

ROSENBERG DATA RELEASED BY F.B.I.

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History Professor Is Given
Part of Files Along With
Hiss Case Documents
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WASHINGTON, Aug. 29—The Federal Bureau of Investigation has released to a professor of history at Smith College the first of its secret material on the espionage investigation of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, a 725-page portion of the bureau's 48,000-page file.

The professor, Allen Weinstein, who petitioned the agency for the material three years ago and later filed suit under the Freedom of Information Act, said that the bulk of the material he received yesterday was "very substantive."

Mr. Weinstein was also given 350 pages on the agency's investigation of Alger Hiss, about whose case he is completing a book.

He said in a telephone interview that he was "encouraged" by receiving the material and hoped that it indicated the speedy release of the rest of the file.

For Passing Secrets

Deputy Attorney General Harold R. Tyler has pressed for "maximum possible disclosure" as quickly as possible and a Federal Court has ordered disclosure of most documents by Nov. 15.

The Rosenbergs were executed in June, 1953, after having been convicted of conspiracy to commit espionage by passing atomic-bomb secrets to Soviet agents.

Mr. Hiss was convicted of perjury in 1950 for denying to a grand jury in 1948 that he had turned over State Department documents to Whittaker Chambers, an avowed Communist courier.

The Rosenberg documents delivered to Mr. Weinstein will also be sent to Robert and Michael Meeropol, their sons, who have also filed a Freedom of Information suit to obtain all the Government's files on their parents' case.

The documents that Mr. Weinstein got include, he said, summaries of F.B.I. interviews and correspondence between David Greenglass, Mrs. Rosenberg's brother and the principal prosecution witness at their trial, and his wife.

It also includes a sworn statement from Mr. Rosenberg given to the F.B.I. in 1941, when he was investigated for

alleged Communist sympathies, as follows:

To Set Example

"I asked my wife about her signing a Communist party petition. Her memory on the matter is not entirely clear, but she told me that a man who she did not know came to the door one day. He said he lived in the neighborhood and gave her a long rigamarole, all of the effect as to whether she wanted all sides of a question represented. She said that she guessed that she did. He said, 'Then sign this.' She asked what it was and he said it would put the Communist party on the ballot. She asked, 'Will this make me a Communist if I sign?' He said 'no,' so she signed. I guess it was carelessness on her part or maybe she just lacked sales resistance. However, I know she was no Communist."

In a letter to her husband written in May, 1943, Mr. Weinstein said, Ruth Greenglass urged him to "remember what Julie told you, as a Communist it's up to you to set an example to the other soldiers. . . ." David Greenglass was a technician at the Los Alamos, N.M., atom-bomb plant.

The transcript of an F.B.I. interview with Julius Rosenberg in 1950, after Mr. Greenglass's arrest but before the Rosenbergs were taken into custody in July of that year, noted that he denied any espionage or that he had collected any material from his brother-in-law. It added:

"Around the end of July or August 1944 Rosenberg stated that he knew that David was at Los Alamos working on a secret project. . . . Rosenberg claimed he did not know it was the atom bomb until the first atom bomb dropped on Hiroshima."

Asked Questions

There is also, Mr. Weinstein said, the summary of an F.B.I. interview with Mr. Greenglass in which he said that he did not want to testify against the Rosenbergs, as he ultimately did. He served 9½ years of a 15-year prison term and was paroled in 1960; he had told the court that in January, 1945, Mr. Rosenberg had asked him for — and obtained — information on the bomb.

Another document is an F.B.I. report of a meeting that Mr. Greenglass said took place in New York when he was on furlough from Los Alamos. He said that Mr. Rosenberg and a man whose name he could not recall came over to his parked car.

"The man got into the car and I drove on while the man asked me questions about a high explosive lens which was being experimented with at the Los Alamos atom bomb project," according to Mr. Greenglass's statement. "I tried to describe the lens to the man while I was driving."