have again begun their harassment of my husband. Perhaps too, your office may be motivated by the fact that so many and such powerful forces are protesting against the use of Alcatraz as a third degree method in the case of my young scientist. No matter what your reasoning may be, this harassment must be stopped.

ON AUGUST 27 my husband was maneuvered into meeting with an FBI agent who said he wanted to return to my husband some of our belongings which were taken from us at the time of the kidnapping in Mexico. He returned our daughter's return trip ticket from Mexico and our customs receipts that meant we would not have to pay duty on cameras, etc., upon our return.

Obviously this could have been done with greater propriety, less expense, and more consideration through our attorneys. But the reason for this visit became all too obvious when your agent tried to persuade my husband that the people who believe in his innocence and who are working toward securing some measure of justice for him are not concerned with his welfare.

The second visit by your agent was free of all pretence. Starting with expressions of friendship and interest in my husband's welfare, your agent told my husband: "You cannot hurt the Rosenbergs now, nor can you help them. Why don't you start thinking about your own future?"

In this way the FBI agent implied that if my husband would malign dead persons, and if he would pretend to be guilty himself, there might be some reward.

In a third visit my husband was informed that confidential sources available to the FBI had information that my husband was being deserted. Your agent said that my husband was needlessly sacrificing his youth, his home, and even the opportunity to see his children.

I AM CONVINCED that the truth must come to light. When it is known, my husband will be free to return to his family who love him, in honor and with dignity. You are using Alcatraz and your FBI as a rack and pinion with which to destroy my husband.

Brave men have always fought for truth and honor. Even though the days of his youth are being torn from him one by one, my innocent husband will not perjure himself. He will betray neither his ideals nor other innocent people.

To have suffered some 15 months of prison, to face the living death of 30 years in Alcatraz, to have been convicted in a conspiracy trial, where no witness ever testified that my husband had ever given or received any secret material, this is injustice compounded. Do not add to this by further visits from your FBI agents.

Very truly yours,

MRS. MORTON SOBELL

This is a clipping from
page 2 of the

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DATE 4/21/87 BY 3042 just d/c

() Daily Worker
() The Worker
() New Leader

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11 0 MAR 13 1961

Date 11/13/54
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Government.

101-2493-1166

Letters from Readers

**Morton Sobell in
Prison 50 Months**

Editor, Daily Worker:

I would like to call to your attention a typographical error which occurred in your printing of my letter addressed to Mr. J. Edgar Hoover. In my letter I refer to the more than fifty months my husband has spent in prison. Your error makes this fifteen months.

It is an important fact that Morton Sobell is undergoing his fifth year in prison. The continued harassments and pressure to which he is being subjected shows the anxiety of the Attorney General's office regarding their role in the Sobell case and in the Rosenberg case.

The entire prosecuting staff, not only Judge Saypol, Roy Cohen, and Myles Lane, but Mr. Brownell, Mr. Hoover, and Judge Kaufman, would breathe a huge sigh of relief if they could force Morton Sobell to write a headline which would absolve them of their crimes. My husband's continued maintenance of his innocence, his refusal to commit perjury, keep these people from reaching out into the lives of other innocent people and charging them with espionage or conspiracy to commit espionage.

Five years after the arrest of my husband on a false, concocted charge of conspiracy Judge Irving Kaufman is being considered for appointment to the Appeals Court and David Greenglass becomes eligible for parole. If these things happen and Morton Sobell remains in Alcatraz the fight to continue to speak out against injustice will become much more difficult.

I would like to see each item of news concerning my husband's imprisonment and his treatment printed in every newspaper throughout the country. Your interest in the case of my husband is to the best advantage of all and I hope you will print my letter.

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Lee-1736

This is a clipping from
page 7 of the

(☒) Daily Worker
(☐) The Worker
(☐) New Leader

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Government.

101-2483-1166

ENCLOSURE

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FBI, SAN FRANCISCO (65-1228)

11/26/54

Transmit the following teletype message to:

DIRECTOR, FBI (101-2483)

AIRTEL AM

MORTON SOBELL, WAS. ESPIONAGE - R. SECRETARY TO WARDEN, USP, ALCATRAZ,
ADVISED THIS DATE OF RECEIPT BY SUBJECT OF LETTER FROM WIFE WHICH SETS
FORTH FOLLOWING NAMES AS SPONSORS IN LA OF COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE:
MARTIN HALL, MRS. HELEN BEARDSLEY, REV. FREITCHMAN AND JUDGE TOTTER.
SOBELL ALSO IN RECEIPT OF LETTER FROM HIS MOTHER IN WHICH SHE STATED
THAT HER CONTEMPLATED VISIT WITH SOBELL WAS ARRANGED BY COMMITTEE AND
THEY HAD PLANNED FOR HER TO VISIT SOBELL IN LATTER PART OF 1/55, DURING
WHICH TIME SHE WILL BE MAKING NATIONWIDE TOUR TELLING OF SOBELL'S FLIGHT
AND OF HER FLIGHT IN HAVING TO TRAVEL 3,000 MILES TO VISIT A SON IN PRISON.

*Letter to AFB San Francisco
12-3-54
J.H. J.H.*

WHELAN

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/21/87 BY 3042 *[Signature]*

WEM/jab
(6)

cc: New York (100-37158)
Los Angeles

RECORDED

Mr. Belmont

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Boardman	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Sizoo	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

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1965

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Mr. Lee
Mr. Belmont

Assistant Attorney General (Original and 1) December 3, 1954
William F. Tompkins

Director, FBI

RECORDED

MORTON SOBELL, with aliases
ESPIONAGE - R

DECLASSIFIED BY 3042 Jut B/c
ON 2/2/87

The Bureau has been confidentially advised that Morton Sobell received a letter from his mother in which she stated her contemplated visit had been arranged by the National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case, and it was planned for her to visit him at Alcatraz Penitentiary in the latter part of January, 1955. She stated during this time she will be making a nationwide tour telling of Sobell's plight and her own plight in having to travel three thousand miles to visit her son in prison.

Sobell also received a letter from his wife which set forth the following names of sponsors in Los Angeles of the National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case:

Judge Totten, Reverend Fritchman, Martin Hall,
Mrs. Helen Beardsley.

