



L.A. National Committee to Combat Fascism

Sept. 17, 1969

First Meeting, Orientation, Workshops

First Unitarian Church 2936 W. 8th St., L.A., Calif.

Sept. 13, 1969--12 PM- 5 PM--

Seen at the meeting-----

[REDACTED]

b7d

L.A. National Committee to Combat Fascism  
First meeting, Orientation, Workshops  
First Unitarian Church, 2936 W. 8th St., L.A., Calif.  
Sept. 13, 1969--12PM-5 PM

Sept. 17, 1969

During the meeting---

[REDACTED]

7d

L.A. National Committee to Combat Fascism

Sept. 14, 1969

First Meeting, Orientation, Workshops

First Unitarian Church, 2936 W. 8th St., L.A., Calif.

12 PM-5 PM--Sept. 13, 1969

Seen at the meeting--all names are phonetically spelled.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PL 9

PL 9

[REDACTED]

FILE # 100-37158

SUBJECT MORTON Sabell

SERIAL 2708 DATE 10-8-69

CONSISTING OF 1 PAGES

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety  
under (b)(7)(c) as it concerns the investi-  
gation of a third party.

FILE # 100-37158

SUBJECT MORTON SOBELL

SERIAL 2709 DATE 10-23-69

CONSISTING OF 3 PAGES

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety,  
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FILE # 100-37158

SUBJECT MORTON SOBELL

SERIAL 2710 DATE 10-29-69

CONSISTING OF 6 PAGES

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, NEW YORK (100-37158)

DATE: 12/19/69

FROM : SA [REDACTED] b7c

SUBJECT: MORTON SOBELL  
IS - R

It is noted that on 11/10/69, subject contacted his probation officer, and requested permission to participate in the anti-war moratorium at Washington, D. C. beginning on 11/14/69. This permission was denied by the the US Board of Parole, WDC, and subject was so advised.

Information regarding the above was furnished to WFO and the Bureau by airtel, dated 11/13/69.

[REDACTED] b7d  
[REDACTED] advised subject  
[REDACTED] did not participate in the anti-war demonstrations, and did not leave NYC, as instructed by the US Board of Parole. Subject indicated, however, that he thought that the rulling by the US Board of Parole was a violation of his rights, and that he intended to take legal action in Federal Court, WDC, to fight this decision.

PFD:pd  
(1)

Chief Clerk

Post *lus 331*

100-37158-2713

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____	FILED _____
DEC 22 1969	
FBI - NEW YORK	

*lus*





**FILE #** 100-37158

**SUBJECT** MORTON SOBELL

**SERIAL** 2714 **DATE** 1-7-70

**CONSISTING OF** 2 **PAGES**

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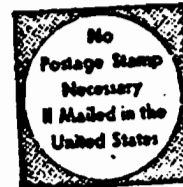
FILE # 100-37158

SUBJECT MORTON SOBELL

SERIAL 2715 DATE 1-12-70

CONSISTING OF 1 PAGES

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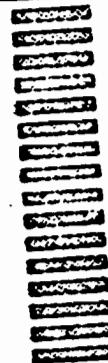


**BUSINESS REPLY MAIL**  
FIRST CLASS PERMIT No. 67719, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Chicago Defense Fund

28 East Jackson Boulevard

Chicago, Ill. 60604



571 010

b7d

*Copy from* [REDACTED]

100-37158-2717

SEARCHED ☒ INDEXED ☒  
SERIALIZED ☒ FILED ☒  
JAN 29 1970  
FBI - NEW YORK

*[Signature]*

**MORTON and HELEN SOBELL**  
30 CHARLTON STREET  
NEW YORK, NY 10014

January, 1970

Dear Friend:

We are deeply troubled by a very serious problem. In the Chicago "conspiracy" trial we see the features of the political trial which is directed at the climate of our country rather than those who are the defendants.

In 1951, at the time of the Rosenberg-Sobell conspiracy trial, the issues of the day were the Cold War with the Soviet Union, the atom bomb, the Korean War, and the need to intimidate and press into conformity those who sought peace and brotherhood. The scapegoats were minority group dissenters.

Today the issues are domestic ones which can be resolved only with our withdrawal from Vietnam. The 8 defendants (Bobby Scale was separated solely as a tactical move) represent movements directed toward peace and justice. It is for this reason they have been handpicked as the focal point for all of the hate and prejudice, rampant and latent, which is still being nurtured in our country.

The peace effort, the Black Panthers, the youth, the intellectuals, are all meant to be branded by this trial as destroyers of the "American way of life." In their circuses the Romans threw the early Christians to the lions, mouthing the same accusations.

Each of these men of conscience has committed the crime of refusing to accept war and injustice. The next few years will open the eyes of many to their courage and foresight. Then the superficial features which are being exploited in this trial, the long hair and beards, the rebellion against moribund court practices which demand the committing of ritual hari-kari, will have disappeared as issues, and the political nature of this trial will emerge unobscured. We have ourselves found it difficult to set aside the artificial standards of dress and conduct with which our culture has imprisoned us. However, we know, to be free, we must permit freedom.

David Dellinger, Tom Hayden, Lee Weiner, Bobby Scale, John Froines, Abbie Hoffman, Rennie Davis, and Jerry Rubin are vital, thinking human beings. We must not remain silent while they are pushed around as pawns in political attacks upon the people.

Let it not be too little and too late. Speak out now, organize now. Give unstintingly, of your store of skills and money. Please send your check now to the "Chicago Defense Fund," 28 E. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Ill. 60604

We urge that you make this action your New Year's wish, as we have made it ours.

Faithfully yours,

*Morton Sobell* *Helen L. Sobell*  
Morton Sobell Helen Sobell

FILE # 100-37158

SUBJECT MORTON SOBELL

SERIAL 2719 DATE 2-11-70

CONSISTING OF 1 PAGES

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**FILE #** 100-37158

**SUBJECT** MORTON SOBELL

**SERIAL** 2720 **DATE** 2-11-70

**CONSISTING OF** 1 **PAGES**

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FILE # L00-37158

SUBJECT MORTON SOBELL

SERIAL 2721 DATE 2-2-70

CONSISTING OF 3 PAGES

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FILE # 100-37158

SUBJECT MORTON SOBELL

SERIAL 8726 DATE 2-9-70

CONSISTING OF 6 PAGES

*Pg. 6*  
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source. This serial bears the Classification  
Officers number 2040.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO SAC, LOS ANGELES (157-1618)

DATE: 2/9/70

FROM SA [REDACTED] b7c

SUBJECT BLACK PANTHER PARTY  
RM

SOURCE	ACTIVITY	RECEIVED	AGENT	LOCATION
[REDACTED] b1	fund-raising letter Jan. 1970	2/2/70	Writer	[REDACTED] (WR) b1

Informant's report has been xeroxed and is attached:

ACTION:

Informant was thoroughly interviewed concerning the above and could add nothing further.

All necessary action in connection with this memo has been taken by the writer.

INDEX:

4 - CHICAGO (REGISTERED)  
[REDACTED]

(3) - NEW YORK: (REGISTERED)  
(100-1098492 (MORTON SOBELL))

(MORTON SOBELL)  
[REDACTED]

1 - SAN FRANCISCO (REGISTERED)  
[REDACTED]

100-41048 (COMMITTEE TO FREE MORTON SOBELL)

JPA/sal  
(15)

2726  
100-4715  
SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED

22 FEB 24 1970  
FBI - NEW YORK

**MORTON and HELEN SOBELL**  
**30 CHARLTON STREET**  
**NEW YORK, NY 10014**

**January, 1970**

**Dear Friend:**

We are deeply troubled by a very serious problem. In the Chicago "conspiracy" trial we see the features of the political trial which is directed at the climate of our country rather than those who are the defendants.

In 1951, at the time of the Rosenberg-Sobell conspiracy trial, the issues of the day were the Cold War with the Soviet Union, the atom bomb, the Korean War, and the need to intimidate and press into conformity those who sought peace and brotherhood. The scapegoats were minority group dissenters.

Today the issues are domestic ones which can be resolved only with our withdrawal from Vietnam. The 8 defendants (Bobby Seale was separated solely as a tactical move) represent movements directed toward peace and justice. It is for this reason they have been handpicked as the focal point for all of the hate and prejudice, rampant and latent, which is still being nurtured in our country.

