

**F.O.I.A.**

**JULIUS ROSENBERG ET AL.**

***FILE DESCRIPTION***

**HQ**

**FILE**

**SUBJECT** Sobell

**FILE NO.** 101-2483

**VOLUME NO.** 33

**SERIALS**

1201

1280

## NOTICE

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File No: 101-2483  
Section 33

Re: SOBELL, MORTON  
MEEHOPOL V MEESE

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
1201	2-15-56	WFO to HQ	1	1	b1
1202	2-21-56	NY AIT HQ	1	1	b1 b2 b7D
1202	2-27-56	HQ let State	1	1	b2 b7D
1203	2-27-56	HQ let WFO	1	1	b2 b7D
1204	2-27-56	OG let	1	1	b1 b2 b7D
1205	3-4-56	IC let	1	0	b1
1205	3-9-56	HQ let WFO	1	1	b1
1206	3-8-56	NY TT Ad	1	1	b2 b7D
1207	3-15-56	Attach London let HQ	1	1	b1
1208	3-21-56	HQ let CIA	2	2	
1208	3-15-56	WFO AIT HQ	1	1	
NR	3-15-56	HQ let AAG	2	-	Deposition in Elitcher 101-2483-NR

14 11 1 0 2 0  
new rel deny ref presumed preprior aft 266

File No: 101-2483

Re: SABELL, MORTON

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
NR	3-19-56	HQ let AAG	2	-	Disposition in Elitcher 101-2483- <sup>NR</sup> 266
1209	3-29-56	Attache London let HQ/mc	1/1	1/1	b7C b7D
NR	4-2-56	HQ let AG	2	-	Disposition in Rosenberg 65-58236-2236
1210	3-29-56	Mexico cable HQ	1	1	b1
1211	4-3-56	Boardman memo HQ	2	2	b1
1212	4-4-56	Boardman memo HQ	1	1	b1
1213	4-6-56	Legat Paris let HQ	1	1	
NR	4-9-56	3 <sup>rd</sup> Party let Nichols	1	-	Disposition in Rosenberg 65-58236-2248
1214	4-11-56	Report Paris let HQ	1	1	
1215	3-29-56	CIA document	1	1	b2
1216	4-12-56	Attache London let HQ/mc	1/4	1/4	
1217	4-18-56	HQ let NY	2	2	b1

21 16 0 5 0  
new rel deny ref presumed proper

File No: 101-2483

Re: SOBELL, MORTON

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
1218	4-13-56	IC let	1	0	
-	4-14-56		-	-	
1218	4-19-56	OG let and search slips	2/5	2/5	b1 b7D b2
1219	4-18-56	Belmont memo Boardman	2	2	b1
1220	4-20-56	NY A/T HQ	1	1	
NR	4-23-56	HQ let AG	1	+	Disposition in Rosenberg 65-58236-2250
1221	4-5-56	Attache London let HQ	1/1	1/1	
NR	4-16-56	Attache London let HQ	1	1	
NR	4-12-56	3rd Party let HQ	1	1	
NR	4-19-56	HQ let 3rd Party	2	2	
NR	5-2-56	HQ let AG	2	-	Disposition in Rosenberg 65-58236-2251
NR	5-4-56	HQ let AG	1	-	" " " " " 2253

21 16 1 0 4 0  
nr rel deny ref presumed preproc

File No: 101-2483

Re: SOBELL, MORTON

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
NR	4-16-56	Legat Paris let HQ	1/5	-	Disposition in Rosenberg 65-58286-2253
1222	5-4-56	NY A/T HQ	1	1	
1223	5-8-56	Hennrich memo Belmont	1	1	
1224	5-2-56	NY TT HQ /	1	1	b1
1225	5-7-56	Legat Paris let HQ / and	1/7	1/7	
1226	5-4-56	BRANIGAN let Belmont	2	2	
1227	5-10-56	Hennrich memo Belmont	1	1	
1228	5-8-56	Hennrich memo Belmont	1	1	
1229	4-30-56	Legat Mexico let HQ	5	1	3 ref CIA b1
1230	5-9-56	HQ let AAG	2	2	
1231	5-9-56	HQ TT Attache Mexico	1	1	b1
1232	5-10-56	Mohr memo Hel	1	1	

30 20 1 3 6 0  
rev ne deny ref presumed proper

File No: 101-2483

Re: SOBELL, MORTON

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
1233	5-9-56	Belmont memo Boardman	2	2	b1
1234	5-9-56	Wash Post Times Herald	1	1	
1235	5-2-56	NY TT HQ	2	2	
1235	5-9-56	HQ let NY	1	1	
1236	5-9-56	Mexico cable HQ	1	1	
1237	5-10-56	NY TT HQ	1	1	
1238	5-11-56	NY TT HQ	2	2	
1239	5-12-56	HQ TT SA	1	1	
1240	5-14-56	HQ TT Attache Mexico	1	1	b1
1241	5-15-56	BRANIGAN memo Belmont	1	1	
1241	5-16-56	HQ TT SF	1	1	
1242	5-17-56	HQ let AAG	2	2	

16 16 0 0  
rev rel deny presumed preproc

File No: 101-2483

Re: SOBELL, MURTON

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
1243	5-17-56	HO TT OG	1	1	
1244	5-16-56	SF TT HO	1	1	
1244	5-18-56	HO Lt AAG	1	1	
1245	5-21-56	Belmont memo Boardman	1	1	
1246	5-18-56	HO TT NY	1	1	
1247	5-11-56	Regat Paris Lt HO	1	0	b1
1248	5-17-56	OC TT HO	1	1	
1248	5-18-56	HO TT OG	1	1	
1249	5-18-56	HO Lt AAG	1	1	
1250	5-14-56	BRANIGAN memo Belmont	1	1	
1251	5-12-56	BRANIGAN memo Belmont	1	1	
1252	5-15-56	Mexico cable HO	1	0	b1

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File No: 101-2483

Re: SOBELL, MORTON

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
1253	5-18-56	Memorandum Belmont	1	1	
1254	5-21-56	CLEVELAND memo Belmont	1	1	
1255	5-21-56	HQ let AAG	2	2	
1256	5-22-56	HQ let AAG	2	2	
1257	5-22-56	HQ TT Legat Mexico	1	1	b1
1258	5-8-56	NY TT HQ	2	2	
1259	5-11-56	Belmont memo Boardman/nd	7/22	7/22	b1
-	5-8-56	Routing slip	1	1	
1260	5-14-56	NY TT HQ	1	1	
1260	5-15-56	HQ TT Attach Mexico	1	1	b1
1261	5-15-56	SA TT HQ	1	1	
1262	5-15-56	NY TT HQ	1	1	

43 43  
rev rel deny ref presumed presoc

File No: 101-2483

Re: SOBELL, MORTON

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
1263	5-15-56	Hennrich memo Belmont	2	2	
1264	5-16-56	Hennrich memo Belmont	1	1	
1265	5-16-56	NY TT HQ	2	2	
1266	5-17-56	BRAWIGAN memo Belmont	1	1	
NK	5-17-56	OC TT HQ	1	1	
1267	5-17-56	Hennrich memo Belmont	1	1	
1268	5-18-56	NY TT HQ	1	1	
1269	5-18-56	OC TT HQ	1	1	
1270	5-21-56	NY TT HQ	1	1	
NK	5-21-56	HQ let AG	1	-	Disposition in Rosenberg 65-58236-2255
1271	5-9-56	note	1	1	
1272	5-24-56	HQ let AAG	1	1	b1

14  
rel deny ref presumed preproc

File No: 101-2483

Re: SOBELL, MARTON

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		Exemptions used or. to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released	
1273	5-17-56	Mexico cable HQ	2	2	b1 b7C,D
1273	5-17-56	HQ TT NY	2	2	b7C b7D b1
1273	5-23-56	HQ let AAG	2	2	b1 b7C,D
1274	5-24-56	HQ TT NY	2	2	b1 b7C,D
1275	5-18-56	Barnigan memo Belmont	2	2	
NR	5-22-56	HQ let NY	1	1	
1276	5-28-56	NY TT HQ	2	2	
1277	5-29-56	Barnigan memo Belmont	2	2	b7C,D
1278	5-29-56	HQ TT Attache Mexico	1	1	
1279	5-24-56	OC A/T HQ	1	1	
NR	stamped 5-24-56	State memo	1	1	
NR	5-25-56	LEE memo Barnigan	1	-	Disposition in Rosenberg 65-58236-2257

19 18  
rev rel deny ref presumed proper



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

~~SECRET~~

FBI WASH FIELD 2/15/56 7:00 P.M.

DIRECTOR (101-2483) AND SAC NEW YORK URGENT

MORTON SOBELL, WAS., ESP. DASH R. REBUTEL DATED TWO  
FOURTEEN FIFTYSIX. MISS MARY BARRY, PASSPORT OFFICE,  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE, ADVISED SA KENNETH J. HASER ON  
TWO FIFTEEN FIFTYSIX THAT FILES OF PASSPORT OFFICE  
FAILED TO REFLECT CURRENT PASSPORT APPLICATION BY  
SUBJECT OR HIS WIFE. THE ONLY RECORD OF THE SUBJECTS  
WIFE IN THE PASSPORT FILES IS A FLAG NOTICE DATED IN  
AUGUST NINETEEN FIFTY PROVIDING THAT SPECIAL CONSIDERATION  
BE GIVEN TO ANY PASSPORT APPLICATION BY SUBJECTS WIFE.  
PASSPORT FILES CONTAIN NO PASSPORT APPLICATION BY ANY  
INDIVIDUAL NAMED HELEN SOBELL. RUC

MR. BRANNIGAN

5-736  
Classified by 3042 PWT-JAR  
Declassify on: OADR

LAUGHLIN

3 - BUREAU  
1 - TELETYPE UNIT  
1 - WFO (101-2316)

KJH:jcr  
(5)

Mr. Belmont

RECORDED-89

11 FEB 21 1956

53 FEB 28 1956

~~SECRET~~

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

101-2483-1201

521-X

cc Brannigan

F B I

Date: 2/21/56

Transmit the following message via AIR TEL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC NEW YORK (100-37158)

To: BUREAU (101-2483)

MORTON SOBELL, was  
ESPIONAGE - R

Renytel 2/16/56.

Info received from [redacted] instant date, that while attending meeting of Committee to Defend STEVE NELSON on 2/19/56, 55 E. 210th St., Bronx, NY, Apartment 1B, that the National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case was contemplating sending subject's mother, ROSE SOBELL, not subject's wife, HELEN SOBELL, to Europe to organize fund raising committees to assist in the campaign to secure freedom for MORTON SOBELL. Has allegedly contacted and secured assurances all visas from British, French and Belgians. Time of contemplated trip not indicated to informant.

Bureau will be advised of receipt of any additional info pertaining to trip.

KELLY

5-7-87

Classified by 3042 PWT-JAR

Declassify on: OADR

③ - Bureau (101-2483) (RM)

1 - New York (P&amp;C) (7-4)

1 - New York (100-107111) (NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE JUSTICE IN THE ROSENBERG CASE) (7-2)

1 - New York (100-37158)

RTH (76)  
(7)

Mr. Belmont

63 MAR 5-1956

Approved:

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

M

Per

SECRET

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

SECRET

Crawford

b2  
b7D

FEB 28 1956

FEB 28 1956

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

BY COURIER SERVICE

101-2483

RECORDED-997

Date: 101-2483-1202  
February 27, 1956

To: Mr. Dennis A. Flinn (orig & 1)  
Director  
Office of Security  
Department of State  
515 - 22nd Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C.