Judge Totten is believed identical with Edward Parker Totten, concerning whom reports have been forwarded to the Records Administration Branch in the past. (100-147051)

Reverend Fritchman is believed identical with Reverend Stephen Hale Fritchman, concerning whom reports have also been furnished Records Administration Branch in the past. (100-243141)

Martin Hall is believed identical with Martin Hall, with alias, Karl Adolf Rudolf Herman Jacobs. Reports concerning Hall have been forwarded to the Records Administration Branch in the past. (65-11750)

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

(5)

COMM - FBI
DEC 3 1954
MAILED 80

DEC 4 1954
EST. 1030
RECEIVED

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
FBI
RECEIVED

DEC 6 1954

CONFIDENTIAL

Helen Beardsley is possibly identical with Helen Marston Beardsley, wife of John Beardsley, Judge, Los Angeles Superior Court. She has been described by an informant of known reliability as a Socialist and an active member of the American Civil Liberties Union. Her name and address were contained in a file of friends and students of Commonwealth College, Mena, Arkansas, which has been designated by the Attorney General pursuant to Executive Order 10450. In 1942 she was a local sponsor of American Rescue Ship Mission, which has also been so designated by the Attorney General. (61-1538-130)

Her name appeared on a list of speakers in 1954 for the Southern California Peace Crusade, which is the name used in Los Angeles by the American Peace Crusade, which organization has also been designated by the Attorney General pursuant to Executive Order 10450. (100-377391-929)

The above is furnished to you for your information.

201-2483

REC'D DEPT. OF JUSTICE
F. B. I.

DEC 3 11 20 AM '54

REC'D - 201 ROOM 2 OFFICE

CONFIDENTIAL

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

_____ Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☐ Deleted under exemption(s) _____ with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

 1 Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

☐ For your information: _____

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

101-2483-1148

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COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE
FOR MORTON SOBELL IN THE
ROSENBERG CASE

1050 Sixth Ave.
New York 18, N.Y.
LO 4-9585

MEMORIAL PERIOD TO MARK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXECUTION OF ROSENBERGS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Removal of Morton Sobell From Alcatraz

And New Sobell Trial to be Stressed

NEW YORK, May 4--A six-week Memorial period marking the first anniversary of the execution of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg has been proclaimed by the Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg Case.

During this period, extending from May 10th through June 20th, committees throughout the United States will hold Memorial meetings and intensify efforts to win a new trial for Morton Sobell.

It was on June 19, 1953, that Ethel and Julius Rosenberg were executed despite their pleas of innocence and appeals for clemency from throughout the world.

Morton Sobell, the third defendant in the case, has been sent to Alcatraz by the U. S. Attorney General's Office to serve a 30-year sentence.

Demands are being made that Sobell be given a new trial, and that he be removed from Alcatraz on the grounds that his being sent to the prison for hardened criminals was a cruel and unusual punishment.

The Rosenberg-Sobell Committee has charged that Alcatraz, known as America's Devil's Island is being used to force a false confession from Morton Sobell, just as the electric chair was used in an attempt to force a false confession from Ethel and Julius Rosenberg. During the Memorial period, representatives of Rosenberg-Sobell committees will visit community leaders, clergymen, trade union leaders, professional persons and others who will be asked to sign petitions asking Morton Sobell's removal from Alcatraz.

Rosenberg Memorial Certificates will be given to those who contribute toward the cost of the legal defense and public campaign for Morton Sobell.

The National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell in the Rosenberg Case said it had learned that Rosenberg-Sobell committees throughout the world are also planning memorial activities.

#####

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 4-9585

To: JAMES V. Bamm
Bureau of Prisons
Washington, D. C.

Law and custom have established Alcatraz as a prison for criminals who, by the number and violence of their crimes, their attempts at escape, by attacks on prison guards, must be kept in extreme isolation.

Morton Sobell, a scientist charged with conspiracy to commit espionage and sentenced to thirty years, has been in Alcatraz since Thanksgiving Day, 1952.

Mr. Sobell does not fit into any of the categories of prisoners kept at Alcatraz. He has never been charged with any previous crime.

We believe that imprisonment of Morton Sobell at Alcatraz is an unusual and unprecedented punishment.

We therefore respectfully petition that Morton Sobell be transferred to a regular federal institution.

Name	Address	City	Amount*

* for the legal defense and public campaign on behalf of Morton Sobell

Issued as a public service by
The National Committee To Secure Justice For Morton Sobell
In The Rosenberg Case
1030 Sixth Avenue, N. Y. 18 - LO 4-9385

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

To this very moment Morton Sobell is being kept in Alcatraz by Attorney General Brownell because he refuses to give false testimony.

Keeping Morton Sobell in Alcatraz sets a dangerous precedent. In these days of irresponsible accusations, it tells every citizen who denies committing a crime: "Confess--or else!"

WRITE TO:

James V. Bennett
Director of Prisons
Federal Bureau of Prisons
Justice Dep't., Wash. D. C.

Urge that Morton Sobell be transferred from Alcatraz.

Issued as a public service by:
The National Committee To Secure
Justice For Morton Sobell In The
Rosenberg Case
1050 Sixth Avenue, N. Y. 18
LO 4-9525

WHO

GETS SENT TO

ALCATRAZ?

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 2
PAGES

ALCATRAZ was established by our government in 1933 for hardened criminals too dangerous to keep in a regular prison.

Some call it "The Rock". Others call it "America's Devil's Island". It is an iron-clad fortress with one guard for every ten prisoners. Discipline is so rigid that prisoners are not even allowed visits from their children.

OT 1112 2130

In Alcatraz are the outcasts of society--murderers, kidnapers, rapists, men with long records of violence, men who have tried to break out of prison.

These are the crimes for which men are sent to Alcatraz.

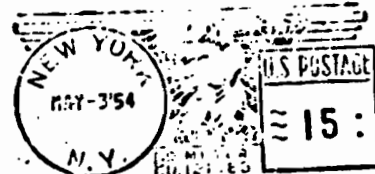
But Why Was MORTON SOBELL Sent There?

MORTON SOBELL, a young scientist, with a wife and two children, was sent to Alcatraz--but not because he is a dangerous criminal.

He was sent there Thanksgiving Day, 1952, because he refused to help execute Ethel and Julius Rosenberg.

Morton Sobell is fighting to prove his innocence. But from the moment of his arrest, he has been pressured to "confess" that he and the Rosenbergs were guilty.

Those who admitted their guilt were set free or let off with light terms. But because Sobell maintained his innocence, he was given the unprecedented sentence of thirty years.



VIA AIR MAIL

John Peet
Democratic German Rept.
Friedrichstrasse 167/III
Berlin, Germany

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED BY 3042 JST/STH

ON

4/21/87

per release

Gray

5 PAGES

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 4/24/87 BY 3042/pt/arc

Los Angeles, California

Mr. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau Investigation.
Washington, D.C.

