

New York, New York
August 31, 1950

MEMO:

Re MORTON SOBELL; was;
ESPIONAGE - R

On August 19, 1950 JAMES R. PETERSEN, 3544 Wayne Avenue, Bronx, New York, telephonically advised this Office that his father-in-law, JOHN KELSCH, 231 East 237 Street, Bronx, New York, is intimately acquainted with the SOBELL family, and also NORMAN MURSTEIN and family, who are very good friends of SOBELL. PETERSEN advised that KELSCH stated approximately three years ago that he heard SOBELL and MURSTEIN say that the next war would be fought in this country. KELSCH said that both MURSTEIN and SOBELL are Communists.

PETERSEN said that KELSCH was formerly superintendent of the building where MURSTEIN lived at 118 Minerva Place, Bronx, New York, and became acquainted with the SOBELLs, who are frequent visitors of MURSTEIN. PETERSEN stated that KELSCH told him that MURSTEIN and SOBELL attended various Communist rallies at Madison Square Garden, and that MURSTEIN'S daughter, RUTH MURSTEIN, marched in Communist parades.

PETERSEN said that KELSCH was willing to cooperate and that he could furnish additional information concerning SOBELL and MURSTEIN. PETERSEN stated that he was not personally acquainted with SOBELL or MURSTEIN, but stated that MURSTEIN still resides at 118 Minerva Place, Bronx, New York.

REX I. SHRODER, SA

100-37158-276

FBI - NEW YORK
AUG 31 1950

12

RIS:del
100-37158

4+1

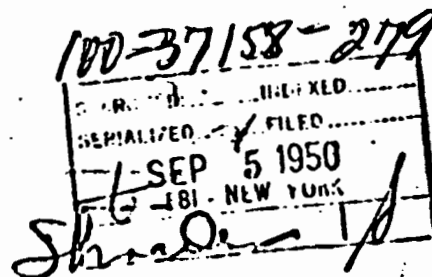
Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, New York
FROM : SAC, Oklahoma City
SUBJECT: MORTON SOBELL, was. - FUGITIVE
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: August 31, 1950

Re report of SA HARRY W. HANKINSON dated August 21, 1950 at Oklahoma city. Kindly advise whether stop at Treasury Department, American Airlines, Incorporated, Tulsa, Oklahoma, on return trip portion of Form 012 - Ticket 121896 need be maintained any longer.

HWH/mp
65-936



SAC, New York

August 31, 1950

SAC, Oklahoma City

MORTON SOBELL, was. - FUGITIVE
ESPIONAGE - R

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Department, American Airlines, Incorporated, Tulsa, Oklahoma, on
return trip portion of Form 012 - Ticket 121896 need be maintained
any longer.

W.H./mp
65-936

14-37158-279

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
SEP 5 1950	
FBI - NEW YORK	

[Handwritten signature]

NEW YORK, NEW YORK
AUGUST 31, 1950

BUREAU.....URGENT
WASHINGTON FIELD
NEW YORK

WILLIAM DANZIGER, ESPIONAGE - R. RE NEW YORK TEL, AUGUST TWENTY-EIGHT LAST.
MRS. SYLVIA DANZIGER REINTERVIEWED ON AUGUST TWENTY-NINE, NINETEEN FIFTY,
AT WHICH TIME SHE ADMITTED SHE NOW RECALLS SEEING A LETTER WHICH WAS WRITTEN
BY MORTON SOBELL FROM MEXICO CITY, BUT STATES SHE DID NOT SEE THE ENVELOPE
AS SHE DID NOT PERSONALLY RECEIVE THE LETTER. SHE RECALLS THE LETTER WAS
SHORT, HANDWRITTEN ON ONE PAGE OF WHITE STATIONERY, AND SIGNED MORTY. THE
LETTER DEALT WITH THE TRIP DOWN, THE FACT THAT THEIR CHILD HAD DIARRHEA,
THAT THEY HAD AN APARTMENT IN MEXICO CITY WITH MAID SERVICE FOR SEVEN DOLLARS
PER WEEK, AND THAT THE TRIP WAS A VACATION. MRS. DANZIGER ALSO STATED SHE
HEARD HER HUSBAND, WILLIAM DANZIGER, TELL HER UNCLE, MORRIS EIRLICH, A
PARTNER IN THE ACADEMY ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS COMPANY, ON THE MORNING OF
AUGUST TWENTY-NINE, NINETEEN FIFTY, THAT HE (WILLIAM DANZIGER) HAD ANSWERED
SOBELL'S LETTER. MRS. DANZIGER DID NOT KNOW WHAT HER HUSBAND SAID IN THE
LETTER THAT HE SENT TO SOBELL. THE FIRST VISIT TO SOBELL IN NEW YORK,
ACCORDING TO MRS. DANZIGER, WAS PRIMARILY AT HER REQUEST IN ORDER TO REVIEW
FRIENDSHIPS AND OBTAIN SOME PLANTS. AT THAT TIME SOBELL SHOWED WILLIAM
DANZIGER HIS GARAGE AND HIS TOOLS. MRS. DANZIGER STATED HER HUSBAND NEEDED
AN ELECTRIC DRILL TO REPAIR THEIR BED AND KNEW SOBELL OWNED SUCH A DRILL
AND ACCORDINGLY TELEPHONED SOBELL TO SEE IF HE COULD BORROW IT. DANZIGER

cc: 100-37153

CP3:HK (46)
65-153X

100-37158-281-4

WENT TO SOBELL'S HOME TO PICK UP THIS DRILL AND THAT WAS THE VERY NIGHT THAT SOBELL DEPARTED FOR MEXICO CITY. ACCORDING TO MRS. DANZIGER, HER HUSBAND TOLD HER THAT THE SOBELLS LEFT THAT NIGHT FOR MEXICO CITY AND THE ONLY COMMENT MADE WAS A DISCUSSION OF SUCH A NICE VACATION. SOBELL'S SISTER-IN-LAW, ACCORDING TO MRS. DANZIGER, WAS ALSO PRESENT THE NIGHT SOBELL DEPARTED. MRS. DANZIGER AGAIN STATED SHE JOINED THE COMMUNIST PARTY IN CALIFORNIA, BEING RECRUITED BY AN EMPLOYEE OF A BOOK SHOP. SHE DENIED THAT HER HUSBAND, WILLIAM, WAS CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNIST PARTY OR IN SYMPATHY WITH RUSSIA, AND SHE STATED IF SHE THOUGHT HE WAS MIXED UP WITH RUSSIAN ESPIONAGE SHE WOULD LEAVE HIM IMMEDIATELY. SHE WAS UNABLE TO EXPLAIN THE COINCIDENCE OF HER HUSBAND SEEING SOBELL THE NIGHT HE FLED TO MEXICO, AND THEREAFTER, RECEIVING A LETTER FROM SOBELL FROM MEXICO EXCEPT TO SAY THAT SINCE THEY THOUGHT IT WAS A VACATION IT WAS APPARENTLY NORMAL TO HEAR FROM SOBELL. THE SUBJECT, WILLIAM DANZIGER, WAS REINTERVIEWED ON AUGUST THIRTY, NINETEEN FIFTY. WILLIAM DANZIGER STATES HE NOW RECALLS HAVING WRITTEN TO SOBELL AT A MEXICO CITY ADDRESS. HOWEVER, THE ONLY PART OF THE ADDRESS HE RECALLS IS THE WORD "CORD OR CORDOVA". SUBJECT DENIES HAVING THE EXACT ADDRESS IN HIS POSSESSION. DANZIGER NOW ADMITS POSSIBLY RECEIVING TWO LETTERS FROM SOBELL WHILE IN MEXICO. DANZIGER RECALLS IN FIRST LETTER FROM SOBELL, SOBELL MENTIONED THAT HE HAD TO CARRY HIS BABY ON HIS KNEE ON THE PLANE TO MEXICO CITY, THAT HE HAS CHEAP LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS, AND SOMETHING TO THE EFFECT THAT SOBELL WAS AT ONE

