

**INCLOSURE**

**Nº 76096**

**FROM**

**Department of Justice**

January 12th, 1955

President Dwight Eisenhower  
White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear President Eisenhower:

I have recently learned that Alexander Pavlovich has been placed in Alcatraz Prison. In view of his attempt to kill Robert Thompson, I think it is "inviting" another such occurrence to put him in the same prison as Morton Sobell. Not only does this place an extra burden on the prison authorities, who, knowing of Pavlovich's past, would naturally want to avoid any violence, but it will affect how we are thought of throughout the world. If our prisons have been set up to reduce crime, then that should be our first responsibility.

Since there seems to be no reason why Morton Sobell should be in a prison which was set for prison troublemakers and those who have committed violent acts, I urge you to remove him to another institution. Let us prevent anything from occurring which in the long run we can only be sorry for.

May I please hear from you on this.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Miriel Brodshatzer  
(Mrs.) Miriel Brodshatzer  
152 Hawthorne Circle  
Pullman, Washington

101-2483-1177

**ENCLOSURE**

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
RECORDS SECTION

2-18-1954

☐ Name Check Unit-Room 6523☐ Attention \_\_\_\_\_☐ Service Unit-Room 6524☐ Forward to File Review☐ Return to Lee Ext. \_\_\_\_\_Supervisor 1736  
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 &amp; Place

R#

Date

Searcher

Initial

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/21/87 BY 3042 Jut 12

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

tickler: Mr. Lee  
Mr. Belmont

Assistant Attorney General  
RECORDED - 4 Tompkins

(original and one)

February 11, 1955

Director, FBI

MORTON SOBELL, with aliases  
ESPIONAGE - R

Reference is made to your memorandum dated February 8, 1955, which enclosed a copy of a letter addressed to President Eisenhower by Mrs. Mariel Brodshatzer, 152 Hawthorne Circle, Pullman, Washington, urging that Morton Sobell be removed from the United States Penitentiary at Alcatraz.

A review of our files fails to reflect any information which is identifiable with Mrs. Brodshatzer.

The foregoing is for your information.

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

101-2483

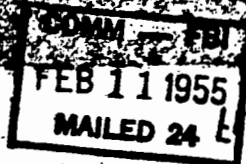
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4/21/87

NOTE: Sobell was convicted with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg of conspiracy to commit espionage and is now serving a 30-year term at Alcatraz. The National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg case is conducting a campaign to have Sobell transferred from that prison. Alexander Pavlovich is a prisoner who, while incarcerated in the Federal House of Detention, New York City, assaulted and injured Robert Thompson, convicted Communist Party functionary. Pavlovich was recently transferred to Alcatraz.



Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

55 FEB 17 1955

EBT - JUSTICE  
REC'D RE-ADM

F-429

FEB 14 1955

From Post-Hall Syndicate, Inc.  
342 Madison Avenue, New York 17, N.Y.  
FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT

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INSIDE LABOR

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DATE 4/21/87 BY 3042 put - [initials]

By Victor Riesel

Explanation, please!

Morton Sobell

Prize winning nuclear scientist, Dr. Harold C. Urey, has just written that "The greatest danger to this country is a powerful revolutionary country, namely the U.S.S.R..."

Yet, in the same message, soon to be made public, this atomic expert speaks out for some convicted spies and a perjurer, Alger Hiss, who helped make the Soviet Union "the greatest danger" to this country.

The atomic spies slipped to Russian intelligence the blueprint for the atomic trigger, the sky platform and the famed proximity fuse. Alger Hiss delivered the inner secrets of our diplomacy.

Yet, Prof. Urey, writing in the forthcoming edition of the "Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists" asks: "What is it that Alger Hiss...did that profoundly or even moderately put the U.S. in a less favorable position?...How much damage have all the arrested and convicted agents actually done to the political and military position of the U.S.?"

Would it be too emotional to suggest that the answers come from the mothers of GIs dead in Korea, or the slave camps of the barbed-wire world in which scientists such as Dr. Urey freeze and starve to death because they disagree with The Regime?

In the same message from Dr. Urey, we see that he says that the "...way we handled the Rosenberg (atomic spy -- VR) trial..." makes him "feel less secure for myself and my family."

We respect Dr. Urey's right to express himself so freely in words which would be howled down in the market place were they not written by one whose profession is viewed with awe by so many of us. But we do not respect his judgment in reflecting on men who are as skilled in their field as he is in his -- namely the jurists of the U.S. Supreme Court, 1955, upheld the convictions of Hiss and the spies.

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

INDEXED-35

NOT RECORDED

FEB 21 1955

55 MAR 2 1955

2/17/55

We do not respect his taking the platform offered last week by a subsidiary of a pro-Communist agency devoted to a fight for the release of an Alcatraz prisoner by the name of Morton Sobell, a man who stole secrets from our nation for the benefit of what Dr. Urey himself describes as our greatest menace.

But most important is the unscientific approach to all this by scientist Harold Urey. He agreed to accept a testimonial dinner on Feb. 12, from something called the Chicago Sobell Committee, 20 West Jackson Boulevard, Room 1301, Chicago 4, Ill. Phone: Webster 9-5992.

Why did not Prof. Urey use his research skill, so effective in the laboratory, to learn that this committee is a subsidiary of the National Committee To Secure Justice For Morton Sobell -- which is successor to a similar committee in behalf of the convicted and executed atomic spies?

These committees were set up to smear the reputation of our land across the world. They use the same techniques, down even to the same exploitation of spies' innocent children who are dragged across the land for the sake of propaganda.

Did not Dr. Urey know that some of those who signed the imitation parchment paper scrolls given him by the subsidiary of the "National Rosenberg-Sobell Committee" (headquarters 1050 Sixth Ave., New York 18, N.Y. Phone Lo-4-9585) are now bitter over being deceived into sponsoring what turned out to be a rally for a convicted spy and not merely a testimonial dinner?

We have spoken to one who signed such a scroll thinking he was adding his name merely to a list of persons honoring scientist Urey. This signer is the fighter for human rights, A. Philip Randolph, head of the AFL's Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

Mr. Randolph is "greatly disturbed" over the emphasis on the spies at the dinner to Urey. Mr. Randolph points out that he received an innocuous letter asking him to join in hailing Urey as a scholar.

-MORE-



At the time Randolph signed he did not know the names of the others.

"I signed a tribute to Dr. Urey as a distinguished scientist and scholar. I signed in good faith," Randolph told us.

"If any group then attempts to use my name and the name of my union for ulterior purposes -- and especially pro-Communist purposes -- they are doing something reprehensible. My union and I have been in the forefront of the fight against Communists and we deplore the fact that my sincere salute to a scholar is being unscrupulously and falsely twisted into an insinuation that we perhaps support this."

Surely now Dr. Urey will use his great talents as a scientist to investigate and expose all this.

Or will he?

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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (101-2483)

DATE: 3/15/55

FROM : SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (65-4228)

SUBJECT: *WRT* *0*  
MORTON SOBELL, was.  
ESPIONAGE - RALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE *4/21/87* BY *3042 put-DHC**ra*  
Re San Francisco let 12/23/54, and San Francisco  
airtel 2/1/55.There has been no indication that SOBELL is  
desirous of contacting an Agent of the FBI, or has been  
subsequent to the interview of December 23, 1954, as set  
forth in referenced letter.It is the recommendation of the San Francisco  
Office that no further attempts to interview SOBELL be  
made at this time.*clip*  
With respect to the Order to Show Cause filed by  
Mrs. SOBELL in an effort to obtain permission for her son  
MARK to visit subject, the "San Francisco Examiner" for  
February 1, 1955, on page 22, column 1, carried an  
article reflecting that the Federal District Court had  
denied Mrs. SOBELL's petition.Contact will be maintained with Alcatraz Prison  
officials, and should there be any indication of change  
of attitude on the part of SOBELL, indicating further  
interviews might be profitable, the Bureau will be so  
advised. *C*

RUC.

## REGISTERED

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

FRE:efw  
(4)

RECORDED - 2

101-2483-1181

MAR 21 1955

INDEXED - 25

*1-d*  
66 MAR 25 1955

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

T. AHBelmont  
JPLee

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

April 1, 1955

Director, FBI

MORTON SOBELL, with aliases  
ESPIONAGE - R

There are attached Photostats of two letters dated March 1 and March 11, 1955, and a leaflet, all of which were issued by the New York Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell. The letter of March 1, 1955, sets forth the projected program of this Committee and the steps it plans to take in order to free the subject. These steps include legal activity in order to attempt to secure a new trial, an appeal for a Congressional investigation and appeals to the public at large.

The letter of March 11, 1955, has a leaflet attached which attempts to attack the veracity of Max Elitcher who appeared as a Government witness in the Rosenberg-Sobell trial. The leaflet quotes from Elitcher's trial testimony in which he stated he went over his testimony with Roy Cohn, then Assistant United States Attorney, Southern District of New York. The leaflet then uses the allegation of Harvey Matusow that Cohn coached Matusow on his testimony and from these statements attempts to infer that Elitcher lied in his testimony. The leaflet also quotes from Elitcher's testimony an admission that he had lied under oath. You will recall this was in connection with a statement Elitcher made on a Personnel Affidavit filed while he was an employee of the United States Navy that he was not a member of the Communist Party.