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Each of these men of conscience has committed the crime of refusing to accept war and injustice. The next few years will open the eyes of many to their courage and foresight. Then the superficial features which are being exploited in this trial, the long hair and beards, the rebellion against moribund court practices which demand the committing of ritual hari-kari, will have disappeared as issues, and the political nature of this trial will emerge unobscured. We have ourselves found it difficult to set aside the artificial standards of dress and conduct with which our culture has imprisoned us. However, we know, to be free, we must permit freedom.

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Let it not be too little and too late. Speak out now, organize now. Give unstintingly, of your store of skills and money. Please send your check now to the "Chicago Defense Fund," 28 E. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Ill. 60604

We urge that you make this action your New Year's wish, as we have made it ours.

**Faithfully yours,**



**BUSINESS REPLY MAIL**  
FIRST CLASS PERMIT No. 67719, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

**Chicago Defense Fund**

**28 East Jackson Boulevard**

**Chicago, Ill. 60604**

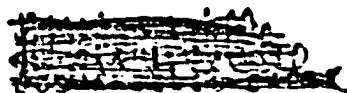
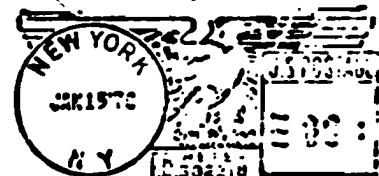


Received by mail 12/1/70

HQ  
1-26-70

11

20



Received by mail 1/21/70

NR  
1-26-70

**MORTON and HELEN SOBELL**

30 Charlton Street  
New York, N.Y. 10014

018

FILE # 100-37158  
SUBJECT MORTON Sobell  
SERIAL 2727 DATE 3-13-70  
CONSISTING OF 4 PAGES

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety, under (b)(7)(D) as information contained in this serial would identify an informant to whom an expressed promise of confidentiality has been given. This information includes dates and places of meetings which were attended by a limited number of people known to the informant and/or information from these meetings and situations in which an informant was in close contact with members of these organizations, disclosure of which would reveal his identity.



FILE # 100-37158

SUBJECT MORTON SOBELL

SERIAL 2729 DATE 4-10-70

CONSISTING OF 1 PAGES

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety, under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant to Executive Order 11652 as it contains information which would disclose an intelligence source. This serial bears the Classification Officers number 2040.

TO : SAC, NEW YORK (100-  
FROM : SA JOHN R. KENT (46)  
SUBJECT: Chicago Defense Fund  
IS-Misc.

Date prepared

4/28/70

Date received

3/20/70

Received from (name or symbol number)

b7d

Received by

SA [redacted] b7c

Method of delivery (check appropriate blocks)

☒ in person ☐ by telephone ☐ by mail ☐ orally ☐ recording device ☐ written by Informant

If orally furnished and reduced to writing by Agent:

Date

Dictated \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Transcribed \_\_\_\_\_

Authenticated  
by Informant \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Report

3/20/70

Date(s) of activity

3/20/70

Brief description of activity or material

Source made available letter from MORTON  
and HELEN SOBELL soliciting funds for  
Chicago Defense Fund.

File where original is located if not attached

b7d

\* INDIVIDUALS DESIGNATED BY AN ASTERISK (\*) ONLY ATTENDED A MEETING AND DID NOT ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE. VIOLENCE OR REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES WERE NOT DISCUSSED.

☐ Information recorded on a card index by \_\_\_\_\_ on date \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks:

Source made available the letter from MORTON  
and HELEN SOBELL 30 Charlton Street, New York, N.Y. soliciting  
contributions for the Chicago Defense Fund. [redacted]

[redacted] (See informant's  
report of 2/24/70.)

1- Chicago (RM)

Necessary action taken

5- New York

(1- 100-37158 (MORTON SOBELL)

1- 100-109849 (HELEN SOBELL)

1- 100- (Chicago Defense League)

JRK:rm  
(6)

Block Stamp

100-37158-2734

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 28 1970	

331

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30 CHARLTON STREET  
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*Morton Sobell Helen L. Sobell*  
Morton Sobell Helen Sobell



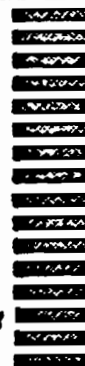
**BUSINESS REPLY MAIL**  
FIRST CLASS PERMIT No. 67719, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

**Chicago Defense Fund**

**28 East Jackson Boulevard**

**Chicago, Ill. 60604**

001 010



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# The Rosenberg Case:

## An Inquest On an Inquest

By WALTER GOODMAN

ABOUT halfway through a performance of "Inquest," the play about the Rosenberg case that arrived on Broadway a few weeks ago, it occurred to me that I was at moments being moved, but never for a moment convinced. An uncomfortable feeling, with its suggestion that one is being worked on rather than communicated with, yet appropriate to the play's subject.

Nearly 20 years ago, when the Rosenberg case was running its grim course, thousands of liberal Americans found themselves in a similarly uncomfortable position; they were not persuaded that Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were innocent, still the

prospect of their deaths came as a horror. The new play, subtitled "A tale of political terror," need not detain us either as a piece of theater or as a political document — but the period it recalls, when the Rosenbergs suffered their ordeal and a part of the nation went through an ordeal of its own, does, I think have pertinence for our own troubled times.

The manner in which the Rosenbergs were implicated in espionage was sufficiently intricate to satisfy expectations aroused by Eric Ambler. In brief, to follow the F.B.I. account which was accepted by the jury, the story began with the sensational arrest in England, in February, 1950, of Klaus Fuchs, a German-born nuclear scientist then attached to the British atomic energy installation at Harwell. From December, 1943, to June, 1946, Fuchs had worked in this country, mainly at Los Alamos, N.M., where the atomic bomb was being devel-

WALTER GOODMAN is the author of a forthcoming book on the Rosenberg case.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

New York Times  
Magazine

New York, NY

page 28

Advance copy  
due for publication

Date: 5/24/70

Edition:

Author: Walter Goodman

Editor:

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: NY

☐ Being Investigated

100-37158-235

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 1 1970	
FBI - NEW YORK	

oped. He pleaded guilty to passing secret materials both in America and in England for delivery to the Russians.

From Klaus Fuchs the trail led to a 39-year-old Philadelphia chemist named Harry Gold, who had served as courier between Fuchs and Anatoli A. Yakovlev, Soviet vice counsel in New York City. Gold pleaded guilty of conspiring with Fuchs to relay atomic energy data to the Russians, and was sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment.

In June 1950, came the arrest of David Greenglass, a 28-year-old New York City machinist, who had been stationed in Los Alamos as a soldier during the war. He was charged with giving Harry Gold, in June, 1945, "a sketch of a high explosive lens mold" as well as other material relating to the top secret work at Los Alamos. For this he received \$500 from Gold. Greenglass decided to cooperate

with the Government, and in July, his brother-in-law, Julius Rosenberg, a 32-year-old electrical engineer living in Knickerbocker Village, a housing development on the lower east side, was arrested. A few weeks later Julius' wife Ethel, older sister of David Greenglass, was taken into custody. The Rosenbergs, parents of two young children, were charged with conspiring with Gold, Greenglass and the latter's wife to obtain national defense secrets for the Soviet Union. Unlike the others, they pleaded not guilty. (At a grand jury hearing, before her arrest, Ethel pleaded the Fifth Amendment to questions related to the allegations of spying; thereafter, she professed innocence.)