ADDRESS AND POSSIBLY WOULD BE MOVING TO ANOTHER, HOWEVER, MAIL COULD REACH HIM AT THE "CORD OR CORDOVA" ADDRESS. SUBJECT STATES HE SENT LETTERS ADDRESSED TO MORTON SOBELL AT THE MEXICO CITY ADDRESS. DANZIGER ALSO STATED HE TYPED THE LETTERS ON HIS OWN TYPEWRITER. THE FIRST LETTER WAS RECEIVED ABOUT ONE WEEK AFTER SOBELL WENT TO MEXICO AND DANZIGER STATES HE DID NOT ANSWER IT TOO PROMPTLY. DANZIGER STATES THE LETTERS WERE PERSONAL IN NATURE AND COULD RECALL NOTHING SPECIFIC, AND FURTHER STATED SOBELL DID NOT ASK HIM TO DO ANYTHING. DANZIGER ADMITS THESE LETTERS ARE ABOUT THE FIRST HE HAS RECEIVED FROM SOBELL DURING THEIR LONG ASSOCIATION DATING BACK TO HIGH SCHOOL DAYS. DANZIGER EXPLAINS BY SAYING SOBELL MIGHT HAVE FELT AN OBLIGATION TO WRITE IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT HE WAS WITH SOBELL THE NIGHT SOBELL LEFT FOR MEXICO CITY. SUBJECT STILL VAGUE, EVASIVE, AND APPEARS TO HEDGE WHEN ASKED ANYTHING SPECIFIC. SUBJECT STATED HE CONSIDERED CONTACTING SOBELL'S ATTORNEY TO SEE IF THERE WAS ANYTHING HE COULD DO FOR SOBELL. HOWEVER, HE STATES HE NOW HAS NO DESIRE TO GET INVOLVED IN ANY OF SOBELL'S TROUBLES. SUBJECT BELIEVES IN SOBELL'S INNOCENCE, HOWEVER, STATES IF SOBELL IS FOUND GUILTY HE DOES NOT WANT TO HAVE ANYTHING MORE TO DO WITH HIM.

SCHMIDT.

New York, New York
September 1, 1950

MEMO:

Re: MORTON SOBELL, was;
ESPIONAGE - R

As reflected in the report of SA REX I. SHRODER, August 5, 1950, New York City, in instant case, bank account for EDITH LEVITOV indicated that she had paid Doctor ZIRA DE FRIES, New York City, \$100 in April, \$80 in May, and \$100 in June 1950. EDITH LEVITOV has subsequently been interviewed by Agents of the Washington Field Office, and advised that she has been under the care of a physician because of her "suicidal impulses." LEVITOV would not disclose the name of her Doctor, but stated that on the orders of her Doctor, she was during July and August resting at a "private place."

As will be recalled the "LEW" letter, which was sent to SOBELL in Mexico City was postmarked August 9 at New York City.

EDITH LEVITOV'S whereabouts on August 9, 1950 are not known. It is felt that she may have written the "LEW" letter, and that an interview with Doctor DE FRIES may disclose her whereabouts on August 9, so that further attempts could be made to obtain any typewriting specimens from that "private place."

REX I. SHRODER, SA

100-357158-284

F. B. I.	
SEP 1 1950	
N. Y. C.	
ROUTED TO J. C. Walsh	FILE JW

3 E. 68 St.
2A. Aug. 1950

New York, New York
September 1, 1950

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ESPIONAGE - R

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REX I. SHRODER, SA

RIS:del
10-37158

100-37158-284

F. B. I.	
SEP 1 1950	
N. Y. C.	
ROUTED TO	<i>WJH</i>

New York, New York
September 1, 1950

MEMO:

Re MORTON SOBELL, was;
ESPIONAGE - R

SOBELL in his application for employment with the General Electric Company, Schenectady, New York, listed as a reference one JOSEPH DANIELS, Reeves Instrument Company, 215 East 91 Street, New York City.

THOMAS J. REILLY, Personnel Manager, Reeves Instrument Company, advised that JOSEPH DANIELS had resigned his position with the company about two years ago, and that they had no idea of his present whereabouts. REILLY did state that DANIELS' PSQ and other items in his personnel file are still maintained by the Reeves Company.

According to Address

Details supplied at 10:00

4/25/45 to 9/19/47

as per Bureau - Terminated due

to "Outstanding Information" - Unknown

by letter. This person is current for

knowning company in New York City

Typ. Sec. 1 work.

Last address: 2505 Avenue A, Bx.

REX I. SHRODER, SA

100-37158-285

F. B. I.	
SEP 1 1950	
N. Y. C.	
ROUTED TO	FILE
J. E. Walsh	for

RIS:del
100-37158

New York, New York
September 1, 1950

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ESPIONAGE - R

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REX I. SHRODER, SA

100-37158-285

F. B. I.	
SEP 1 1950	
N. Y. C.	
ROUTED TO	FILE

New York, New York
September 1, 1950

MEMO:

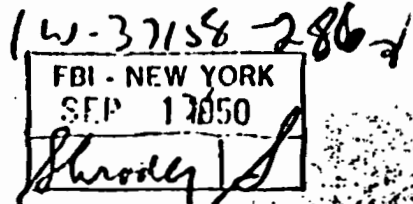
RE: MAX ELITCHER, WAS
ESPIONAGE - R

On August 25, 1950, the writer interviewed MAX ELITCHER with reference to the "Dear Friend" letter found among SOBELL'S possessions when he was taken into custody. ELITCHER stated he had not written same and was unable to supply any information as to the identity of the writer. He stated that he does not have a typewriter at home, nor does he use a typewriter at his work or have one assigned to him. He stated that if he desired, he could have access to four or five typewriters in various parts of the Reeves plant. This latter information was verified by Mr. HENRY ALDRICH, Security Officer at the Reeves plant. In view of the above, no typewriter specimens will be obtained.