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: MORTON SOBELL, with aliases  
ESPIONAGE - R

DECLASSIFIED ON 5-7-87  
BY 3042 PWT-JAR

Reference is made to information which has been furnished to you in the past concerning the above-captioned subject.

Information has been received from a confidential source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, that the National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case is contemplating sending subject's mother, Rose Sobell, to Europe to organize fund-raising committees to assist in the campaign to secure freedom for Morton Sobell. The committee allegedly has contacted and secured assurances of visas from the British, French and Belgian authorities. The date of this contemplated trip is not known at this time.

This is furnished for your information.

CC: 1 - Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
8430 I Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C.

LEO 51 3 23 11  
JPL:emb (5)  
NOTE: info recd from [redacted] WFO has been instructed to check passport records, State, to determine if a passport has been issued to or applied for by Rose Sobell.

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

63 MAR 5 - 1956

CONFIDENTIAL  
REC'D BERGONI

BY COURIER SERVICE  
3 3 FEB 28  
COMM-FBI

WAB

r. Lee

SAC, Washington Field (101-2316)(orig & 1) February 27, 1956

Director, FBI (101-2483)

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

ReBureau to New York, copies to WFO, dated 2/14/56.

New York advised by airtel 2/21/56 that [REDACTED] obtained information that the National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case is contemplating sending Rose Sobell, subject's mother, to Europe to organize fund-raising committees to assist in a campaign to secure freedom for the subject. The committee allegedly has contacted and secured assurances of visas from the British, French and Belgians. The date of the contemplated trip was not indicated to informant. b2 b7D

120 8. You should check records of the Passport Division, Department of State, to ascertain if a passport has been issued to Rose Sobell. She was born Rose Pasternak in Russia and is a naturalized United States citizen. She is married to Louis Sobell.

1 - New York (info.) (100-37158)

JPL:enb (5)

WFO foll 3-28-56  
WLMGE?

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5-7-87 BY 3042 PWT-JAR  
RECORDED 86

101-2483-1203

FEB 28 1956

EX-113

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

52 MAR 2

164  
FEB 27 1956  
MAILED 25

FEB 24 3 23 PM '56

FBI - WASHINGTON  
REC'D BETHGOM

WAP



cc-Boardman  
Belmont  
Lee

~~TOP SECRET~~  
(S) TOP SECRET

MEMORANDUM (orig & 2)

February 27, 1956

MORTON SOBELL, with aliases  
(ESPIONAGE - R)

11858

Reference is made to our memorandum dated February 20, 1956, advising that Helen Sobell (wife of subject) had not applied for a passport and had no plans for travel outside the United States. ~~SECRET~~ u

Information has been received that the National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case is contemplating sending Mrs. Rose Sobell, mother of Morton Sobell, to Europe to organize fund-raising committees to assist in the campaign to free Morton Sobell. The committee allegedly has contacted and secured assurances of visas from the British, French and Belgian authorities. The date of this contemplated trip is not known at this time. ~~SECRET~~ u

101-2483

B - London

5-7-87  
Classified by 3042 PWT-JAM  
Declassify on: OADR

JPL:emb (11)

NOTE:

Investigation reflected no passport had been issued to Helen Sobell and a pretext telephone call to the Natl Comm. to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case, her employee, disclosed she was scheduled to speak in the U.S. during the week of 2/20/56 and no foreign travel was planned for her. [redacted] advised by memo 2/20/56. Above info recd by [redacted] ~~SECRET~~ u

1 - Foreign Liaison Unit

RECORDED - 96

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

Classified by 355 WAB/DVN  
Exempt from GDS, Category 2, 3  
Date of Declassification Indefinite

MAILED FROM DIVISION FILE

FEB 28 1956

63 MAR 5 - 1956

FBI - 102 LICE  
REC'D BY [redacted]  
TOP SECRET

FEB 29 1956

WAB

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 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) b1 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):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

☐ For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

101-2483-1205

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
X DELETED PAGE(S) X  
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X  
X FOR THIS PAGE X  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

**SECRET**SAC, Washington Field (101-2316)  
(Orig. & 1)

March 9, 1956

**RECORD-95**

Director, FBI (101-2402)-1205-

**MORTON SOBELL, was.  
ESPIONAGE - R**57-67  
Classified by 3042 PWR-JAC  
Declassify on: OADRRebulet 2-27-56 to WFO, copy for NYO, requesting  
a check of the records of the Passport Division, Department  
of State, to ascertain if a passport has been issued to  
Rose Sobell, mother of the subject.

EX-125

**SECRET****SECRET**The above is furnished to you for your assistance  
in locating the passport application of Rose Sobell and  
is furnished to New York and the Legats for information.cc - 1 - New York (100-37150) (for info)  
cc - 1 - London (for info)  
cc - 1 - Paris (for info)  
cc - 1 - Foreign Liaison UnitClassified by 1059 PWR-JAC  
Exempt from GDS, Category 2, 3  
Date of Declassification IndefiniteTolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_**NOTE:** Morton Sobell was convicted of conspiracy to commit  
espionage along with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg in 1951. He  
is presently serving a thirty-year sentence at Alcatraz Prison.  
Previous information furnished by NY indicated Mrs. Rose Sobell  
was being sent to Europe in order to organize committees to  
raise money for the National Committee to Secure Justice for  
Morton Sobell.

71 MA

JPL:RIN (8)

**SECRET**MAR 9 1956  
MAILED 19

b1

NY R 11 WA RDK

Mr. Belmont

END

DATE 5-7-87 BY 3092 PWT  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

MAR 15 1956

KELLY

MAR 13 1956

RECORDED-81

670  
62

tion was indicated as London. No additional info obtained from

more about the case and that she would explain it to them. Her destina-

concerned about the terrible thing done to her son and want to know

in Britain who joined the world wide fight to save the Rosenbergs are

was barred from coming ashore. She is quoted as saying that many friends

editor in exile, Cedric Belfrage, on receipt of her message that she

by the National Council for Civil Liberties and quote Guardian unquote

unquote. Article states she was met at Southampton by a lawyer briefed

invalid for quote those portions of China under communist control

of the usual visitor's three months and her passport was stamped as

Elizabeth. She was granted permission to stay for three weeks instead

of sub J, in Britain, on Feb. twenty two last, aboard the Queen

page eight, reflects article announcing arrival of Rose Sobell, mother

quote National Guardian unquote publication dated March five, last, 10-1

Morton Sobell, was, espionage - R. Renyairtel Feb. twenty one, last.

MR. BELMONT

DIRECTOR

WASH 11 FROM NEW YORK

2-54

TELETYPE

MAR 8 1956

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

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

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (101-2483)

FROM : Legal Attache, London (65-915)

SUBJECT: MORTON SOBELL, with aliases  
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: March 15, 1956

ReBumemo [redacted] 2/27/56 [redacted] advising that subject's mother, Mrs. ROSE SOBELL, would visit Europe on behalf of the National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case. ~~SECRET~~ u

~~SECRET~~~~SECRET~~

The Bureau will be informed of any further developments. u

JAC:ic

-P-

(6)

5-7-87  
Classified by 3042AUT-JAC  
Declassify on: OADR

Classified by 2855 WAB/DVN  
Exempt from GDS, Category 3  
Date of Declassification Indefinite  
10-17-75

RECORDED - 40  
INDEXED - 40

23 MAR 20 1956

cc(1) NY Via 0-25 clinfo 3-23-56 484/jm  
cc(1) WFO Via 0-25 clinfo 3-23-56 484/jm

DIVISION SECTION FBI  
MAR 13 4 48 PM '56  
EX-107  
REC'D FOREIGN DIVISION

63 MAR 28 1956

~~SECRET~~

JEWAK 1228

100-387835-11

ic - Mr. L...  
Liaison

RECORDED - 6  
EX-121

101-2403-1208

BY COURIER SERVICE

Date: March 20, 1956  
To: Director (Orig. & 1)  
Central Intelligence Agency  
8430 E Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C.  
Attention: Deputy Director, Plans  
From: John Edgar Hoover, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Subject: MORTON SOBELL, with aliases  
ESPIONAGE - R

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-7-87 BY 3042 PWT-J

DECLASSIFIED  
DATE 1-1-01

Reference is made to the information furnished you previously that the National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case was contemplating sending Mrs. Rose Sobell, mother of the subject, to Europe to organize fund-raising committees to assist in the campaign to secure freedom for Sobell.

A confidential foreign source has advised that Mrs. Sobell arrived in England on February 22, 1956, and she would be a guest of one Mrs. Joan Becker or Beckers, 71 Church Street, London, E.C.4, a member of the British Communist Party.

The records of the Passport Division, Department of State, reflect Rose Sobell was issued Passport Number 707121 on November 14, 1955, for proposed six months' travel to England, France, Italy and Israel as a tourist and to visit relatives. This passport is valid for two years' travel to all countries except Albania, Bulgaria and those portions of China, Korea and Viet-Nam under Communist control. Mrs. Sobell claimed she was born Rose Pasternak, July 30, 1904, at Belostoka, Polyn, Poland, and immigrated

- cc - 2 - Rome (For Info) (See note page 2)
- cc - 1 - London (For Info) (See note page 2)
- cc - 1 - Paris (For Info) (See note page 2)
- cc - 1 - Foreign Liaison Unit

63 MAR 26 1956 835 (National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case)

JPL:nlh  
(10)

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

100-387835-

WAB



**Letter to Director  
Central Intelligence Agency**

to the United States in 1906. She claimed to have acquired American citizenship by marriage to Louis Sobell in 1915. Louis Sobell was born at Balaszewka, Poland, April 22, 1900, and came to the United States in 1906. Rose Sobell is described as 5 feet 2 1/2 inches, white hair, blue eyes and occupation, housewife.

The above is furnished to you for your information.

**NOTE FOR LEGATS, ROME, PARIS, LONDON:**

Morton Sobell was convicted of conspiracy to commit espionage along with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg in 1951. The Rosenbergs were executed and Sobell was sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment which term he is now serving at the United States Penitentiary, Alcatraz. The National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case also known as the National Rosenberg-Sobell Committee is conducting a campaign to free Sobell and in recent months has issued statements that a motion for a new trial for Sobell would be made in the near future. The above information is furnished to you for your information.

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

AIRTEL

FBI WASH FIELD

3/15/56

DIRECTOR (101-2483)

MORTON SOBELL, was,  
ESP-R

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 5-7-87 BY 3042 PWT/ML

MR. BRANNIGAN

ReBullets dated 2/27/56, and 3/9/56.

Files, Passport Office, Dept. of State, reviewed by SA KENNETH J. HASER on 3/14/56, disclose that ROSE SOBELL was issued Passport 797121 on 11/14/55, for proposed 6 months' travel to England, France, Italy and Israel, as tourist and to visit relatives. In her application dated 11/1/55, at NYC, she stated intended depart NYC about 1/56, by plane. This PP valid 2 years' travel all countries except Albania, Bulgaria, and those portions of China, Korea and Viet-Nam, under Communist control.