W.H.
S.A.
12-2254

(y) 96573

Dear Sir:-

F.Y.I.

There is now and has been a "RED HAZE" at the Biltmore hotel Los Angeles. When Atomic Spy Morten Sobell was convicted the stories the fellows were talking about around the hotel at that time- were the occasions when Ed. Bernard (Mgr.) & lease stock holder & his Sec. Rice entertained this Atomic Spy Morten Sobell (Communist) at the Biltmore hotel.

Correspondence passed between Ed. Bernard and Morten Sobell- some of these letters, I am told, came down through the tube room & mail room.

A story frequently heard talked about- is that Ed. Bernard & the fellows who hold the furnished lease at the Biltmore hotel were "Beer Runners" during the "prohibition days", between Mexico and the U.S.A. and that is how they got the money to buy the Biltmore hotel lease & also the U.S. Grant in San Diego.

I am told this bunch of fellows made-up a powerful syndicate in prohibition days & that they still control a lots of power here in So. Calif. & this syndicate is still very friendly with the Mexican government. Most of the members of the syndicate are said to be German Jew immigrants- including Ed. Bernard.

Recently, the Biltmore hotel has been hiring a lot of Jewish Displaced Persons. Ed. Bernard has been giving some of the top jobs to these German Jew immigrant D.P.'s.

Paul Engensperger, Jew D.P. was given the Controller's job at the Biltmore. Paul Engensperger, has fired many American workers and replaced them with Jew D.P.'s. His excuse has been the American worker do not know how to work. Paul E. (D.P.), says the Jew D.P.'s are better workers.

This Paul Engensperger, Jew D.P. has tried to pass as a Swiss, a non-Jew, he tells many fantastic tales about himself. All of which are not true.

A Jewess by the name of Schrieber- a clerk in the office of the Calif. State Employment located in the 500 blk. on Flower St. Los Angeles, was the one who placed this D.P. & Paul Engensperger in the Controller's job at the Biltmore- I understand through Ed. Bernard.

I am told- this Jewess Schrieber, clerk Calif. State Employment, knows a lot about this Paul Engensperger- she helped him and his sister to get into the U.S.A. via Canada & Alaska.

Jewess Schrieber is very mysterious about their entry into the U.S.A. however, there are other persons involved who are connected with clerk Jewess Schrieber.

Arent persons holding government jobs like clerk Schrieber "security risks"? Is this Jewess Schrieber & Ed. Bernard hooked up with a Red Spy Ring? Reds spawn in D.P. programs- Is Paul Engensperger a Red in disguise? Has Paul Engensperger brought into the U.S.A. illegally for a price?

CAL.

Yours,

M. MAXWALTERS

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
RECORDS SECTION

12-15, 1954

☐ Name Check Unit-Room 6523
☒ Attention Brown
☐ Service Unit-Room 6524
☐ Forward to File Review
☒ Return to Lee Ext. 2188
Supervisor
Room 1736

☒ All References
☐ Subversive References
☐ Main References Only
☐ Main Cal. References Only
☒ Restrict to Locality of Cal.
☐ Breakdown ☐ Buildup ☐ Variations
☒ Exact Name Only
☐ Exact Spelling
☐ Check for Alphabetical Loyalty Form

SUBJECT M. M. Waters
Address _____

Localities _____
Birthdate & Place _____
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/26/87 BY SP42 Jute-DK
R# _____ Date 12-15 Searcher Initial H.D.M.

FILE NUMBER	SERIAL
	<u>N. R. in Calif.</u>
	<u>62-0-25300, Okla.</u>
	<u>M. M. Mura.</u>
<u>NI</u>	<u>100-2-52-75</u>
	<u>100-22712-8</u>
	<u>Max 77.</u>
<u>NI</u>	<u>79-849 626 D.C.</u>
<u>NI</u>	<u>[REDACTED]</u>
	<u>Michael</u>
<u>NI</u>	<u>94-2-30253</u>

*collected
10-29 AM
12-15-54*

NUMEROUS REF

4-22a

SEARCH SLIP

Subj: M. M. Watson

Supervisor Lee Room 1736

Date 12-15 Searcher Initial H.D.M.

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

make

6267C

N1 [REDACTED]

N1 100-180626-18

Muddy

N1 64-29920

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
RECORDS SECTION

1954

☐ Name Check Unit-Room 6523
☐ Attention _____
☐ Service Unit-Room 6524
☐ Forward to File Review
☒ Return to Lee Ext. _____
Supervisor
Room 1736

☒ All References
☐ Subversive References
☐ Main References Only
☐ Main _____ References Only
☐ Restrict to Locality of _____
☒ Breakdown ☒ Buildup ☐ Variations
☐ Exact Name Only
☐ Exact Spelling
☐ Check for Alphabetical Locality Form

SUBJECT
Address

Localities

Birthdate & Place.

R#

Date _____

**Searcher
Initial**

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

FILE NUMBER SERIAL
NR last name

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/21/87 BY 3042

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
RECORDS SECTION

, 1954

☐ Name Check Unit-Room 6523
☐ Attention _____
☐ Service Unit-Room 6524
☐ Forward to File Review
☐ Return to _____ Ext. _____
 Supervisor
 Room _____

☐ All References
☐ Subversive References
☐ Main References Only
☐ Main _____ References Only
☐ Restrict to Locality of _____
☐ Breakdown ☐ Buildup ☐ Variations
☐ Exact Name Only
☐ Exact Spelling
☐ Check for Alphabetical Loyalty Form

SUBJECT _____
Address _____

Localities _____
Birthdate & Place _____

R# _____ Date _____ Searcher Initial _____

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

N/ [REDACTED] 62672

N/ Ed Abraham

[REDACTED]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/21/87 BY 3042 [signature]

called
12:15 PM
6:20 PM
2

gm RECORDED-68 SAC, Los Angeles (original and 1)

December 22, 1954

Director, FBI (101-9481) -1169

INDEXED-68

MORTON SOBELL, was
ESPIONAGE - R

EX-107

There is attached a copy of an undated letter postmarked Los Angeles, California, December 16, 1954, which was received at the Bureau. This letter was signed M. M. Waters and alleges that Morton Sobell and Ed Bernard, manager of the Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles, have corresponded and that Bernard entertained Sobell at that hotel.

A review of Bureau files fails to reflect any identifiable information concerning M. M. Waters, Ed Bernard or Paul Engenberger. This letter is not being acknowledged due to the lack of an address for the writer. Bureau files also fail to indicate that Sobell spent any time in Los Angeles or ever was a guest at the Biltmore Hotel.