David Greenglass testified that it was the Rosenbergs who persuaded him to pass secrets. The key event in his picturesque account occurred on a day in January 1945, when Julius

(Continued on Page 87)

(Continued from Page 29)

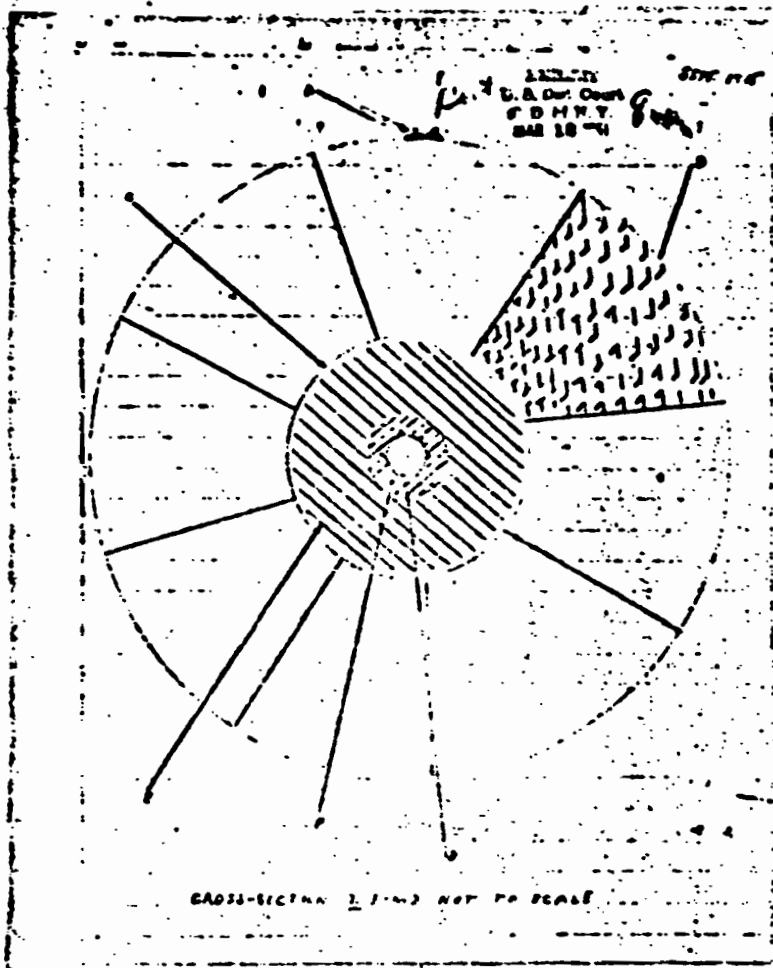
Rosenberg gave him one piece of a side from a Jello box and retained the matching piece—to serve, Rosenberg explained, as a means of identification for the courier who would be sent to pick up information at Los Alamos. Harry Gold testified that the matching piece of the Jello box was given to him by Soviet Vice Counsel Yakovlev—which permitted one to deduce that Yakovlev

had obtained it from Rosenberg.

On a Sunday morning in June, 1945, Gold, fresh from a visit to Klaus Fuchs in Santa Fe, N. M., called on David Greenglass in Albuquerque: "I said, 'Mr. Greenglass?' He answered in the affirmative. I said, 'I come from Julius,' and I showed him the piece of cardboard . . . that had been given me by Yakovlev. . . . He asked me to enter. I did. Greenglass went to a woman's handbag and brought from it a piece of cardboard. We matched the two of them." Later in the day Greenglass gave some

material to Gold, who turned it over to Yakovlev. Greenglass also testified that after the arrest of Klaus Fuchs, Julius Rosenberg gave him \$4,000 with which to leave the country—as the Rosenbergs themselves evidently intended. (David Greenglass was sentenced to 15 years.)

An accompanying theme to the Rosenberg case began on Aug. 18, 1950, with the arrest of Morton Sobell, a 23-year-



**A copy of an alleged sketch of the Nagasaki atom bomb which David Greenglass testified he gave to the Rosenbergs in 1945 for transmission to the Soviet Union.**

old electrical engineer who had been a classmate of Julius Rosenberg at City College. Max Elitcher, an electrical engineer with the Navy and an old friend of Sobell (according to Elitcher, they had been Communist party members together before the war), testified that Sobell and Rosenberg had sought to persuade him to supply them with data and with other recruits for their espionage enterprise. Elitcher was at first reluctant, then slightly receptive. One night in the summer of 1943, he accompanied Sobell on a ride to Knickerbocker Village, for the purpose of dropping

off a can of 35-mm. film. It did not strengthen Sobell's plea of innocence when the jury learned that he had been picked up in Mexico, where he was living with his wife and children under assumed names. Morton Sobell, who did not testify at his own trial, received a 30-year sentence.

The trial of Communists accused of giving atomic secrets to the Russians could scarcely have come at a time less conducive to the cool administration of justice. The recent exposure of Alger Hiss as a helpmate of the Soviets in the 1940's had shattered the political right everything they had always believed about the New Deal. On the left, the case had been traumatic. Many liberals, out of an instinct bred in the days of the prewar Popular Front and revived by our alliance with the Russians in World War II, had defended Hiss, identified with him, given him their trust—and had been repaid with perjury. It was a shattering experience. "American liberalism has been reluctant to leave the garden of its illusion," wrote Leslie Fiedler after Hiss' conviction in 1950, "but it can dally no longer: the age of innocence is dead. . . . We who would still like to think of ourselves as liberals must be willing to declare that mere liberal principle is not in itself a guarantee against evil; that the wrongdoer is not always the other—'they' and not 'us'; that there is no magic in the words 'left' or 'progressive' or 'socialist' that can prevent deceit and the abuse of power." The liberal willingness to suspend disbelief had been sorely tried by Alger Hiss; it was not fit for heavy service to the Rosenbergs.

But more than the Hiss case was unnerving the nation. In the summer of 1949, the Russians had exploded an atomic device, thereby ending our exclusive franchise on the A-bomb. To a certain species of domestic politician, it was unthinkable that mere foreigners, and Communists at that, could have performed such a feat—unless, of course, they had stolen the know-how from us Americans. After all, had not a spy ring been uncovered in Canada, and was not the Un-American Activities Committee then devoting itself to the exposure of atomic scientists who had been identified as Communists? One member of that committee, young Richard



Nixon, told the country that the Soviet accomplishment had been "hastened" by President Truman's failure to act against Red spies.

It was out of such soil that the junior Senator from Wisconsin, Joseph R. McCarthy, sprang up early in 1950, with his magical mystery tour of Communists in high places. And also in 1950 came the Communist assault on South Korea. Joe McCarthy and the war in Korea were both raging when the Rosenbergs came to trial in 1951.

In addition to pointing up the defendants' Communist affinities, the prosecution relied mainly on the testimony against the Rosenbergs of David Greenglass, confirmed in part by Harry Gold, and of Max Elitcher against Morton Sobell. The Rosenbergs' lawyer, Emanuel Bloch, conducting what students of the trial would later characterize as a remarkably inept defense, did what defense attorneys customarily do when confronted by informers whose testimony they cannot rebut—he attacked them as liars, crooks and lunatics. It is a technique as useful to Mafiosi as to Communists, and although it did not help the Rosenbergs inside the courtroom, it would continue to be used in their behalf outside for many years—indeed, right up to the recent staging of "Inquest."

Had the sentences passed on the Rosenbergs been on the order of the 14 years' imprisonment given to Klaus Fuchs by a British court (the maximum sentence allowable under British law) the case might have ended there. Certainly, it would never have turned into an international

cause célèbre. But in his remarks before the sentencing, Prosecutor Irving H. Saypol cast the Rosenbergs in the roles of super spies: "The secrets they sought and secured were of immeasurable importance and significance." He reminded the court that there was a war going on in Korea, and asked, "How could the life of a single individual engaged in such treasonable activities be weighed against the life of a single American soldier fighting in a distant land?"

One would have supposed that a trial judge, convinced though he was of the guilt of the Rosenbergs, would have set aside such prosecutorial hyperbole as a convention of the contest, rather like the grunts of wrestlers. That the Rosenbergs had sought secrets of immeasurable importance one could readily believe; that they had in fact secured such secrets from the likes of David Greenglass was a matter of some conjecture. As for the reference to the Korean war, who would have imagined that Judge Irving R. Kaufman would have surpassed the prosecutor in rhetorical extravagance? Yet he said, in justifying his sentence to the defendants: "I believe your conduct in putting into the hands of the Russians the A-bomb years before our best scientists predicted Russia would perfect the bomb has already caused, in my opinion, the Communist aggression in Korea, with the resultant casualties exceeding fifty thousand, and who knows but that millions more of innocent people may pay the price for your treason." For their part in "this diabolical conspiracy to destroy a God-fearing nation,"

and as an example to others, Judge Kaufman, having passed a prayerful period in a synagogue, condemned the couple to death.

