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The \$23,000 Rosenberg Files

Washington

The FBI yesterday made nearly 30,000 pages of its files on the investigation of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg available to two sons of the convicted spies, provided they pay a \$23,451 fee.

Michael and Robert Meeropol, sons of the couple electrocuted in 1953 after conviction on a conspiracy charge, won a court decision that they were entitled to the files under the Freedom of Information Act.

The Meeropols have taken the name of adoptive parents.

A Justice Department spokesman said if the Meeropols do not pay the fee in a reasonable time, perhaps a day or two, the FBI will offer the files to anyone who will pay it.

The act provides that government agencies may charge "search fees" based on the

time spent gathering the documents and determining whether they come under any of the act's exemptions.

FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley wrote the Meeropols' New York attorney, Marshall Perlin, that the fee includes \$20,458 for searching for the 29,900 documents. The remaining charge is for making copies.

Kelley said nothing was charged for the time executives spent evaluating the documents.

The Justice Department already has made available without charge about 1600 pages of its own files, nearly a file cabinet drawer of papers from the office of the pardon attorney, and several drawers-full from the New York U.S. attorney's office, which prosecuted the Rosenbergs.

United Press