This is furnished to you for your information.

Attachment

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/21/87 BY 3042 *fwc*

cc - 2 - New York (100-37458) (Attachment)

JPL:mc

(6)

NOTE:

The attached letter makes allegations that one Ed Bernard, manager of the Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles, entertained Sobell and corresponded with him. It also accuses Bernard of being an ex-conv runner. The writer goes on to accuse one Paul Engenberger, Controller of the above hotel of illegal entry into the United States and states one Miss Reinher of the California State Employment Office assisted in this illegal entry. No acknowledgment is being made as the writer furnished no address, and further, the complaint appears to be based on possible internal dissension in the management of the hotel. Copy of letter furnished to *Waters*

Ingram _____
Bourne _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

COMM - FBI
5 JAN 3 1955
MAILED 31

1-396

Waters
Waters
DEC 23 1954

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (101-2483)

DATE: 12/22/54

FROM : SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (65-4228)

SUBJECT: MORTON SOBELL, was.
ESPIONAGE - RALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/21/87 BY 3042 fwt-DSC

ReBulet dated November 24, 1954.

MORTON SOBELL was interviewed on this date by SA FRED R. ELLEDGE. At the outset of the interview, SOBELL was reminded that the agent had previously advised him that certain items would be released to him under authorization of the AUSA, New York City. A list of these items, together with authorization to deliver the same to Attorney BENJAMIN BREYFUS, 57 Post Street, was presented to SOBELL for his signature. SOBELL, after viewing the document, readily signed the same. He inquired as to why these items had been released to him piecemeal. He was advised the agent could not answer this inquiry since the return of these items had been at the instructions of the AUSA in New York. The agent did advise SOBELL that it was his understanding that the items contained in this list were all of the items to be returned to him. SOBELL apparently misunderstood this statement and immediately advised that there were other items taken from him such as the vaccination certificates which the Bureau had admitted taking from him. He was advised that that was true, that specific inquiry had been made concerning the vaccination certificates, and it was ascertained that they were received from him, but the U. S. Attorney had instructed that they not be returned to him. SOBELL also remarked that of all the prior items returned to him, only the airlines ticket was of any value and wondered if the agent realized that. The agent replied that, irrespective of this, these items had previously been taken from him, and accordingly were to be returned to him.

The agent then remarked to SOBELL that he expected to see his name in the paper again because of instant visit. SOBELL professed ignorance of the significance of the agent's statement, and inquired as to what was meant. The agent reminded him that articles had appeared in the press concerning previous visits, which articles had not been truthful and had not been in accordance with the prior expressions made by SOBELL. He was then reminded that, upon the occasion of the last visit to him by the agent, that the parting words of SOBELL were that he enjoyed the visit, and in elaborating on this statement, had remarked that it was agreeable to have a person dressed in a suit treat him with respect and not as a keeper. SOBELL immediately tried to explain

FRE:lq
REGISTERED

RECORDED-125

INDEXED-125

2 CC. NEW YORK (100-37158) (REGISTERED)

1 CC. LOS ANGELES (INFO)

16 DEC 1954

COPIES DESTROYED

11 0 MAR 13 1961

PERS. FILE

Let to Royce
cc Longshore
1 - 3-55
JPL:REH
(6)

Memorandum
cc Longshore
cc Brown
12-22-54
JPL:REH
(5)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (101-2483)
FROM: SAC, SF (65-4228)
RE: MORTON SOBELL, was.
ESPIONAGE - R

this statement by saying that, apparently the agent had misunderstood his civility, and remarked that he tried to be very civil to everyone. He was reminded that there was no misunderstanding, that the agent had merely assumed that he had intended the usual everyday meaning of his statement, "that he had enjoyed the visit."

SOBELL inquired if the article in the paper had annoyed the agent. He was advised that the agent was annoyed only to the extent that the article was not truthful, and was in direct contradiction to the expressed sentiments and relationships that had existed between the agent and SOBELL during the prior three visits.

SOBELL then stated that the agent had the advantage of him in that he had not seen the articles appearing in the paper. The agent inquired if he, SOBELL, would be interested in what was said. SOBELL said he would not be interested in the agent's interpretation of what was said. At this point, the agent produced a copy of the "Daily People's World" for November 15, 1954 and read from this newspaper the headline, "SOBELL REVEALS HARASSMENT IN ALCATRAZ BY FBI AGENTS." SOBELL was reminded that this was not the agent's interpretation of what had appeared, but, as he could see for himself, was the actual statement. He was further advised that there was no hidden meaning or no double meaning or innuendo in these words. They appeared in cold print. It is to be noted that SOBELL observed that this article appeared in the "Daily People's World" and this fact seemed to cause him some embarrassment.

At this point, SOBELL stated that such an article as had appeared in the newspaper could obviously not have been released by him to the press. The agent readily agreed with this and pointed out that that had been the agent's feeling in the matter, and that this again was an example of how he was being "used" by certain people.

The agent then advised SOBELL that he was unique among all the prisoners at Alcatraz. He said he could not understand this remark inasmuch as he had a number the same as any of them. He was advised that this being true, he still occupied a unique position among the inmates of Alcatraz, in that to the writer's knowledge, none of the other inmates could improve their position by talking, that JOHN PAUL CHASE and CARL CLOSE could talk from

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (101-2483)
FROM: SAC, SF (65-4228)
RE: MORTON SOBELL, was.
ESPIONAGE - R

now to eternity and could not better their position in any manner. SOBELL remarked with surprise that, why, of all the inmates, had the agent picked those housed on either side of him, and he was advised that these two were named for the very fact that they were housed on either side of him and that they were representatives of any other inmate in the institution, with the exception of himself. He was reminded that he had yet to say word one in explanation of his association with the ROSENBERGS. It was emphasized that this did not mean perjuring himself as had been alleged in the newspaper article, but merely the statement of facts. He was further reminded that he had stated that he had not talked during his trial in New York because of being advised against this by his attorney, and that he felt that this was a mistake. He was reminded that he had used this for his excuse at having not talked at the trial. The agent was not aware of what he had used as an excuse for not having talked since that time. The agent further stated that SOBELL must have some reason for standing mute, but that if any other inmate in Alcatraz were in the position that he is in, they certainly would not hesitate. He was reminded again that the agent had repeatedly told him that there was nothing that he, the agent, could do, and the decision in this matter was entirely up to SOBELL, and SOBELL stated that he realized that this was so.

