

U. S. Drops Spy Charges

FPack
11/1/67

Coplon Case Closed

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government dropped all pending spy charges Friday against Judith Coplon, the former government clerk charged in 1949 with trying to pass classified material to the Soviet Union.

Acting Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark said motions to dismiss the cases were approved in the U.S. District Courts in Washington and New York City where Miss Coplon originally was convicted.

Appeals courts later stayed or set aside both convictions, however, and she never served any of the total of 25 years in prison to which the courts sentenced her. She has been free on bond and now lives in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Now married and the mother of four, the former Miss Coplon said "I'm very pleased, very happy," when informed of the government' action.

Her husband, Albert H. Socolov, one of the lawyers who de-

fended her, commented; "It's been a long, long time - more than 16 years.

"I'll take her out to dinner tonight and we'll have a 'oast and be very, very happy," he added.

In asking dismissal of the long-pending charges, the government said that because "almost 16 years have elapsed since the indictment was returned in this case, the government has determined that it does not have sufficient evidence to proceed with a retrial."

Miss Coplon, then 27, was employed in the Justice Department's internal security section when she was arrested on March 4, 1949, along with Valentin A. Gabichev, a Soviet engineer attached to the United Nations. They were accused of a spying conspiracy.

Miss Coplon first was tried in Washington by herself on a charge of removing government secrets from Justice Department files for the purpose of passing them on to the Russians. She was convicted and sentenced to 10 months to 10 years in prison.