The above is furnished to you for your information.

Attachments (2)

101-2483

cc: Mr. James V. Bennett (Attachment 2)

cc: Director, Bureau of Prisons

cc: 101-2115 (Max Elitcher)

cc: 100-387835 (National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case)

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101-2483-1142

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DATE 3-26-87 BY 3042 RUT/c/s  
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COMM - FBI

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Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
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57 APR 6 1955

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 100-387835-101-2115



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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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2

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

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101-2483-1183

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**CONFIDENTIAL**  
**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

**NEW YORK**

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>APR 27 1955</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>4/13/55</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>RICHARD A. MINIHAN lrb</b>
TITLE <b>MORTON SOBELL, was</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>ESPIONAGE - R</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:** MORTON SOBELL was interviewed at Alcatraz, Penitentiary on 8/27/54, 9/1/54, 9/16/54, 12/23/54. SOBELL protested his imprisonment in Alcatraz and stated he was kidnapped by Mexican Police and deprived of the right of an attorney in Texas. He stated FBI agent in Texas committed perjury by stating under oath that he received information concerning five separate contacts between SOBELL and JULIUS ROSENBERG; stated MAX ELITCHER and DAVID GREENGLASS committed perjury at his trial. A letter dated 11/1/54 was received at FBI, Washington, D.C. signed by one Mrs. MORTON SOBELL protesting visits to her husband by FBI agents at Alcatraz and requested that no further visits be conducted. A copy of this letter appeared in the "Daily Worker" dated 11/15/54. Mrs. HENRIETTA PERL, wife of WILLIAM PERL, advised that after a visit and talk with her husband at United States Penitentiary Terre Haute, Indiana, she is convinced of his innocence of any espionage activities.

DECLASSIFIED BY 3042 Post-DTC  
ON 4/21/87 - C -

AGENCY RAB  
FILED 5-4-55  
FBI R/S  
BY JPL

**DETAILS:**

MORTON SOBELL was interviewed at the United States Penitentiary, Alcatraz, California, on August 27, 1954, September 1, 1954, September 16, 1954 and December 23, 1954 by SA FRED R. ELLEDGE. The results of these interviews are being set forth hereinafter under the dates the interviews were conducted.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:  SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	ENCLOSURE DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES  <b>101-2483-1184</b> <b>RECORDED - 80</b> <b>INDEXED - 80</b> <b>APR 29 1955</b> <b>3-5-55</b>
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NY 100-37158

August 27, 1954

At the outset of the interview SA FRED R. ELLEDGE exhibited his credentials to SOBELL and advised SOBELL that certain items of personal property taken from him at the time of his arrest had now been released by the court and upon authorization of the United States Attorney at New York, he was being contacted to determine what disposition he wished made of these articles.

SOBELL stated that he desired these items to be surrendered to his attorney, one BENJAMIN DREYFUS, 57 Post Street, San Francisco, California. SOBELL stated that contained in these items was the return portion of an airline ticket for his daughter SIDNEY SOBELL and that he was desirous of obtaining this. He indicated that attempts had been made to obtain a refund on this ticket from the airlines but that such refund was not possible until surrender of the ticket. He was advised that this ticket was one of the items that the United States Attorney had authorized to be returned to him. Mex NY

SOBELL stated that he had been arrested by the Mexican Police and was subsequently kidnapped and transported by them to the Mexican border. He stated that he was convinced in his own mind that the Mexican Police were not acting on their own. He stated that his removal from Mexico without consultation with Immigration and Naturalization Service authorities and the refusal of the Mexican Police to allow him to contact the American Embassy in Mexico City were indicative to him that the FBI had arranged the whole thing.

SOBELL complained of his arraignment before the United States Commissioner at Laredo, Texas. He stated that the United States Commissioner, rather than referring him to an attorney to discuss his legal rights, had advised him that to sign a waiver of removal would relinquish no rights on his part, except the matter of removal and the necessity of extradition. He stated that he had not been afforded a hearing upon his return to New York and stated that upon the misrepresentation of the United States Commissioner at Laredo, Texas he had been deprived of his legal rights.

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SOBELL stated that there were other items of personal property that had <sup>not</sup> been mentioned, including the vaccination certificate issued to him in Mexico for himself, his wife, and his daughter SIDNEY. With regard to these items he stated there were three possibilities, (1) that the FBI had these items and would say nothing, (2) that they would admit that they had these items and return them or (3) that the United States Attorney had not consented to their return. He was advised that the interviewing agent had no present knowledge concerning these vaccination certificates, however, an inquiry would be made concerning the same.

SOBELL stated that he felt that his confinement in prison had helped him in a large measure to overcome his former reticence and association with people and had developed in him an ability to mix with other people. He commented that it had been his observation that he had more intimate contact with more people while confined in prison than a person would normally have on the outside.

SOBELL expressed regret over the fact that he and the interviewing agent were on opposite sides and had to meet under such circumstances. When questioned as to what he meant by being on opposite sides SOBELL replied "Well, you are on the outside, and I am on the inside."

September 1, 1954

At the outset of the interview SA ELLEDGE advised SOBELL that he had made inquiry concerning the vaccination certificates and had been advised that the United States Attorney, Southern District of New York, had advised that these certificates could not be released to SOBELL at this time.

NY 100-37158

SOBELL stated that had he not associated with the ROSENBERGS he would not have been included in their trial for disclosing Atomic secrets. SOBELL stated that the FBI agent at Laredo, Texas had committed perjury in that he had stated under oath that he had received information concerning five separate contacts between SOBELL and JULIUS ROSENBERG and that this agent had never testified as to these five contacts. It was pointed out to SOBELL that the agent had stated under oath that he had received information concerning the purported visits and that no one could say that the agent had committed perjury since information had been received concerning more than five contacts between SOBELL and ROSENBERG.

SOBELL stated that with respect to the trial that 99 per cent of the information furnished by MAX ELITCHER was true, however, it was amazing how the other one per cent could be twisted around to give a false impression. He also stated that DAVID GREENGLASS had committed perjury during the course of the trial.

SOBELL stated that he did not deny the conspiracy charge at the trial because of the advice of his attorney. He said that he now felt that this was a mistake.

SOBELL was advised that upon receipt of the item of personal property, previously discussed with him, from New York or upon receipt of information regarding the opinion of the United States Attorney regarding the disposition of other items of personal property, he would be recontacted. He was advised that if in the meantime for any reason he desired to contact the agent he should make his desire known to the warden.

September 16, 1954

On September 16, 1954 SA ELLEDGE advised SOBELL that certain items of property, previously discussed with him, had now been received from New York; however, the United States Attorney had requested that written authorization be obtained from SOBELL directing the delivery



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of these items to SOBELL's attorney, BENJAMIN DREYFUS. Accordingly a written document to this affect was presented to SOBELL for his signature. The specific items to be delivered to DREYFUS were described as "Items of personal property". SOBELL 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. SOBELL 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 DREYFUS.

SOBELL stated that he was amused by the formality required for the return of the above items as contrasted with the manner in which the same items were taken from him at the time of his arrest. The interviewing agent remarked that while he 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 SOBELL had declined to sign same. SOBELL stated that the only receipt offered to him was for the funds taken from his person at the time of his arrest.

SA ELLEDGE 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 same. SOBELL stated that if the records of the FBI reflect 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."

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SOBELL was advised that upon receipt of advice from the United States Attorney, New York, as to the release of other property the agent would recontact him.

December 23, 1954

At the outset of the interview SA ELLEDGE reminded SOBELL that he had previously advised him that certain items would be released to SOBELL under authorization of the United States Attorney, New York City. A list of these items, together with authorization to deliver them to Attorney BENJAMIN DREYFUS was presented to SOBELL for his signature. SOBELL, after viewing the document, readily signed the same.

SOBELL again inquired about the vaccination certificates and was advised that the United States Attorney had instructed that they not be returned to him. SOBELL stated that of all the items returned to him, only the airlines ticket was of any value.

SA ELLEDGE advised SOBELL that articles had appeared in the press concerning previous visits, which articles had not been truthful. SOBELL inquired if the article in the paper had annoyed the agent and was advised, the agent was only annoyed to the extent that the article was not truthful. SOBELL stated the agent had the advantage in that he had seen the article appearing in the paper. The agent inquired if he, SOBELL, would be interested in what was said. SOBELL said that he would not be interested in the agent's interpretation of what was said. At this point SA ELLEDGE 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. SOBELL stated that such an article as had appeared in the newspaper could not have obviously been released by him to the press.

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SA ELLEDGE advised SOBELL that this would be his concluding visit and that should SOBELL 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 and meet with the agent.

The following letter dated November 1, 1954 and signed by Mrs. MORTON SOBELL was received at the FBI, Washington, D.C. *ELIF*

"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 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

NY 100-37158

"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 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.

NY 100-3758

"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 ~~life~~ 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,

"/s/ Mrs. Morton Sobell"

The "Daily Worker" dated November 15, 1954 carried an article on page 8, captioned "SOBELL DEFIES THREAT BY FBI, REFUSES TO LIE".

This article states that the wife of imprisoned scientist, MORTON SOBELL, disclosed yesterday that FBI agents had visited SOBELL in Alcatraz and implied he would receive leniency if he would say he is guilty and JULIUS and ETHEL ROSENBERG were guilty.

