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# FBI bares Rosenberg files

WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI's Rosenberg papers indicate that the principal government witness in the famous spy case refrained from implicating his sister Ethel Rosenberg for more than a month after confessing his own involvement and accusing Ethel's husband Julius.

A statement David Greenglass gave to FBI agents the day after his arrest June 15, 1950, does not mention his elder sister in the alleged conspiracy to slip atomic bomb secrets to the Russians.

In the same statement, Greenglass alleges that Julius Rosenberg introduced him in 1945 to a man who questioned him about the bomb then being developed secretly at Los Alamos, N.M. Greenglass, who was stationed at Los Alamos as an Army technician, said he tried to describe an explosive mechanism to the stranger.

Government prosecutors relied primarily on testimony from Greenglass and his wife Ruth in winning the espionage - conspiracy conviction against the Rosenbergs, who were senteced to death.

Despite appeals to the Supreme Court and President Dwight D. Eisenhower and protest demonstrations in the United States and abroad, the Rosenbergs were electrocuted on June 19, 1953. Greenglass was sentenced to 15 years in prison and his wife was never charged. The Greenglasses now are believed to be living under assumed names.

The FBI last week unsealed the secret files of its investigation and turned over a first batch of 727 pages to Allen Weinstein, a Smith College history professor.

The documents were sent to others who sought them under the Freedom of Information Act, including the Rosenbergs' sons. The FBI made the initial set available to newsmen Tuesday.

The disclosure may fuel the still-simmering debate over the truthfulness of the Greenglasses' allegations. Questions raised by the first batch may or may not be answered when more of the 48,000-page file on the espionage investigation is disclosed later this year.

Some students of the case have questioned whether the Greenglasses traded false testimony against the Rosebergs in order to escape more serious charges themselves. Some critics have accused the FBI and government prosecutors of coaching the Greenglasses in a false story.

These documents show that the trial testimony of David and Ruth Greenglass largely is consistent with the last of their statements to the FBI.

But their initial statements are far more sketchy and implicate only Julius.