The trial was over. The cause was born. On the farcious right, there was satisfaction. George Sokolsky expressed the popular feeling: "Klaus Fuchs confessed. David Greenglass confessed. Harry Gold confessed. The Rosenbergs remain adamant... let them go to the devil." Veterans organizations concurred with their usual bonhomie. Pickets carried signs, "Death to the Communist rats."

For the Communists and their accustomed allies, the position was equally clear: Two innocents were being victimized by America's witch hunters. As appeal followed fruitless appeal through the courts—twenty seven months passed between sentence and execution—the apparatus of protest went into gear. Mass rallies, petitions, conferences, White House vigils, pleas by clergymen and relatives of Bartolomeo Vanzetti and Captain Dreyfus—all the paraphernalia of organized spontaneity. Had the Rosenbergs been sentenced to a prison term, there would have been protests too, in those dusty East Side meeting halls where political outlanders assembled to excite themselves during that difficult period. But the threatened execution of a man and wife in their thirties, leaving behind two sons—"this young couple," a European sympathizer would write after the execution, "united in death by a frightful sentence which made orphans of their innocent children"—was enough to touch many thousands with less vigorous political allegiances. In France especially, garden-variety anti-Americanism coupled with honest compassion produced a swelling chorus of pleas for mercy—into which denunciations of this country were often fitted. "Watch out! America has the rabies!" exhorted Jean Paul Sartre a day after the executions. "Cut all ties which bind us to her, otherwise we will in turn be bitten and run mad!"

On the domestic left, there were sharp splits. In November, 1952, after the conviction of the Rosenbergs had been affirmed by the Court of Appeals, Arthur Garfield Hays, then general counsel of the American Civil Liberties Union, wrote in the Nation, "It is the damnable death penalty that causes the uneasiness." There was no precedent for such a penalty in such a case, he observed, and he warned, "If this judgment is carried through, we shall make martyrs of the Rosenbergs."

But for a part of the left, including, it must be noted, the condemned couple themselves, martyrdom was not welcome. "We are the first victims of American Fascism," Ethel Rosenberg would write in her last letter to attorney Bloch. In a reply to the Hays article, Cedric Belfrage, editor of the "progressive" National Guardian ("Is the Rosenberg Case the Dreyfus Case of America's Cold War?"), criticized Hays for not mentioning that the Rosenbergs maintained that they were innocent and that there had been no proof of C.P. membership. (It is that, they took the Fifth Amendment.) Belfrage ended with the refrain: "Tens of thousands of Americans feel as I do that the measure of justice to be expected by any political nonconformist brought before the courts depends ominously on the fate of the Rosenbergs."

Most of the country, including such ordinarily liberal newspapers as the St. Louis Post Dispatch, stood by the sentence of death. Many of the liberals who called for commutation took pains to divorce themselves from the argument that the Rosenbergs were victims of a frame-up. The New Republic characterized the frame-up charge as "bonsense" and took the position that the Rosenbergs ought to have their sentences commuted despite adequate evidence of their guilt.

That more liberals did not come out more forcefully for the Rosenbergs has been attributed to sheer fright—they were allegedly scared witless by Joe McCarthy. The explanation is somewhat simple. David Riesman and Nathan Glazer came closer to the liberal dilemma when they suggested, in an article published in the Partisan Review in 1955, that intellectuals had been silenced not so much by intimidation as by "their own feeling of inadequacy and failure." The charge of being Communist, which had once aroused the wrath of New Dealers, now, after the Hiss affair and the fellow-travelling of Henry Wallace, gave rise to "an anxious inner scrutiny." Riesman and Glazer wrote: "For as it becomes clear that few of the causes liberals have espoused have been immune to exploitation of the Communists, the liberal intellectuals lose their former sure conviction about their causes and are put, in a sense, well as out, on the defensive. This, they reasoned, was the Rosenberg case, unlike the Sacco-Vanzetti case, which had inspired Ameri-

can liberals: "...It takes either a case-hardened and sometimes disingenuous naïvete about Communists or a subtle strategic decision about where to draw the line to muster much enthusiasm for the defense of intellectuals who plead the Fifth Amendment."

The premises and purposes of the campaign by the National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case—sponsored by names familiar from the Progressive party and from the mastheads of innumerable fellow-traveling causes—were sufficiently blatant to put off political sympathizers, some of whom were reminded of the days when the Scottsboro Boys fell into C.P. hands. As Nathan Glazer remarked, "One could ask for mercy, and many people who believed the Rosenbergs guilty did, but certainly many others must have recoiled from becoming involved in a Communist campaign based on lies."

The official campaign was of a pattern with the Stockholm Peace Appeal and the protests against alleged U.S. germ-warfare in Korea—other large-scale efforts of the early

fifties to exploit the emotions of millions for the benefit of Soviet policy. The Rosenbergs themselves fell naturally into the rhythms of the thing. They wrote from their cells in Sing Sing: "No matter what the result, we will continue in our determination to expose the political frame-up perpetrated against us by those who would silence by death, through spurious espionage accusations, opposition to the conspiracy to impose war abroad and a police state at home."

**E**VERY cry for grace, wrote Leslie Fiedler, was made to seem "an assertion of innocence and made a condemnation of the United States, the Atlantic Pact, the European Army, and God knows what else." Dorothy Thompson, who spoke out against the death sentence, suggested that the high-pressure tactics were designed to make it impossible for U.S. officials to relent, and so to assure the Communist cause a couple of martyrs. In an editorial calling for commutation of the sentence, the editors of the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists took care to

emphasize that they were "aware that the worldwide, organized pressure—including the picketing of the White House—originates with political groups that have no respect for human life, do not believe in impartial justice and applaud mass executions everywhere." In a similar spirit, the liberal Catholic Commonwealth wrote in February 1953, after the Pope had issued an appeal for clemency, "Part of the great tragedy of the Rosenberg case has been its cynical exploitation by Communists groups. But some men of good will, men neither motivated nor duped by Communist polemic, and with no doubt of the Rosenbergs' guilt... would deny the Communists their martyrs, and have urged mercy in the name of prudence."

The charge that the Rosenbergs were victims of anti-Semitism was a favorite among their supporters. (Nearly all the principals in their trial—defendants, witnesses, prosecutor Irving H. Saypol, abetted by Roy M. Cohn, Judge Irving R. Kaufman

were Jewish. As if to compensate for the imbalance not a single Jew sat on the jury.) The Washington Rosenberg committee declared in 1952 that "a growing wave of terror had begun against the Jewish people in the wake of the trial." And a release to the Jewish press from William L. Patterson, executive secretary of the Civil Rights Congress, warned: "The lynching of these two innocent American Jews, unless stopped by the American people, will serve as a signal for a wave of Hitler-like genocidal attacks against the Jewish people throughout the United States."

No newspaper used this release, however; and papers such as *The New York Post* and columnists such as Max Lerner, with large liberal Jewish followings, gave the lie to an argument that was patently designed to draw attention away from the ongoing persecutions of the Stalin regime. Troubled by how easily the anti-Semitic theme could be turned about and used by the far right to show that Jews and Communist spies were one and the same, national Jewish organizations tended to harden their hearts toward the Rosenbergs—one of several ways in which the cruder propaganda efforts in their ostensible behalf deprived the pair of resources of sympathy and assistance.

Where in all of this were Julius and Ethel Rosenberg? The sinister picture painted by the prosecution rang as false as the shining portrait created and distributed by their promoters. ("Two Immortals" was the heading of a *Daily Worker* series devoted to the memories of a couple who could use the word "Communist" only in quotation marks.) The early 1950's were a time of toughness for liberal intellectuals—an antidote to many years of softness. They were tough on themselves and on the Com-

munists who had used them and damaged their causes, and also, though there was little enthusiasm in intellectual circles for the death penalty, they were tough on the Rosenbergs.

