

FILE DESCRIPTION

NEW YORK FILE

SUBJECT Morton Sobell

FILE NO. 100-37158

VOLUME NO. 21

SERIALS 1010

thru

1015

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File No: 100-37158

Re: MORTON SOBELL

Date: 11/77

(month/year)

Serial	Date	Description (Type of communication, to, from)	No. of Pages		*	Exemptions used or, to whom referred (Identify statute if (b)(3) cited)
			Actual	Released		
1010	1/25/51	NY LETTER TO HQ CAPTIONED: MAX ELITCHER HELENE ELITCHER	2	-	Yes	Bufile 101-2115
1011	1/25/51	HQ LETTER TO NY	1	-	Yes	Bufile 101-2483
1011	1/25/51	COPY OF LETTER	1	-	Yes	Bufile 101-2483
1012	1/27/51	HQ LETTER TO ICG COPY TO NY	1	-	Yes	Bufile 101-2483
1013	1/29/51	NY LETTER TO HQ	3	3	Yes	process no exemptions
1014	1/30/51	HQ TELETYPE TO NY	1	-	Yes	Bufile 101-2483
1014	1/30/51	COPY OF TELETYPE	1	-	Yes	Bufile 101-2483
1015	1/31/51	NY REPORT TO HQ	54	-	Yes	Bufile 101-2483
1015	1/31/51	COPY OF REPORT	54	-	Yes	Bufile 101-2483
1015	1/31/51	COPY OF REPORT	54	-	Yes	Bufile 101-2483
1015	1/31/51	COPY OF REPORT	54	-	Yes	Bufile 101-2483
1015	1/31/51	COPY OF REPORT	54	-	Yes	Bufile 101-2483

*Designated to or from Bureau and/or Albuquerque, New York

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DOCUMENT JUSTIFICATION

Rosenberg Et. AL

Serial Number	Date of Serial	DELETION (S)
1010	1/25/51	This letter was previously processed as shown on the Inventory Worksheet.
1011 with one copy	1/25/51	This letter was previously processed as shown on the Inventory Worksheet.
1012	1/27/51	This letter was previously processed as shown on the Inventory Worksheet.
1013	1/29/51	No exemptions were cited.
1014 with one copy	1/30/51	This teletype was previously processed as shown on the Inventory Worksheet.
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FEDERAL BUREAU

of

INVESTIGATION

Bureau File Number

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HUBLE STICKER FILE

Serial

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1010-1015

YR kept in file

cor, FBI

January 29, 1951

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SAC, New York

MORTON SOBELL, was.
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Reference is made to Bureau letter to New York City dated January 20, 1951. Reference letter points out that SOBELL, in a letter to his wife written from Vera Cruz, Mexico, advised her that he had "dropped Louie a brief line".

MAX ELITCHER has advised that SOBELL, when speaking of his father, LOUIS, would refer to him as either LOU or LOUIE.

Subject's father, when interviewed by Bureau agents prior to his arrest, vigorously denied knowing the whereabouts of his son and also averred that he had not received or transmitted a communication to or from SOBELL. It has also been established that LOUIS SOBELL was in New York City and employed during the pertinent period the "LOU" letter was transmitted.

Reference letter considers the possibility that the quotation from the "LOU" letter, "I got your letter by coincidence as I do not live there any longer. I have been travelling these last few months and as soon as I settle down, I'll let you know my whereabouts." maybe factual. The New Office has taken the above into consideration during the investigation to the identity of the author of the "LOU" letter.

With the above facts in mind, they appear to be only applicable to EDITH LEVITOV, sister-in-law of the subject. During an interview with agents of the Washington Office, LEVITOV denied writing or hearing from the subject, but when questioned as to her whereabouts on August 9, 1950, she replied that she was "visiting a private place on the advice of her physician".

LOUIS PASTERNAK, uncle of SOBELL, advised that EDITH LEVITOV, in the company of SOBELL'S parents, visited Camp Unity sometime during the summer of 1950. He was unable, however, to recall the date of the trip and hesitatingly advised he thought his records would not reflect this information. PASTERNAK also advised that he was at Camp Unity Headquarters, Wingdale, New York, during the entire summer but admitted making occasional trips to New York City during that period. Again he could not recall the dates of his visits to New York City. He said he remained at Camp Unity until sometime after Labor Day, at which time he took a trip to California.

Complete details of the interviews with LOUIS PASTERNAK have been incorporated in an investigative report, which will be submitted to the Bureau in the very near future. A recommendation to include PASTERNAK'S name on the security index project has also been made.

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Ret. to Bur.

With further reference to the identity of the author of the "LOU" letter, it is pointed out that if LOU is pronounced in phonetic Russian, it would be LEV, again possibly applicable to EDITH LEVITOV.

The laboratory has been furnished with all specimens of typing obtained from the suspects in the ROSENBERG network. With the exception of the typewriter located in the office of Camp Unity in New York City, the analyses have been completely negative. The laboratory advised that the Camp Unity typewriter has some characteristics appearing on the "LOU" letter, but that in the absence of information that the Unity typewriter had been "doctored", no positive identification could be made and it was assumed that the typewriter was not identical. In this connection, PASTERNAK, when interviewed, advised that no repairs had been made on this typewriter for sometime. He was unable to recall the date of the last repair, but indicated that repairs were made "years ago".

The following analysis concerning the author of the "LOU" letter is being offered for the consideration of the Bureau. SOBELL was advised by JULIUS ROSENBERG prior to DAVID GREENGLASS' arrest, that the possibility existed which would necessitate SOBELL and his family leaving the United States for Europe through Mexico. SOBELL, upon learning of GREENGLASS' arrest, June 16, 1950, on his own initiative, made preparations to flee to Mexico. Upon arriving in Mexico, SOBELL encountered some difficulty in securing passage for Europe. It is believed possible that since his flight was premature, ROSENBERG did not have the opportunity to make his contacts for SOBELL in Mexico. Realizing LOUIS PASTERNAK'S position or influence in the Communist Party, SOBELL communicated with him soliciting his aid in obtaining passports and financial aid. The "LOU" letter was subsequently written by PASTERNAK or a close associate advising SOBELL that a contact had been made, who could furnish SOBELL with papers and money. It is also believed possible that this letter was typed on the Camp Unity typewriter. After SOBELL'S arrest, numerous suspects including EDITH LEVITOV were exhibited the "LOU" letter. PASTERNAK, learning of our interest in this matter, had certain changes made on individual type, which, when if examined by experts, would show certain discrepancies.

PASTERNAK has advised that no typed material is available, which was typed on the Camp Unity typewriter prior to August, 1950. Investigation is being conducted to locate material typed on the typewriter prior to August, 1950, and upon obtaining same, will be forwarded to the laboratory for comparison.

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Let. to Bur.

A review of the files of this office failed to indicate logical suspects for the author of the "LOU" letter, except as noted above. LOUIS PASTERNAK has been subpoenaed to appear before the Grand Jury, Southern District of New York, on January 31, 1951. At that time he will be thoroughly questioned relative to his whereabouts during the pertinent period, knowledge of SOBELL'S trip to Mexico and all aspects of the "LOU" letter and the Camp Unity typewriter.

The Bureau will be promptly advised of any subsequent information developed concerning the identity of the author of the "LOU" letter.