ROSE stated born 7/30/94, at Belezarka, Wolyn, Poland, immigrated to U.S., 9/6/06, resided U.S., 1906-55, at NYC and Philadelphia, Pa., and acquired American Citizenship by marriage in 1915. File reflects husband's Naturalization Certificate 492235, issued on 8/3/14, to LOUIS SOBELL was seen by PP authorities. She listed her father as MICHIAL PASTERNAK, born Poland, was not American Citizen, now deceased. Listed her mother as IDA PASTERNAK, born Poland, now deceased. She stated last 1 married 5/22/15, to LOUIS SOBELL, born at Belezarka, Poland, 4/22/88, immigrated U.S., August, 1906, naturalized as stated above and residing at time of application with ROSE. Gave maiden name as ROSE PASTERNAK and stated not previously married. Gave permanent residence as 2400 Davidson Ave., Bronx, N.Y. Identifying witness to application was CHARLES ABAADAMS (?), friend, 670 East 141st St., Bronx, N.Y., known ROSE or 10 years. ROSE described 5' 1 1/2", hair white, eyes blue, occupation housewife.

WFO will forward photos of ROSE to NYO later. Extra copy hereof to Bureau for possible forwarding abroad. BUG

- 4- Bureau
- 2- New York (100-37158)
- 1- WFO (101-23164)

KJH:amo  
(5)

LABORING

101-2483-120854P

63 MAR 26 1956

Mr. Belmont

RECORDED - 6  
EX-121

10 MAR 22 1956



XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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4

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

Disposition in Elitcher 101-2115 - NRs after 266

☐ For your information: \_\_\_\_\_

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

101-2483 - NRs 3-15-56 and 3-19-56

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X FOR THIS PAGE X  
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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (101-2483)

FROM : Legal Attache, London (65-915)

SUBJECT: MORTON SOBELL, with aliases  
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: March 29, 1956

ReBulet: 3/20/56 and Legat, London, letter 3/15/56 advising that ROSE SOBELL arrived in England on 2/22/56.

There is attached a copy of an item which appeared in the Manchester Guardian for 3/26/56 captioned "THE SOBELL CASE." It is in fact a letter written to the editor by BERTRAND RUSSELL, the famous English philosopher. It is noted that RUSSELL criticizes the FBI and also suggests that subject be released or at least be given a new trial. This latter would suggest that he has been in either direct or indirect touch with ROSE SOBELL as she is currently visiting England to organize fund-raising committees to assist in the campaign to free subject SOBELL.

The British Who's Who lists BERTRAND RUSSELL as the Earl RUSSELL, born on 5/18/72. He has written many works, mostly philosophical, and won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1950. According to New Scotland Yard, RUSSELL is not a member of the British Communist Party. At one time he leaned to the "left" but is now believed to be sincere in his beliefs. He was also described as an ardent pacifist.

A copy of this item has been sent to the Department of State by the Cultural Affairs Officer of the Embassy, requesting that they be provided with information to make a reply to RUSSELL's letter.

Enclosure (1)

ENCLOSURE  
EX-121

JAC:ic  
-P-  
(7)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 5-7-87 BY 3042 PWR/AL

RECORDED

INDEXED

APR 2 1956

REC'D - ROBEICH CIVIL

ESP. SEC.

53 APR 11 1956

EXP. PROC.

# Letters to the Editor

## THE SOBELL CASE

To the Editor of the Manchester Guardian

Sir,—I am writing to enlist your support in the case of Morton Sobell, an innocent man condemned as a result of political hysteria to thirty years in gaol and at present incarcerated in Alcatraz, the worst prison in the United States. He was sentenced as an accomplice of the Rosenbergs in espionage. I am ashamed to say that at the time of the Rosenbergs' trial I did not look into the evidence. I have now done so. I am almost certain that the Rosenbergs were innocent and quite certain that the evidence against them would not have been considered adequate if prejudice had not been involved. But the Rosenbergs are dead and nothing can be done for them now except to hold up their official murderers to obloquy. Sobell, however, is alive and it is not too late for the United States Government to make some reparation to him.

The facts in his case are briefly as follows:—He had a friend named Elitcher, who had been his best man. Elitcher had stated on oath that he had never been a Communist. The F.B.I. discovered that in making this statement he had committed perjury. They let him know that he could escape punishment if he would denounce other people as accomplices in treasonable activities. He decided to save his own skin by denouncing his best friend, Sobell. While negotiations in this sense were going on between him and the F.B.I. Sobell and his wife and their two small children went to Mexico. Sobell toyed with the idea of not returning to the United States, but rejected it. His decision to return became known to the F.B.I., which had determined to present him as a fugitive from justice. In order to be still able to present him in this light, they hired thugs, who beat him into unconsciousness, hustled him and his wife and their two children into fast cars, and drove them without stopping from Mexico City to the United States frontier. There they were handed over to an immigration officer, who falsely stamped their card of entry with the words "Deported from Mexico". Though the Mexican Government had been privy to the kidnapping and had expressed no intention of reporting them.

When Sobell was brought to trial these facts were not mentioned as his counsel considered that any criticism of the F.B.I. however justified would only increase the severity of his sentence. The condemnation being regarded by

of evidence. The judge instructed the jury that they could not find Sobell guilty unless they believed Elitcher. Elitcher, because he was useful in this trial, has never been indicted for his acknowledged perjury and, in spite of his being known to be a perjurer, every word that he said against Sobell was believed.

People express scepticism when it is said that most Germans did not know of Nazi atrocities, but I am sure that the immense majority of Americans are quite ignorant of the atrocities committed by the F.B.I. They do not know of the standard technique of these defenders of what, with cynical effrontery, they still call "The Free World." The technique is one with which we have been made familiar in other police States such as Nazi Germany and Stalin's Russia. The police find a man whom they can prove to be guilty of some offence and they promise him immunity if he will manufacture evidence against people who could not otherwise be indicted. Perjury is especially useful as a lever because many people who have been Communist in their student days rashly hope that this can be concealed and swear that they were never Communists. After a sufficient number of secret interviews the F.B.I. descends upon innocent people with a posse of terrified perjurers and in the general hysteria every word uttered by the perjurers is accepted as gospel truth.

I do not suppose for a moment that President Eisenhower is aware of this well-established technique. If he knew of it, he would not only feel the revulsion which all decent people must feel, but would realise that every such case which becomes known outside the United States turns hundreds of thousands of people, if not into Communists, at least towards neutralism and away from the policy of N.A.T.O. For this large reason of public policy, as well as from motives of humanity and justice, it is to be hoped that something will be done to curb the F.B.I. A beginning might be made by the release of Morton Sobell or, at least, by ordering a new trial of his case.

Yours &c. BERTRAND RUSSELL

141 Queen's Road, Richmond

Surrey

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 5-7-87 BY 3042 PWT-JAL

LONDON, ENGLAND  
"MANCHESTER GUARDIAN"  
3/26/56  
P.6, C.5&6  
BUFILE 101-2483

ENCLOSURE

101-2483-1209

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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2 Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

Disposition in Rosenberg 65-58236-2236

☐ For your information: \_\_\_\_\_

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

101-2483-NR 4-2-56

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X FOR THIS PAGE X  
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~~SECRET~~

# AIRGRAM

~~SECRET~~

*Report to*

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	_____

DECODE OF CODED MESSAGE NUMBER 905 DATED MARCH 29, 1956  
AT MEXICO CITY, MEXICO. RECEIVED VIA AIRGRAM.

MORTON SOBELL, ESPIONAGE - R. *F*

[REDACTED]

THIS OFFICE FOLLOWING  
MATTER CLOSELY AND BUREAU WILL BE KEPT ADVISED. *2814*

Classified by *2555 WAB/DVN*  
Exempt from GDS, Category *2, 3*  
Date of Declassification Indefinite  
*10-17-75*

RECEIVED: 4-2-56

10:15 AM

~~SECRET~~

EX-108  
101-2483-1270  
20 APR 11 1956  
JOHN N. SPEAKES

5-7-87  
Classified by *3042 PWT-JAN*  
Declassify on: OADR

*Memo to Director*  
*4/3/56 v*  
*ap/emb*

COPIES DESTROYED  
R2 1 MAR 9 1967

*Set me back by the removal of the above message is to be disseminated*  
*inside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in*  
*order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.*

*cc: Mr. Belmont*  
*cc: Mr. Tamm*

*hjt*

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : The Director

DATE: April 3, 1956

FROM : L.V. Boardman 6-7-57

SUBJECT: MORTON SOBELL  
ESPIONAGE - R~~SECRET~~OADR CC - Boardman  
Belmont  
BraniganClassified by 1552 JAB/DVN  
Exempt from GDS, Category 2,3  
Date of Declassification Indefinite  
on 12-10-10-17-75Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Legat Mexico by Airgram 3/29/56 advised that

[REDACTED] The Director requested to be advised of facts surrounding Sobell's removal from Mexico

~~SECRET~~

We began active investigation of Sobell following the obtaining of info from Max Elitcher on 7/21/50 that Sobell was furnishing info to Julius Rosenberg. Our investigation reflected that on 6/22/50 Sobell and his family left NYC by plane for Mexico City.

[REDACTED] On 8/3/50 we advised the Department of the results of our investigation and the issuance of process charging Sobell with espionage conspiracy was authorized. Department pointed out that espionage was political crime and not extraditable; consequently, Sobell's return to U.S., if located outside our jurisdiction, could not be compelled. On 8/3/50 a sealed complaint and warrant were issued against subject in Southern District of NY.


APR 12 1956  
101-2483~~SECRET~~

511

101-2483-1211

Memorandum for the Director

~~SECRET~~

*11/1*  
  
At 2:45 a.m. 8/18/50 subject and his family were driven across the International Bridge at Laredo, Texas, where they entered the U.S. After being processed by U.S. Immigration Inspector James S. Huggins, Sobell was arrested by Bureau agents at 2:50 a.m. in the offices of Immigration & Naturalization Service (INS), Laredo. At 10 a.m., 8/18/50, Sobell was arraigned before USC Frank Y. Hill and remanded to custody of U.S. Marshal, Southern District of Texas, in lieu of \$100,000 bail. ~~SECRET~~

b1

ACTION:

None. For your information.

*WAB  
Bne  
2/2/51  
Q  
2/2/51  
Q  
2/2/51  
Q*

*I don't understand how Sobell could have left Mexico City at 4.30 A.M. 8/17/50 & crossed to U.S. at 2.45 A.M. 8/18/50 unless drive could be made in less than 24 hrs.*

~~SECRET~~

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

~~SECRET~~

TO : The Director

DATE: April 4, 1956

FROM : L.V. Boardman *SPN*  
*4-10-56*SUBJECT: MORTON SOBELL  
ESPIONAGE - R

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

Reference is made to my memorandum to the Director dated 4/3/56 on which the Director made a notation concerning removal of Morton Sobell from Mexico City to Laredo, Texas, by automobile by the Mexican Federal Security Police within less than 24 hours. ~~SECRET~~ *u*

The report of Legal Attache John H. Speakes made at Mexico City 8/24/50 reports the [REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~

A check with the American Automobile Association reflects the distance from Mexico City to Laredo, Texas, is approximately 500 miles and under present normal driving conditions, such a trip can be made within 15 to 16 hours. The trip with Sobell took 22 hours, 15 minutes.

ACTION: For your information.

5-787  
Classified by 3012 PWT-JAL  
Declassify on: GADR

JPL:emb (6)  
101-2483

CC - Boardman  
Belmont  
Branigan  
Lee

RECORDED - 19

INDEXED - 19

20 APR 11 1956

Classified by 2355 WAB/DVN  
Exempt from GDS, Category 2, 3  
Date of Declassification Indefinite

~~SECRET~~

51 APR 12 1956





THE FOREIGN SERVICE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
American Embassy  
Paris 8, France

Date: April 6, 1956  
To: Director, FBI (101-2483)  
From: Legat, Paris (65-356)  
Subject: MORTON SOBELL, was  
ESPIONAGE - R

Reourlet 2/3/55.

