

Judge to Examine Rosenberg Papers That U.S. Withheld

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 13 (AP) —A Federal judge said today that she wanted to inspect all documents the Government has refused to release from its files on the case of the convicted atom spies, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg.

District Judge June Green said she would examine the documents to determine whether the Government had a right to withhold them on the ground that they would violate individual privacy or were not relevant.

The Government last month made public about 30,000 pages of documents related to the celebrated spy case.

The material was released as a result of lawsuits filed under the Freedom of Information Act by Robert and Michael Meeropol, the Rosenbergs' sons.

The Meeropols use the name of the couple who adopted them after their parents were executed in 1953. The Rosenbergs were convicted of conspiring to give atomic bomb secrets to the Soviet agents.

The Meeropols returned to court to contend that the Government had failed to turn over all the Rosenberg material.

Jeffrey Axelrad, a Justice Department lawyer, denied that contention and told the court, "In fact, the F.B.I. has done far more than is required."

Mr. Axelrad said the Government would be happy to comply with Judge Green's request but said, "It is going to be a massive task."

Marshal Perlin, lawyer for the Meeropols, argued that the Government had altered some documents and had failed to comply with a court order to supply an inventory of all the pertinent files.

Mr. Perlin said the files of at least 10 witnesses called in the Rosenberg trial had not been inventoried.

Mr. Axelrad responded that all pertinent material would have turned up in the Government's inventory of the main Federal Bureau of Investigation file on the Rosenbergs. That file, he said, would contain references to all material filed elsewhere by the F.B.I.