Two memorable articles on the couple came after the execution, from Robert Warshaw in *Commentary* and Leslie Fiedler in *Encounter*. They analyzed the letters that the pair had exchanged during their months in prison, and which had lately been published to raise money for the Rosenberg children and keep the propaganda poppling, especially in Europe. In these letters—a mélange of honest feeling for one another and for their children and party-line utterances on everything

from folk songs to sports, all conveyed in pure agit-propose—both Warshaw and Fiedler found pathetic banality and stupefying self-deception. (Here is Ethel Rosenberg's famous comment on the Brooklyn Dodgers: "It is the Dodgers' unconquerable spirit which makes people love them. But where they have especially covered themselves with glory is in making an important contribution to the rooting out of racial prejudice.") In their crudity and emptiness," commented Warshaw, "in their absolute and dedicated alienation from truth and experience, these letters adequately express the Communism of 1953."

The Rosenbergs, then, came through as total servants of an ideological commitment—who thought and felt whatever that commitment required of them. Thus, though treason might be a crime in bourgeois eyes, if carried out for their over-reaching principle, *The Defense of the Soviet Union*, there was no real crime to it. And so they were innocent! They were victims! In this view of the Rosenbergs, as creatures with no values except those allowed them by the current set of party slogans and scarcely any sense of their own existence except as it was defined by their party work, the couple's many

months of faking and of fortitude fell into place.

Yet Fiedler, who had no doubt of their guilt, argued eloquently that they should not have been executed: "The betrayal of their essential humanity by their comrades and themselves left the burden of its defense with us. This obligation we failed, and our failure must be faced up to. Before the eyes of the world we lost an opportunity concretely to assert what all our abstract declarations can never prove: that for us at least the suffering person is realer than the political moment that produces him or the political philosophy for which he stands. Surely it is not even a paradox to assert that it is our special duty to treat as persons, as real human beings, those who most blasphemously deny their own humanity."

The Rosenberg cause was kept fitfully in the public memory during the 1950's by a few books from unsurprising sources and advances in the careers of Judge Kaufman (appointed to the Court of Appeals), Prosecutor Saypol (made a judge), and Roy Cohn (recruited by Joe McCarthy). The emphasis, however, shifted to Morton Sobell. The National Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell, the Rosenberg committee reincarnated, carried

into the 1960's its unsuccessful campaign for a reprieve. (Sobell was finally released last year, having served out his long sentence, with time off for good behavior.)

In 1965, Walter and Miriam Schneir published a lengthy brief for the Rosenberg defense, *Invitation to an Inquest*. A diligently researched book, it contained suggestive accounts of the means used by the F.B.I. to refresh the memories of witnesses. The relentlessly partisan spirit of the authors, however, put one on one's guard. In order to accept the Schneirs' thesis—that not only were the Rosenbergs innocent of any crime, but no crime had been committed—one had to believe that every prosecution witness had lied, by direction of the F.B.I., which had also manufactured out of whole cloth evidence that linked the defendants to espionage. It was the frame-up cry all over again. Much as Prosecutor Saypol had drawn from his evidence a greater degree of guilt than in fact was present, so the Schneirs found more innocence than their facts could support. As partisans are wont to do, they spoiled the effects of their research by claiming too much for it.

Then came the play by Donald Freed, known in its first presentation at the Cleveland Play House last year as *The United States vs. Julius and*

*Ethel Rosenberg*. Using the Schneirs' book as a basic source, the playwright managed to mute its strongest portions, the fresh research, and spotlight its weakest, the portrayal as monsters of everybody involved in the case excepting only Julius and Ethel Rosenberg and their lawyer who, as the old defense committee liked to put it, were "ordinary folks like the vast majority of us." Freed added some embarrassing "reconstructions" of his own.

Although the book is, with its faults, markedly superior to the play, both may be taken as examples of the "historical revisionism" that has been enjoying a vogue in this country during the past few years. At their best, the revisionists have offered refreshing interpretations of America's less attractive activities in the Cold War and elsewhere. At second-best, they tend, like the Schneirs, to impose on some facts rather more than the historian's craft permits, and to accord other facts less deference than the historian's responsibility requires. At its worst, anti-Americanism substitutes for scholarship and thought. Mr. Freed tells us that "as the war in Vietnam went on, I began to realize that the murder of the Rosenbergs was not an aberration but simply part of a murderous pattern." The mills that ground so furiously in 1952 and 1953 are grinding again, under different auspices.



As liberals of the time strove to make clear, it is not necessary to succumb to an America-the-murderous state of mind or mindlessness to believe that Julius and Ethel Rosenberg should not have been sentenced to death. That belief has nothing to do with their guilt, given the evidence, the jury's verdict was well within the bounds of reason. Defense counsel Bloch complimented the court on the conduct of the trial, and neither the American Civil Liberties Union nor the Court of Appeals found significant irregularities in it. Although one may regret the failure of the Supreme Court to undertake a review of the sentence, and deplore the haste with which the Justices were assembled to turn down a last-minute appeal, the Court's decision not to review is an unavoidable part of due process. And although one may be disgusted by the widely advertised offer of the Justice Department to exchange the couple's lives for a confession, and disheartened by the failure of Presidents Truman and Eisenhower to grant clemency, that does not bespeak a frame-up.

The Rosenbergs should not

have been executed (assuming that capital punishment had to be an option, and setting aside considerations of mere mercy) because the reasons that the prosecutor and the judge advanced for the ultimate sentence ranged from dubious to ludicrous. It required the credulity of an Irving Kaufman or a Julius Rosenberg to think that the sketches passed by David Greenglass enabled the Soviets to expedite their A-bomb by "years." As to the couple's responsibility for the Korean war, that is beneath comment. The executions were a gratuitous piece of vengeance, exercised by small men in a frightened time.

The Rosenberg case has echoes for today. Again political dissidents—more candid than the Rosenbergs and not in thrall to a foreign power—face angry authority. On one side there are howls for drastic repression. On the other we hear apologies to the effect that crimes may, indeed must, be excused if they are committed out of idealistic motives. A part of the left now informs us—as once we were informed that we could not "understand" the Old Left's deceptions except in the context of Capitalist Oppression—that we cannot today "understand" the New Left's bully boys except in the context of Institutional Repression. The yahoo right, which once cried for the blood of Communists, today wants Yippy heads busted. Political madness is abroad.

This is no time for liberal diffidence—an ailment to which liberals have periodically been prone—but it is, I think, a time for making distinctions of a sort that Judge Hoffman and Prosecutor Foran, like Judge Kaufman and Prosecutor Saypol have shown themselves incapable of making. Distinctions as to crimes and sentences which interest David Dellinger and Tom Hayden as little as they interested Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. Making distinctions is not heroic work—but surely there are now, as there were in the early 1950s, enough heroics being performed around this distracted land.

The principles that guided liberal opponents of the 1953 executions are still valid. Political idealism is not evidence of innocence in a court of law; neither is parenthood or youth or blackness or the war in Vietnam. Yet none of these can be ignored. In 1970, as in 1953, vindictive prosecutions and excessive punishments are more deeply subversive of our best values than spies or bombers. ■