J. T. O'BRIEN, SA

cc: 100-37158 (W. SOBELL) ✓

JTO:MM
65-14873



ENCODE: _____

NEW YORK, NEW YORK
SEPTEMBER 1, 1950

BUREAU, WASHINGTON FIELD....URGENT

WILLIAM DANZIGER: ESPIONAGE - R. AUSA MILES LANE ADVISED WILLIAM DANZIGER
APPEARED BEFORE FEDERAL GRAND JURY, SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK ON ~~THIS~~ *August*
31 ~~DATE~~. LANE STATED SUBJECT APPEARED TO DISPLAY COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE. DANZIGER
ADMITTED KNOWING JULIUS ROSENBERG DURING HIS COLLEGE DAYS AT CCNY. HOWEVER,
DENIED HAVING ANY CONTACT WITH JULIUS ROSENBERG SINCE HE LEFT COLLEGE.
DANZIGER TESTIFIED HE HAS KNOWN MORTON SOBELL SINCE THEY WENT TO HIGH SCHOOL
TOGETHER. DANZIGER ADVISED HE HAS CORRESPONDED OFF AND ON WITH MORTON SOBELL
SINCE THEY LEFT HIGH SCHOOL. DANZIGER TESTIFIED HE MOVED HERE FROM WASHINGTON,
D. C. IN MAY OF THIS YEAR. DANZIGER ALSO STATED HE WAS PRESENT AT SOBELL'S
HOME THE NIGHT SOBELL LEFT FOR MEXICO CITY. HE EXPLAINED HE WENT TO SOBELL'S
HOME TO PICK UP AN ELECTRIC DRILL. DANZIGER ALSO TESTIFIED THAT SOBELL'S
SISTER-IN-LAW WAS PRESENT AT THE HOME ON THIS PARTICULAR NIGHT AND ALSO
SOBELL'S WIFE AND CHILDREN. DANZIGER ALSO STATED SOBELL PACKED THE BAGS IN
HIS CAR ON THIS PARTICULAR NIGHT AND DROVE OFF WITH HIS WIFE, CHILDREN,
AND SISTER-IN-LAW TO THE AIRPORT TO LEAVE FOR MEXICO CITY. DANZIGER ADMITTED
HE RECEIVED TWO LETTERS FROM MORTON SOBELL WHILE SOBELL WAS IN MEXICO AND
ADMITTED HE WROTE TO SOBELL IN RETURN. HE REMEMBERED THAT HE WROTE TO A
CORD OR CORDOVA ADDRESS IN MEXICO CITY. DANZIGER DENIED EVER HAVING BEEN A

cc: 100-37158 (SOBELL) ✓

CPS:MFK (#6)
65-15396

mk
100-37158-2901

-2-

MEMBER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY. DANZIGER STATED HE WAS DISCHARGED FROM THE BUREAU OF ORDINANCE, NAVY DEPARTMENT LAST SEPTEMBER AS A SECURITY RISK. DANZIGER STATED IT WAS ALLEGED THAT HIS WIFE HAD BEEN A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND THAT WAS THE REASON FOR HIS DISCHARGE. DANZIGER DENIED KNOWING VIVIAN GLASSMAN, ALFRED AND LOUISE SARANT, AND MIKE AND ANN SIDOROVICH. HE ADMITTED KNOWING JOEL BARR AND WILLIAM MUTTERPERL SINCE THEY WENT TO CCNY TOGETHER AND ALSO ADMITTED HE HAS KNOWN MAX ELITCHER FOR MANY YEARS. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING SUBJECT'S APPEARANCE BEFORE THE FEDERAL GRAND JURY THIS DATE WILL BE FORWARDED UPON RECEIPT. AUSA LANE ADVISED SUBJECT EXCUSED FROM HIS SUBPOENA. SURVEILLANCE ON DANZIGER WILL BE DISCONTINUED FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER ONE, NINETEEN FIFTY AT MIDNIGHT.

SCHEIDT.



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

FD-71

(7-30-45)



IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO

FILE NO.

COMPLAINT FORM

Morton Sobell

Subject's Name and Aliases

162-12 72nd Ave. Flushing

Address of Subject

Character of Case

Mrs. Geo. Barr

Name of Complainant

164-19 73 Ave. Flushing

Address of Complainant

Telephone Number of Complainant

Date and Time Complaint Received

DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT:

FACTS OF COMPLAINT:

Mrs Barr called to advise that Mrs Sobell arrived home about 10 minutes ago. She advised SA Schroeder desired to be advised when she returned home.

SA Schroeder was away at home - no phone
SA Stevens was advised

ACTION RECOMMENDED BY AGENT:

SA Schroeder

100-37158-292
FBI - NEW YORK
SEP 5 1950

Schroeder

Blasius
Special Agent

New York, New York
September 5, 1950

MEMO:

Re: MORTON SOBELL, was;
ESPIONAGE - R

During the investigation of the captioned subject, it was ascertained that HELEN SOBELL attended the University of Columbia, New York City. It has also been learned from MAX ELITCHER and neighbors of the subject that SOBELL had a typewriter in his possession. It is felt that this typewriter could have been used by EDITH LEVITOV to type the "LEN" letter.

Inasmuch as HELEN SOBELL attended Columbia University, it is felt that the records of that University would contain letters or documents typewritten by HELEN SOBELL.

REX I. SHRODER, SA

RIS:del
100-37158

100-37158-293	
F. B. I.	
SEP 5 1950	
N. Y. C.	
ROUTED TO 104B	

New York, New York
September 5, 1950

MEMO:

Re: MORTON SOBELL, was;
ESPIONAGE - R

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REX I. SHRODER, SA

RIS:del
100-37158

100-37158-293

F B I	100
N Y C	Shroder

New York, New York

September 5, 1950

MEMO:

Re: MORTON SOBELL, was;
ESPIONAGE - R

MICHAEL MURPHY, 67 Wall Street, New York City, telephonically advised this Office that he had observed an ad in the Personal Notice Section of the "New York Times" of August 17, 1950, which was signed by MORTON SOBELL. Mr. MURPHY thought it might have some connection with the subject of this case.

On page 3, "New York Times" of August 21, 1950, under the caption "Public Notices," there appeared the following notice:

^{S.}
"MORTON SOBELL. Communicate brother PETER today.
Last known address, Chicago."

REX I. SHRODER, SA

RIS:del
100-37158

100-37158-294 ✓

FBI
SEP 5 1950
N.Y.C.
ROUTED TO <i>W</i>

New York, New York
September 5, 1950

MEMO:

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ESPIONAGE - R

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^S
"MORTON SOBELL. Communicate brother PETER today.
Last known address, Chicago."

REX I. SHRODER, SA

RIS:del
100-37158
del

100-37158-244

F. B. I.
RECEIVED
N. Y. C.
FILED IN

1/10

New York, New York
September 5, 1950

MEMO:

Re: MORTON SOBELL, was;
ESPIONAGE - R

1 6
[REDACTED] United States Post Office, Hub Station, Bronx, New York, telephonically advised Special Agent REX I. SHRODER that he is the [REDACTED] for 600 Trinity Avenue, Bronx, New York, and that since July 26, 1950 he has been administering the mail cover placed on the above address for LOUIS and ROSE SOBELL. [REDACTED] advised that to the best of his knowledge since July 25, 1950 the SOBELLs have received only one letter which was received on August 23, 1950, and bore the return address of MORTON SOBELL, Webb County Jail, Laredo, Texas.

LOUIS SOBELL, father of the subject, when testifying before the Grand Jury, Southern District of New York, on August 24, advised that he had received a letter from his son on either August 15, or August 22, 1950. According to his testimony, this was not the letter received from his son while at the Webb County Jail.

REX I. SHRODER, SA

RIS:del
100-37158

100-37158-296

FBI
SEP 11 1950
N. Y. C.
Shroder

New York, New York
September 5, 1950

MEMO:

Re: MORTON SOBELL, was;
ESPIONAGE - R

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LOUIS SOBELL, father of the subject, when testifying before the Grand Jury, Southern District of New York, on August 24, advised that he had received a letter from his son on either August 15, or August 18, 1950. According to his testimony, this was not the letter received from his son while at the Webb County Jail.

REX I. SHRODER, SA

RIS:del
100-37158

100-37158-106	
F. B. I.	
SEP 11 1950	
N. Y. C.	
W. J. [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

New York, New York
September 5, 1950

MEMO:

Re MORTAN SOBELL, was;
ESPIONAGE - R

Commander LENHART, Office of Naval Intelligence, New York City, advised that in discussing the SOBELL case with an Agent of this Office, he had expressed an interest in LOUIS REESE, an employee of the REEVES Instrument Corporation. Commander LENHART was of the opinion that a Communist cell existed at REEVES, which included the subject, MAX ELITCHER, and LOUIS REESE.