The article continued that Mrs. SOBELL stated that she had written a demand to J. EDGAR HOOVER, that FBI agents stop harassing her husband.

A copy of the aforementioned letter signed "Mrs. MORTON SOBELL" was set forth under the caption: "MRS. SOBELL'S LETTER OF PROTEST TO THE FBI."



NY 100-37158

*Mrs.* On November 24, 1954 Mrs. HENRIETTA PERL, wife of WILLIAM PERL, was telephonically contacted at the residence of her brother-in-law, HENRY LEITMAN, at Spring Valley, New York by SA JOHN A. HARRINGTON.

Mrs. PERL stated that she had recently visited with her husband WILLIAM PERL at Terre Haute Penitentiary and that she is firmly convinced that her husband is not guilty of any espionage activity. She stated she did not care to comment on any of her conversation with her husband other than to say he is innocent of any espionage activities.

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

DAVID GREENGLASS, after entering a plea of guilty to the charge of conspiracy to commit espionage in behalf of the Soviet Union, was sentenced on April 6, 1951 to 15 years imprisonment. GREENGLASS is currently serving his sentence at United States Penitentiary, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania.

On June 5, 1953 WILLIAM PERL was sentenced to five years imprisonment after being found guilty in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York of two counts of perjury in that he denied before a Federal Grand Jury that he was acquainted with JULIUS ROSENBERG and MORTON SOBELL. PERL is currently serving his sentence at United States Penitentiary, Terre Haute, Indiana.

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It is to be noted that MAX ELITCHER testified as a Government witness in the trial of JULIUS and ETHEL ROSENBERG and MORTON SOBELL in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York.

The "Daily People's World" is a West Coast Communist daily newspaper.

The "Daily Worker" is an East Coast Communist daily newspaper.

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ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

REFERENCE: San Francisco letters to the Bureau,  
8/31/54, 9/2/54, 9/17/54 and 12/23/54.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
RECORDS SECTION

5-6, 1955

☐ Name Check Unit-Room 6523  
☐ Attention \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Service Unit-Room 6524  
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☒ Return to See Ext. \_\_\_\_\_  
Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_  
Room 1736

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

SUBJECT  
Address

*Morton Labell*

Localities

Birthdate & Place

Classified by 3042 JWC  
Declassify on: OADR  
R# 42187 Date 5-6 Searcher Initial 480  
FILE NUMBER SERIAL

ncr 101-2483  
101-2483-7-357-575  
(Photo) b1  
65-60802-310 (Photo)  
~~101-2483-10878 Summary~~  
10/17/53; 962 Summary  
3/31/51  
I 65-62524-1 Summary 3/4/54  
100-357247-34 Summary 1/16/54  
I 100-3-74-18-322 Summary 1/16/54

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Subj: Morton Sobell  
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✓	71-155083-12
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✓	61-10448-507p.251
✓	121-40456-9
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✓	61-3615-176p.29
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✓	100-381013-9
	65-61685-398, 2nd p. 591
✓	100-372128-5

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## SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Morton SobellSupervisor Lee Room 1736R# \_\_\_\_\_ Date 5/6 Searcher Initial dasFILE NUMBER SECRET SERIAL65-59242-17 encl. p. 1A, 20.24, 47, 5865-59312-68 118L 61-7582-A Wash. Post  
10-30-5365-59611-4p. 3, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 1765-61685-356101-2115-207 encl. p. 3, 28, 31I 62-93845-8101-2115-82I 100-369735-14101-1632-31I 65-60731-160p. 86, 87, 88, 89L 100-401231-565-59312-110I 100-406478-3100-367116-243 encl. p. 10 &101-248353

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## SEARCH SLIP

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## SEARCH SLIP

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## SEARCH SLIP

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<u>1</u>	<del>100-388827-6</del>
<u>1</u>	<del>100-370867-4</del>
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I	<del>116-3092-248</del>
I	<del>65-57447-644</del>
I	<del>121-15528-23</del>
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## SEARCH SLIP

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	<del>100-387835-322 p.4</del>	
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I	<del>65-59356-23</del>
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	<del>65-58236-1165</del>
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Supervisor Lee Room 1735

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	<del>65-58236-A</del>	NY Jern 8/24/50
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	<del>65-59356-21</del>	
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	<del>65-58236-A</del>	Wash. Star 3/11/51
	<del>65-59242-244</del>	

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Supervisor Lee Room 1136

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Supervisor Lee Room 1736

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I	<del>100-54899-58</del>
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	<del>65-60803-234</del>
	<del>101-2483-447</del>
	<del>100-357297-34-55</del>
	<del>100-355506-18</del>
	<del>65-58236-826-5637024</del>
	<del>101-2115-93 D3, 4, 7, 10,</del>
	<del>11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18</del>
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	<del>29, 36, 49, 56, 57, 58,</del>
	<del>60, 61, 62</del>
	<del>65-59313-187712</del>
I	<del>131-77371-2</del>
	<del>65-59828-361</del>

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4-22a

SEARCH SLIP

Subj: M. J. Schell  
Supervisor Lee Room 1736  
R# \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Searcher Initial SP

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2 100-440471-11  
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65-59334-54, 44, 65,  
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63, 64  
65-58336 A-Workcity  
Howd, des. 10/10/60  
1 44-1379-433, 271  
61 [REDACTED] (S)  
65-58336-1038 p 1, 35,  
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SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Martin, Robert

Supervisor Lee Room 1736

R#          Date          Searcher Initial 1710

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	<u>514-568-532</u>
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I	<u>100-4724-8925</u>
	<u>65-59312-390X-350</u>
	<u>167-447</u>
	<u>100-367116-118</u>
I	<u>100-179467-39</u>
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	<u>100-359334-4p7</u>
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I	<u>65-62743-1</u>
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	<u>65-59356-44</u>

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4-22a

SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Martin, John

Supervisor Lee Room 1736

R# \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Searcher Initial hpr

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SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Morton, Abell

Supervisor Lee

Room 1736

R#

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I	<del>54-1349-867</del>
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4-22a

SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Martin Schell

Supervisor Lee Room 1736

R# \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Searcher Initial hpa

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I	<del>101-119049</del>	
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4-22a

SEARCH SLIP

Subj:

*Matory Shell*

Supervisor

*Lee*

Room

*1736*

R#

Date

Searcher

Initial

*SP*

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NUMEROUS REFERENCE

4-22a

SEARCH SLIP

Subj: M. J. Arrell

Supervisor Lee Room 1736

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SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Motley, Arbell

Supervisor Lee Room 1736

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SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Mortimer Sobell  
 Supervisor Lee Room 1736  
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~~Adm 2/1/53~~  
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SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Morty Shell

Supervisor Lee Room 1736

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SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Morton, Shell

Supervisor Lee Room 1736

R# \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Searcher Initial SP

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Subj: Motomphell

Supervisor Lee Room 1736

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 I ~~100-397379-260110~~  
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Subj: Morton, ArthurSupervisor Lee Room 1736R#            Date 5/6 Searcher Initial SPR

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## SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Mortimer SobellSupervisor LeeRoom 1736

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SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Motley Bull

Supervisor Lee Room 1736

R# \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Searcher Initial gmu

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~~100-383358-16~~

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SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Martin Bell

Supervisor Lee Room 1736

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## SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Martinez ShellSupervisor LeeRoom 1736

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## SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Martin SchellSupervisor LeeRoom 1736

R#

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SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Martin Bell

Supervisor Lee Room 1736

R#          Date          Searcher Initial gwr

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## SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Montroy ShellSupervisor LeeRoom 1736

R#

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4-22a

SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Martin, Bill

Supervisor Lee Room 1236

R#          Date          Searcher Initial         

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4-22a

## SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Morty Sobell  
Supervisor Lee Room 1736  
R# \_\_\_\_\_ Date 5/6 Searcher Initial Das

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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: Director, FBI (101-2483)  
 FROM: SAC, New York (100-37158)  
 SUBJECT: MORTON SOBELL, was  
 ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: APR 27 1955

Enclosed herewith are six copies of report of SA RICHARD A. MINIHAN, APR 27 1955, at New York.

In view of the fact that the interviews with the subject have been completed and he has failed to indicate to the warden any desire to further talk to an agent, this case is being placed in a closed status.

It is to be noted that the last interview took place 12/23/54 and at that time SOBELL was advised if he desired to talk to an agent he should so advise the warden.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 4/21/87 BY 3042 *fwl-BK*

RECORDED - 80

101-2483-1184  
 12 APR 29 1955

Encls 6

RM

RAM:LRB

67 MAY 18 1955

memo ny. 5/6/55

memo Lee to Brannigan  
 5/11/55  
 JPL:mg



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : W. A. Branigan *gals*

TOP SECRET

DATE: May 11, 1955

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

FROM : J. P. Lee *gals*SUBJECT: MORTON SOBELL, was.  
ESPIONAGE - RClassified by 3042 *put-DK*  
Declassify on: OADR

4/21/87

*Summary*  
 Morton Sobell was born NYC, 4/11/12. He graduated from the College of the City of New York in 1938 with a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering Degree; later obtained Master's Degree at the University of Michigan in 1942. He was employed by the Bureau of Ordnance, U. S. Navy, Washington, D. C., 1939-41; General Electric, Schenectady, NY, June, 1942, to June, 1947; and, Reeves Instrument Company, NYC, from 1947 to 1950. Sobell married Helen Levitov in 1945 and has two children, one belonging to his wife by her first marriage.