*France* on 4/5/56 L'Humanite, French Communist daily newspaper, reproduced the text of an alleged declaration by BERTRAND RUSSELL in the Manchester Guardian entitled "SOBELL Must Be Freed."

RUSSELL's declaration alleges that the "FBI conspired to frame SOBELL" and charges that the American people have been unaware of "the atrocities which have been committed by the FBI in the SOBELL case."

ROL:CM

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 5-7-87 BY 3042 PWT-JAR

101-2483-1213

RECORDED  
INDEXED

APR 12 1956

EX-108

70 APR 26 1956

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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1 Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):  
Disposition in Rosenberg 65-58236-2248

☐ For your information: \_\_\_\_\_

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

101-2483-NR 4-9-56

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X FOR THIS PAGE X  
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THE FOREIGN SERVICE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
American Embassy  
Paris 8, France

Date: April 11, 1956  
To: Director, FBI (101-2483)  
From: Legat, Paris (89-356)  
Subject: MORTON SOBELL, was  
ESPIONAGE - R

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8-7-87 BY 3042PNT-DAL

L'Humanite, French Communist daily newspaper,  
on 4/10/56 carried the following news item:

"MRS. ROSE SOBELL, MOTHER OF THE INNOCENT  
CO-ACCUSED OF THE ROSENBERGS, IS IN PARIS."

Mrs. ROSE SOBELL, mother of MORTON SOBELL, has  
just arrived in Paris, after having spent some time  
in Great Britain and Italy. The purpose of Mrs.  
SOBELL's visit is to state the case of her son,  
MORTON, the innocent co-accused of ETHEL and JULIUS  
ROSENBERG, who was sentenced to 30 years in prison.  
He is presently in the terrible Alcatraz Prison,  
which is also known as the American 'Devil's Island.'

Mrs. ROSE SOBELL, while travelling in Europe  
to defend and save her son, had the added grief, two  
days ago, of learning of the death of her husband,  
after a long illness.

The American government has just refused  
MORTON SOBELL permission to attend his father's  
funeral. This refusal was part of the series of  
pressures being brought to bear on MORTON, the  
purpose of which is to make him 'recognize' his  
guilt (which he cannot do, since he is innocent)  
and, further, to make him accuse the ROSENBERGS  
whose innocence the American government knows.  
This is a certainty to tens of millions of people  
throughout the world.

MORTON SOBELL refuses to yield to blackmail.  
Which makes him undergo terrible suffering, the  
most absolute isolation in Alcatraz Penitentiary.

"To bring about the liberation of MORTON SOBELL,  
to bring about the revision of his trial, is the ob-  
jective of his mother, ROSE SOBELL. It is also that  
of all people with a heart."

ROL:CM

APR 18 1956

gm

*Handwritten signature*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-7-87 BY 3042 PWT-JAL

RUSSELL'S APPEAL FOR SOBELL SUPPORTED

Peking, NCNA, in English Morse to North America, Mar. 29, 1956,  
1027 GMT--W

(Text)

*Morton Sobell*

Peking, Mar. 29--Bertrand Russell's condemnation of the American FBI for the official murder of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg nearly 3 years ago is supported in a PEOPLE'S DAILY article today.

The article, by <sup>China</sup> Chin Peng-il, quotes extensively from a letter by the eminent British philosopher to the MANCHESTER GUARDIAN on Mar. 26 and agrees with his appeal for support for Morton Sobell, an innocent man condemned to 30 years' imprisonment as an "accomplice" of the Rosenbergs. "This appeal will be supported by all fair-minded people," he writes.

The article says that despite the brutality of American reaction in killing the innocent Rosenbergs, the people have not been deterred. "Their struggle for peace is spreading with each passing day and has become a powerful force," it says.

The writer concludes by calling on the people to sharpen their vigilance against these shameful defenders of the so-called "free world" who have resorted to new and still more cynical devices of persecution.

INDEXED - 12

File 101-2483

EX-105

3/17

101-2483-1515

NOT RECORDED

20 APR 17 1956

ENCLOSURE

*Handwritten signature*

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (101-2483)

DATE: April 12, 1956

FROM : Legal Attache, London (65-915)

SUBJECT: MORTON SOBELL, with aliases  
ESPIONAGE - R

10237

Re: let. 4/5/56.

Attached are four further items which appeared in the Manchester Guardian regarding this case.

ROBERT RUSSELL HANSON is the subject of a Security Matter - C case, Bufile 100-412498.

ENCLOSURE

40 Enclosures (4)

JAC:1c

-P-

(7)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 5-7-87 BY 3038 JAR

RECORDED - 40  
INDEXED - 40

101-2483-1216

7 APR 17 1956

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION  
EX-113  
APR 18 1 33 PM '56

APR 6 1956  
MAY 9 1956  
JUN 21 1956

100-412498

# THE SOBELL CASE

To the Editor of the Manchester Guardian

Sir,—Lord Russell's assertion that the United States has become a police State is so fantastic as to be undeserving of any reply. Not only has he been grossly unfair to the United States, he has been grossly unfair to his own reputation. He ought not to have let emotion gallop away with him.

As an American I owe thanks to Wade Mack for pointing out that the F.B.I. has no police powers and for outlining so clearly the scope and nature of its activities. Mr Mack's opening paragraph, however, is as misleading as his subsequent exposition is welcome. He says that "when the (Rosenberg) trial was over and the verdict delivered, there was not one faction or group or section of the public, with the exception of the Communist party, that did not believe that justice had been done." This statement is ambiguous. On the one hand, it might mean that the only organised body of opinion which protested the result of the trial was the Communist party. On the other hand, it might mean that everyone in the United States, with the exception of the Communists, agreed that justice had been done. In the first case, the statement has hardly any significance. In the second case, it is palpably untrue. There were many individuals in the United States who were not Communists and who had doubts, at least with regard to the justice of the sentence. It might be well to remember that two Supreme Court justices were among them. A dissenting opinion is not an exercise in rhetoric.

But the implication of Mr Mack's statement is even more unfortunate. That seems to be that anyone who voices doubts about the justice of the Rosenbergs' execution is by definition a Communist. I can hardly believe that this is what Mr Mack means to imply.—Yours &c.,

SEAN GERVASI

Keble College, Oxford.

To the Editor of the Manchester Guardian

Sir,—Mr Pyatt, in his book "Atomic Spies," says that Sobell would not give evidence at his trial in his own defence. When in Mexico he had assumed several aliases and tried to get visas for emigration. Mexico-Czechoslovakia-Moscow was at that time one of the escape routes for suspects on the run. Judge Kaufman at the Rosenberg trial said, when passing sentence, that on the evidence he was convinced of the guilt of both defendants. Bloch, their counsel, unable to discredit Gold's testimony, tried to prove malice, but failed.—Yours &c.,

G. E. HILDER

16 Powis Road, Ashton, Preston.

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LONDON, ENGLAND  
"MANCHESTER GUARDIAN"  
4/1/56  
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ENCLOSURE 1

101-2483-1216



# THE CASE OF MORTON SOBELL

To the Editor of the Manchester Guardian

Sir,—The reactions of my American countrymen to Lord Russell's original letter on Morton Sobell are more alarming than the actual contents of that letter. Such over-righteous indignation comports ill with America's pride in its capacity for self-criticism. Some of your correspondents assume that criticism of the F.B.I. must be unfounded, must be merely anti-American, must be the result of falsifying and distorting some facts and inventing others. These things I find it inconceivable to associate with Lord Russell; though his letter surprised me, it was clear that the appropriate response was to inquire further, seek more information from Lord Russell (such as he supplied in his second letter), and weigh his charges as objectively as possible. Your correspondents merely piped shrill polemics, told stories about fine young F.B.I. agents they have known, and even tried to discredit Lord Russell's claim by ad hominem remarks which were clearly intended to discredit him. This technique only lends colour to his complaints.

Indeed why do these self-appointed spokesmen for the United States get so emotional when America is referred to as a Police State? Why is it so absurd to compare the United States to Fascist Germany and Communist Russia? If such charges are false then they are false; it should be easy to prove it. But why the hysterics? Is it not perhaps that prima facie at least the last six years of American internal affairs make such imputations plausible? Who will come forward and explain to the outside world the Gray Report on Dr Oppenheimer—a travesty of democratic inquiry? Who will ease the minds of intelligent Europeans and Asians when they peruse the documents of the Rosenberg trial (cited in Lord Russell's letter of April 5) and the hearings concerning Professor Lattimore? Who will set into a sympathetic perspective the inquisition of university staff in the United States, and the spinelessness of the American Association of University Professors when liberal thinking was being crushed out of higher education?

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large number of my friends and colleagues, teaching in American universities are horrified and ashamed of the way in which their superiors sagged before the blusterings of McCarthy and his gang. They would be horrified also by Mr Wade Mack's confidence that only Communists were unhappy about the Rosenberg trial. Then there are the Jenners, the Veldes, the Brownells, and the army of creatures who work for them.

Lord Russell's serious accusations against the F.B.I. are hardly out of phase with what America has been teaching the world to think of it. Though his charges are hard to accept as they stand, I would hear more and request of your correspondents that they cease trying to scream him down. And if he can substantiate his remarks Americans must be grateful to him and not demand an apology. What is needed is an American apologist who can set out the events occurring in America since 1950 in a way which will make it clearer to Asians and Europeans than it is now, that the United States is not a Police State, and resembles in no essential way Fascist Germany and Communist Russia.—Yours &c.

NORWOOD RUSSELL HANSON  
11 Brookside, Cambridge.

To the Editor of the Manchester Guardian

Sir,—Even in one's own country it is only when real conviction is based upon close study of the evidence that one cares in a criminal case to challenge the final verdict of the appropriate court. A case subject to a foreign jurisdiction no doubt calls for even greater caution—and diffidence. But the case of the Rosenbergs, for whom nothing can now be done, and of Mr Sobell, who is still alive—so far as existence in Alcatraz can properly be so described,—has aroused world-wide interest for several years.

In June of last year Mr John Wexley published in America a long and fully documented account of the matter under the title of "The Judgment of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg." It runs to 864 pages, including 22 appendices. So far as I know, no action has yet been taken against the author or publishers, nor, again so far as I know, is any action contemplated. Yet it contains statements of fact and express inferences from those facts which, if they were made in corresponding circumstances in this country, would leave both author and publishers with no defence, not merely against many libel actions, but against proceedings for gross contempt of court: unless indeed they are true. If they are true, and they do not seem to have been challenged, all these convictions are quite plainly gross miscarriages of justice. If they are not

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true, I cannot understand Mr Wexley's immunity, nor why no injunction against further publication has been sought. For myself, I have little doubt that they are substantially true. On May, I am confident, the United States will be as ashamed of these trials as they already are of the Sacco and Vanzetti affair and as France is of the Dreyfus case.