SOBELL next launched into a tirade against, "Your Mr. BENNETT." The agent interrupted him immediately to explain that he was not, "the agent's Mr. BENNETT," that as had previously been explained to him, the Director of Prisons and the FBI were two separate entities. He stated that was so, but they were both of the Department of Justice, and then added that BENNETT had stated in a press release that he, SOBELL, had been sentenced to prison for conspiracy to divulge atomic secrets. The agent immediately reminded SOBELL that he knew that he had not been convicted on the basis of a newspaper release given by Mr. BENNETT, but upon the testimony heard in court in his trial.

As is usual when a topic raised by SOBELL is answered, he drops the subject and sits by. He did so at this point.

The agent advised SOBELL that he, the agent, in all dealings with SOBELL, had been scrupulously honest and truthful in his actions and statements toward SOBELL. It had been the agent's understanding that SOBELL had likewise been honest about the matter, however, in view of the newspaper article, which was

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (101-2483)
FROM: SAC, SF (65-4228)
RE: MORTON SOBELL, was.
ESPIONAGE - R

in direct contradiction to SOBELL's expressed sentiments in this regard, the agent was now doubtful as to SOBELL's real attitude. SOBELL was further told that the agent had not made statements to SOBELL merely because he felt they were the statements that SOBELL might like to hear, but the statements had been truthfully made for his guidance and help. It had been the last thought of the agent to harass SOBELL in any way. The agent felt that SOBELL had plenty of problems and he, the agent, did not wish to add to them by harassing him. The agent again pointed out that he was surprised of the charge of harassment inasmuch as in the previous meetings, SOBELL had never, by any word, deed or action, indicated that this was so. The agent stated that he had looked forward to having future talks with SOBELL, but in view of the apparent misunderstanding and feeling on the part of SOBELL that this would be the agent's concluding visit, SOBELL was advised that should he at any time in the future have any matter that he wished to discuss with the agent in confidence, that he could advise the warden of his desire to meet with the agent. The agent further stated that it was the hope of the agent that SOBELL would take those steps that would assure the coming year of being a happy new year for SOBELL. At the conclusion of this remark, SOBELL and the agent shook hands; the agent wished SOBELL luck, and he returned the greeting to the agent. It is noted throughout the interview that the conversation engaged in appeared to have a terrific impact on SOBELL, particularly wherein the agent stated that it was the last desire he had to add to SOBELL's troubles and to cause him any harassment. Throughout the interview, various periods of silence occurred, at which time it was obvious that SOBELL was deeply in thought relative to the problems that had been raised and discussed, and with the thought that this might be the agent's last visit. His supercilious and cocky attitude, which was apparent at the inception of the interview, soon changed to one of dejection and uncertainty.

At the conclusion of this interview, the interviewing agent discussed the SOBELL matter on an extremely confidential basis with certain prison officials who advised that on the basis of the recent visits between SOBELL and his wife, it appeared to them that there was a growing friction between SOBELL and his wife as to the wisdom and effectiveness of the present program being pursued in his case. SOBELL expressed utter dejection and

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (101-2483)
FROM: SAC, SF (65-4228)
RE: MORTON SOBELL, was.
ESPIONAGE - R

despondency over the effectiveness of the present program and whether such methods would ever benefit him. This attitude lends further credence to the opinion previously expressed by this office that the interviews with SOBELL have deeply disturbed him, as well as Mrs. SOBELL, and was undoubtedly the principal reason for her letter directed to the Bureau attempting to stop further interviews. These prison officials expressed the further thought that the militant attitude of SOBELL's wife may be the deterrent factor in his furnishing information. They expressed the thought that SOBELL might be willing, insofar as he is concerned, to tell everything he knows but is deterred from doing so for fear of alienating his wife's affections. As in the past in recent visits with SOBELL and his wife, SOBELL has demonstrated that sex is uppermost in his mind.

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. William P. Rogers (orig. & 1)
Deputy Attorney General

January 3, 1955

TICKLERS: Messrs. Boardman
Belmont
Brannigan

RECORDED-125
Director, FBI
101-2483-1170

MORTON SOBELL, with aliases
ESPIONAGE - R

DECLASSIFIED BY 3042 jmt

ON 4/21/87

In my memorandum to the Attorney General dated November 24, 1954, information was furnished concerning interviews of Morton Sobell and the resultant publicity in the Communist press.

For your information, Sobell was reinterviewed on December 22, 1954, but he did not divulge any information about his espionage activities. During the interview, a discussion was had of an article which appeared in the "People's World," west coast Communist newspaper, for November 15, 1954, captioned "Sobell Reveals Harassment in Alcatraz by FBI Agents," which dealt with the prior interviews of Sobell. The statement was made by Sobell that he could not have given the story and he had not seen it. When the article was displayed to him, Sobell appeared embarrassed by the fact this article appeared in the "People's World." He then started a tirade against "Your Mr. Bennett" and when informed that the Federal Bureau of Prisons and the Federal Bureau of Investigation are two separate entities, he remarked that they are both in the Department of Justice. Sobell then complained of a press release by James V. Bennett, Director, Federal Bureau of Prisons, which stated Sobell was convicted of conspiracy to reveal atomic secrets. He was reminded that he was convicted on testimony heard in court and not on Mr. Bennett's press release.

The Bureau has been confidentially advised there appears to be a growing friction between Sobell and his wife as to the wisdom and effectiveness of the program being followed in his case. The Bureau also has been advised that the militant attitude of Mrs. Sobell may be a factor deterring Sobell from furnishing information as he does not wish to alienate her affections.

The above is furnished to you for your information.

son
ardman
chole
lmont
rbo
hr
rsons
sen
nm
oo
terrowd
le. Room
lloman
ndy

101-2483

CC: 1 - Assistant Attorney General
William F. Tompkins

JPL:em

(8)

3 JAN 11 1955

CONFIDENTIAL

RECEIVED
JAN 3 3 56 PM '55

COMM - FBI
JAN 4 1955
MAILED 28

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : L. V. BOARDMAN

DATE: Dec. 29, 1954

FROM : A. H. BELMONT

SUBJECT: MORTON SOBELL, was
ESPIONAGE - RALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/21/87 BY 3042 *just Dk*

Tolson	_____
Boardman	_____
Nichols	_____
Belmont	_____
Harbo	_____
Mohr	_____
Parsons	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Sizoo	_____
Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

After the execution of the Rosenbergs and completion of Sobell's appeals, the Field was authorized to approach Sobell to "feel him out" about revealing espionage activities. The ostensible purpose was to discuss disposition of certain items of personal property taken from Sobell at his arrest. Sobell was interviewed on August 27 and September 1 and 16, by an agent of the San Francisco office and discussed his property and made no objection to further talks. By letter to the Director dated November 1, 1954, Sobell's wife complained of these interviews but due to her Communist background no acknowledgement was made. Her letter was published in the Communist Press along with articles complaining of FBI harassment of Sobell.