On 6/16/50, the date of the arrest of David Greenglass, a member of the Rosenberg espionage network, Sobell failed to report for work and on 6/22/50 he, with his family, left the U.S. for Mexico by airplane. He lived in various places in Mexico under aliases and on 8/16/50 was arrested by the Mexican Federal Security Police. He was deported from Mexico and arrested by the FBI agents at Laredo, Texas. He was tried with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg for conspiracy to commit espionage and was convicted. On April 5, 1951, he was sentenced to 30 years in prison and is now serving his term at U. S. penitentiary, Alcatraz, California.

Sobell was interviewed at the time of his arrest and refused to cooperate. He was interviewed on four occasions in August, September and December, 1954, ostensibly to determine his wishes regarding the disposition of certain property taken from him at his arrest and also to "feel him out" about revealing his espionage activities. He did not reveal anything, but it is felt if he should decide to change his mind, he knows he can contact the FBI. Helen Sobell, his wife, is a paid employee of the National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case, a pro-Communist organization which has been very active in attempting to obtain a new trial for Sobell and to have him transferred from Alcatraz.

101-2483

Enclosure

cc - Mr. Branigan  
Mr. Lee

JPL:mg

(3)

63 MAY 18 1955

TOP SECRET

INDEXED-61

RECORDED-61

Classified by 2342

Exempt from GDS, Category 2

Date of Declassification Indefinite

TOP SECRET

MAY 12 1955

ESP/SEC

~~TOP SECRET~~

All logical leads have been covered. All "See" references have been reviewed. Dissemination has been made to RAB and certain reports dealing with Sobell's connection with "Project Thumper" were disseminated to OSI, G-2 and RAB. Summary memoranda were disseminated to all interested agencies at the time of Sobell's arrest.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended the attached report of SA Richard A. Minihan, made at NY, April 27, 1955, placing the instant case in a closed status, be accepted subject to being reopened in the event further investigation is conducted and pertinent information received.

WABrr

~~TOP SECRET~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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

AIR TEL

Transmit the following Teletype message to: BUREAU (REGISTERED MAIL)  
NEW YORK (REGISTERED MAIL)

FBI, PH 5/10/55 DAYLET

COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE FOR MORTON SOBELL IN THE ROSENBERG CASE, IS - C.

[redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised SA WILLIAM F. MC LAUGHLIN on 5/9/55, that JOHN WEXLEY, author and Security Index subject of the Phila. Office, was the main speaker at a dinner held in his honor by the Phila. Chapter of captioned organization on 5/6/55 at Chin's Restaurant, 1008 Race St., Phila. [redacted] reported that WEXLEY spoke mainly on his forthcoming book, "The Judgement of ETHEL and JULIUS ROSENBERG" and the research he had done in preparation for this book. He said that HARRY GOLD was the main Government witness responsible for the conviction of the ROSENBERGS and MORTON SOBELL. He described GOLD as a psychopath and a liar. WEXLEY said that one-half of the proceeds from the sale of his forthcoming book, which will be out on 6/19/55, will go for the defense of MORTON SOBELL and the other half to the publishers of the book. He stated that money collected at the dinner, which according to the [redacted] amounted to approximately \$600, would be used to pay for copies of the forthcoming book which will be sent to a number of prominent persons, including Judge KAUFMAN, who presided at the trial, and J. EDGAR HOOVER.

MC CASE

CEC/tgm  
190-37667  
(3BU, LNY, 3PH)

cc: [redacted]  
100-38290 Sub A-1 Library

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/22/86 BY 3042

RECORDED - 87

Mr. Belmont

MAY 11 1955

MAY 15 11 31 AM '55

MAY 16 10 41 AM '55

FBI - PHOENIX  
REC'D PHOENIX

Approved: [Signature] Special Agent in Charge

COMMUNICATIONS

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M

Per [Signature]

*Handwritten notes and signatures:*  
b2 b7C  
Tompkins  
5-17-55  
100-38290-1186  
UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 100-38290-1186

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Nichols  
Belmont  
Mr. Lee

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

May 17, 1955

Director, FBI

MORTON SOBELL, with aliases  
ESPIONAGE - R

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7/25/86 BY 3042 Jut/AB

RECORDED 101-2483-1186

Information has been received that John Wexley, author, was a main speaker at a dinner of the Philadelphia chapter of the National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case. This dinner was held May 8, 1955, at Chin's Restaurant, 1008 Race Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Wexley discussed his forthcoming book "The Judgment of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg" and the research he had done in preparation for the book. Wexley alleged Harry Gold was the main Government witness responsible for the convictions of the Rosenbergs and Morton Sobell. He described Gold as a psychopath and liar.

Wexley stated one-half of the proceeds of the forthcoming book, which will be published June 19, 1955, will go for the defense of Morton Sobell and the other half to the publishers of the book. He further promised the money collected at the dinner would be used to pay for copies of the book which would be sent to a number of prominent persons, including Judge Irving Kaufman, trial judge at the Rosenberg trial, and J. Edgar Hoover. The money collected at the dinner amounted to approximately \$600.

For your information, this book is being published by Cameron and Kahn, which firm published "False Witness," written by Harvey M. Matson.

Wexley is a screen writer by profession who reportedly belonged to the Los Angeles County Communist Party in the 1940's. Complete information concerning Wexley has been furnished to you in the past in the case captioned "John Wexley, with aliases, Security Matter - C."

The above is furnished to you for your information.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
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Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

101-2483

JPL:em  
(8)

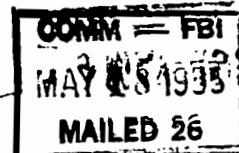
CC- 100-387835 (Nat'l Committee to Secure Justice in  
the Rosenberg Case)  
65-58236 (Julius Rosenberg)

SEE PAGE 2 FOR NOTE

CONFIDENTIAL

67 MAY 26 1955

WAB/MB id 7/15



**NOTE:** The NYO has obtained from a printing firm the first 429 pages of the captioned book which have been forwarded to the Bureau and are being reviewed. The remaining pages will be forwarded by the NYO as they are rec'd. The book will total 627 pages.

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL 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.

\_\_\_\_\_ 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):

*Disposition handled in Rosenberg*  
*US - 58236 - 2212*

☐ For your information: \_\_\_\_\_

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

*101-2483 NK 6-20-55*

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XXXXXXFEDERAL 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.

\_\_\_\_\_ 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).

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

Disposition handled in Rosenberg  
WJ-58236-2213

☐ For your information: \_\_\_\_\_

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

101-2483 - MC 6-23-55

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Tickler-Mr. Lee

SAC, Miami (orig. & 1)

August 2, 1955

Director, FBI (101-2483)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/21/87 BY 3042 jwf/fjc - 1

**MORTON SOBELL, was.  
ESPIONAGE - R**

Re: Rep SA Leon O. Prier dated 6/30/55 at Miami in the case captioned [redacted] was., Security Matter - C, in which there is set forth a list of persons [redacted] knew in Washington, D. C., as members of the Communist Party in 1940. Included in this list are the names Morton Sobell and his wife, Esther. It is not known if [redacted] was referring to the subject of instant case, Morton Sobell, who was convicted of conspiracy to commit espionage along with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg in 1951. As you know, the Rosenbergs were executed in June, 1953, and Sobell is now serving a 30-year sentence at Alcatraz Penitentiary.

There is enclosed herewith a photograph of Morton Sobell which should be displayed to [redacted] during the next interview to ascertain if he is identical with the Morton Sobell named by her.

For your information, Sobell was born 4/11/17 in New York City and graduated from the College of the City of New York with a degree of Bachelor of Electrical Engineering in 1938. He was employed by the U. S. Navy in Washington, D. C., from February, 1939, until October 1, 1941, at which time he resigned to attend the University of Michigan. After completing work at that school, he became employed at General Electric Company, Schenectady, New York, and worked there from June, 1942, until June, 1947. He was employed at Reeves Instrument Company, New York City, from June, 1947, until June, 1950, when he fled the United States to Mexico. He was arrested by Mexican authorities 8/16/50 and deported to the U. S. He married Helen Leviton of Arlington, Virginia, in March, 1945. He was not previously married and has never had a wife named Esther. Helen Leviton was married to Casey Schwartz who was active in Communist work in Washington, D. C.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

The results of this interview should also be furnished to the NY office which is office of origin in instant case.

COMM - FBI

AUG 2 - 1955

MAILED 28

EX-121

RECEIVED - BOSTON

20 AUG 3 1955

60 AUG 9 1955

JPL:em (6)



DIRECTOR, FBI

8-24-55

SAC, PORTLAND (100-9004)

OREGON COMMITTEE TO SECURE  
JUSTICE FOR MORTON SOBELL  
IS-C

Re myairtel 8/11/55 concerning a meeting of the above  
committee on 8/8/55 at which YURI SUHL was the featured speaker.  
The information set out in referenced letter was provided by [redacted] b2 b7D

Information concerning the same meeting also was  
provided by [redacted] who has provided reliable in the past, by  
report received 8/12/55. For the information of the Bureau, in  
telling of the remarks made by SUHL, [redacted] said that he asserted  
that at the time of his arrest SOBELL was beaten for hours by  
Mexican authorities and later also beaten when he was picked up  
at the border by FBI Agents, since he would not cooperate with  
them. SUHL went on to say that SOBELL still has not cooperated  
with the FBI although agents have called on him three times and  
asked him "to talk".