It is not possible to re-try these cases in the correspondence columns of a newspaper. But perhaps the views of some representative Americans may be of interest. The trial judge made it abundantly clear that the case against Mr Sobell rested upon the sole evidence of one Elitcher, a man who had already been convicted—he has never been sentenced—of perjury. Of his evidence Mr Elmer Davis declared: "I cannot believe the evidence of Elitcher," and Mr McWilliams in "The Nation": "His testimony is inherently incredible." Professor Love, professor of law in the North-Western University, has said: "The 30-year sentence imposed upon Morton Sobell is a blight upon the reputation of American justice." Judge Frank, in a dissenting judgment in the Circuit Court of Appeals, said: "There was error, in this respect, which requires that Sobell be given a new trial," while Dr Harold C. Urey, a well-known atomic scientist and a Nobel Prize winner, has declared: "The integrity of justice as it is administered in the United States is at stake. . . . Mr Sobell was not properly tried and the verdict and sentence were not justified."

No human institution is infallible. No one expects it to be. What undermines confidence in the administration of justice is not doubt about its infallibility but doubt about its integrity. To refuse a new trial and at the same time to allow Mr Wexley's book to go unrefuted would be difficult to reconcile with good faith.

One final word. What possible justification can there be for confining Mr Sobell in Alcatraz?—Yours &c.,

EDMUND SILVERMAN  
House of Commons

ENCLOSURE

## Letters to the Editor

### THE CASE OF MORTON SOBELL

To the Editor of the Manchester Guardian

Sir,—It is perhaps presumptuous for a young American to challenge an aged and eminent man like Lord Russell. But surely he himself would admit, on reflection, not only that the language of his letter published by you on March 26 was intemperate, but also that he had overstated his case. I think, with all due deference to his justly earned reputation, that he has done more than that. I think that his letter represents McCarthyism in reverse.

First, as to the Sobell-Rosenberg case itself. I frankly admit that I have not read the entire record, as Lord Russell says he has. But I have followed the case closely and discussed it with lawyers of various political persuasions. None would agree that "official murder" had been committed, nor can it be claimed that Sobell was convicted on the evidence of Elitcher alone. That the sentences given in this case were harsh, not that the verdicts were wrong, is the utmost that I think informed non-Communist liberals in America would admit.

Secondly, as to the rôle of the F.B.I. Lord Russell flits easily from unsubstantiated charges in this instance to a

blanket indictment of the "well established technique" very similar to "Nazi atrocities." I question the accuracy of the first and absolutely deny the phantasmagoria of the second. The F.B.I. has been justly criticised on occasion, like all security services, but to compare it with the agents of "other police States" is simply fantastic, and a charge which furthermore, by implication, asserts that the Supreme Court and the Presidents and officials of both Democratic and Republican administrations have been false to their oaths to uphold the Constitution. This charge I flatly reject, even when Lord Russell palliates President Eisenhower's guilt by making it guilt by ignorance.

Lastly, as to the effect of the letter which you published. I cannot imagine that Lord Russell seriously believes that such a shrill and distorted protest can serve any useful purpose as far as Sobell is concerned. His letter can only please those who welcome Anglo-American discord.—Yours &c.,

BRADFORD PERKINS, Assistant  
Professor of History, Uni-  
versity of California, Los  
Angeles.

81a Coleherne Court, Old  
Brompton Road, London  
S.W. 5.

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# Letters to the Editor 4/5/56

## THE CASE OF MORTON SOBELL

To the Editor of the Manchester Guardian

Sir,—The letter from Professor Perkins which appeared in your issue of March 31 demands an answer. It is possible to read through the whole of the official report of the judicial proceedings in the Sobell case without learning many of the most important facts. Some, however, can be learnt from the official report. Professor Perkins objects to my saying that Sobell was condemned on the evidence of Elitcher alone. As to this, Judge Irving Kaufman in his charge to the jury said: "If you do not believe the testimony of Max Elitcher as it pertains to Sobell, then you must acquit the defendant Sobell." Elitcher's motives for giving false testimony do not, of course, appear in the official report. But the interesting fact does appear there that the chief agent in the prosecution was McCarthy's now discredited henchman Cohn.

I should be glad to know how Professor Perkins would defend the kidnapping of Sobell and the illegal stamping of his card by the United States immigration officer as "Deported from Mexico." As for the "blanket indictment" of the F.B.I., everybody knows at least the use that the F.B.I. has made of repentant Communists. It is generally recognised in modern times that confessions extorted by torture in past ages are unreliable, but it is thought that testimony extorted from confessed perjurers by the threat of prosecution should be accepted without question.

Professor Perkins doubts whether my letter can have any useful effect. I had hoped that it might induce a re-examination of Sobell's case in America, though Professor Perkins's letter makes me fear that I was too optimistic in this respect. To pass to more general considerations, I most earnestly desire good relations between the United States and my country, and I think it important that Americans should realise what an obstacle to such relations is created by authorised injustice. The cases of Oppenheimer and Lattimore did much harm in this

respect, and even more has been done by the Rosenberg-Sobell case. It is not only for the sake of justice, but also for the preservation of Anglo-American friendship that I think a revision of Sobell's trial important. Such cases supply ammunition for Communist propaganda in Britain and Western Europe, and do far more than most Americans realise to help the Communist cause.

Mr Wade N. Mack points out the limitations to the legal powers of the F.B.I. Has he never heard the ancient cusp "Quis custodiet custodes"? He

goes on to say that he has never known a "thug" to work for the F.B.I. and has never known of the F.B.I. beating up anybody. This, I do not deny: but I think he might remember Dr Johnson's remark, "Sir, what you don't know would fill a very large book." Mr Mack is mistaken in saying that I implicate the Mexican Government. On the contrary, it was not a party to the action against Sobell.

Mr Corliss Lamont, of the well-known American banking family, writes to me:

"I was much interested in the 'New York Times' story of March 27, giving a summary of your views on the Federal Bureau of Investigation. From my own personal experience I can assure you that you have not exaggerated the situation.

Liberals and Radicals throughout the U.S.A. are fearful that the F.B.I. is tapping their 'phone, has installed a secret microphone in their living-room or car, opens their mail, or goes over the contents of their wastepaper basket. Because I have an independent income, I am not bothered by such possibilities as much as many other people."

Mr Robert H. Rose seems to object to my quoting facts which have never reached the public and to accuse me of some secret source of knowledge. My sources of knowledge were all in published material. There is a very full account both of the Rosenberg case and of the Sobell case in a large book called "The Judgment of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg" by John Wexley, published by Cameron and Kahn, New York. Mr Elmer Davis, the radio commentator, said after reading this: "Assuming that the record is

correctly cited (and I have no reason to suppose that it is not) I cannot believe the testimony of Elitcher and the Greenglasses, or much if any of that of Harry Gold." There is a brief summary in a leaflet called "The Facts in the Case of Morton Sobell," published by "The National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell," 1050 Sixth Avenue, New York 18. There is also a pamphlet called "U.S. Senator William Langer Asks Justice for Morton Sobell," and an informative pamphlet published by the same committee called "Atomic Scientist Harold Urey Asks Justice for Morton Sobell."

Dr Harold Urey, who is a Nobel Prize man of by no means Left-wing opinion, said: "The integrity of justice as it is administered in the United States is at stake... Mr Sobell was not properly tried and the verdict and sentence were not justified." Judge Patrick H. O'Brien, Detroit, Michigan, said: "In accordance with our inheritance as a liberty-loving nation I urge the immediate release of Morton Sobell." Perhaps when Mr Rose has

studied these documents he will admit that my letter was not full of unsupported claims.

In conclusion, I cannot do better than offer him the advice which he so kindly offers to me, "that he re-examine his facts, review his paucity of knowledge of the case, re-evaluate his emotional fervour, restrain his crusading zeal, and rewrite his letters."

—Yours &c. **BERTRAND RUSSELL**  
41 Queen's Road, Richmond, Surrey.

LONDON, ENGLAND

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4/5/56

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**SECRET**

-LSC

SAC, New York (100-37156) (orig & 1)

April 18, 1956

Director, FBI (101-2483)

**TOP SECRET** 10235

**MORTON SOBELL**  
**ESPIONAGE - R**

5-7-77  
Classified By 2442 PWR-JAR  
Declassify on: GADR

By memorandum dated 4/13/56 and classified **TOP SECRET**,

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Spec. report  
2/15 3/10/1  
code by  
ap/line

(Bufile-  
100-105  
-909 Ser.)

With respect to Zimmering, you are referred to the report of SA J. W. Mowbray dated 8/18/42 at St. Paul, captioned "Meridel LeSueur, Internal Security - Custodial Detention" (NY 100-25876), in which Mr. and Mrs. Paul Zimmering, 3225 Oliveville Avenue, Bronx, New York, are listed as an uncle and aunt of the subject LeSueur.

COMM - FBI  
APR 20 1956  
MAILED 24

You are referred to the case captioned "Marie Ryan Casetta, was., Security Matter - C" (NY 100-98080), wherein the name Dr. Paul Zimmering, 8 Graneray Park, NYC, appeared on a list of persons to whom Casetta directed peace propaganda. You are also referred to the case captioned "Association of Internes and Medical Students, Internal Security - C" (NY 100-90808). The report of SA Frederick C. Sinek dated 11/10/48 at NY indicates Dr. Paul Zimmering of Bellevue Hospital was a member of AIMS. This report also states greetings from Dr. Paul Zimmering, 3225 Oliveville Avenue, Bronx, appeared in a booklet published in

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

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JPL:RMP  
4/18/56

**TOP SECRET**  
RECORDED-31  
FBI - 1021ICE  
REC'D DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
APR 23 1956  
101-2483-1217  
APR 25 1956

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10236

## Letter to New York

connection with the thirteenth anniversary celebration of the International Workers Order held in Madison Square Garden, NYC, 5-29-43. The report of SA Stanley R. Sharp, dated 7-15-52 at NY in the same case, indicates Zimmering was in the psychiatric division at Bellevue Hospital.

In the case captioned "Blanche Ruth Siler, was., Security Matter - C" (NY 100-65065), the name of Paul Zimmering, Oliveville Avenue, Bronx, was given as a reference by the subject in Federal employment between the years 1937 and 1942.

They are also referred to the reports of SA E. William Goombs, Jr., made at New York 2-15-45 and 5-17-45 in the case captioned "Morris Pasternak, was., Internal Security - R" which report information that Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Zimmering lived with the Pasternaks and that Mrs. Zimmering was a sister of Mrs. Pasternak. It is noted that in the latter report referred to above the Zimmerings and the Pasternaks left the apartment at which they were then residing because it was too small for both families.

You should develop complete identifying information concerning the Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Zimmering who resided with the Pasternaks. You should also develop complete identifying information about Dr. Paul Zimmering to determine if he is related in any way to Morton or Helen Sobell and, further, if he is related in any way to Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Zimmering. It should also be determined if possible if any of the Zimmerings reside in England, particularly during the period 1935-36.

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C. rdman  
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Lee

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101-2483

MEMORANDUM FOR

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TOP SECRET  
b1

5-7-87  
Classified by 3042 PWT-JAR  
Declassify on: OADR April 16, 1958

RE: **NORTON ROBBE**

(ESPIONAGE - R) 1248

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RECORDED - 19/01-2483-1214

EX-108

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Tolson  
Boardman  
Nichols  
Belmont  
Harbo  
Mohr

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Exempt from GDS Category 2, 3  
Date of Declassification Indefinite  
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2 - London  
1 - Foreign Liaison Unit

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4-16, 1956

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☐ Service Unit - Room 6524  
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Supervisor Room Ext.