San Francisco was instructed to recontact Sobell to continue discussion of his property and by attached letter San Francisco reports the reinterview of Sobell on December 22, 1954, at which time he signed authorization to deliver the balance of his property to his attorney. The agent discussed with Sobell the article in the "People's World," west coast Communist newspaper, about his prior visits. In response to Sobell's inquiry the agent informed him the article was annoying in that it was untruthful. Sobell said he had not seen the article and the agent produced a copy of the "People's World" for 11-15-54 and read the headline "Sobell Reveals Harassment in Alcatraz by FBI Agents." Sobell appeared somewhat embarrassed by the fact that this article appeared in the "People's World." Sobell said he obviously could not have given this story and it was pointed out to Sobell this was an example of how he was being "used." Sobell was reminded that he (Sobell) was the only one who could help himself and in that he was unique among Alcatraz inmates. Sobell started a tirade against "Your Mr. Bennett" and when reminded the Bureau of Prisons and the FBI are two separate entities, he replied that they were both in the Department of Justice. Sobell complained of a press release by James Bennett, Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, stating Sobell was convicted of conspiracy to reveal atomic secrets. Sobell was reminded he was convicted on testimony heard in court and not on Bennett's press release.

Attachment *per 1-3-55*

101-2483

RECORDED - 47
EX - 117

101-2483-1171

CC: Mr. Boardman, Mr. Belmont, Mr. Brantigan, Mr. Lee

JPL:mp
(4)309
JAN 11 1955

EST SEC

PERS. FILES

The agent informed Sobell he was surprised at the charge of harassment as Sobell had not indicated this to the agent and in view of this misunderstanding and the feelings of Sobell, no further contact would be made but if Sobell wanted to see the agent he should notify the warden. This conversation appeared to have an impact on Sobell and his attitude changed from a cocky one to uncertainty and dejection. Prison officials advised on an extremely confidential basis that it seems there is a growing friction between Sobell and his wife as to the present program being followed in his case and Sobell has expressed despondency over the effectiveness of this program. Prison officials opine that the militant attitude of Mrs. Sobell is a factor deterring him from talking as he does not want to alienate her affections. They advised that in recent visits Sobell has demonstrated that sex is uppermost in his mind.

Since the facts of prior interviews of Sobell were furnished to the Attorney General, it is felt the Department should be advised of the results of the interview of Sobell on December 22, 1954.

ACTION:

There is attached for your approval a letter to Deputy Attorney General Rogers advising of Sobell's interview.

JH
1-3

V.

MR

✓

Jm

1/1/55
JH

TRANSLATION FROM ITALIAN

THE DRAMATIC APPEAL OF MORTON SOBELL'S WIFE

I SHALL DEDICATE MY LIFE TO FIGHTING FOR MY HUSBAND'S FREEDOM

SOBELL is languishing in an American prison because he refuses to lie—
"My husband is innocent"—The vengeance of the agents of the FBI

The readers will remember the name of MORTON SOBELL among the names of those who were defined as minor personages in the ROSENBERG case. As the result of Judge KAUFMANN's verdict, he was sentenced to 30 years imprisonment, because he did not want to give false testimony against the ROSENBERGS. The article that we are publishing was written by MORTON's wife.

Just a few days ago the light of the Alcatraz lighthouse was before my eyes. From whatever point I looked at it, from the whole of the Bay of San Francisco, I couldn't keep from thinking about those 300 men who suffer the living death of Alcatraz. How can I think that those men, old and young, the hundred colored men who are there, deserve the destiny which has been decreed for them? How can I think so, when I know that my husband, MORTON SOBELL, was sent there because he refused to betray himself, because he did not wish to confess to a sin that does not exist, because he didn't want to render false testimony against others?

When I saw MORTON the last time, there was also another lady visitor. It doesn't happen often, because only ten persons a month are admitted to visit the men of Alcatraz. I saw her cross the boat, then take the bus at the top of the hill; the same heavy gate finally closed with a metallic sound behind us. She lifted the receiver of her telephone while I lifted mine and, just as I, she put her face against the little window of thick glass at her place.

MORTON and I had many things to tell one another during that precious hour and a half, surrounded all around by the vigilant looks of the guards. Afterwards we pressed our fingers together across the glass, kissed the air that separated us and took leave of one another.

No Compromises (?)

I went aboard the boat again and suddenly someone said next to me: "Come sit with me, HELEN." Every nerve in my body became tense

TRANSLATED BY:
D. PRATOLA:bhc
January 7, 1955

INDEXED-74

61-2483-1172

File
101-2483

EX 117

64 JAN 17 1955

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/24/87 BY 3042 Jut/LHC
for release

and I thought of all the times that I was addressed in this way, arrogantly, by agents of the FBI. It was, instead, the woman visitor.

"How do you know my name?" I asked. She hesitated and then: "I read it on the register." The boat had drawn up to the wharf, and we started off together up the hill. I said: "I think that I shall have to take leave of you. I have so many things to do." She put a hand on my arm and said: "My brother told me to tell you that your husband is the man most highly thought of in Alcatraz."

By the first Christmas after MORTON had entered Alcatraz, I had already begun to doubt the legend that surrounds that prison. This legend says that the men who are in there do not permit differences of treatment among themselves, that they are beyond any help and any hope. In other prisons the inmates can buy food to supplement and vary the usual. In some way or other they can feel themselves in contact with the outside world. Small as it is, they have some liberty of choice. There, one year follows another in an endless monotony and one cannot even buy a lump of sugar. At Christmas every prisoner receives an allotment of a bag of somewhat bitter sugar: the year's ration.

In 1952, when MORTON was still a new^{comer}, he also received his bag; but it was stolen from him. By chance, he happened to mention the theft while he was at table. One of his companions immediately insisted that it be given back to him. They didn't want him to think that he was in bad company.

So, are they really beyond redemption of any kind? Who has decided their fate, and on what bases?

For me, brighter than that Alcatraz lighthouse, there shines the light of my husband's courage. In these days when the prudent man takes action of a compromising nature and half sells his ideals in order to be able to buy bread, MORTON does not compromise. In these days when the timorous man barter his thought in the black market in order not to be bothered, MORTON speaks out loud and strong in order to be heard by all.

