

Highlights of the AFSA Project
22 August 1950

EO 3.3(h) (2)
PL 86-36/50 USC 3605

Atomic Energy Espionage Ring.

1. All major figures in the Soviet MGB espionage ring which obtained information on the U. S. Atomic Energy project during the war, have been completely identified and arrested by the FBI. The identities of several lesser personalities who had some contact with the ring are still unknown, but these persons will probably be identified through normal FBI investigation. The key espionage personnel who appeared in 1944 MGB message texts recovered by the AFSA unit are as follows:

a. EMILE JULIUS KLAUS FUCHS - Soviet covername REST - Identified in August 1949 by the FBI and British intelligence from information contained in a series of MGB messages of 15 June through 14 November 1944.

b. HARRY GOLD - covername GUS, later changed to ARNAUD. Gold served as the espionage contact (or cutout) between atomic energy scientists and the MGB representatives in the U. S. from 1944 on. He was identified on the basis of detailed information contained in 1944 MGB messages together with information obtained

from the interrogation of Fuchs, and Fuchs' sister KRISTEL HEINEMAN. Gold has confessed his espionage activities, and the information which he is providing is being used as the basis for the arrest of the other individuals involved in the spy ring.

C. JULIUS ROSENBERG - covername ANTENNA, later changed to LIBERAL. - Rosenberg served as a recruiting agent in this country for the MGB. From MGB messages it is known that he recruited DAVID GREENGLASS, a U.S. atomic scientist. Other individuals known from the MGB messages to have been contacted by Rosenberg are as follows:

1.) ALFRED SARANT - During 1944 an employee of the Western Electric Company and later employed by the Bell Telephone Laboratories. Sarant's name was given in a message of 5 May 1944, in which Rosenberg requested sanction to clear Sarant for recruiting as an MGB agent. Sarant is being investigated but has not as yet been arrested.

2.) MAX ELITCHER - Contacted by Rosenberg in July 1944 according to an MGB message of 26 July 1944. Elitcher

was working for the Bureau of Standards where, according to the message "he has access to extraordinarily valuable materials on artillery."

Eletcher is under further investigation as the MGB messages now available do not reveal whether or not he did actually supply information to the MGB. (Eletcher also roomed with MORTON SOBELL in 1941).

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3). As a yet unidentified U.S. atomic scientist - covername CHESTER (possibly a scientist named [redacted])

A message of September 1944 stated that Rosenberg and CHESTER met each month to pay communist party dues, and that "CHESTER is interested in whether we are satisfied with the collaboration, and whether or not there are any misunderstandings."

[redacted] is being investigated but due to Rosenberg's refusal to talk there is no satisfactory basis for his arrest or interrogation at this time.

4) DAVID GREENGLASS - A U.S. atomic

scientist who is married to Julius Rosenberg's sister. Greenglass was recruited by his wife through Rosenbergs urging. Mrs. Greenglass is known from the MGB messages to have been a Soviet agent assigned the covername OSA. Greenglass was identified through information in 1944 MGB messages, and arrested on the basis of information furnished by Harry Gold.

5). MRS. JULIUS ROSENBERG - A message of 27 November 1944 stated that Mrs. Rosenberg was a party member, a devoted wife, and that she knew about her husband's work, but that due to ill health she did not engage in the work herself. She has recently been arrested by the FBI.

C. * MORTON SOBELL - This is the only active member of this ring who did not appear in the MGB messages. He was arrested on the basis of information obtained from Harry Gold.

Other Identifications.

2. Two other US scientists engaged in the U.S. Atomic Energy Project supplied information direct to MGB representatives, and not through the Gold, Rosenberg ring. These men were

a. THEODORE ALVIN HALL - Hall's name was spelled out in clear in a message of 12 November 1944, according to which Hall handed over to a MGB representative a report on Los Alamos, named all key personnel employed by the atomic energy project, and the specific projects which each was working on.

b. SAVIL SAX. In the same message it was stated that Hall turned over the report "on the advice of his comrade SAVILLE SAX."

Both Hall and Sax were later assigned covernames and are known to have transmitted information to the Russians. They are now at the University of Chicago, but they cannot be arrested yet since there is no indication of their activities (outside of the MGB messages)

to provide a basis for their arrest and interrogation.

3. It is believed that LAURENCE DUGGAN is identical with the person referred to as PRINCE in an MGB message of 18 November 1944. In this message the activities and the future of PRINCE, stated to be a close friend of HENRY AGARD WALLACE, were discussed. The message reads in part as follows

"If LOTSMAN (WALLACE) gets an interesting post, it follows that PRINCE must get in on it using his friendship. If not then we can try either to utilize PRINCE's intimacy with LOTSMAN (WALLACE) all the same for getting him into an appropriate establishment, fishing out, however, through PRINCE, the interesting information that falls LOTSMAN'S (WALLACE'S) way under any circumstances."

The message goes on to state that PRINCE should be turned over to GROMOV (First secretary in the Soviet embassy in Washington) after his prospects for getting information have been ascertained.

Duggan was in the State Department in 1944 at which time he served as:

- a. Director of the Office of American Republic Affairs
- b. Member of the Policy Committee of the State Department
- c. Member of the Committee on Post-War Programs.

The identification of Duggan as PRINCE is not considered complete as yet, but is being thoroughly investigated by the FBI.

4. Further information which has been derived from an MGB message of 5 August 1944 has led to the tentative identification of a rather high U.S. government official who was cooperating closely with the Russians as HARRY DEXTER WHITE - covername JURIST. The political importance of JURIST was stressed by a passage of the message which stated

"Relative to the technique of further work with us by JURIST himself, he to be sure is ready for any self-sacrifice, he himself does not think of his personal security, but exposure would lead to a political scandal, and the elections would take a new course, hence he ought to be very careful."