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☒ 100-105909-1  
☒ 100-335260-8  
101-22-67371 Destroy  
☒ 100-354138-28  
100-355953-69

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☒ Attention Vermin  
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☒ All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)  
☐ Subversive References Only  
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Localities

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Date

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Return to <u>Lee</u> <u>1736</u> <u>2188</u>
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☐ All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)  
☐ Subversive References Only  
☐ Nonsubversive References Only  
☒ Main ref in 65-58805 References Only

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☐ Buildup ☐ Variations  
☐ Check for Alphabetical Loyalty Form

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 Birthdate & Place [REDACTED]  
 Address [REDACTED] b1

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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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TO : Mr. L. V. Boardman

DATE: 4-18-56

FROM : Mr. A. H. Belmont

SUBJECT: MORTON SOBELL, was  
ESPIONAGE - R

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

By attached memo

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Date of Declassification Indefinite

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101-2483

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Belmont  
Brantigan  
Lee

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EX-108

JPL:rap  
(5)

(see page two)

61 APR 25 1956

~~SECRET~~EST - 100000  
MAY 1 1956

Memorandum for Mr. Boardman

~~SECRET~~

ACTION:

(1) There is attached for your approval a memorandum

[REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~

(2) There is also attached for your approval a letter to the New York Office furnishing the information

[REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~

b1

V

OK/D.

WAB

OK

Lch

WAB

OK

~~SECRET~~

F B I

Date: 4/20/56

Transmit the following message via AIRTEL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

From SAC, NEW YORK (100-37158)

To: DIRECTOR, FBI (101-2483) (RM)

MORTON SOBELL, was  
ESPIONAGE - R

ReBulet, 6/8/54 and 12/27/55, and NYlet, 5/28/54, 6/25/54 and 9/9/54.

Check of criminal docket, clerk of the court, US Courthouse, SDNY, on 4/19/56, reflects no record of the filing of a motion for a new trial for subject by his attorneys to date. AUSA, SDNY, SILVIO MOLLO, advised 4/19/56, that ATTORNEY, MARSHALL PERLIN, 342 Madison Ave., NY, NY, representing subject, contacted him and had stated that the FBI had been returning SOBELL's property taken from him at the time of his arrest, in "dribs and drabs" and that he wanted the balance of SOBELL's property still retained by the government. MOLLO asked PERLIN what property he wished. PERLIN answered that he did not know what had been taken from SOBELL and that MOLLO should tell him what was obtained. MOLLO asked NYO what property was retained in the NY FBI office, and was advised that all property taken from SOBELL had been forwarded to the FBI San Francisco office for return to subject in September, 1954, except that thought advisable by AUSA LEONARD B. SAND to retain in event of a new trial. (See referenced letters). MOLLO asked NYO to prepare list of retained property for him; that he would tell PERLIN what the government retained and that he would not surrender items to PERLIN. List of retained items will be supplied to MOLLO by NYO on 4/26/56, UACB.

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

Mr. Belmont

RECORDED

KELLY

16 APR 24 1956

3 - Bureau (101-2483) (RM)  
1 - NY 100-37158

RTH:CXL #6  
(5)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 5-7-87 BY 2492 PWT-JAR

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

M

Per \_\_\_\_\_

70 APR 27 1956



XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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- ☐ 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 65-58286-2250

☐ For your information: \_\_\_\_\_

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

101-2483-NR 4-23-56

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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (101-2483)

FROM : Legal Attache, London (65-915)

DATE: 5, 1956

SUBJECT: MORTON SOBELL, with aliases  
ESPIONAGE - R

Re: 3/29/56 enclosing an item appearing in the Manchester Guardian for 3/26/56 which is a letter to the editor by BERTRAND RUSSELL, the famous English philosopher.

There is attached a further "Letter to the Editor" which appeared in the Manchester Guardian for 4/4/56 and which is in reply to the previous letter written by BERTRAND RUSSELL. It is noted that ROBERT H. ROSE, the author of this reply, gallantly and voluntarily defends the integrity of the FBI and ably criticizes the unfounded opinions of RUSSELL.

Mr. ROSE is not known to this office.

Enclosure (1)

JAC:ic

-P-

(7)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2-24-80 BY SP2TAP/and 3-4-85 E 05787

RECORDED-45

INDEXED

RECEIVED-DIRECTOR

REC'D-FOREIGN

52 JUN 10 1956

56 MAY 10 1956

148352-1

100-

Brady

## THE CASE OF MORTON SOBELL

To the Editor of the Manchester Guardian

Sir,—I was absolutely astounded to read, somewhat belatedly, the letter on March 26 from Lord Russell. Is it possible that such a thing could have been written by that great man? Surely with so much in this world which unhappily fails to meet his high philosophical standards he could find something better than the case of Morton Sobell for his crusading pen.

In any case he could do a better job of presenting his arguments. What, pray, does he use as a base for his purely emotional claim that Alcatraz is the "worst" prison in America? Personal experience? In actual fact Alcatraz is the "worst" prison in America solely from the standpoint of the prisoner who wishes to escape. I suggest to him that he makes a comparative tour of prisons both here and in America before he attempts to enlist support for a convicted criminal.

From this shameful beginning—for so acute a mind—Lord Russell goes on to quote facts which, so far as I am aware, have never reached public notice. Yet apparently he has some secret source of knowledge which he does not feel pressed to reveal. Where, for example, does he find the story that Sobell was beaten in Mexico and deported to the United States? Who told him that the defence counsel thought it best not to present the story of Sobell's trial? And how does he presume to be an authority on the methods of the F.B.I.?

I count among my friends a sub-

stantial number of young men who are or have been agents for the Federal Bureau of Investigation and I can only say after fifteen years of intimate experience that Lord Russell's allegations are not only without foundation but bordering on the hysterical.

It is curious that a man of his accomplishments can produce a letter full of unsupported claims and opinions and then go on to demand action—his sort of action—from readers who have nothing more to go on than his reputation and the power of his hortatory histrionics. I suggest that he re-examine his facts, review his paucity of knowledge of the case, reconsider his emotional fervour, restrain his crusading zeal, and rewrite his letter.

—Yours &c.,

ROBERT H. ROSE

The Quaker Barn, Whitechurch,  
Buckinghamshire.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 9-24-80 BY SP5 RG-Em  
SP2 TAP / amb 8-16-85  
C 257881

5-7-87 3042 PWT-JAR

LONDON, ENGLAND  
"MANCHESTER GUARDIAN"  
4/4/56

Bufile 101-2483

let to Rose (hand)  
4-20-56  
HPL

COPIES DESTROYED  
R21 MAR 9 1961

ENCLOSURE

File  
101-2483-1221

Director, FBI (100-112498)

April 16, 1956

Legal Attache, London (100-925)

MURDOCK RUSSELL HANSON  
SECURITY MATTER - C

Re: Rep SA J. PHILIP O'BRIEN dated 8/5/55 at London.

There is attached a copy of an item which appeared in the Manchester Guardian for 4/9/56 quoting a letter from subject HANSON concerning the MORTON SOBELL case.

This letter by subject is the outgrowth of an earlier letter written to the Manchester Guardian by BERTRAND RUSSELL, the well known English philosopher, in the defense of MORTON SOBELL, and also other letters written to the Manchester Guardian criticizing RUSSELL.

Enclosure (1)

JAC:ic  
(6)  
-RUC-

1101-2483-✓  
NOT RECORDED  
176 APR 30 1956

ORIGINAL BY ORIGINAL

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 9-21-80 BY 305-380/2

5-7-87  
3042 PWT-JAC  
# 86-16400

56 MAY 10 1956

MAY 3 1956

ORIGINAL FILED IN 100-412498-4

April 12, 1956

MAIN OFFICE  
33 NORTH LA SALLE STREET  
CHICAGO ILLINOIS

Mr. Winterhead \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. De Roon \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. H. J. van der \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mrs. J. van der \_\_\_\_\_

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

Dear Mr. Hoover:

For your possible interest I am enclosing a copy of a letter I wrote to the Manchester Guardian regarding Bertrand Russell's charges in connection with the case of Morton Sobell.

Sincerely yours,

Edward de Grazia

EdG:jep  
Enclosure

**ENCLOSURE**

ENCLOSURE

**NOT RECORDED**

**128 APR 26 1956**

APR 24 1968



April 19, 1956

101-2483-✓

Mr. Edward de Grazia  
Kirkland, Fleming, Green, Martin  
and Ellis  
World Center Building  
16th and K Streets, Northwest  
Washington 6, D. C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 9-24-80 BY SP5 RC-01  
SP2 RAP-01 8/16/88  
# 257481

Dear Mr. de Grazia:

Your letter of April 12, 1956, with enclosure,  
has been received, and I want you to know how much I  
appreciate having the opportunity to read your masterful  
reply to Bertrand Russell's recent unwarranted attack on  
American jurisprudence. I truly hope that your eloquent  
incisive reasoning will obtain the attention and consider-  
ation it deserves.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

cc - Mr. Nichols, Director of Bureau of Investigation

RE: According to Martindale Hubbell Law Directory, correspondence  
was born in Chicago, Illinois, and admitted to the bar of the  
District of Columbia in 1951. He received his education at the  
University of Chicago. According to Bureau file 138-341, the  
Civil Service Commission sent an application form on the  
subject to the Bureau on March 1, 1956, and a full report  
was submitted at their request. The investigation  
continued next page.

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

COMM - FBI  
APR 19 1956  
MAILED 26

50 MAY 11 1956

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 100-148352-15

Letter to Mr. Edward de Grazia

4/19/56

(NOTE CONT'D)

was discontinued on March 21, 1956, when the Civil Service Commission advised that the form had been sent in error. No reports were received from the field before the discontinuance of the investigation. In connection with the background investigation of his brother, Alfred Joseph de Grazia (126-3948), Dr. Harold Gosnel of Bethesda, Maryland, advised that he had known correspondent in Chicago and could vouch for him in the highest terms. One Irvin Fernan advised Mr. Nichols in October, 1955, that Edward de Grazia who was connected with the law firm in which Judge Kirkland was formerly a partner is one of the individuals who had sought to pressure him (Fernan) not to testify before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee wherein he denounced the making of transcriptions of jury proceedings. It may be recalled that these transcripts were made as part of a study of the jury by the University of Chicago and were sponsored by the Fund for the Republic. (62-102241-10)



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

Disposition in Rosenberg 65-8236-2251

☐ For your information: \_\_\_\_\_

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

101-2483-NR 5-2-56

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1 Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):  
Disposition in Rosenberg 65-58236-2253

☐ For your information: \_\_\_\_\_

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

101-2483-NR 5-4-56

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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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).

6

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

Disposition in Rosenberg 65-58236-2253

☐ For your information: \_\_\_\_\_

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

101-2483-NR 4-16-56

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AIRTEL  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NEW YORK 5/4/56

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

Transmit the following Teletype message to: BUREAU

MORTON SOBELL, was  
ESPIONAGE - R

Re NY teletype of 5/2/56.

"Daily Worker" article in issue of 5/3/56, related that the National Committee to Secure Justice in Rosenberg Case will hold a meeting at Carnegie Hall, NYC, 5/15/56, at which new trial for SOBELL will be urged. Article also stated that new documents and new evidence would be made public.

MAX ELITCHER recontacted this date. He advised that no approach has been made to him or his wife by any members or representatives of the aforementioned Committee.

The NYO will maintain close liaison with the ELITCHERS. For information.