When the envoys of corruption, the agents of the FBI, went to MORTON a few weeks ago, they flattered him and they threatened him: "You can't help the ROSENBERGS now, nor hurt them." It was his 5th year of imprisonment and they showed that they were concerned about his well being: he should think of himself now, he had sacrificed enough. And MORTON wrote to me: "How can even a man who is alone speak with this kind of people? I don't know. Perhaps my convictions are in no way exceptional, but I cannot discard them in this manner."

The light that is radiated upon our country from MORTON's cell in Alcatraz is a firm, bright light. And in answer lights have been turned on and are being turned on throughout our country and throughout the world. One of these lights is that one in writing, which someone traced in tar on the wharf opposite the prison, which says; "Free MORTON SOBELL." MORTON is speaking and that written light says that the world is beginning to listen to that voice.

F. B. I. Threats

I took my son MARK to a Los Angeles barber to have his hair cut. MARK sat in the baby chair, which is shaped like an automobile, and asked; "How does one make it go? Where are the headlights? And why don't the back wheels move?" The barber remarked; "You certainly ask a lot of questions. And where is your daddy? What does he do? Does he ask lots of questions too?" MARK answered in an evasive manner; "You know, I don't live here. I live in New York." They spoke some more on something else and again the barber asked; "Where is your father? What does he do?" And MARK answered, with his judgment of a five-year-old baby; "Let's not talk about that now, it's too complicated."

It is too complicated. It is too complicated not only for a five-year-old baby, but for everybody. And yet the truth is simple; it takes only a minute to tell it; it takes a minute to understand it. My husband is innocent. And his days are slipping away in Alcatraz, one by one.

If necessary, I will pass the next 30 years of my life fighting for his freedom, to get him back. I shall fight every minute of every hour because I love ^{him} and because I cannot resign myself to living in a world where truth, tenderness and generosity will destroy a man.

If you will help us, we shall be able to save at least a few days out of our youth, a few years of our lives.

HELEN SOBELL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

P. Lee
Belmont

Assistant Attorney General (orig. and 1)
William F. Tompkins

January 12, 1955

Director, FBI

MORTON SOBELL, with aliases
ESPIONAGE - R

There is attached a photostat of an article which appeared in the January 5, 1955, issue of the "Daily Worker," East Coast Communist newspaper.

It is noted this article sets forth two letters dated January 3, 1955, which Mrs. Helen Sobell, wife of the subject, stated she received from James V. Bennett, Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

These letters allegedly were received in response to Mrs. Sobell's letters to the President of the United States and to Mr. Bennett requesting the transfer of her husband from Alcatraz prison.

This is furnished to you for your information.

Attachment (1)

101-2483-1173

JPL:mg
(5)

DECLASSIFIED BY 3042 *put-DTC*
ON 4/21/87

ENCLOSURE 3

RECORDED - 3

101-2483-117

COMM-FBI
JAN 13 1955
MAILED 20

EX-12

JAN 18 1955

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Parsons _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tamm _____
Mr. Sizoo _____
Mr. Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Miss Gandy _____

CONFIDENTIAL

JAN 18 1955
REC'D BELMONT

REC'D - 101-2483-117

JAN 13 1955

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/21/87 BY 3042 jmt-ffc

White House Answers Mrs. Sobell

Helen Sobell, whose husband, Morton Sobell, is imprisoned in Alcatraz, said yesterday she had received acknowledgement of a plea for her husband's transfer which she made to President Eisenhower.

Prison Director James V. Bennett, writing Mrs. Sobell that "the President has asked me to acknowledge receipt of your letter," said that "we are giving considerable thought" to the question of Morton Sobell's transfer from Alcatraz. In another letter, Bennett assured Mrs. Sobell that her husband would be protected.

Mrs. Sobell had written President Eisenhower on Dec. 26 that her husband's life was "in immediate danger" as a result of the sending to Alcatraz of Alexander Pavlovich, who was convicted of assaulting Robert Thompson, Sixth Act prisoner. She stated that Sobell, who maintains his innocence of the "conspiracy to commit espionage" charge, on which he was sentenced to 30 years in the Rosenberg-Sobell trial, does not belong in any prison, let alone Alcatraz, which is supposed to be used only for prison troublemakers.

BENNETT'S LETTER

Mrs. Sobell yesterday received the following letter from Bennett, dated Jan. 4:

My dear Mrs. Sobell:
The President has asked me to acknowledge receipt of your letter of Dec. 26, 1954, which has been forwarded to this office for appropriate handling.



BENNETT

...spondence we have had, the question of your husband's transfer is one to which we are giving considerable thought and we are therefore glad to have your further views. Very truly yours, J. Bennett, director.

Another letter dated the same day which Bennett wrote to Mrs. Sobell in answer to an appeal she had made to him was as follows:

This is to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of Dec. 26, 1954, expressing your appreciation of your husband's well-being in Alcatraz.

"You may be sure we will do everything possible to protect him and will keep in mind your request that he be transferred elsewhere. Sincerely yours, James V. Bennett, director."

Mrs. Sobell said yesterday in a reply to Bennett that she appreciated the consideration of her request and was heartened to learn that her husband's transfer might be forthcoming, but continues to feel great anxiety each moment her husband remains in Alcatraz. She hoped the transfer would be soon, so that her two children, who are to visit their father in Alcatraz for the first time, might see him under conditions more favorable than those in the grim prison. At Alcatraz, they will be able to see their father only through a bullet-proof pane of glass, and will be able to talk to him only through telephones.

This is a clipping from page 2 of the

- () Daily Worker
- () The Worker
- () New Leader

Date 1-6-55
Clipped at the Seat of Government.

Letter to A.A.A. Thompson
cc - Belmont
COPIES DESTROYED
11 0 MAR 13 1961
1/12/55
546:mg

ENCLOSURE

101-2483-1173

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (101-2483)

FROM : SAC, New York (100-37158)

DATE: 1/18/55

SUBJECT: MORTON SOBELL, was.
ESPIONAGE - R

In view of the fact that no further interviews are contemplated with SOBELL at this time, this case is being placed in a P* status in the New York Office.

The Bureau will be advised of any pertinent information coming to the attention of the NYO concerning subject or his wife, HELEN SOBELL.

