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Hoover Urged Prison For Ethel Rosenberg

By The Washington Star
 WASHINGTON, Nov. 15—
 J. Edgar Hoover, the late
 director of the Federal Bu-
 reau of Investigation, strongly
 recommended against the
 the death penalty for Ethel
 Rosenberg in a memo to
 Attorney General J. Howard
 McGrath on April 2, 1951.

Mrs. Rosenberg and her
 husband, Julius, who were
 convicted of conspiring to
 pass atomic secrets to the
 Soviet Union, were electro-
 cuted at Sing Sing Prison
 on June 19, 1953.

The Hoover memo was
 found in a sheaf of corre-
 spondence in Rosenberg ma-
 terials made public by the
 United States Attorney's of-
 fice in New York in response
 to a court order issued in
 a suit filed by the Rosen-
 bergs' sons, Robert and
 Michael Meeropol.

But he apparently was
 motivated by considerations
 other than the hope that the
 Rosenbergs might be induced
 to testify against others.

Mr. Hoover recommended
 for Mrs. Rosenberg a 30-year
 sentence—the maximum short
 of the death sentence per-
 mitted under the law.

"This woman is the mother
 of two small children," Mr.
 Hoover wrote. "As the wife
 of Julius Rosenberg she
 would, in a sense, be pre-
 sumed to be acting under the
 influence of her husband."

SFCronicle

NOV 17 1975

Rosenberg Papers

New York

The late FBI Director J.
 Edgar Hoover and other top law
 enforcement officials recommend-
 ed mercy for convicted spy Ethel
 Rosenberg prior to her execution,
 government documents revealed

The documents showed yes-
 terday that Hoover, U.S. Attorney
 General J. Howard McGrath and
 James Bennett, director of the
 Bureau of Prisons, all opposed
 her execution.

Mrs. Rosenberg and her hus-
 band, Julius, were put to death at
 Sing Sing prison in 1953 after they
 were convicted of supplying atom-
 ic secrets to the Soviet Union.

Other declassified documents
 alleged that Julius Rosenberg
 confessed his guilt to a cellmate
 whom he had tried to recruit for a
 Russian spy ring. Rosenberg
 publicly maintained his innoc-
 ence.

The Rosenberg papers were
 made public as a result of a suit
 filed under the Freedom of
 Information Act by the couple's
 two sons, Michael and Robert
 Meeropol, who have launched a
 campaign to prove their parents
 innocent.

Hoover recommended that
 she receive a 30-year prison
 sentence.

Associated Press