During a subsequent interview with HENRY ALDRICH, Security Officer, REEVES Corporation, ALDRICH advised that he had been acquainted with REESE for about two years, and that during that time REESE never showed any indications of being disloyal or adhering to Communist principles. ALDRICH did state, however, that REESE has never been cleared to handle classified material by the Navy Department, and that the company is still awaiting this clearance.

REX I. SHRODER, SA

RIS:del
100-37158

100-37158-297	
F. B. I.	
1950	
N. Y. C.	
ROUTED TO J. Walsh	FILE

New York, New York
September 5, 1950

MEMO:

Re MORTAN SOBELL, was;
ESPIONAGE - R

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REX I. SHRODER, SA

RIS:del
100-37158

111

100-37158-292

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 11 1950	
FBI - NEW YORK	
Shroder	

New York, New York
September 6, 1950

MEMO

Re: MORTON SOBELL, was.
ESPIONAGE - R

Mr. DONALD LINCOLN HERR, 1737 York Avenue, New York City, voluntarily appeared at the New York Office on August 20, 1950, to discuss a matter concerning security regulations at the REEVES INSTRUMENT CORP., 215 East 91st Street. HERR was interviewed by the writer, whereupon he stated that he is employed as a senior engineer for the REEVES INSTRUMENT CORP. and that he had been associated with MORTON SOBELL and for the last two years had worked in the same room with him. HERR stated that he was not socially acquainted with SOBELL and stated that to the best of his knowledge SOBELL never attended any of the social functions sponsored by the company. He stated that SOBELL was a hard worker and considered him to be a good engineer but stated that in his opinion SOBELL had a poor personality. HERR never heard SOBELL discuss politics but did recall that when KLAUS FUCHS was arrested in England SOBELL made a statement to the effect that he felt that FUCHS was not guilty. Another engineer named ELEAZER BROMBERG, who occupied a desk in the same room, overheard SOBELL'S comment and asked him to explain. HERR stated that BROMBERG and the subject got into a heated discussion which he, HERR, paid little attention to. However, HERR did recall that the argument ended up by SOBELL making some reference to the atom bomb and the fact that the United States at first employed this weapon. HERR recalled that after SOBELL made this statement BROMBERG told SOBELL something to the effect that "If you don't like this type of work, why don't you get out?"

HERR stated that SOBELL worked with and seemingly was more closely associated with SEYMOUR EARNH, WILLIAM HILES and WALTER STEINBERG. HERR advised that these men continue to be employed at the REEVES INSTRUMENT COMPANY.

HERR stated that BROMBERG is now employed in the Office of Naval Research, Washington, D. C.

In conclusion, HERR stated that he has been employed in the past by Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute as a night school professor of electrical

RIS:DMC
100-37158

100-37158-301

F. B. I.	
SEP 10 1950	
N. Y. C.	
ROUTED TO Schneider	FILE

NY 100-37158

Memo

engineering. He stated that at the beginning of the spring term in 1950 it became necessary for him to acquire an additional teacher to help with his courses. He stated that after¹⁰² discussed this with the officials at the Polytechnic Institute they suggested that he obtain a fellow employee at REEVES to fulfill the position at Brooklyn Polytechnic. HERR stated that he asked several of the engineers at the REEVES CORP. to take the position but that all of them with the exception of MORTON SOBELL turned down the proposition. He stated that SOBELL took the position, teaching one night a week a course on feed back amplifiers and that in his opinion SOBELL did a good job. HERR also stated that the departmental head at Brooklyn Polytechnic was also well satisfied with SOBELL'S employment.

REX I. SHRODER
Special Agent

New York, New York
September 6, 1950

MEMO

Re: MORTON SOBELL, was.
ESPIONAGE - R

Mr. DONALD LINCOLN HERR, 1737 York Avenue, New York City, voluntarily appeared at the New York Office on August 20, 1950, to discuss a matter concerning security regulations at the REEVES INSTRUMENT CORP., 215 East 91st Street. HERR was interviewed by the writer, whereupon he stated that he is employed as a senior engineer for the REEVES INSTRUMENT CORP. and that he had been associated with MORTON SOBELL and for the last two years had worked in the same room with him. HERR stated that he was not socially acquainted with SOBELL and stated that to the best of his knowledge SOBELL never attended any of the social functions sponsored by the company. He stated that SOBELL was a hard worker and considered him to be a good engineer but stated that in his opinion SOBELL had a poor personality. HERR never heard SOBELL discuss politics but did recall that when KLAUS FUCHS was arrested in England SOBELL made a statement to the effect that he felt that FUCHS was not guilty. Another engineer named ELEAZER BROMBERG, who occupied a desk in the same room, overheard SOBELL'S comment and asked him to explain. HERR stated that BROMBERG and the subject got into a heated discussion which he, HERR, paid little attention to. However, HERR did recall that the argument ended up by SOBELL making some reference to the atom bomb and the fact that the United States at first employed this weapon. HERR recalled that after SOBELL made this statement BROMBERG told SOBELL something to the effect that "If you don't like this type of work, why don't you get out!"

HERR stated that SOBELL worked with and seemingly was more closely associated with SEYMOUR BARTH, WILLIAM NILES and WALTER STEINBERG. HERR advised that these men continue to be employed at the REEVES INSTRUMENT COMPANY.

HERR stated that BROMBERG is now employed in the Office of Naval Research, Washington, D. C.

In conclusion, HERR stated that he has been employed in the past by Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute as a night school professor of electrical

RIS:DMCK
100-37158

*As to P.O. At
Wm Niles is at Reeves Inst. Co
at Reeves Inst
Inventor -*

100-37158-301	
F. B. I.	
SEP 6 1950	
N. Y. C.	
ROUTED TO	FILE

NY 100-37158

Memo

engineering. He stated that at the beginning of the spring term in 1950 it became necessary for him to acquire an additional teacher to help with his courses. He stated that after discussing this with the officials at the Polytechnic Institute they suggested that he obtain a fellow employee at REEVES to fulfill the position at Brooklyn Polytechnic. HERR stated that he asked several of the engineers at the REEVES CORP. to take the position but that all of them with the exception of MORTON SOBELL turned down the proposition. He stated that SOBELL took the position, teaching one night a week a course on feed back amplifiers and that in his opinion SOBELL did a good job. HERR also stated that the departmental head at Brooklyn Polytechnic was also well satisfied with SOBELL'S employment.

REX I. SIRODER

Special Agent

New York, New York
September 6, 1950

MEMO

Re: MORTON SOBELL, was.
ESPIONAGE - R

Re "New York Times" ad of 8/17/50 concerning MORT S.

Miss ROSLYN LIPPS, Assistant to the Accounting Executive, Metropolitan Advertising Company, 527 Fifth Avenue, New York City, advised that a Mr. PETER SALZ or SALTZ placed referenced ad with her company by telephone. She stated that SALZ is employed at BETH EL HOSPITAL, Rockaway Parkway and Avenue A, Brooklyn. Miss LIPPS stated that it was a personal ad and was placed for the purpose of contacting SALZ' brother, MORTON SALZ or SALTZ.

Miss LIPPS did not know the specific position PETER SALZ had at BETH EL HOSPITAL, but stated that he had previously placed ads through the METROPOLITAN ADVERTISING COMPANY in connection with the fund raising department of BETH EL.

Miss LIPPS could not furnish the residence address of PETER SALZ but stated that no further information was available through the records of her company.