URS, MORTON SOBELL

RM
RAM:mfs.
(3)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/21/87 BY 3042 *put. d/c*

RECORDED - 77

INDEXED - 77

EX - 109

101-2483-117
10 JAN 19 1955

RSE SEC

64 JAN 25 1955
152

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : L. V. Boardman

DATE: January 20, 1955

FROM : A. H. Belmont

SUBJECT: MORTON SOBELL, with aliases
ESPIONAGE - RALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 4/21/87 BY 3042

Tolson	_____
Boardman	_____
Nichols	_____
Belmont	_____
Harbo	_____
Mohr	_____
Parsons	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Nease	_____
Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

Morton Sobell was convicted with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg of conspiracy to commit espionage. The Rosenbergs were executed June 19, 1953, and Sobell is now serving a 30-year sentence in Alcatraz Prison and his transfer from that prison is the present main objective of the Communist-dominated National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case (NCSJRC).

By attached letter, Mrs. F. G. Merson advises she has received a flyer with a statement that the Bureau has been trying to get Sobell to change his testimony. In this regard, she also praises the "dignity and fine spirit" exhibited by Sobell and the Rosenbergs, stating it has "meant a great deal to many of us." She also comments on the Rosenberg case, stating that the Bureau has made a "profound mis-step" and that it would be gratifying if the "FBI" would voluntarily correct itself on that and on a large number of other cases in which it is violating both the letter and the spirit of our U. S. Constitution."

Bufiles reflect Mrs. Merson corresponded with the Bureau by letter dated 1-23-53 regarding the Rosenberg case, indicating she was opposed to the death sentence and calling on the FBI to throw "its weight into the idea that the Rosenbergs should be sentenced to prison and not to death..." This letter was acknowledged and she was informed that sentencing was a judicial function. Bufiles further reflect that during 1953 and 1954 she contributed to the NCSJRC and was one of the signers of the Brief Amici Curiae filed with the U. S. Supreme Court in the instant case on January 28, 1954. She is the subject of a closed Security Matter - X investigation arising from correspondence she had with the American Association of University Women in 1954. In some of this correspondence she wrote on the reverse side of mimeographed letters received from the NCSJRC. She is a retired professor of Keuka College, Keuka Park, New York. A laudatory statement regarding Russia and peace written by her also appeared in a book entitled "We Pledge Peace," which book was published by the American-Russian Institute, San Francisco, California.

Attachment

101-2483

CC: 100-410920 (Frankie G. Merson)

Ticklers - Mr. Boardman, Mr. Belmont, Mr. Lee

JPL:ss

FEB 2 1955

RECORDED-11

JAN 26 1955

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 100-410920-1

101-2483-1175

FILE

ACTION:

In view of Mrs. Merson's activities on behalf of the NCSJRC, this letter is not being acknowledged.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Boardman	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Sizoo	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (65-4228)

2/1/55

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

DIRECTOR, FBI (101-2483)

AIRTEL

MORTON SOBELL, WAS. ESP-R. SF EXAMINER FOR 1/27/55 CARRIED ARTICLE CAPTIONED "SPIES' YOUNG SON REFUSED ALCATRAZ TRIP TO VISIT DAD." ARTICLE STATED THAT ALCATRAZ AUTHORITIES DECLINED PERMISSION FOR 5 1/2 YEAR OLD MARK SOBELL TO VISIT HIS FATHER, MORTON SOBELL, FOR FEAR OF THE IMPACT OF THE PRESS ON A JUVENILE MIND. PREVIOUS WARDEN EDWIN B. SWOPE ~~WAS~~ GAVE PERMISSION FOR THE TRIP, BUT PERMISSION WAS ABRUPTLY REVOKED AS MRS. SOBELL AND THE BOY WAITED FOR THE BOAT TO TAKE THEM TO ALCATRAZ. PRISON OFFICIALS HAVE ADVISED THAT ABOVE REVOCATION WAS FROM ORDERS OF JAMES V. BENNETT, DIRECTOR OF PRISONS. THESE OFFICIALS ALSO ADVISED THAT MRS. SOBELL HAS FILED ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE WHY HER CHILD CANNOT VISIT SOBELL IN USDC, SF, CALIF. BUREAU WILL BE KEPT ADVISED.

Mr. Belmont

WHELAN

FRE:GJA
(6)

cc: New York (100-37158)
Los Angeles

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/21/87 BY 3042

RECORDED - 87

101-2483-1177

FEB 3 1955

EX-121

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

Per _____

50 FEB 10 1955

1 FEB 10 1955

AIR POUCH
PRIORITY

UNCLASSIFIED
(Security Classification)

DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SPACE

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

7615211 Sobell,
Morton / 1-2755

FROM : American Embassy, Paris

1549
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON

27 January 1955
DATE

REF :

27	ACTION	DEPT.	RECEIVED FROM
For Dept.	S/AE-8	001P-2	FEB 10 1955
Use Only	REC'D 1-31	OTHER	STATE DEPT ARR

G.I.R. 3

SUBJECT: Report on Telegr. from Mrs. Sobell to Humanité

Br...

The Attention of the Office of the Secretary (S/AE) is called to the following telegram which appeared in Humanité for December 27, 1954, which that paper claims to have received direct from New York.

10-1

py

BEGIN TRANSLATION

Morton Sobell, Condemned with the Rosenbergs, in Danger of Death

The life of my husband, co-accused with the Rosenbergs, is directly menaced by the transfer to Alcatraz Prison of Pavlovitch.

Not a case

Pavlovitch is a war criminal, a former partner of the chief Yugoslav fascist, Mihailovitch. It is he who attacked in prison the Communist prisoner Thompson. Help me to obtain without delay the release of Sobell from Alcatraz. It is a question of greatest urgency.

g

MORTON
Signed: Mrs. Sobell
1050 - 6th Av.
New York N.Y.

*ok to release
10-9-75*

END TRANSLATION

There appears to have been no follow up to this message at least in the press.

INDEXED - 32

101-2483-1178

NOT RECORDED

13 FEB 11 1955

EX-107

Howard A. Robinson
Special Assistant to the Ambassador

Th...

HARobinson:vk
REPORTER

UNCLASSIFIED

SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY
S/AE

FEB 2 1955

51 FEB 16 1955

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Boardman	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Sizoo	_____
Mr. Winterrowd	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

February 8, 1955

TO : Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE:

W.F.T.
FROM : William F. Tompkins, Assistant Attorney General,
Internal Security Division

SUBJECT: ALEXANDER PAVLOVICH and
MORTON SOBELL

I am forwarding herewith for your information a copy of a letter to the President from Mrs. Muriel Brodshatzer dated January 12, 1955, concerning the above-captioned subjects.

A copy of this letter has been forwarded to Mr. James V. Bennett, Director, Bureau of Prisons, and its receipt has been acknowledged by this Division.

Enclosure No. 76096

RECORDED-41

INDEXED-41

101-2483-1179
27 FEB 9 1955

PROC.

FEB 9 1955

INT