REGISTERED  
WSB:bjr  
1 - New York (RM)

(4)

3/10/81  
Classified by SP3 CB/KP  
Reason - FCIM II, 1-2.42  
Date of Review 3/10/91

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

DECLASSIFIED BY 3042 jmt-DJC

ON

4/21/87

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101-2483-  
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133 SEP 12 1955

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1-Boardman  
1-Nichols

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THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

August 5, 1955

DIRECTOR, FBI

*MORTON SOBELL*

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE  
JUSTICE FOR MORTON SOBELL  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C  
INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950  
FBI FILE 100-387835

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

In connection with the activities of the captioned organization there is enclosed a Photostat of a release entitled "Statement By Mrs. Rose Sobell And Mrs. Morton Sobell" which was issued at a press conference of the captioned organization held on August 2, 1955, at the Congressional Hotel in Washington, D.C.

Accompanying this release was a document entitled "A Request To The Judiciary Committee Of The U. S. Senate To Investigate The Conduct Of The U. S. Attorney General's Office In The Rosenberg-Sobell Case" submitted by the above organization, a Photostat of which is also enclosed. With regard to this latter item reference is made to my memorandum of December 11, 1953, captioned "National Rosenberg-Sobell Committee, Internal Security - C," with which you were furnished a Photostat of an investigative brief which reportedly had been submitted to the Senate Judiciary Committee concerning this matter. It is noted that the enclosed document is similar to the brief previously furnished you by my memorandum of December 11, 1953.

Enclosures - 2

1cc - Mr. William P. Rogers  
Deputy Attorney General

(With Enclosures - 2)

1cc - Assistant Attorney General (With Enclosures - 2)  
William P. Tompkins

ON YELLOW: A review of the brief previously furnished the AG and the one presently being furnished to him reflects that while not exactly identical they are very similar in nature and cover the same major points. The brief issued by the captioned organization which is presently being furnished the AG merely brings this matter to a more current status.

Attachment memo to Boardman 8-4-55 captioned same as above

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
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Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

66 TABS 10 1955  
(12)

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149 AUG 12 1955

1 - 101-2483 (Sobell)

100-387835-001

RECEIVED AUG 10 1955

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*ATB*  
*DO*

*wct*

L. V. Boardman

A. M. Belmont

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

August 4, 1955

*usa*  
**NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE  
FOR MORTON SOBELL  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C;  
INTERNAL SECURITY ACT of 1950**  
*am 10-1*

On 8/2/55 the captioned organization held a press conference at which Rose and Helen Sobell, mother and wife of Sobell respectively, appeared and handed out a press release which announced that the attached "Request to the Judiciary Committee of the U. S. Senate to Investigate the Conduct of the U. S. Attorney General's Office in the Rosenberg-Sobell Case" had been presented to the Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Liberties by that organization.

It is noted that <sup>in</sup> December, 1953, Los Angeles submitted to the Bureau a copy of a document entitled the same as the attached document, prepared by the National Rosenberg-Sobell Committee, which reportedly was submitted to the Senate Judiciary Committee. The 1953 document was furnished to the Attorney General by letter 12/11/53 and was analyzed by memorandum from Mr. Branigan to Mr. Belmont 1/5/54.

Comparison of the two documents indicates the contents are substantially the same with minor additions and deletions to bring it up to date. The introduction is worded differently in the new brief and deletes previous references made to Sobell's appeal, which has been decided since preparation of the previous brief.

Both briefs are divided into 7 main topics which are exactly the same, although numbered differently. Several references to the Director and the FBI have been deleted. In a section dealing with alleged misrepresentation of facts through press releases, the 1953 brief stated pretrial publicity emanated from the offices of then Attorney General McGrath, FBI Director

100-387035

Enclosure

CC: 101-2403 (M. Sobell)

Mr. Boardman  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Branigan  
Mr. Thornton  
Mr. Lee

JPL:cm (8)

55 AUG 18 1955

101-24-83-  
NOT RECORDED  
176 AUG 10 1955

**MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BOARDMAN**

J. Edgar Hoover and U. S. Attorney, Southern District of New York. The attached document deletes the mention of the Director. The 1953 document had an allegation that FBI agents, on instructions from the Attorney General, were at the Sing Sing Prison deathhouse prior to the execution, arguing separately with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg trying to get one to confess by saying the other had confessed. The attached brief deletes that paragraph completely.

The portion dealing with Sobell's arrest in Mexico is enlarged and set forth as documentation are letters of the Mexican Immigration Service, dated September, 1950, indicating the arrest and deportation of Sobell had been carried out by the Secret Service Police of the Federal District without knowledge of the Mexican Immigration Service.

All the points raised in the attached brief are points which have been raised during appeals to the courts and appeals for clemency and all were turned down as not forming any basis for a new trial or for clemency.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the attached letter to the Attorney General transmitting a copy of this brief, with copies to Deputy Attorney Rogers and Assistant Attorney General Tompkins, be forwarded.

L. V. Boardman

Sept. 8, 1955

A. N. Belmont

**NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE  
JUSTICE FOR MORTON SOBELL  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C;  
INTERNAL SECURITY ACT of 1950**

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

During the course of a meeting of the above-captioned organization, Oregon branch, held 8/8/55, Yuri Suhl made the statement that at the time of his arrest, Morton Sobell was beaten for hours by Mexican authorities and was also beaten later by FBI agents since he would not cooperate with them.

The statement that Sobell was beaten by Mexican authorities is not a new one. At the time of his arrest in Mexico, he resisted and it was necessary for Mexican authorities to subdue him by hitting him on the head with a gun butt. While it was charged that collusion existed between the FBI and Mexican police at the time of Sobell's arrest, our files do not indicate that a previous statement was made that Sobell was beaten by the FBI. In a brief filed by the National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell with the Senate Judiciary Committee around January, 1954, a charge was made that Sobell's arrest in Mexico was accomplished through his being kidnapped and beaten up by Mexican authorities at the behest of the FBI. A copy of this brief was made available to the Department. Of course, Sobell was not beaten by FBI agents nor did the FBI suggest that he be mistreated by anyone.

It should be noted that Yuri Suhl has been active in the Sobell Committee as well as in the old Rosenberg Committee. Suhl is subject of Bufile 100-388935. He is a free-lance writer who was a member of the Communist Political Association in 1945. He is an IWO member and has been active in Jewish People's Fraternal Order. He refused to be interviewed by Bureau agents in 1953. No additional action is deemed necessary in this matter other than notifying the Department.

**ACTION:** There is attached for your approval a letter to Assistant Attorney General Tompkins, furnishing him with the substance of the allegations in this matter.

EBT:APL:cm

Enclosure

100-387835

CC: 101-2483 (Sobell)

SEP 16 1955

SEP 16 1955

SEP 16 1955

101-2483 - ✓

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44 SEP

1955

(6)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

cc - Mr. Thornton

Assistant Attorney General  
William F. Tompkins

September 8, 1955

Director, FBI

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE  
JUSTICE FOR MORTON SOBELL  
INTERNAL SECURITY - G  
INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950  
FBI File 100-387835

DECLASSIFIED BY 3042 Jmt-P/C

ON 4/21/87

Reference is made to my memorandum of August 17, 1955, in which you were advised that the Oregon affiliate of captioned organization held a meeting on August 8, 1955, at which the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation were strongly denounced.

For your additional information relative to this matter a source, who has furnished reliable data in the past, has advised that during the course of this meeting Yuri Suhl, concerning whom the Department has been previously advised, made statements to the effect that at the time of his arrest Morton Sobell was beaten for hours by Mexican authorities and was also beaten later when he was picked up at the border by FBI Agents, since he would not cooperate with them. Suhl continued that Sobell still has not cooperated with the FBI, although Agents have called on him three times and asked him "to talk."

With regard to the above it is noted that the captioned organization has made previous accusations that Sobell was beaten by Mexican authorities. In connection with Suhl's allegation that Sobell was also beaten by FBI Agents, this allegation is completely false and without any foundation.

Pertinent information which may be obtained relative to this matter will be promptly forwarded to you.

cc-Bufile 101-2483 (Morton Sobell)

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

WCT:pjn  
(5) *pjn*

See Cover Memo Belmont to Boardman  
dated 9/7/55, captioned as above,  
ERT:em.

101-2483  
YELLOW  
DUPLICATE  
SEP - 9 1955  
MAILED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ORIGINAL FILED IN 100-387835-1201

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (101-2483)  
 FROM SAC, San Francisco (65-4228)  
 SUBJECT: MORTON SOBELL, was  
 ESPIONAGE - R

DATE August 24, 1955

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 1-7-85 BY SP2 Tef/c  
 CR# 77 CIV 999 / 3042 put-DI  
 4/21/87

By letter dated August 17, 1955, Mr. MARSHALL PERLIN, of Donner, Kinoy and Perlin, Attorneys at Law, advised that he was one of the attorneys for MORTON SOBELL.