WALTER P. GAVIN, SA

RIS:DWK
100-37156

100-37158-302-1

F. B. I.
7-10
N. Y. C.
Shuler

New York, New York
September 6, 1950

MEMO

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WALTER P. CAVIN, SA

RIS:DMcK
100-37158

100-37158-30

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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SEP 10 1950	
FBI - N.Y.C.	
ROUTED TO	FILE

SAC, Oklahoma City

September 6, 1950

SAC, New York

MORTON COBELL, was.
ESPIONAGE - R

Reurlet August 31, 1950. Inasmuch as American Airline Ticket Number 121896 is in the possession of this office, stops with the Treasury Department of American Airlines at Tulsa, Oklahoma, may be discontinued.



RIS:MM
100-37158

100-37158-305

New York, New York
September 6, 1950

MEMO

RE: MORTON SOBELL
ESPIONAGE - R

The following investigation was conducted on September 5, 1950
by the writers:

Mr. PHILIP DEUTCHMAN, E. Leitz Company, 304 Hudson Street, New York City, checked his records concerning Leica Camera No. 248674 and 50 mm Elmar 3.5 Lens No. 156589, and 50 mm Summtar F 2 Lens No. 585463. He stated that he was unable to locate any information which would indicate that the Leitz Company had imported the camera or the lens into this country or that they had been registered by any owner subsequent to their importation.

He stated that from the serial numbers he estimated that the camera body on the Elmar 3.5 lens were probably manufactured about 13 or 14 years ago, and that the Summtar F 2 lens was manufactured approximately 3 or 4 years ago.

Teletype has been sent to the Bureau suggesting that the Bureau make appropriate contact with the Leitz Company at Wetzlar, Germany in an effort to determine further information concerning this camera.

At the Paillard Products Inc., 265 Madison Avenue, New York City, Miss VICTORIA FIRCHAK, Secretary to the Service Manager, advised that their records of cameras distributed by their firm and a previous firm were filed by the serial number of the camera body, and that inasmuch as the only number which the writer could furnish was that of the lens (Yvar F 2.8 No. 70591), they were unable to locate further information concerning the Bolex 8 mm Model L 8 W Movie Camera, which SOBELL had in his possession.

LOG:MRF
100-37158

LESTER O. GALLAHER, SEP 6 1950

100-37158-306-7

IN. Y. C.
ROUTED TO FILE

New York, New York
September 6, 1950

MEMO

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ESPIONAGE - R

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LOG:MRF
100-37158

LESTER O. GALLAHER, SA

SEP 6 1950

N. Y. C.

ROUTED TO

FILE

100-37158-306

New York, New York
September 6, 1950

BUREAU, WASHINGTON FIELD, URGENT

MAX ELITCHER; HELENE ELITCHER, ESPIONAGE - R. MAX ELITCHER ADVISED THAT WHILE HE RESIDED AT ONE THREE ONE SIX DELAFIELD PLACE, WASHINGTON, DC, DURING LATTER PART OF NINETEEN THIRTY EIGHT, BEN ZUCKERMAN, EDWARD HILLMAN, WILLIAM DANZIGER, STANLEY RICH, AND SIDNEY HERSCH RESIDED WITH HIM. ALL WERE EMPLOYED AT THE BUREAU OF ORDNANCE, NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, DC. DANZIGER AND RICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN INTERVIEWED. BOTH HAVE DENIED COMPLICITY IN ROSENBERG ESPIONAGE NETWORK AND BOTH HAVE DENIED MEMBERSHIP AT ANY TIME IN COMMUNIST PARTY. ELITCHER STATED THAT HE, MORTON SOBELL AND WILLIAM DANZIGER WERE MEMBERS OF THE CP CELL IN THE NAVY DEPARTMENT IN WASHINGTON BUT WAS OF THE OPINION THAT STANLEY RICH WAS NOT A COMMUNIST. WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE REQUESTED TO CONDUCT APPROPRIATE INVESTIGATION AT THE BUREAU OF ORDNANCE IN AN EFFORT TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW HILLMAN, ZUCKERMAN AND HERSCH WITH REGARD TO CP MEMBERSHIP OF SOBELL AND DANZIGER AND TO OBTAIN ANY OTHER INFORMATION PERTINENT TO THIS INVESTIGATION.

SCHEIDT

cc: 100-37158 ✓
65-15396

JPL:ZED (#6)
65-15373

100-37158-307-1

New York, New York
September 6, 1950

MEMO

Re: MORTON SOBELL, was.
ESPIONAGE - R

Reference memo of SA Jerome M. Garland, June 8, 1944, entitled
"JULIUS ROSENBERG; SECURITY MATTER - C."

Reference memo reflects that a reliable and confidential source
who had access to the headquarters of the New York County Committee of the
Communist Party, 147 4th Avenue, New York City, on March 15, 1944, advised
that the below listed individuals had been transferred from Branch 16B of the
Industrial Division of the CP to community clubs as listed below:

SOL TANENBAUM
166 Second Avenue
New York City
Transferred in February, 1944, to
the 8th A.D. Club of the Communist
Party in Manhattan

NAT SUSSMAN
43-09 47th Avenue, Sunnyside, Long
Island
Transferred in February, 1944, to
the Second A.D. Section of the
Communist Party, Queens County

GERTRUDE SUSSMAN
43-09 47th Avenue
Sunnyside, Long Island
Transferred in February, 1944, to
the Second A.D. Section of the
Communist Party, Queens County

RTS:DMC
100-37158

100-37158-308

F. B. I.	
SEP 7 1950	
N. Y. C.	
ROUTED TO Shawler	FILE

NY 100-37158
Memo

✓
MORRIS SARITSKY

61 Harrison Avenue
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Transferred in February, 1944, to
the 4th A.D. Club of the
Williamsburg Section of the
Communist Party in Brooklyn

✓
SHIRLEY SARITSKY

61 Harrison Avenue
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Transferred February, 1944, to
the 4th A.D. Club of the
Williamsburg Section of the
Communist Party in Brooklyn

MARTY HAMBERGER (phonetic)
42 Ridge Street

Transferred December, 1943, to the
4th A.D. Club of the
Communist Party.

The above names should be searched in the indices, at the conclusion of which a teletype should be submitted to the Bureau summarizing all pertinent information developed. This teletype should also contain recommendations, and request for, Bureau authority to interview these people.

REX I. SHRODER
Special Agent

New York, New York
September 6, 1950

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RIS:DMcK
100-37158

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SEP 7 1950	
N. Y. C.	
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NY 100-37158
Memo

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REX I. SHRODER
Special Agent



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

(7-30-46)



IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO

FILE NO.

COMPLAINT FORM

100-37158
Louis Sobell
Subject's Name and Aliases

600 Trinity Ave. Bronx
Address of Subject

Security Matters - C
Character of Case

George Farrell
Name of Complainant

1550 Union Post Rd. Bx
Address of Complainant

Underhill 3-9829
Telephone Number of Complainant

12:25 PM 9/6/50
Date and Time Complaint Received

DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT:

FACTS OF COMPLAINT: complainant advised that he is
employed as asst mgr. at Ralph Drug
store, 1448 Metropolitan Ave. Bronx, N.Y. He
stated that FBI agents were at Ralph
Drug store last week checking on
Louis Sobell father of Morton Sobell,
who was picked up on espionage from
Mexico. Complainant was on vacation
last week. Mr. Farrell advised that subj

ACTION RECOMMENDED BY AGENT:

100-37158-309
FBI - NEW YORK
SEP 6 1950

Shroder
Special Agent

is a communist. He advised that Louis has stated that he has had no contact with his son, Morton, for two years, however, complainant stated that he believes subject was in contact with Morton during Christmas 1949 & New Year 1950, because subject took a week off during the holidays & stated that he was sick in a hospital, however Mrs. Farrell advised that Mrs. Salull gave conflicting stories to that of her husband. Complainant stated that he did not believe subject was sick but was assisting his son, Morton.