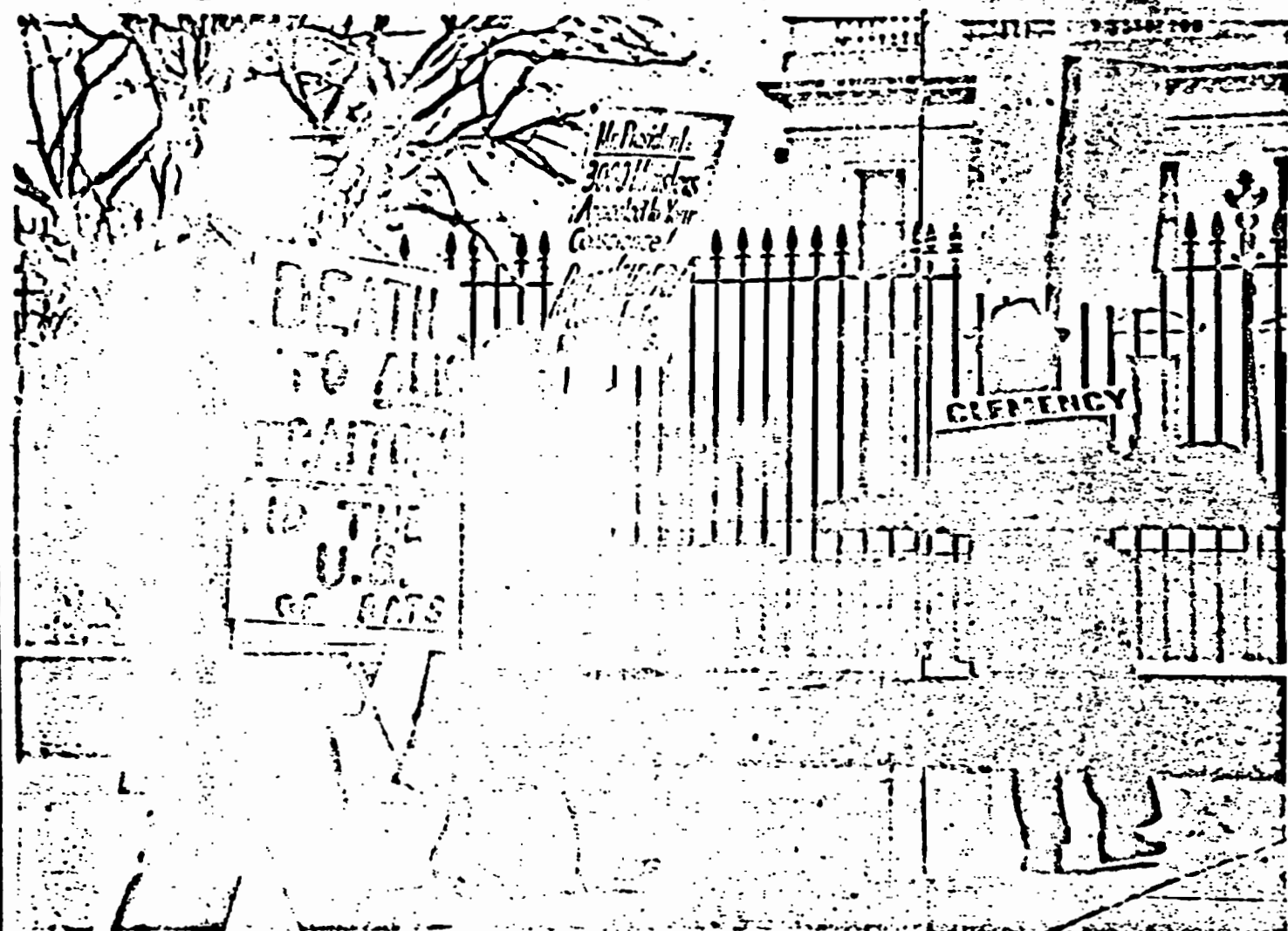


*A scene from the recently opened Broadway production, "Inquest," with George Ginnard and Anne Jackson as the Rosenbergs and James Whitmore as their attorney.*





"The Rosenberg trial over, a cause was born. On the ferocious right, there was satisfaction. For the Communists and their accustomed allies, all was equally clear: two innocents were victimized by U. S. witchhunters." Right, scenes in Melbourne (above) and Paris.



Following President Eisenhower's 1953 denial of clemency for the Rosenbergs, pickets—with diametrically opposing views—continue to march at the White House.



*Harry Gold, above, got 30 years  
as a confessed spy-courier.*



*Merton Sobell pleaded innocent  
to charges of conspiring  
with Julius Rosenberg and  
also drew 30 years.*



*David Greenglass, Ethel Rosen-  
berg's brother, turned U. S.  
witness and received 15 years.*

*Julius and Ethel Rosenberg  
in custody during their 1951  
trial in New York. One thing that  
emerged from the controversy around  
the case: "Vindictive prosecutions  
and excessive punishments are  
more deeply subversive of our best  
values than spies or bombers."*



OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10  
MAY 1962 EDITION  
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-67274)

DATE: 5/5/70

FROM : SA [REDACTED] b7c

SUBJECT: DONALD FREED (SI)  
SM - C

SOURCE	ACTIVITY	RECEIVED	AGENT	LOCATION
--------	----------	----------	-------	----------

[REDACTED]  
b7d

The Inquest 4/22/70  
play, by DONALD  
FREED, 2/16/70.

Writer

[REDACTED]  
(WR) b7d

Informant's report has been xeroxed and is attached:

① - NEW YORK (REGISTERED)  
(MORTON SOBELL)

[REDACTED] b7d

100-19333 (COMINFIL - FILM - TV -  
(RI-B) RADIC)

100-32199 (UCLA)

[REDACTED] b7d,c

100-37158

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 15 1970	
FBI - NEW YORK	

223, 2737

LFW/mjn  
(28) [initials]

Read by [initials]

LA 100-67274

ACTION:

Informant was thoroughly interviewed concerning the above and could add nothing further.

All necessary action in connection with this memo has been taken by the writer.

INDEX: FREED-SUTHERLAND DEFENSE FUND

[REDACTED]

b7c,d

"Inquest", written by Donald Freed  
The Ashgrove 8162 Melrose Ave., L.A., Calif.  
Proceeds to go to Freed-Sutherland Defense Fund.  
Feb. 16, 1970--BPM

Apr. 19, 1970

1

About 150 people attended the meeting--  
Money was collected--amount was not announced--

Donald Freed--- said in effect-- be  
Reading of three plays would be presented.  
Above sketches would depict certain injustices in present social system--  
Above situations would be treated from a psychological standpoint. The messages would be self explanatory.  
Mentioned Freudian concepts of behavior.

First sketch presented, was written by Donald Freed and his former wife, Barbara Morris Freed--  
Barbara Freed--

Appeared in above sketch--which was about a dream, which the character she played, had dreamed.

Second Sketch--was written by Ned Glass---  
Ed Madart played the psychiatrist--  
Jean Glass " woman patient--

Sketch depicted scene in a psychiatric sanitarium--the frustrations experienced by woman patient.

Donald Freed---  
Gave explanation of setting of "Inquest"--third sketch.  
Explained certain instances regarding Rosenberg case.  
Said in effect--above deaths of Rosenbergs took place during dreaded McCarthy era--in U.S., a blot on history.  
Rosenbergs were innocent.

Donald Freed--  
Said in effect--he had seen Morton Sobell in New York, recently--  
Morton Sobell, who had been imprisoned for many years, because of his being accused of having a part in Rosenberg case by the McCarthy dominated courts.

Morton Sobell was well--was writing book which would tell truth about Rosenberg case.

Donald Freed---  
Explained that when "Inquest", was performed in the future--seven large screens would be placed in several locations on stage and in the theatre.

Pictures shown on above screens, throughout entire play, would be--kaleidoscopic scenes of courtroom, cont'd-



"Inquest", written by Donald Freed  
The Ashgrove 8162 Melrose Ave., L.A., Calif.  
Proceeds to go to Freed-Sutherland Defense Fund  
Feb. 16, 1970--BFF

Apr. 19, 1970

2.

Donald Freed---cont'd

prison cells, death row-FBI and Federal agents chasing the Rosenbergs and others-parade of witnesses-Senators and investigatory agencies pointing, intimidating yelling and hurling accusations--sirens racing down the streets-pictures of the gas chamber.

Seven loud speakers would be set up in different locations in the theatre, including one in the outside lobby.

Above loud speakers would blare out appropriate sounds to accompany above pictures, as they were shown on screens.

Repetitious accusations would be continually screamed at the victims, by questioners.

FBI and McCarthy would be evident throughout entire play, by steady running across the stage, chasing people, while play was in progress.

General effect would be very dramatic--much movement, noise-special lighting effects-play would depict horror of Rosenberg trial which ended in their deaths.

Donald Freed---Said in effect---

Shirley Sutherland scheduled to read a part in "Inquest", had just flown in, to L.A., from New York, and was very tired, so would not appear.

He himself would read part of above play--

Nate Korner---

While Donald Freed explained the Rosenberg case--stood up in audience and asked to be recognized--

Explained that he knew the Rosenbergs and was aware of the injustices they suffered.

Spoke of a film, which he said he had, on that case.

Above film could be rented for showings.

Mentioned book on Rosenberg trial, also, which was available.

Ned Glass---

Asked people to donate money for Freed-Sutherland Defense Fund--asked for checks and as much money as possible.

Amount collected was not announced--checks were written and donated.

Ned Glass---

Spoke of necessity to use drama and art to expose social injustices of present political system in U.S.

Drama medium was able to make lasting impression on kinds of people. All the arts should be--cont'd.