In this letter, Mr. PERLIN stated that he felt that it would be necessary, appropriate and advisable to arrange for a conference between representatives of the FBI and himself regarding the return of various items said to belong to Mr. SOBELL.

PERLIN stated that in addition to the items previously returned to SOBELL, "there are undoubtedly other items in your possession which may be the property of Mr. SOBELL and we should like to provide for their transfer to Mr. SOBELL or someone authorized to receive them in his behalf. At such a conference, we believe we should be able to itemize some of the personal property still held by you.

"We strongly suggest that such a conference be held in New York City. We suggest New York City rather than San Francisco, in that in addition to it being the place of the trial and the venue of the offense charged, it would avoid a considerable expenditure of time and money that would necessarily flow from a trip to San Francisco. We feel further that since our office is at present considering and preparing for various legal steps to be taken in Mr. SOBELL's behalf, it would be necessary for us to be present at such a conference. In view of the fact that you have an office in New York City, I imagine that such arrangements would be satisfactory to you and that no undue inconvenience would be caused."

For the information of the Bureau and the New York Office, items previously returned to BENJAMIN GREFUS, attorney for SOBELL, are those items enumerated in New York letter dated September 9, 1954.

Reference is made to San Francisco letter dated December 23, 1954, wherein SOBELL made inquiry of the interviewing Agent regarding the vaccination certificates which had been taken from him and his inquiry concerning the return of these certificates to him. These certificates are probably some of the items that PERLIN has in mind for return to SOBELL.

REGISTERED AM

RECEIVED  
 (2) 30 15 10 11

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

RECORDED - 35  
 INDEXED - 33  
 EX-118

101-2483-1188

AUG 25 1955

68 SEP 12 1955

FBI NEW YORK



TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (101-2483)  
FROM : SAC, San Francisco (65-4228)  
SUBJECT: MORTON SOBELL, was  
ESPIONAGE - R

August 24, 1955

By separate communication, PERLIN has been furnished the address of the New York Office and advised that a conference can probably be arranged by contacting the New York Office.



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : L. V. Boardman

DATE: August 31, 1955

FROM : A. H. Belmont

SUBJECT: MORTON SOBELL, was.  
ESPIONAGE - R

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 4/21/87 BY 3042 put/psc

Tolson	_____
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Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

*San Francisco*, by attached letter dated 8-24-55, advised that Marshall Perlin of the law firm of Donner, Kinoy and Perlin, by letter of 8-17-55, requested a conference be arranged with representatives of the FBI and himself regarding the return of various items of Sobell's property in the Bureau's possession. He requested the conference in New York City. San Francisco advised Perlin by letter of the address of the New York office and that a conference could possibly be arranged by contacting the New York office.

Acting Assistant SAC, T. J. McAndrews, New York office, telephonically advised on 8-31-55 that the New York office received a telephone call from Perlin who requested a conference with New York agents.

After the execution of the Rosenbergs and the completion of Sobell's appeals, the field was authorized to approach Sobell to "feel him out" about his espionage. The ostensible purpose was to discuss the disposition of certain items of personal property taken from Sobell at his arrest. Four interviews were conducted during August, September and December, 1954, and arrangements were made to turn this property over to Benjamin Dreyfus, San Francisco attorney. Prior to these interviews, the Bureau instructed that certain items indicative of Sobell's flight to Mexico and his lack of intent to return were not to be given to Sobell. The balance of the items were discussed with the US Attorney, Southern District of New York, who authorized which items could be returned and those items which should be retained due to the possibility of further legal action.

Arthur Kinoy of the firm of Donner, Kinoy and Perlman, 104 East 40th Street, New York City, filed a motion to vacate the sentences of the Rosenbergs on 6-18-53, which

Enclosure

JPL:em:ah:ms

(5)

Ticklers: LVBoardman

AHBelmont

WABranigan

JPLee

RECORDED - 64 101-2483-

17 SEP 7 1955

68 SEP 12 1955

**Memorandum for Mr. Boardman**

was the day before their execution. This motion was filed on behalf of Emanuel Bloch, attorney for the Rosenbergs. The motion was denied by District Judge Kaufman on 6-19-53 and Kinoy went to New Haven, Connecticut, to the home of Circuit Judge Jerome Frank to attempt to get this decision reversed, which Frank refused to do.

After checking with you, McAndrews was instructed to refer Perlin to the United States Attorney, Southern District of New York. McAndrews was also instructed to brief the US Attorney with regard to Perlin's request.

**ACTION:**

None. For your information.

JS.  
man

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (101-2483)

DATE: 8/29/55

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (65-14932)

SUBJECT: MORTON SOBELL, was  
ESPIONAGE-R

REFERENCE SAC letter 55-30, 4/12/55.

SUCCINCT RESUME OF CASE

MORTON SOBELL along with JULIUS and ETHEL ROSENBERG was convicted in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York, on 3/29/51 of conspiracy to commit espionage in behalf of the Soviet Union. On 4/5/51, JULIUS and ETHEL ROSENBERG were sentenced to death and MORTON SOBELL to thirty years imprisonment. On 6/19/51 JULIUS and ETHEL ROSENBERG were legally executed at Sing Sing Prison, Ossining, New York and MORTON SOBELL is currently serving his sentence at United States Penitentiary, Alcatraz, California.

MORTON SOBELL has refused to cooperate with US Government and discuss his espionage activities.

RECOMMENDATION

Subject falls within item 1, (D) of SAC letter 55-30, in view of aforementioned espionage conviction. **Retain on S.I.**

DETCOM TABBING

1. Subject is not tabbed for Detcom.
2. Subject has not been approved for Detcom under criteria of SAC letter 55-12, dated 2/10/55. No SI card has been received from Bureau bearing stamp "Detcom" in large red letters.
3. Not recommended as Detcom subject.

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

OCT 2 4 20 PM '55

REC'D ESPIONAGE

RECORDED - 4

17 OCT 3 1955

(RM)

RAM:vd

58 OCT 7 1955

ESP. SEC.

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (101-2483)  
 FROM : *C.W.* SAC, MIAMI (65-2390)  
 SUBJECT: MORTON SOBELL  
 ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: September 29, 1955

*101-2483-1187*  
 Rebutlet to Miami dated August 2, 1955.

On September 8, 1955

*b7c*  
 [redacted] advised SA LEON O. PRIOR that she did not know MORTON SOBELL and upon examining his photograph she said that she had never seen him or been in contact with him in Communist Party affairs in Washington, D. C.

*b7c*  
 After some reflection [redacted] recalled that the person named in her statement of May 31, 1955, as MORTON SOBELL was an error and she now remembers his correct name as MORTON STAVISS, wife ESTHER STAVISS. A separate letter is being prepared under the caption of [redacted] was. SM-C correcting this error in the report in which [redacted] statement of May 31, 1955, is set forth.

In the event this information is subsequently set forth in a report, [redacted] identity should be concealed by a T symbol.

RUC.

REGISTERED MAIL  
 LOP: mmb  
 (6)

- Declassified 2000*  
*4/21/87*  
*10/2/75*
- 1 - New York (Info) (RM)
  - 1 - Washington Field Office (Info) (RM)
  - 1 - MM (100-13164)

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

OCT 3 1955

OCT 3 1955

RECORDED-92

INDEXED-92

OCT 3 1955

Classified by *EX-107*  
 Exempt from GDS, Category  
 Date of Declassification Indefinite

OCT 14 1955

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TICKLERS: Belmont  
Lee

Mr. William P. Rogers (orig and one)  
Deputy Attorney General

October 22, 1955

Director, FBI

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE  
JUSTICE FOR MORTON SOBELL  
INTERNAL SECURITY - R  
INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950

There is attached one Photostat each of articles which appeared in the "Daily Worker," east coast Communist newspaper, for October 3, and 4, 1955. These articles deal with a rally held by the above-captioned organization at Carnegie Hall, New York City, on Thursday, September 29, 1955, at which rally speeches were made by United States Senator William Langer and novelist Yulio Frank.

This is furnished to you for your information.