Mrs. Farrell further stated that subject claims heart trouble to keep from being questioned by FBI agents but complainant does not believe subject has heart trouble because he, Mr. Farrell has worked with subject

several years at Liggelt's Drug & Ralph Drug Stores and subject has never mentioned this before.

Mr. Farrell advised that he could give ~~no~~ additional information if an agent would contact him but he did not desire to give further information over the telephone.

He could give no specific information regarding subject. Mr. Farrell advised that he wanted his name kept confidential.

Mr. Farrell was not advised that an agent would call on him.

NEW YORK 7 FROM WASH FIELD 6 322PM

DIRECTOR AND SAC U R G E N T

MORTON SOBELL, WAS, ESP - R, RENYTEL SEPT. TWO, LAST, REQUESTING INTERVIEWS WITH SAM MESHER, MARY GRIER, AND JEANNETTE KAPLAN. IT IS POINTED OUT THAT NAVY DEPT RECORDS SHOW MESHER EMPLOYED BY NAVY BUREAU OF ORDNANCE, MARCH ELEVEN, FORTYTWO TO JULY TWENTYSIX, FORTYSEVEN-- GRIER EMPLOYED NAVY HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE AUG. ELEVEN, FORTYTHREE TO JUNE TWENTYEIGHT, FORTYSEVEN-- AND KAPLAN EMPLOYED NAVY BUREAU OF PERSONNEL APRIL ONE, FORTYTWO TO MAY TWENTYFOUR, FORTYFOUR. RECORDS THIS OFFICE REFLECT ALL WERE ACTIVE IN LOCAL ONE OF UNITED FEDERAL WORKERS OF AMERICA, AS WAS ELITCHER. AS POINTED OUT PREVIOUSLY IN CONNECTION WITH INTERVIEWS OF SUROVELL AND GOLDMAN, ALL THESE PERSONS BEGAN WORK AT NAVY SOMETIME AFTER SOBELL LEFT WASHINGTON. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF NY COULD FURNISH MORE INFO CONCERNING ELITCHERS ALLEGATION THAT THESE PERSONS WERE MEMBERS OF SAME CP CELL AS HE AND SOBELL, SUCH AS DATES WHEN THESE PERSONS WERE MEMBERS, PLACES WHERE MEETINGS WERE HELD, TOPICS OF DISCUSSION, PERSONS IN ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS, FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS, ETC., IN ORDER THAT THESE INTERVIEWS MAY BE HANDLED IN A THOROUGH MANNER. IT IS POINTED OUT THAT AS SOON AS THESE PERSONS ARE ASKED ABOUT MEMBERSHIP IN CP THEY DENY IT, AND AS SOON AS THEY ARE QUESTIONED ABOUT SOBELL, THEY ADVISE THEY NEVER HEARD OF HIM AND OF COURSE, THE RECORD THEIR EMPLOYMENT TENDS TO SUBSTANTIATE THEIR STATEMENTS. IT IS ALSO BELIEVED

Lead cards made

100-35158-310
6
6-1950

PAGE TWO

THAT ELITCHER MAY POSSIBLY BE CONFUSING MEMBERSHIP IN CP CELL WITH MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNION SINCE BOTH SURVELL AND GOLDMAN ADMITTED ASSOCIATION WITH ELITCHER IN THE UNION. RENTEL AUG. THIRTYONE, LAST. ELEANOR BROMBERG, LEAD OF MECHANICS BRANCH, OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH, INTERVIEWED SEPT. FIVE, AND HE ADVISED HE HAS KNOWN SOBELL SINCE LATTER BECAME EMPLOYED AT REEVES INSTRUMENT CO. ALSO STATED HELEN SOBELL WAS LAB TECHNICIAN AT REEVES FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS. STATES HE VISITED IN SOBELL-S HOME ON ONE OCCASION. HE WAS OF OPINION THAT SOBELL HAD COMMUNIST INCLINATIONS BUT COULD OFFER NO EVIDENCE OF CP MEMBERSHIP. COULD RECALL NO SPECIFIC INSTANCES WHICH LED HIM TO FORM ABOVE OPINION EXCEPT THAT SOBELL TOOK ISSUE WITH THE DECISION AGAINST THE HOLLYWOOD TEN, AND HE VAGUELY RECALLS ARGUING WITH SOBELL ABOUT THE COPLON AND MISS CASES. HE COULD NOT RECALL ANY DISCUSSION WITH SOBELL CONCERNING THE FUCHS CASE AND STATED THAT SINCE FUCHS HAD ADMITTED HIS GUILT, HE DOES NOT BELIEVE SOBELL WOULD HAVE ARGUED ABOUT THIS CASE BECAUSE SOBELL ONLY ARGUED WHEN THERE COULD BE SOME GROUNDS FOR ARGUMENT. HE STATES SOBELL VERY DIFFICULT TO GET ALONG WITH SINCE SOBELL IS THE TYPE WHO FEELS HE IS IN POSSESSION OF THE ABSOLUTE TRUTH ABOUT EVERYTHING. BROMBERG COULD OFFER NO EVIDENCE OF ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES ON PART OF SOBELL, BUT STATED THAT SOBELL WOULD FREQUENTLY LOOK THROUGH DOCUMENTS ON BROMBERG-S DESK. BROMBERG STATED HE WOULD HAVE ATTACHED NO SIGNIFICANCE TO THIS EXCEPT THAT HE WAS UNOFFICIALLY AWARE THAT SOBELL HAD NOT BEEN CLEARED TO HANDLE SECRET MATERIAL UNTIL LATTER PART OF FORTYNINE OR EARLY FIFTY. HE ADVISED THAT WHEN SECRET DOCUMENTS CAME ACROSS HIS DESK HE WOULD LOOK AT THEM FIRST AND PUT THEM AWAY IN ORDER TO PREVENT SOBELL EXAMINING THEM. BROMBERG STRESSED THE FACT THAT HE WAS NOT SUPPOSED TO BE AWARE THAT SOBELL HAD NOT BEEN CLEARED FOR SECRET MATERIAL. BROMBERG NEVER HEARD SOBELL MENTION ROSENBERG AND OTHERS INVOLVED IN ESPIONAGE. STATED HE KNEW