"Inquest", written by Donald Freed  
The Ashgrove 8162 Melrose Ave., L.A., Calif.  
Proceeds to go to Freed-Sutherland Defense Fund  
Feb. 16, 1970--8:15

Apr. 19, 1970

3.

Ned Glass--cont'd--

used to further socialist causes--bring freedom, justice to present society.

Donald Freed--

Thanked Ed Pearl for use of Ashgrove, for the evening.

Said Ed Pearl had done a magnificent job at UCLA Paulley Pavilion midnight meeting, Sat. Feb. 14th, when attorney Kusler and members of Chicago 7 appeared.

Ed Pearl was in charge of that event--worked hard to publicize it--was very successful--over 7,000 attended that rally.

Robert Cohen---stepped onto platform--

Announced that he had good news to announce--charges against Donald Freed and Shirley Sutherland had been dropped--case was dismissed--U.S. Gov't., was at fault.

However it was possible that the state might try to bring charges. (People applauded).

Shirley Sutherland and Donald Sutherland arrived at the meeting--were greeted with applause.

"Inquest", written by Donald Freed  
The Ashgrove 8162 Melrose Ave., L.A., Calif.  
Proceeds to go to Freed-Sutherland Defense Fund  
Feb. 16, 1970--81E

Apr. 20, 1970

4.

[REDACTED]  
Shirley Sutherland--said in effect--

She was very much surprised at decision handed down  
by Judge Ferguson, at her hearing.

She was very happy that charges were dropped; was  
very much relieved.

Judge had ruled that agents of U.S. Gov't. were the  
guilty ones.

In other words the agents of the U.S. Gov't. were at  
fault because they had stolen the grenades, themselves.

Above grenades were planted at home of Donald Freed.

Jim Jarrett was shocked at decision by Judge Fer-  
guson--

Jim Jarrett lied at the hearing--he just slunked off  
of the stand and slunked out of the court room.

Shirley Sutherland--

Said in effect--she understood that under certain  
circumstances the state might not let decision of Judge  
Ferguson stand.

The state might try to find charges against herself  
and Donald Freed and there was a possibility that all of  
this was not over, yet.

Shirley Sutherland--

Said Judge Ferguson was wonderful.

b7d

**Apr. 20, 1970**

5.

Said "money talks", "money counts".

Said in effect--perhaps Jim Jarrett might now work on "our", side, after that decision.

"Inquest", written by Donald Freed  
The Ashgrove 8162 Helrose Ave., L.A., Calif.  
Proceeds to go to Freed-Sutherland Defense Fund--  
Feb. 16, 1970--8PM---

Apr. 19, 1970

Seen at the meeting--all names are phonetically spelled.

[REDACTED]

b7d

FILE # 100-37158

SUBJECT MORTON SOBELL

SERIAL 2740 DATE 7-27-70

CONSISTING OF 1 PAGES

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety,  
under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant  
to Executive Order 11652 as it contains  
information which would disclose an intelligence  
source. This serial bears the Classification  
Officers number 2040.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, NEW YORK (100-37158)

DATE: 7/29/70

FROM : SA [REDACTED] b7c

SUBJECT: MORTON SOBELL  
ESP \* R

On [REDACTED] NYC, furnished the following information to the writer: b7d

[REDACTED] b7d

Subject advised that he has moved from his former residence in Greenwich Village, where his wife has resided for many years. Subject and his wife have purchased a cooperative apartment at 626 Riverside Drive, NYC, at a cost of \$2,700 per share, plus \$174 per month upkeep charge.

According to the subject, his new residence is located between 139th and 140th Street, and about 70% of the tenants of the building are negro.

Subject has obtained authority to spend weekends in Putnam County, where he has finally received authority to build a summer home. He is building a summer house on the four acres of property owned by Dr. ANNETTE T. RUBENSTEIN, an English Professor and friend, located near Shrub Oak, NY. Subject indicated that although he has finally received the necessary permission to build, the local Building Inspector still continues to cause him a great deal of aggravation.

Subject advised that he is still working on his book, and hopes to have it completed by December. He stated that he has heard nothing from the Civil Liberties Union concerning the status of his action pending in USDC re his suit against the US Board of Parole.

The above is submitted for information.

SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_ INDEX \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIALIZED \_\_\_\_\_ FILED \_\_\_\_\_

Chief Clerk

Post Aug 31

111 1571  
NEW YORK

Phil - 7DIVY-366

## VERIFICATION OF INFORMATION ON SECURITY INDEX CARDS

MEMORANDUM RE: MORTON SOBELL

Office File 100-37158

The following is the most recent place of employment, employment address, and residence address of the above subject as contained on the subject's Security Index Card.

Residence: Permanent Residence  
30 Charlton Street, New York, New York.  
Employment: Summer Residence  
Horton Road, Cold Springs, Putnam County, New York.  
Address: Unemployed.

Labor Union Affiliation:

Defense Facility ☐ Yes ☒ No  
Key Facility ☐ Yes ☒ No

Detcom ☐ Yes ☒ No  
Photo ☒ Yes ☐ No

P. IV

It is requested that the place of employment, address of employment, residence address of the subject, as well as the accuracy of the priority tabbing, be verified and the proper notations be made below. The absence of a photograph and [redacted] should be noted and efforts made to secure a photograph and determine the existence of a criminal record.

b7E

A physical description based on personal observation of the subject appears in serial

Residence: Permanent Residence  
626 Riverside Drive, New York, New York  
Method of Verification: Summer Residence  
Horton Road, Cold Springs, Putnam County, New York

Neighborhood Source:

Date: 7/28/70

Verified by SA:

Employment: Unemployed

Address:

Labor Union Affiliation:

Date Checked

Geographical Reference Number

Key Facility ☐ Yes ☒ NoDefense Facility ☐ Yes ☒ NoTab Detcom: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Method of Verification:

Employment Source:

Date:

Verified by SA:

Photograph on SI card is most current or best likeness of subject: ☒ Yes ☐ NoFD-123 should be submitted to Bureau: ☒ Yes ☐ NoA letterhead memorandum should be submitted to the Bureau and Secret Service: ☒ Yes ☐ No (last submitted

File Reviewed

☒ Subject Meets SI Criteria☐ Does not Meet SI Criteria

Agent's Initials

Date

9/8/70

NOTED  
SI UNIT  
DATE 9-9-70

100-37158-276

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 8 1970	
FBI - NEW YORK	
331	ru
Si u	Just

SAC (100-109849)

9/28/70

SA [REDACTED]

b7C

HELEN SOBELL aka  
Mrs. Morton Sobell  
IS-C

A request was to contact [REDACTED] re subject's address and employment and to determine if Committee To Secure Justice For Morton Sobell is still in operation.

b1 d

b7C

b1

[REDACTED] has no further information.

b7D

- 1- [REDACTED] ) b1 d  
①- 100-37158 (MORTON SOBELL) (331)  
1- 100-166629 (NRSC) (44)  
1- 100-107111 (CFMS) (44)

HPB:exp  
(5)

100-37158-2745

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 28 1970	
FBI - NEW YORK	

[REDACTED]

b7C



SAC, NY (100-37158)

9/30/70

SA [REDACTED] b7c

MORTON SOBELL  
IS - R

It is noted that captioned subject was released from Federal Prison in 2/69, after serving 18 years for conspiracy to commit espionage.

In 4/69 subject signed a contract with Charles Scribner's Sons, NYC, for the publication of a book dealing with his experiences in prison. It was reported that this contract called for the payment of \$21,000 to subject, plus 15 percent of proceeds on all copies sold over 7,500.

The Bureau has instructed that the NYO should attempt through sources in the publishing field in NYC to attempt to obtain a prepublication of subject's book.

This matter has been followed closely by the NYO in contacts with [REDACTED]. From this source it has been learned that subject has been busy writing for the book, and expects to complete his writing by December, 1970. The publication date for the book is unknown, however, it would appear to be in the near future.

LEAD FOR SECTION 12

Will attempt through contacts at the Scribner publishing firm, or through other sources in the publishing field, attempt to obtain any information concerning subject's book.

If possible, arrangements should be made to obtain a prepublication of the book in order that it might be furnished to the Bureau.