Enclosures (2)  
100-387835

cc - 1 - Assistant Attorney General (Enclosures 2)  
William F. Tompkins

cc - 1 - 101-2483 (Sobell)

JPL:mp  
(67)

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

2 ENCL.  
filed with original

101-2483 - ✓  
NOT RECORDED  
44 OCT 19 55

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

YELLOW  
DUPLICATE  
OCT 14 1955  
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OCT 24 1955

CONFIDENTIAL

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 100-387835

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
LIAISON OFFICE OTTAWA CANADA

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

BRB/1742

9. Transmit the following ~~Teletype~~ <sup>AIRTEL</sup> message to:

DIRECTOR, FBI  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

MORTON SOBELL, ESPIONAGE - R. THE RESEARCH SECTION OF THE SPECIAL BRANCH, RCMP, IS PRESENTLY ANALYZING THE BACKGROUND AND ACTIVITIES OF A SELECTED GROUP OF SOVIET ESPIONAGE AGENTS. ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER HARVISON HAS INDICATED THAT ONE OF THOSE HE WOULD LIKE TO INCLUDE IN THIS GROUP IS MORTON SOBELL. THERE ARE NO INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS RELATIVE TO THIS SUBJECT IN THE POSSESSION OF THE RCMP OR THIS OFFICE AND IT WOULD, THEREFORE, BE HELPFUL IF ANY MATERIAL THAT WOULD BE OF ASSISTANCE THAT IS IN THE POSSESSION OF THE BUREAU COULD BE FORWARDED TO THIS OFFICE IN ORDER THAT THE RCMP COULD BE SUPPLIED WITH PERTINENT DATA.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/21/89 BY 3042 *Post-100*

GHB:jhs

Mr. Belmont

*Memo Belmont*  
10-12-55

EX-113

*Let's do Linsen*

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ENCLOSURE 101-2483-1192

582

OCT 18 1955

OCT 10 3 11 PM '55

Approved: *Glenn H. Bettel*  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M

Per \_\_\_\_\_

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : A. H. BELMONT *AW*

DATE: October 12, 1955

FROM : W. A. BRANIGAN *WAB*SUBJECT: MORTON SOBELL  
ESPIONAGE - RALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/21/87 BY 3042 *Int/DJC*

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

By attached air-tel dated 10/6/55 Liaison Representative, Ottawa, Canada, advised the Research Section, Special Branch, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, is analyzing the background and activities of a selected group of Soviet agents. Assistant Commissioner Harvison, RCMP, wants to include Sobell in this group. Liaison Representative asked the Bureau to forward any material that would be of assistance in order that the same may be supplied to the RCMP.

Sobell was a classmate and associate of Julius Rosenberg, executed Soviet espionage agent. Following the arrest of David Greenglass, Sobell and his family fled to Mexico from which country they were deported to the United States in August, 1950. Sobell was convicted in 1951 with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg of conspiracy to commit espionage. Sobell was sentenced to 30 years which he is now serving at Alcatraz.

Referenced airtel does not state specifically the nature and extent of the information desired by the RCMP. A brief summary of Sobell's activities is furnished to the Liaison Representative by attached letter with instructions to inquire of the RCMP concerning the specific information wanted.

**ACTION**

There is attached for your approval a letter to the Liaison Representative, Ottawa, furnishing a brief summary of information on Sobell and instructing that the RCMP be requested to advise of any further specific information it desires.

1-D  
2 ENCL. 45  
Enclosure

101-2483

JPL:bob

(4)

Ticklers - AHBelmont  
WABranigan  
JPLee

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OCT 15 5 06 PM '55

OCT 15 5 06 PM '55

OCT 15 5 06 PM '55

WAB  
5-92



Pickler - JPLee

AHBelmont

WABranigan

RECORDED-45

101-2483-1192

Date: October 14, 1955

To: Liaison Representative  
Ottawa, Canada

(original and one)

From: Director, FBI (101-2483)

Subject: MORTON SOBELL  
ESPIONAGE - R

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

Reurair-tel 10/6/55 requesting any material in Bureau files concerning the subject that could be supplied to the Research Section, Special Branch, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, which is analyzing the background and activities of selected Soviet espionage agents. Your airtel did not state the specific type of information in which the RCMP is interested. Therefore, there is set forth the following brief summary of Sobell's activities which may be furnished to the RCMP:

Morton Sobell was born in New York City on April 11, 1917, of Russian-born parents. He graduated from the College of the City of New York in 1938 with a B.S. degree in electrical engineering. From January, 1939, to October, 1941, he was employed at the Bureau of Ordnance, Navy Department, Washington, D. C. He thereafter pursued his graduate studies at Michigan University from which institution he obtained a Master's degree. He was employed as a test engineer at the General Electric Company, Schenectady, New York, from 1942 to June, 1947, when he resigned to accept a position with the Reeves Instrument Company in New York City. On June 16, 1950, he failed to return to his work at that company and he was subsequently located in Mexico City. He is married and his last residence address was 104-27 73rd Avenue, Flushing, Long Island, New York.

MAILED 6

OCT 14 1955

COMM-FBI

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Max Elster, who conveyed to his attempted recruitment by Rosenberg, convicted Soviet espionage agent, advised that Rosenberg informed him Sobell was cooperating

Cover memo WABranigan to AHBelmont prepared 10/12/55 by PL:deb in connection with this outgoing correspondence.

Foreign Liaison Unit

9 OCT 21 1955

(7)

WAB  
WAB  
WAB



**Letter to Liaison Representative  
Ottawa, Canada**

in his espionage activities. Elitcher further informed that Sobell was instrumental in arranging for his further meetings with Rosenberg in New York City to enable Rosenberg to continue his efforts to recruit him (Elitcher). According to Elitcher, he accompanied Sobell in July, 1948, when the latter delivered a 15 mm. film can to Rosenberg, which can of films Sobell described as being "good material."

Sobell, after being located in Mexico City, was deported by the Mexican authorities and upon his return to the United States was taken into custody to stand trial on the charge of conspiracy to violate the Federal Espionage Statutes. He was convicted on March 29, 1951, and sentenced to serve 30 years in a Federal penitentiary. Sobell's appeals to the U. S. Supreme Court have been denied.

In the event the RCMP is desirous of further information concerning Sobell, you should advise the Bureau in detail concerning the specific type of information in which it is interested and a review of Bureau files will be made to determine if such information is available.

Dear Sir,

We, who are the family of Morton Sobell know his innocence of any crime and the monstrous wrong done to him. We believe that American justice in its strength will correct this grave injustice. In this period of lessening tension we ask you to look again at the case of a man who has already spent five years in prison, the last three of them in Alcatraz. Each time we go to Alcatraz and see our dear one through the small thick pane of glass and talk to him through a telephone, the pain that this was brought about by the testimony of one man who admitted being a perjurer fills our hearts.

It is not an easy thing to explain to the children that without a single witness having said that their father gave or received any secret material he has been sentenced to the living death of 30 years in prison.

This June we took renewed hope that there would soon be an end to our suffering. One of the witnesses who testified in the Rosenberg-Sobell trial, Harry Gold, appeared as a prosecution witness in a trial in Dayton, Ohio. Because Harry Gold has been thoroughly investigated by a writer named John Wexley and the results of the investigation have been made available in a book called "The Judgment of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg", the jury refused to believe Harry Gold's testimony. An innocent man was saved from prison.

If the jury who tried Morton Sobell had known the facts that John Wexley uncovered about Harry Gold, Elizabeth Bentley, David and Ruth Greenglass and prosecutors Roy Cohn, Myles Lane and Irving Saypol, they could not have convicted him. The flimsy framework of what the Philadelphia ACLU condemned as "an unwarranted extension of the conspiracy concept as it applied to Morton Sobell" would have been exposed.

We are sending you under separate cover a copy of "The Judgment of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg", by John Wexley. Our friends have made it possible for us to do this. Our husband, father, son has spent five long years in prison maintaining his innocence and refusing to confess to a crime which he has not committed. John Wexley spent three years gathering together, documenting, writing this book. We know that when you read this book you will see how in a period of hysteria a family may be destroyed and the American guarantees of individual security under the Constitution may be crushed.

Will you please give us the benefit of any comments you may have on what can be done for Morton Sobell? We would be glad to discuss the matter personally with you at your convenience, and to present other material such as the trial record and everything else available.

Sincerely yours,

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	

RECORDED-35

INDEXED-35

NOV 21 1955

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 4/24/87 BY 3042

NOV 4 1955

Rose Sobell  
(mother)

Helen Sobell  
(wife)

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 100-387835

CONFIDENTIAL

tickler

Belmont  
Lee

(original and one)  
Assistant Attorney General  
William F. Tompkins

November 3, 1955

Director, FBI  
100-24831193  
NORTON SOBELL, with aliases  
ESPIONAGE - R

There is attached one photostat each of a letter and an envelope received from Helen Sobell, wife of the subject. It is noted the letter is written on the letterhead of Mrs. Norton Sobell, 506 West 135th Street, New York City, and is signed by both Helen Sobell, wife of subject, and Rose Sobell, mother of subject. The envelope bears the return address of Room 2, 1050 Sixth Avenue, New York City, which is the address of the National Committee to Secure Justice for Norton Sobell.

The letter protests Sobell's innocence and states that under a separate cover a copy of "The Judgment of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg" by John Wexley is being sent. You will recall Photostats of the galley proofs of that book have been furnished to you.

The above is furnished to you for your information.

DECLASSIFIED BY 3042 *put A7a*  
ON 4-21-87

Enclosures (2)  
100-2483

cc - 100-387835 (National Committee to Secure Justice for Norton Sobell)

NOTE Sobell was convicted of conspiracy to commit espionage along with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, executed Soviet agents. He is now serving a 30-year MAXIMUM term at Alcatraz Prison. National Committee to Secure Justice for Norton Sobell has been conducting a campaign attempting to have Sobell transferred and to obtain a new trial for him. "The Judgment of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg" by John Wexley claims the entire case against the Rosenbergs and Sobell was a gigantic frameup, and claims all three were innocent. No acknowledgment being made to the source of this letter. Any letter undoubtedly would be used in further propaganda efforts. The address 506 West 135th Street is the home address of Helen Sobell.