PAGE THREE

OF NO FRIENDS OR ASSOCIATES OF THE SOBELL'S OTHER THAN EMPLOYEES AT REEVES. HE MENTIONED THE NAME OF JOSEPH DANIELS, WHO WAS FIRED FROM REEVES CO TWO OR THREE YEARS AGO. HE SAYS DANIELS WAS VERY UNSTABLE, HARD TO GET ALONG WITH, AND WAS MUCH THE SAME TYPE AS SOBELL, EXCEPT THAT DANIELS WAS REALLY BRILLIANT ENGINEER. HE STATED DANIELS WORKED WITH SOBELL AT G.E. BROMBERG SAID HE JUST MENTIONED DANIELS BECAUSE OF THE TYPE OF PERSON HE IS AND FELT THAT DANIELS MIGHT POSSIBLY BE INVOLVED WITH SOBELL. EFFORTS TO LOCATE MESHER, KAPLAN, AND GRIER BEING MADE, HOWEVER, ACTUAL INTERVIEW WILL BE HELD IN ABEYANCE UNTIL ADDITIONAL INFO RE THEIR ASSOCIATIONS WITH ELITCHER AND SOBELL AND THE CP IS RECEIVED. RECORDS THIS OFFICE REFLECT THAT IN CONNECTION WITH LGE PROGRAM, BOSTON WAS REQUESTED BY TELETYPE DATED OCT. TWENTYSEVEN, FORTYEIGHT, TO VERIFY MESHER-S ADDRESS AT FIVE EIGHT STUART STREET, QUINCY, MASS. HE HAS NOT BEEN EMPLOYED BY NAVY SINCE JULY, FORTYSEVEN, AND ABOVE IS LAST ADDRESS FOR HIM IN FILES THIS OFFICE. SUGGEST NY FURNISH BOSTON WITH PERTINENT INFO AND REQUEST THAT OFFICE TO ASCERTAIN IF MESHER STILL IN QUINCY. RENYTEL SEPT. FIVE, CONCERNING INTERVIEWS WITH SUPERVISORS AND FELLOW EMPLOYEES OF SOBELL AT NAVY. SOME INTERVIEWS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED BUT THUS FAR, NO PERTINENT INFO HAS BEEN RECEIVED. ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL WILL BE INTERVIEWED AND A REPORT SUBMITTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

HOTTEL

BUREAU ADVISED

HOLD PLS

MR. SCHEIDT
 MR. WHELAN
 MR. STEIN
 MR. COLLIER
 MR. GRANVILLE
 MR. KENNEDY
 MR. LEVITS
 MR. MACHESSAULT
 NIGHT SUPERVISOR
 MR. RAGAN
 MR. KING
 MR. SULLIVAN
 MR. TUOHY
 MR. WALSH
 MR. WOHL
 CHIEF CLERK
 PROPERTY CLERK
 TRAINING UNIT
 PLANT IT

NEW YORK 7 FROM WASH FIELD 6 322PM

DIRECTOR AND SAC URGENT

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*V.J. Cahill has
 copy*

100-37158-310
 F. B. I.
 SEP - 6 1950
 N. Y. C.
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PAGE TWO

THAT ELITCHER MAY POSSIBLY BE CONFUSING MEMBERSHIP IN CP CELL WITH MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNION SINCE BOTH SURCVELL AND GOLDMAN ADMITTED ASSOCIATION WITH ELITCHER IN THE UNION. RENTEL AUG. THIRTYONE, LAST. ELEANOR BROMBERG, HEAD OF MECHANICS BRANCH, OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH, INTERVIEWED SEPT. FIVE, AND HE ADVISED HE HAS KNOWN SOBELL SINCE LATTER BECAME EMPLOYED AT REEVES INSTRUMENT CO. ALSO STATED HELEN SOBELL WAS LAB TECHNICIAN AT REEVES FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS. STATES HE VISITED IN SOBELL-S HOME ON ONE OCCASION. HE WAS OF OPINION THAT SOBELL HAD COMMUNIST INCLINATIONS BUT COULD OFFER NO EVIDENCE OF CP MEMBERSHIP. COULD RECALL NO SPECIFIC INSTANCES WHICH LED HIM TO FORM ABOVE OPINION EXCEPT THAT SOBELL TOOK ISSUE WITH THE DECISION AGAINST THE HOLLYWOOD TEN, AND HE VAGUELY RECALLS ARGUING WITH SOBELL ABOUT THE COPLON AND MISS CASES. HE COULD NOT RECALL ANY DISCUSSION WITH SOBELL CONCERNING THE FUCHS CASE AND STATED THAT SINCE FUCHS HAD ADMITTED HIS GUILT, HE DOES NOT BELIEVE SOBELL WOULD HAVE ARGUED ABOUT THIS CASE BECAUSE SOBELL ONLY ARGUED WHEN THERE COULD BE SOME GROUNDS FOR ARGUMENT. HE STATES SOBELL VERY DIFFICULT TO GET ALONG WITH SINCE SOBELL IS THE TYPE WHO FEELS HE IS IN POSSESSION OF THE ABSOLUTE TRUTH ABOUT EVERYTHING. BROMBERG COULD OFFER NO EVIDENCE OF ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES ON PART OF SOBELL, BUT STATED THAT SOBELL WOULD FREQUENTLY LOOK THROUGH DOCUMENTS ON BROMBERG-S DESK. BROMBERG STATED HE WOULD HAVE ATTACHED NO SIGNIFICANCE TO THIS EXCEPT THAT HE WAS UNOFFICIALLY AWARE THAT SOBELL HAD NOT BEEN CLEARED TO HANDLE SECRET MATERIAL UNTIL LATTER PART OF FORTYNINE OR EARLY FIFTY. HE ADVISED THAT WHEN SECRET DOCUMENTS CAME ACROSS HIS DESK HE WOULD LOOK AT THEM FIRST AND PUT THEM AWAY IN ORDER TO PREVENT SOBELL EXAMINING THEM. BROMBERG STRESSED THE FACT THAT HE WAS NOT SUPPOSED TO BE AWARE THAT SOBELL HAD NOT BEEN CLEARED FOR SECRET MATERIAL. BROMBERG NEVER HEARD SOBELL MENTION ROSENBERG AND OTHERS INVOLVED IN ESPIONAGE. STATED HE KEEL

PAGE THREE

OF NO FRIENDS OR ASSOCIATES OF THE SOBELL'S OTHER THAN EMPLOYEES AT REEVES. HE MENTIONED THE NAME OF JOSEPH DANIELS, WHO WAS FIRED FROM REEVES CO TWO OR THREE YEARS AGO. HE SAYS DANIELS WAS VERY UNSTABLE, HARD TO GET ALONG WITH, AND WAS MUCH THE SAME TYPE AS SOBELL, EXCEPT THAT DANIELS WAS REALLY BRILLIANT ENGINEER. HE STATED DANIELS WORKED WITH SOBELL AT G.E. BROMBERG SAID HE JUST MENTIONED DANIELS BECAUSE OF THE TYPE OF PERSON HE IS AND FELT THAT DANIELS MIGHT POSSIBLY BE INVOLVED WITH SOBELL. EFFORTS TO LOCATE MESHER, KAPLAN, AND GRIER BEING MADE, HOWEVER, ACTUAL INTERVIEW WILL BE HELD IN ABEYANCE UNTIL ADDITIONAL INFO RE THEIR ASSOCIATIONS WITH ELITCHER AND SOBELL AND THE CP IS RECEIVED. RECORDS THIS OFFICE REFLECT THAT IN CONNECTION WITH LGE PROGRAM, BOSTON WAS REQUESTED BY TELETYPE DATED OCT. TWENTYSEVEN, FORTYEIGHT, TO VERIFY MESHER'S ADDRESS AT FIVE EIGHT STUART STREET, QUINCY, MASS. HE HAS NOT BEEN EMPLOYED BY NAVY SINCE JULY, FORTYSEVEN, AND ABOVE IS LAST ADDRESS FOR HIM IN FILES THIS OFFICE. SUGGEST NY FURNISH BOSTON WITH PERTINENT INFO AND REQUEST THAT OFFICE TO ASCERTAIN IF MESHER STILL IN QUINCY. REPLYTEL SEPT. FIVE, CONCERNING INTERVIEWS WITH SUPERVISORS AND FELLOW EMPLOYEES OF SOBELL AT NAVY. SOME INTERVIEWS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED BUT THUS FAR, NO PERTINENT INFO HAS BEEN RECEIVED. ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL WILL BE INTERVIEWED AND A REPORT SUBMITTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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FBI NEW HAVEN

