

Rosenberg Sons Charge FBI Is Violating Spy Data Order

Washington

The sons of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg have charged the FBI with holding back thousands of pages of the Rosenberg spy case records in a "willful" violation of a court order that most of them be made public, court records showed yesterday.

The U.S. district court in Washington was asked to hold FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley and two FBI agents in contempt for failing to comply with a court order to release all records not exempted by law.

As a result of two suits filed under the Freedom of Information Act, the FBI had released 29,900 pages of records concerning the events that led to the execution of the Rosenbergs as atomic spies in 1953.

The two FBI agents, Thomas H. Bresson and Cornelius Sullivan, filed affidavits saying 7000 pages were withheld, all or in part, because they contain national security information, involve personal privacy or are exempt on other grounds.

But attorneys for the Rosenberg sons, Robert and Michael Meeropol, charged the FBI withheld 800,000 pages, not 7000, and had not given detailed justification required by the court.

In a motion filed in U.S. district court, they ask Judge June L. Green to hold Kelley and the agents in contempt and order them jailed if they continue to disobey her orders of August 1 and August 27 to release material to the Meeropols, who took the name of their adoptive parents.

the motion had been unnoticed since it was filed December 22.

Judge Green also was asked to order the entire FBI Rosenberg files placed in the custody of a special master who would supervise what should be released and what withheld.

A spokesman said the Justice Department wanted to extend its time to reply until next Monday. "We will respond in detail," he said, but declined to discuss the case further.

United Press