The Bureau pointed out that in the past, the Bureau has furnished information and data for various books published by the Scribner firm.

1- Section 12

Clerk  
LWX 531

PPD:ms  
(2)

SERIALIZED FILE

SEP 30 1970  
FBI - NEW YORK

105-3118-2740

**FILE #** L00-37158

**SUBJECT** MORTON SOBELL

**SERIAL** 2747 **DATE** 8-31-70

**CONSISTING OF** 9 **PAGES**

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety,  
under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant  
to Executive Order 11652 as it contains  
information which would disclose an intelligence  
source. This serial bears the Classification  
Officers number 2040.

FILE # 100-37158

SUBJECT MORTON SOBELL

SERIAL 2750 DATE 10/14/70

CONSISTING OF 3 PAGES

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety, under (b)(7)(D) as information contained in this serial would identify an informant to whom an expressed promise of confidentiality has been given. This information includes dates and places of meetings which were attended by a limited number of people known to the informant and/or information from these meetings and situations in which an informant was in close contact with members of these organizations, disclosure of which would reveal his identity.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES (97-16)

DATE: 10/14/70

FROM : SA [REDACTED] b7c

SUBJECT: PEOPLE'S WORLD  
REGISTRATION ACT

SOURCE	ACTIVITY	RECEIVED	AGENT	LOCATION
[REDACTED] b7d	So. Calif. Committee for PW	10/2/70	Writer	[REDACTED] (WR) b7d

Informant's report is quoted as follows:

[REDACTED] b7d  
100-31730 (HUNGARIAN HALL)

1 - NEW YORK (REGISTERED) ✓  
(MORTON SOBELL)

b7d,c

2751

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 21 1970	
FBI - NEW YORK	

Donegan

TH/sal

(25)

Read By

KPH

LA 97-16

"9-30-70

"The meeting of the Sou. Calif. Committee for the Peoples World was held this evening Sept. 29th at the Hungarian Cultural Center, 1251 So. St. Andrews Pl., Los Angeles.

"Those that attended this meeting were [REDACTED] b7c

"The first point on the agenda was a report from the Committee members as to the number of Banquet tickets their Groups, Organization or Area have sold or expect to sell or use. After the reports were given, SADIE stated that the reported number of tickets sold, etc. are very satisfactory & encouraging.

"DONNA gave the following report: 'HELEN TRAVIS agreed to be the M.C. at the Banquet on Sunday Oct. 11th. We are still hopeful that MORTON SOBEL will get the O.K. to come to L.A. to speak at the P.W. Banquet. SOBEL told us to go ahead with all the arrangements for him as the guest speaker at the Banquet. We received a form asking a lot of questions we had to answer pertaining to SOBEL's requested trip to L.A., plus a lot of other questions. This form or questionnaire was filled out & returned to the U.S. government authorities.

[REDACTED] b7c

"The families of the 3 Soladad prison brothers will be the special honored guests at the Banquet & they will sit with the other selected special guest."

"SADIE proposed & which was agreed by the Committee for the P.W. office to memograph a large number of leafletes announcing the P.W. Annual Bazaar which comes off the first part of December, so one of these leafletes can & will be put on every seat at the Banquet.

LA 97-16

"SADIE stated: Ten to twelve thousand dollars must be raised for the Banquet before the doors to the Banquet Hall are opened, if we intend for this Banquet to be a financial success in the tune of \$14,000 to \$15,000 clear profit. All of the advance \$10,000 to \$12,000 has to be realized through donor contacts. We need the names of additional individuals to contact for some additional donations of \$500, \$300, \$200, & \$100.

"Several of the members present wrote down names & addresses & passed them up to SADIE & DONNA as possible donors to be contacted.

"DONNA & SADIE's reports were discussed & approved.

"SADIE announced the death of REUBEN BOROUGH & added that a memorial service will be held for REUBEN at the Unitarian Church on West 8th St. on Oct. 18th.

ACTION:

Informant was thoroughly interviewed concerning the above and could add nothing further.

All necessary action in connection with this memo has been taken by the writer.

FILE # L00-37158

SUBJECT MORTON SOBELL

SERIAL 2752 DATE 10-9-70

CONSISTING OF 2 PAGES

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety,  
under (b)(1) as it has been classified pursuant  
to Executive Order 11652 as it contains  
information which would disclose an intelligence  
source. This serial bears the Classification  
Officers number 2040.

FILE # 100-37158

SUBJECT MORTON SOBELL

SERIAL 2753 DATE 10/9/70

CONSISTING OF 4 PAGES

is exempt from disclosure, in its entirety, under (b)(7)(D) as information contained in this serial would identify an informant to whom an expressed promise of confidentiality has been given. This information includes dates and places of meetings which were attended by a limited number of people known to the informant and/or information from these meetings and situations in which an informant was in close contact with members of these organizations, disclosure of which would reveal his identity.



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, NEW YORK (100-37158)

DATE: 11/9/70

FROM : SA [REDACTED] b7C

SUBJECT: MORTON SOBELL  
ESP - R

On [REDACTED] US Probation Office, SDNY, NYC, advised the writer that he had heard nothing from the Probation Office in Los Angeles as to whether subject had travelled to Los Angeles to attend the fund raising dinner for the "People's World". Such travel authority was denied by the US Board of Parole, and was the cause of recent court action by the subject. b7d

[REDACTED] requested whether we had any information which would indicate that subject had travelled to LA in violation of the Parole Board ruling, as in such case the Parole Board intended to take action against the subject for violation of his parole. [REDACTED] was advised that information received by this office from our LA office, was to the effect that subject did not appear for the scheduled speaking engagement. Subject sent a speech to the affair, which was read by another individual. Other speakers at the affair berated the Parole Board for prohibiting SOBELL from appearing at this affair. b7d

[REDACTED] advised that subject has requested authority to travel to Maryland from 11/25 to 11/29/70, for the purpose of visiting his mother-in-law over Thanksgiving. Her address is: ROSE LEVITAN, 1072 Ruatan, Silver Spring, Maryland. b7d

[REDACTED] advised that he had not received authority from WDC headquarters for this travel, but he expects that it will be approved, inasmuch as such travel has been approved in the past. b7d

PFD:dje  
(1)

Chief Clerk

Post *lur* 331

SEARCHED ☒ INDEXED ☒  
SERIALIZED ☒ FILED ☒

NOV 13 1970  
FBI - NEW YORK

*lur*

# OFFICE MEMORANDUM

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: SAC, LOS ANGELES (97-16)

DATE: 11/12/70

FROM: SA [REDACTED] b7c

SUBJECT: PEOPLE'S WORLD  
IS - C

SOURCE	ACTIVITY	RECEIVED	AGENT	LOCATION
[REDACTED] b7d	Annual PW Banquet 10/11/70	10/28/70	Writer	[REDACTED] (WR) b7d

Informant's report has been xeroxed and is attached:

2.- NEW YORK (REGISTERED)

100-

100-

(MORTON SOBELL)

b7d

2755

SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED

181-NEW YORK

JPA/azp  
(36)amp

Read by

b7d

LA 97-16

[REDACTED]

ACTION:

b7D

Informant was thoroughly interviewed concerning the above and could add nothing further.

All necessary action in connection with this memo has been taken by the writer.

Los Angeles, California

October 24, 1970

It was reported to me that on October 11, 1970 1:00 P.M., a banquet, sponsored by the committee for the People's World, was held at the Mira Mar Hotel, Ocean and Wilshire Blvd, Santa Monica, California.

1. Valery Mitchell spoke about the soledad committee, and some of the people is being helped by it.. She stated that a local minister is going to be the new chairman of the soledad committee, thus making it easy to go into the churches to get assistance, which is badly needed. That she will still be working with the same committee. Valery introduced some of the mothers of some of the prisoners the soledad committee is defending.

2. Frank Wilkerson spoke, and said the reason Morton Sobell wasn't allowed to attend this affair, was because he, Frank Wilkerson was married to Donna who is too close to the P. W. paper, and they thought it would not be good for two ex-prisoners to get together under these circumstances. So the authorities sent him away. However, a lengthy proclamation was read from Sobell, pledging his loyalty and solidarity. Frank also made the pitch for the collection.

b7d

About 1000 people attended, among whom were.

b7d