KELLY

- ③ - Bureau (101-2483) (RM)
- 1 - New York (100-107111) (National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case)
- 1 - New York (65-14873) (MAX ELITCHER; HELENE ELITCHER)
- 1 - New York (134-205) (MAX ELITCHER)
- 1 - New York (134-206) (HELENE ELITCHER)
- 1 - New York (100-37158)

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DATE 5-7-87 BY 3042 PWT-JAP

Mr. Belmont

VJC:hac #6  
(9)

RECORDED-101

MAY 5 1956

Dept advised recontact will  
be filed 5/18/56 - And AG  
Toupin advised jrc:

101-2483-1722

55 MAY 10 1956

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

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

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. A. H. BELMONT

DATE: May 8, 1956

FROM : MR. C. E. HENNRICH

SUBJECT: MORTON SOBELL  
ESPIONAGE - R

IR 8

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

Supervisor John O'Brien called from New York at 12:10 p. m., May 8. He informed that the U. S. Attorney, who is reviewing the papers filed by Sobell's defense attorneys on the morning of May 8, has advised that from a perusal of the papers, which are voluminous, it appears they are a motion for an order to set aside the sentence and judgment against Sobell or in the alternative to grant a new trial. The papers allege this motion is based upon the fact the Government utilized false and perjured testimony in the trial and also introduced documents reflecting deportation of Sobell from Mexico, which the Government knew to be false.

The papers will be made available to our New York Office on the afternoon of May 8 for Photostating, and copies will be furnished to the Bureau.

## ACTION:

For your information. You will be kept advised of developments.

CEH:LL

(7)

cc--Mr. Boardman  
 cc--Mr. Nichols  
 cc--Mr. Belmont  
 cc--Mr. Hennrich  
 cc--Mr. Branigan  
 cc--Mr. Tully

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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 DATE 5-7-87 BY 3042 PWT-JAN

RECORDED - 83/101-2483-1223

2 MAY 21 1956

EX-109

50 MAY 16 1956

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAY 7 - 1956

TELETYPE  
**CONFIDENTIAL**  
3-52 PM

WASH 11 FROM NY 7  
DIRECTOR DEFERRED

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Boardman	✓
Mr. Belmont	✓
Mr. Ladd	✓
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tamm	✓
Mr. Nease	✓
Mr. Winterrowd	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Mr. Holloman	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

MR. BRANIGAN

MORTON SOBELL, WAS., ESPIONAGE-R, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] AUSA SILVIO  
MOLLO HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO ADVISE NYO IMMEDIATELY THAT MOTION IS FILED.  
NYO WILL FOLLOW WITH AUSA AND ADVISE BUREAU.

KELLY

END AND ACK

NY R11 WA NM

TU DIS

Mr. Belmont

RECORDED - 24

5-7-87  
Classified by 3042 PWT-JAR  
Declassify on: OADR

17 MAY 10 1956

EX-108

C.C. Brangan

Classified by 255 WAB/DVN  
Exempt from GDS Category 2, 3  
Date of Declassification Indefinite

10-17-75

58 MAY 17 1956

**CONFIDENTIAL**



THE FOREIGN SERVICE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
American Embassy  
Paris 8, France

Date: May 7, 1956  
To: Director, FBI (101-2483)  
From: Legat, Paris (65-356)  
Subject: MORTON SOBELL, was  
ESPIONAGE - R

Enclosed herewith are two clippings from the 5/3/56 issue of "L'Humanite", French Communist daily newspaper, concerning the current visit in Paris of Mrs. ROSE SOBELL, mother of MORTON SOBELL.

Both of these articles, one of which contains a photograph of ROSE SOBELL, speak of the "persecution" of MORTON SOBELL by the FBI, "the American political police", and the article containing the photograph describes the "fable of the FBI", in which MAX ELITCHER was allegedly coached to furnish false testimony which led to the conviction of SOBELL. According to "L'Humanite", at a press conference held in Paris on 5/2/56, Mrs. SOBELL appealed to the French people to assist in bringing about the liberation of her son.

Enclosures - 2 ENCLOSURE

ROL:CH

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-7-87 BY 3042 PWT-JAR

RECORDED-11

INDEXED-11

101-2483-1225  
MAY 14 1956

REC'D - ESPIONAGE

63 JUN 13 1956

MAY 11 5 31 PM '56  
REC'D - FOREIGN DIVISION

REC'D - SECTION

PERL:JAMES



Vente spécialement à Paris

# Mme SOBELL DEMANDE AUX FRANÇAIS DE L'AIDER A FAIRE LIBÉRER SON FILS

condamné à 30 ans de bagne  
en cours du procès  
Ethel et Julius ROSENBERG

**H**IER, au foyer Mario-Sanguier, Mme Rose Sobell, mère de Morton Sobell, accusé d'Ethel et Julius Rosenberg — et innocent comme eux — a été reçue par un certain nombre de personnalités auxquelles elle a parlé, d'une manière bouleversante, du sort de son fils, Morton Sobell, qui fut condamné à 30 ans de prison (sans qu'aucune accusation précise ait été portée contre lui), se trouve actuellement au bagne d'Alcatraz, où il vit dans des conditions terribles (Alcatraz est réservé, aux Etats-Unis, aux criminels récidivistes, les bandits particulièrement dangereux ou déséquilibrés).

Depuis l'arrestation de Sobell, des pressions ont été exercées contre lui afin qu'il accusât les Rosenberg. Sobell s'y est toujours refusé et s'y refuse encore.

La mère a été les jours précédents : Avant le transfert (il y a trois ans) de Morton Sobell à Alcatraz, le directeur de la prison où il se trouvait alors a dit à Rose Sobell : (Suite page 2.)

## La conférence de presse de Mme SOBELL

(Suite de la page 1)

« Votre fils n'aurait pas besoin d'aller à Alcatraz s'il voulait parler... » L'an dernier, un agent du F.B.I. (police politique américaine) est venu trouver Sobell dans sa cellule et lui a tenu ce langage : « Maintenant, tu ne peux plus faire de mal aux Rosenberg. Pourquoi ne penserais-tu pas à toi ? Il suffit que tu parles, que tu « coopères », avec nous et tu seras libre. »

Ces pressions intolérables exercées contre Morton Sobell montrent quel est l'enjeu de la bataille que l'opinion publique mondiale doit engager pour le faire libérer, pour obtenir la révision de son procès. Mme Sobell, qui vient de faire plusieurs milliers de kilomètres (elle a parcouru l'Italie, la Grande-Bretagne, etc.) pour parler de Morton, a déclaré : « Je ferai encore des dizaines de milliers de kilomètres s'il était nécessaire — sans ressentir de fatigue, pour faire libérer mon fils. »

M. André Haas et M. Emile Kahn qui présidait, disent l'émotion qu'ils avaient éprouvée en écoutant Mme Sobell. Ils disent que le combat pour Sobell était de « ceux qui grandissent » et s'engageront à le mener jusqu'au bout. Auparavant, M. Gouttet avait analysé le dossier Sobell. Mme Cornert, au nom du Comité Rosenberg, parla des formes d'action possibles en faveur du prisonnier d'Alcatraz. Décision fut prise, par toutes les personnalités présentes, de faire connaître le cas de Morton Sobell et de lutter pour lui faire rendre justice.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 5-7-87 BY 3042 PWT-JAL

ENCLOSURE

L'Humanite  
May 3, 1956

101-2483-1225

— « l'île du diable » américaine —

**U**N homme, une mère est en ce moment en France pour rappeler à tous qu'un homme, son fils, Morton Sobell, souffre injustement dans une cellule grillagée, au terrible baign d'Alcatraz, « l'île du Diable », américain. Morton Sobell fut le co-laccuse d'Ethel et Julius Rosenberg, et comme eux innocent.

Une seconde fois, en juillet ou août 1942, Hittcher se serait rendu en visite dans la maison de Sobell, à Grubbs, à 200 kilo-



De gauche à droite : Emile KAHN, Mme JOELL, Jacqueline  
HADANARD et M<sup>lle</sup> GOUTTET

Mais le dossier contre lui était si vide, si insignifiant, si mal fabriqué qu'il ne fut pas condamné à mort, et cependant à trente ans de prison, «est-à-dire» presque à perpétuité. Seulement, parce que le crime des Rosenberg était plus grand car plus irréparable, parce que la chose électrique menaçait, on coula un peu d'acier pour se penser qu'à Michel et Joseph, Pères de Ring-Ding, étaient collés des chaînes.

« Comment l'initiateur Sobell a-t-il pu se procurer ces renseignements ? »  
« Il est possible qu'il ait communiqué avec des personnes qui ont travaillé pour le gouvernement pendant la guerre », dit-il.  
« Il est possible qu'il ait communiqué avec des personnes qui ont travaillé pour le gouvernement pendant la guerre », dit-il.

[illegible]

## Un « témoignage invraisemblable »

L'invocabile... fabordit  
... et value  
... communication  
... de l'usage, est vacillante  
... quelques autres questions font  
... et l'usage  
1) Les... fabordit... gus...  
... au...  
... capital...  
... au...  
... au...  
... au...  
... au...

... Je suis sûr que cette proposition — acceptée, dit Kitcher — signifie que vous êtes Rosenbergs. Il n'y a jamais eu de suite à cette conversation et il n'y a jamais eu de nouvelles informations sur Kitcher.

Est-il possible que Stoll  
ou Nitscher venait de dire qu'  
il était parti par le P.R.I. et son  
compagnon, avec Nitscher dans un  
voiture. tout droit au commandant

4) Est-il croyable que le P.B.I.  
qui souffre alors de réputation et d'effe-  
tuer "et Bellini, et au Montebello  
de attendre deux fois notre retour

3) son vestimentaire défectueux de  
quaines d'autres vêtements  
de la même sorte et le témo  
nage d'un autre prisonnier  
qui n'appartient aucune preuve  
l'appui de ses dires, suffit à en  
voyer Morton Sobell au bagne, o  
il est encore.

Et où il risque de rester vingt-cinq années encore. A moins qu'il ne disparaisse avant ce terme, la force de l'opinion publique n'ayant pas réussi à le faire libérer.

**Catherine VARLIN.**

**Catherine VARLIN**

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DATE 8-7-87 BY 3042 PWT/jag

101-2483-1225

TRANSLATION FROM FRENCH

The following is a translation of an article appearing in the issue of "L'HUMANITE" for May 2, 1956.

- - -

**SHE CAME ESPECIALLY TO PARIS**

**MRS. SOBELL ASKS THE FRENCHMEN TO HELP HER FREE HER SON WHO WAS CONDEMNED TO 30 YEARS IMPRISONMENT IN THE COURSE OF THE TRIAL OF ETHEL AND JULIUS ROSENBERG**

Yesterday, at the Marc-Sanguier home, Mrs. ROSE SOBELL, mother of MORTON SOBELL, codefendant of ETHEL and JULIUS ROSENBERG - and innocent like them - was received by a number of persons to whom she talked in a bewildering manner regarding her son's plight. MORTON SOBELL, who was sentenced to thirty years imprisonment (without any precise charge being preferred against him), is presently incarcerated in Alcatraz, where he is living under terrible conditions (Alcatraz is reserved, in the United States, for criminals, recidivists, and for particularly dangerous or unbalanced bandits).

From the time of SOBELL's arrest pressure was brought to bear upon him to cause him to compromise the ROSENBERGS. SOBELL always refused to do so and still refuses.

His mother cited the following facts: Prior to MORTON SOBELL's transfer (three years ago) to Alcatraz the prison warden of the institution in which he was then located told ROSE SOBELL:

"Your son would not have to go to Alcatraz if he wanted to talk..." Last year an Agent of the FBI (American political police) went to locate SOBELL in his cell and spoke to him in the following tenor: "You can't do any more harm to the ROSENBERGS. Why don't you think about yourself? All you have to do is to talk, to 'cooperate' with us and you will be free."