CONFIDENTIAL

NOV 3 1955

CONFIDENTIAL

olson \_\_\_\_\_  
cardman \_\_\_\_\_  
ichols \_\_\_\_\_  
elmont \_\_\_\_\_  
arbo \_\_\_\_\_  
chr \_\_\_\_\_  
tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
men \_\_\_\_\_  
man \_\_\_\_\_  
neo \_\_\_\_\_  
sterrow \_\_\_\_\_  
te. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
dolan \_\_\_\_\_  
ad \_\_\_\_\_

68 NOV 16 1955 /ahm  
(6)

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 100-24831193

CC: Mr. Lee

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

November 28, 1955

Director, FBI

MORTON SOBELL, with aliases  
ESPIONAGE - R

There is enclosed hereto a Photostat of an article which appeared in "The Daily Worker" dated November 18, 1955, which reflects an appeal will be made to the Classification Board, United States Penitentiary, Alcatraz, for the transfer of Morton Sobell from that prison.

This is forwarded to you for your information.

Enclosure - 1 (encl. detached and filed with copy 12/2/55)  
cc - 1 - Mr. James V. Bennett (Enclosure - 1)  
Director, Bureau of Prisons

cc - 1 - 100-387835 (National Committee To Secure Justice for Morton Sobell)

JPL:jmm  
(6)

101-2483

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DATE 4-21-87 BY 3042 put-Btc

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FBI

NOV 30 1955

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

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COMM - FBI

NOV 28 1955

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ANT  
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and  
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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 \_\_\_\_\_

*B. J. Brennan*

*Th. W. Hoff*

*R. J. [unclear]*

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

# **Sebell Transfer Plea To Be Heard Nov. 28**

An appeal for the transfer of Alton Sebell from Alcatraz will be made to the Classification Board of Alcatraz prison, which meets Nov. 28 in San Francisco.

The board reviews the status of Alcatraz prisoners and makes recommendations for transfers.

Mrs. Sebell will submit the appeal to the board for her husband, who was convicted for "conspiracy to commit espionage" and is under a 30-year sentence. Sebell insists his innocence and is awaiting a new trial. The Supreme Court has never reviewed his case.

The Committee to Secure Justice for Alton Sebell is urging that people write to the Classification Board in support of transfer.

The Classification Board meets at the prison, the prison director and other officials.

Wash. Post and Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wash. News \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wash. Star \_\_\_\_\_  
 N. Y. Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_  
 N. Y. Mirror \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daily Worker 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Worker \_\_\_\_\_  
 New Leader \_\_\_\_\_

Date NOV 28 1955

*Letter - A. A. H. Tompkins  
 CC - Bennett - Bur of Prisons  
 JPD: jpm 11-28-55*

*101-2483-1194*

ENCLOSURE

r: Lee

SAC, New York (100-37158)(orig and <sup>one</sup> 62)

December 27, 1955

Director, FBI (101-2483)

MORTON SOBELL, was.  
ESPIONAGE - R

Reference is made to the article which appeared in "The Worker" for December 18, 1955, concerning Mrs. Rose Sobell, mother of the subject. The article states "Mrs. Sobell said the attorneys were preparing legal motions to be presented in court in the coming weeks in an effort to win a new trial." You should be alert to advise the Bureau promptly in the event information is received indicating the filing of any motions for a new trial for the subject. NY CAL

cc: 100-387835 (National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case)

JPL:rmp  
(5)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 4-21-87 BY 3042 pwt-Dfc

RECORDED-96

INDEXED-96

EX-126

DEC 28 1955

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

COMM - FBI  
DEC 27 1955  
MAILED 31

4 JAN 3 1956



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 \_\_\_\_\_

# At 61, Mrs. Rose Sobell Works, Dreams of Freedom for Son

By JOSEPH KLEIN

Mrs. Rose Sobell, mother of imprisoned Morton Sobell, is filled with hope this holiday season that victories lie ahead in the efforts to free her son from prison. Mrs. Sobell, who at the age of 61 is working day and night to help free her son from Alcatraz, bases her hopes on new legal motions now being prepared, and on indications of growing public support. Interviewed at the New York office of the Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell, she said she had just returned from visits to persons whose assistance she was seeking.

In her hand was a letter which she had just received from Alcatraz. It was difficult to read because the handwriting was crowded on two sides of a single sheet of paper—all Sobell is allowed to write in one letter. He doesn't divide the letter into paragraphs to avoid losing even a little of the limited space.

"Did you ever think you would be making speeches?" he wrote his mother, who recently addressed a meeting at Carnegie Hall.

When Sobell was a boy, he had stood on a street corner with his mother listening to the mother of Tom Mooney pleading for the freedom of her son. She never dreamed that in 1955 she would be speaking on the same platform with Warren K. Billings, who was framed with Tom Mooney, at a "Justice for Sobell" meeting.

Mrs. Sobell said the attorneys were preparing legal motions to be presented in court in the coming weeks in an effort to win a new trial.

It was in 1951 that Sobell was convicted with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg and sentenced to 30 years in prison. Arrested in August, 1950, he has served four years in prison, three of them at Alcatraz, the maximum security prison for the federal government.



MRS. ROSE SOBELL

Wash. Post and Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wash. News \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wash. Star \_\_\_\_\_  
 N. Y. Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_  
 N. Y. Mirror \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daily Worker \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Worker 11 \_\_\_\_\_  
 New Leader \_\_\_\_\_

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

*Handwritten notes:*  
 T. [unclear]  
 [unclear]  
 [unclear]

ENCLOSURE  
 107-2483

Page 11  
 Date 12-18-53

*Handwritten notes:*  
 let nyp  
 12-27-6  
 JWC

"We intend to present new evidence," Mrs. Sobell said. "However, the motions are taking longer than we had hoped. The fact that Morton is in Alcatraz has hampered the lawyers in their work. Each time the lawyers want to consult with Morton or he wants to consult with the lawyers, there is the expense of traveling 3,000 miles to Alcatraz. We must have attorneys in the East because the courts of jurisdiction are in New York."

Mrs. Sobell explained that this was one of the grounds on which efforts were being made to transfer Sobell from Alcatraz.

"I went to see the picture

"The Life of Emile Zola" about the Dreyfus case. All through the picture I thought of Morton. Believe me, there are such similarities. Some very big people had to be exposed in France before Dreyfus was vindicated, but the truth won."

During the summer Mrs. Sobell last visited her son. "If I could only see him more often," she sighed. "My husband can't see him at all because he is so sick. If he could just visit Morton, it would help his health so much. But it is impossible so long as Morton is in Alcatraz."

How is Sobell faring in prison?

"Of course, he's encouraged because so many people are working for him," he answered, trying to sound as hopeful as possible. "But how good can a person's morale be when he has been in Alcatraz for three years and when he hasn't even been able to see his son? Alcatraz is torture—especially for someone like Morton, who is a scientist

and thrives on living useful life."

Morton always longed to be a scientist who would serve mankind. I remember when he was graduated from high school and how we met afterwards. He took out a handful of medals that had been awarded him and casually gave them to me. He was graduated at the top of his class. Then we struggled during the depression so that he could go through City College. There too he was graduated with honors.

"Morton was offered a fellowship, but he turned it down so he could do war work in World War II. He went on to important achievements in science. He became an expert in radar, helped the development of the big computing machines, and began to see his dreams coming true. Today he is deprived of everything—his career, his family. Look at this part of the letter."

She unfolded the letter once more, and to where Morton wrote:

"As usual here things are much the same as they always are. Now it has become rainy and foggy and windy—like it was three years ago when I got here in time for the holiday. Even the radio brings nothing new. We have a choice of two programs—three and one-half hours each night, and almost all day on weekends. And from all of this I am able to extract only one and one-half (less advertising time) to which I listen. There are prize fights and the jazz—the football games, and the hillbilly music—the quiz contests and the enlightened drama, like "Gunsmoke" and "The Lone Ranger." This is the radio! Yes, I do listen to the news such as it is. Otherwise, I eat and sleep, read and work, and occasionally study."

As she folded the letter again, Mrs. Sobell said: "This is how Morton has spent the last three years of his life. The time doesn't seem like five centuries to him. That's how time has passed here."

The one thing that keeps Morton and our family going is the knowledge that the people of our country who believe in justice will see Morton freed."



ticklers: Lee  
Belmont

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

December 27, 1955

Director, FBI

**MORTON SOBELL, with aliases**  
**ESPIONAGE - R**

There is enclosed a Photostat of an article which appeared in "The Worker" dated December 18, 1955, reporting an interview with Mrs. Rose Sobell, mother of the subject. It is noted that in the course of this interview Mrs. Sobell stated the attorneys were preparing legal motions to be presented in court in the coming weeks in an effort to win a new trial.

No information concerning the filing of such motions has been received; however, in the event any such information is received, you will be promptly advised.

101-2489

Enclosure (1)

cc - 1 - 100-387835 (National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case.)

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Tic Jer - Mr. Lee

SAC, New York (100-37159) (Orig. & 1)

January 10, 1956

Director, FBI (101-2483)

MORTON SOBELL, was.  
ESPIONAGE - R

Your attention is directed to the article in the "Daily Worker" of January 8, 1956, reporting an interview of subject's wife. It is noted she stated a motion for a new trial will be filed in behalf of the subject within a month. You should advise the Bureau promptly in the event any information is received pertaining to this motion. You should furnish the Bureau a copy of this motion as soon as it is filed.

cc - 1 - 100-387835 (National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case.)

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