9-7-50

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RMP

DIRECTOR, FBI AND SAC, NEW YORK

U R G E N T

STANLEY ROBERT RICH, ESPIONAGE - R. SUBJECT RE-INTERVIEWED AT OWN REQUEST AT HARTFORD, CT. TODAY, DESIRED TO CHANGE PREVIOUS STATEMENT RE YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP. WAS MEMBER STEINMETZ CLUB AT CCNY WHICH BECAME UNIT OF YCL. ATTENDED BOTH OPEN AND CLOSED MEETINGS FOR PERIOD OF FOUR TO SEVEN MONTHS IN SENIOR YEAR. RECALLS ATTENDANCE AT CLOSED MEETINGS OF JULIUS ROSENBERG, MORTON SOBELL, MAX ELITCHER, WILLIAM DANZIGER, NATHAN BUSSMAN AND POSSIBLY WILLIAM MUTTERPERL. SUBJECT DENIES BEING A LEADER IN LEFT WING ACTIVITIES AT CCNY BUT COULD HAVE BEEN LOGICALLY REGARDED AS SUCH BECAUSE OF LEADERSHIP IN GENERAL STUDENT AFFAIRS. CLAIMS PARENTS COMPLETELY OPPOSED TO LEFT WING ACTIVITIES AND SUBJECT DISCONTINUED INTEREST ENTIRELY AFTER GRADUATION. SUBJECT RECENTLY EXECUTED PSO FORM IN CONNECTION WITH WORK CONTEMPLATED IN GUIDED MISSILES AND RADAR IN COOPERATION WITH RCA. DID NOT LIST YCL MEMBERSHIP AND EXHIBITED CONCERN OVER FAILURE. SUBJECT ADVISED THAT THREE HALE VISITORS TO HARTFORD ON AUGUST TWENTY THREE LAST WERE DON GUNTER OF RCA, CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY AND TWO RCA ASSOCIATES. VISITORS TO DARIEN, CT WEEKEND OF AUGUST EIGHTEEN LAST WERE JOSEPH AND HELEN DARION OF TEN MONROE STREET, NEW YORK CITY, BOTH FORMERLY SYMPATHETIC TO COMMUNISM AND FOR SEVERAL YEARS MUCH OPPOSED. ALBANY AND CLEVELAND ADVISED SEPARATELY FOR INFO. REPORT FOLLOWS.

WILLIS

65-15395

CORRECTION LINE SIX WORD SIX SHOULD BE ROSENBERG

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WA 10-42 AM OK FBI WASH DC WJR

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SEP 7 1950

N. Y. C.

ROUTED TO

Silverman

MR. WHELAN
 MR. EISEN
 MR. COLLIER
 MR. GRANVILLE
 MR. KENNEDY
 MR. LITVINS
 MR. PATCUESBAULT
 MR. RAYAN
 MR. RICH
 MR. SULLIVAN
 MR. TUCHY
 MR. WALSH
 MR. WOLL
 MR. CLARK
 MR. LEECH
 3-33-50

16
 NEW YORK 15 AND BALTIMORE 2 FROM WASH FIELD 7

DIRECTOR AND SACS.....U R G E N T

MORTON SOBELL, WAS, ESP R. RENYTEL REQUESTING WFO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW
 JEANETTE KAPLAN, FORMER NAVY DEPT. EMPLOYEE. FILES THIS OFFICE REFLECT
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 DASH ONE NAUGHT NINE NINE FIVE. [REDACTED] RELIABLE,
 ADVISED ON FEB. FOURTEEN, FORTY FIVE THAT ONE JEANETTE KAPLAN, TWO
 FOUR NAUGHT ONE EUTAH PL., BALTIMORE, WAS TRANSFERRED FROM
 CPA, WASHINGTON, TO BALTIMORE. BALTIMORE LETTER APRIL SEVENTEEN,
 FORTY FIVE, STATES KAPLAN THEN SECRETARY OF TOM PAINE CLUB OF CPA IN
 BALTIMORE. IN FORTY FIVE KAPLAN RELIABLY REPORTED TO BE MEMBER OF WASH-
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 END OF PAGE ONE

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100-37158-317

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New York, N.Y.
September 7, 1950

MEMO

Re: MORTON SOBELL
ESPIONAGE - R

The writer today discussed with Chief Assistant United States Attorney Lyles J. Lane the possibility of obtaining a search warrant for the premises of the above subject. Mr. Lane advised that there was no apparent foundation for the issuance of such a search warrant. He also stated that he was not inclined to obtain such a warrant if it would in any way be attacked as illegal.

He stated that he would not consider doing anything that would jeopardize in any way the espionage cases against JULIUS and ETHEL ROSENBERG.

He advised that in the event any evidence was obtained indicating that material of an espionage nature was located in SOBELL's premises, he would reconsider. He stated, however, that he was not inclined to "go scotching" around looking for evidence.

JOHN M. HARRINGTON, SA

JMH: AG
100-37150



New York, N.Y.
September 7, 1950

MEMO

Re: MORTON SOBELL
ESPIONAGE - R

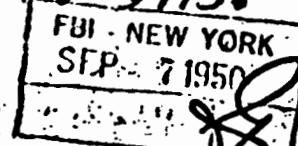
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JOHN M. HARRINGTON, SA

JMH:AG
100-37158



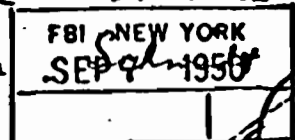
Spt. 7, 1950

Memorandum for file

Re: MORTON SOBELL
Espionage - R

Walter SCHMIDT (designate by T symbol in report)
17 5th Ave., Pelham, N.Y., advised the writer on 8/21/50
that he has been employed by the REEVES INSTRUMENT
CORP. for several years. About 3 years ago MORTON
SOBELL, an engineer, was put in charge of a job
at the Reeves Corp. on which Schmidt was employed
as a mechanical assembler. This job continued for about
a year. Schmidt stated that no one liked Sobell and
that the only person with whom he seemed friendly
was MAX ELITCHER, an engineer.

Schmidt stated that he does not know Mrs.
Sobell but someone in the office told him that Mrs.!!
Sobell had worked for the Reeves Corp but resigned
or was forced to resign about 1½ years ago. Allegedly
she was caught by a guard in the president's
office and when asked what she was doing there
she ~~not~~ gave the rather lame excuse that she
must have gotten into the wrong office.



100-37158

100-37158-3201

Re: MORTON SOBELL

stated that she had been told that Mrs. Sobell was doing statistical work in the engineering department at Reeves.

Schmidt stated that Sobell's departure from the Reeves Corp. was very peculiar inasmuch as he left just two weeks before vacation time (first 2 weeks in August)

Schmidt stated that Al SCHERMERNHORN, the general time keeper at the Reeves Corp., always seems to know a lot of what is going on around the plant and might very well be able to furnish some information on Sobell. He stated that Schermerhorn lives in Brooklyn and is a Past Commander of the American Legion. Schmidt also suggested that Ralph YAGER (phon.) who was employed as an engineer by the Reeves Corp. until about a year ago, might have known Sobell. Schmidt stated that Yager is a former Lt. in the Navy and is believed to reside on Lockwood Ave., New Rochelle.

Schmidt stated that he would try to obtain the name of the guard who caught Mrs. Sobell in the president's office.

Walter C Roetting, Jr.