8  
TRANSLATED BY:  
PATRICK J. PHELAN:jep  
May 28, 1956

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This intolerable pressure exerted against **NORTON SOBELL** shows what the stakes are in the battle of world public opinion which has to be waged in order to make him free, in order to obtain a review of his trial. **Mrs. SOBELL**, who has just covered several thousand kilometers (she traveled across Italy, Great Britain, etc.) to talk about **NORTON**, declared: "I would even cover tens of thousands of kilometers if it were necessary, without feeling fatigue, in order to bring about my son's freedom."

Attorney **ANDRE HAAS** and **Mr. EMILE KAHN**, who presided, mentioned the emotions they had experienced while listening to **Mrs. SOBELL**. They stated that the fight for **SOBELL** was one of "those which grow" and that they would wage it to the end. Prior to this Attorney **GOUTTET** had analyzed **SOBELL**'s dossier. **Mrs. COMERT**, in the name of the Rosenberg Committee, spoke of the forms of action possible in favor of the prisoner in Alcatraz. A decision was taken by all persons present to make known the case of **NORTON SOBELL** and to struggle in order to cause justice to be rendered to him.

The following is a translation of an article appearing in the issue of "L'HUMANITE" for May 3, 1956.

- 4 -

**WITHIN THE LATTICED SOLITUDE OF IMPRISONMENT IN ALCATRAZ  
- THE AMERICAN "DEVIL'S ISLAND" -**

**MORTON SOBELL, CO-DEFENDANT OF ETHEL AND JULIUS ROSENBERG  
SUFFERS UNJUSTLY**

A woman, a mother is at this moment in France to remind everyone that a man, her son, MORTON SOBELL, is suffering unjustly in the latticed solitude, in the terrible prison of Alcatraz, the American "Devil's Island." MORTON SOBELL was the co-defendant of ETHEL and JULIUS ROSENBERG, and like them he is innocent. But the dossier against him was so empty, so insistent, so poorly fabricated that he was not sentenced to death, and yet to thirty years imprisonment, that is to say, almost for life. It was only because the ROSENBERG's drama was more urgent, because it was more irreparable, because there was the threat of the electric chair, that SOBELL was slightly forgotten, because they were thinking only of ETHEL and JULIUS; the shadow of Sing-Sing overshadowed that of Alcatraz.

How was MORTON SOBELL linked to the ROSENBERG affair? One should bring it back to mind: He was acquainted with JULIUS ROSENBERG, whom he had known as a schoolmate in college, and he had, for his misfortune, a friend and neighbor: MAX ELITCHER. This ELITCHER, who had in 19-- signed a fraudulent declaration claiming that he did not belong to the Communist Party, let himself become terrorized by the FBI (American political police) and, because of the promise - which was lived up to - that he would not be released for his perjury, he agreed to implicate his friend SOBELL in order that the FBI could "strengthen" the charges against the ROSENBERGS.

Translator's note: The last two digits of the year are obliterated on the original.

### THE F. B. I.'S FABLE

And here is the fable which the FBI suggested that ELITCHER should present against SOBELL at the trial: ELITCHER would testify that there had been two occasions on which he was able to learn that ROSENBERG and SOBELL were spies. The first time, in June, 1944, in Washington, JULIUS ROSENBERG telephoned ELITCHER, whom he had not seen in five or six years, and then went to his home. After a vague conversation of a few minutes he asked Mrs. ELITCHER to leave the room; he then declared that they should "help the Russians" in their war effort by furnishing them scientific military information. JULIUS ROSENBERG then revealed to ELITCHER that he was a spy, that SOBELL was also one and invited ELITCHER to join them.

The second time, in July or August 1948, ELITCHER paid a visit to SOBELL's home, in Gullus, 280 kilometers from Washington. Upon arriving he told SOBELL that two cars (undoubtedly the F. B. I.) had followed him from Washington. SOBELL became furious and told him that he had at his home some important "secret documents" which he needed, producing "the information" and furnishing it. He decided on the spot - knowing that he was being followed - to take the material to JULIUS ROSENBERG and asked ELITCHER to accompany him, under the pretext that he was too tired to drive. He nevertheless drove the car himself all the way to New York, to the ROSENBERGS' home. ELITCHER saw SOBELL place microfilm in the car's glove compartment. SOBELL, having left ELITCHER in the car when he went up to the ROSENBERGS' home, told him upon returning that "all went well..."

### IMPROBABLE "TESTIMONY".

The improbability, the absurdity of this "testimony," which cost SOBELL a sentence of thirty years imprisonment is manifest. A few simple questions bring out the lies:

1) Is it conceivable that JULIUS ROSENBERG, who had not seen ELITCHER in five years, would propose to him, at the end of fifteen minutes of conversation, that he become a "spy," and do so directly?

2) Furthermore, following this proposal - which was accepted, according to ELITCHER - can we believe that ROSENBERG never pursued this conversation any further and never asked any information from ELITCHER?

3) Is it thinkable that SOBELL, when ELITCHER had just told that he was being trailed by the F. B. I., would rush, with ELITCHER in his car, straight to the ROSENBERGs' home?

4) Can one believe that the F. B. I., which had kept track of what went on, and ELITCHER, and SOBELL, and the ROSENBERGs, would have waited two years without even questioning each other?

We could detect dozens of other improbabilities. And nevertheless the "testimony" of ELITCHER, an admitted perjurer, which furnished no evidence to support his statements, is enough to send MORTON SOBELL to prison where he is still located.

And he runs the risk of remaining there another twenty-five years, unless he should perish before then, if the force of public opinion does not intercede to free him.

CATHERINE VARLIN



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. A. H. Belmont

FROM : Mr. W. A. Branigan

SUBJECT: MORTON SOBELL, with aliases  
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: May 4, 1956

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

Supervisor James P. Lee and myself contacted Mr. William E. Foley and John Reilly of the Internal Security Division of the Department with reference to captioned case. It was explained that we had received information indicating that motion would be made by the defense for a new trial for Morton Sobell. The basis for the motion would be that the Government used perjured evidence in the trial. It was indicated to us that an attorney named Perlman would represent the defendant.

We explained that our New York Office had contacted Assistant United States Attorney Silvio J. Mollo furnishing him this information. Mr. Mollo told our Agents that Perlman had requested Photostats of the Government trial exhibits pertaining to Sobell. Mollo also advised that it was his decision that there was no reason to retain the originals of Sobell's property presently maintained by the Bureau and it was his intention to return the documents. Mollo requested that we prepare Photostats of Sobell's property, stating that the return of the originals would deprive Perlman of the argument that the Government was withholding Sobell's property and that the Photostats would be sufficient for the Government's use in the event of a hearing. It was explained that Mr. Mollo had requested that the chain of evidence be retained by the employee who Photostats the documents and Agents who receive the Photostats initially the same. We explained that we were presenting this matter to the Department in view of the importance of the Sobell case and in the belief that the Department would want to consider the action before authorizing the release of the material.

Mr. Foley telephonically contacted Assistant Attorney General Tompkins, who instructed that he was not going to authorize the release of any material relating to Sobell until the matter had been taken up with him personally by the United States Attorney for the Southern District in New York. Mr. Foley requested that we recontact Assistant United States Attorney Mollo and explain that this had been discussed at the Departmental level and that Mr. Tompkins would not authorize the release of the material until he had been personally contacted by United States Attorney. The above material is in the possession of the New York Office.

cc - Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Branigan  
Mr. J. P. Lee

WAB:dae  
(4)

68 MAY 7 1956

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EX-126

101-2483-1226

MAY 14 1956

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Memorandum for Mr. Belmont

ACTION:

The New York Office was telephonically instructed in line with the above.

We are preparing a memorandum to Assistant Attorney General Tompkins confirming the conversation with Foley and Reilly.))

Q 4/10/50  
2/18

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. A. H. Belmont

DATE: May 10, 1956

FROM : Mr. C. E. Hennrich

SUBJECT: MORTON SOBELL, was.  
ESPIONAGE - R

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

On 5/10/56 with Supervisor J. P. Lee, a conference was held with Thomas Hall of the Department relative to the petition for a new trial filed by subject. A Photostat of the notice of motion and petition was given to Mr. Hall. He also reviewed Photostats of the exhibits filed. These consist of several hundred pages in Spanish and consist of the Mexican Constitution, immigration laws, treaty and extradition et cetera. Hall stated Department would not need these and if need arises he will call us.

Mr. Hall stated off hand the only item which might cause any concern is the allegation in the petition that the Government knowingly used false and perjurious testimony at the trial. This refers to the allegation that James S. Huggins, I&NS inspector who testified at the trial and introduced a manifest card indicating Sobell was deported from Mexico, knew Sobell was not legally deported. Hall noted that actually Huggins testified that he filled out this card in the regular course of business and that he made this notation as a result of his own observations which consisted of noting that subject was escorted to the I&NS office by approximately 9 Mexican police officers. Huggins further testified he put this notation on the card while Sobell was in the I&NS office. He further stated that none of the Mexican officials told him Sobell was being deported. Of course, the decision as to the calling of the witnesses at the trial was made by the U.S. Attorney, So. District of NY (SDNY).

Mr. Hall advised he is assigning Kevin Monroney and Marvin Segal to start research on this matter immediately and if they have any questions, they will contact us. He also stated he would contact Paul Williams, USA, SDNY, and will coordinate the research on this matter with Williams and his staff.

Mr. Hall said he would keep us advised of plans for answering the motion.

ACTION:

This matter will be followed closely with the Department. The petition is being analyzed by us and a memorandum will be prepared promptly. The New York Office has been instructed to follow this matter closely with the U.S. Attorney's office.

JPL:emb;plc

cc - Mr. Belmont

MAY 21 1956  
Mr. Lee

101-2483

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5-7-97 BY 3042 PWT-JAN

MAY 15 1956

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. A. H. BELMONT

DATE: May 8, 1956

FROM : MR. C. E. HENNRICH

SUBJECT: MORTON SOBELL

10-1

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

Supervisor McAndrews, New York Office, called at 10:17 AM, May 8. He advised that the United States Attorney had just advised that the defense attorneys in the Morton Sobell case had filed a motion for a new trial. Papers being filed are very voluminous. They have not been reviewed. New York Office has an Agent at the United States Attorney's office now for the purpose of ascertaining just what the basis for the motion is. The United States Attorney has indicated that he is conferring with Judge Kauffman regarding this motion.

## ACTION:

For your information. New York will immediately notify the Bureau as soon as the details of the motion are obtained.

CEH:mn

cc Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Branigan  
Mr. Tully  
Mr. Hennrich

(6)

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101-2483-1228

MAY 14 1956

EX-120

70 MAY 18 1956

~~SECRET~~

Date: April 30, 1956

To: Director, FBI

From: Legat, Mexico (65-268; 100-723)

Subject: MORTON SOBELL  
ESPIONAGE - R  
(Bufile 101-2483)

ALBERT MALTZ  
SECURITY MATTER - C  
(Bufile 100-7646)

5-7-57  
Classified by 3042 RUT-JAR  
Declassify on OADR

Re Mexico City airtel on the MORTON SOBELL case dated March 29, 1956.

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Classified by 2355/WAB/0VN  
Exempt from GDS, Category 2, 3  
Date of Declassification Indefinite

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RECORDED-37

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JTH:FO

50 MAY 22 1956

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EXP. PROC.

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