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Executive Registry
3-5813

December 30, 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

Subject: Special Midday Meeting of PSB,
11:30 a.m., December 30, 1952,
in Mr. Bruce's office.

Present: David K. E. Bruce
William C. Foster
W. Bedell Smith
Thomas K. Finletter
Alan G. Kirk

The Board considered the draft reply to the letter from the Special Counsel to the President, Charles S. Murphy, dated December 23, 1952.

The Board made minor corrections in the draft as submitted, and directed Admiral Kirk to deliver same to Mr. Murphy at the White House. (This was done at 4:30 p.m. this date, with the explanation regarding the last paragraph.)

The Board discussed another item of special interest to the Secretary of the Air Force.

Alan G. Kirk.

cc: General Smith

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COPY FOR GENERAL SMITH

Approved For Release 2006/03/17 : CIA-RDP80R01731R003300190050-5

December 30, 1952

**FOR DRAFT OF PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT
ON ROSENBERG CASE**

I have given earnest consideration to the records in the case of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg and to the appeals for clemency made on their behalf. These two individuals have been tried and convicted of a most serious crime against the people of the United States. They have been found guilty of conspiring with intent and reason to believe that it would be to the advantage of a foreign power, the USSR, to deliver to the agents of that foreign power certain highly secret atomic information relating to the national defense of the United States.

The nature of the crime for which they have been found guilty and sentenced far exceeds that of the taking of the life of another citizen; it involves the deliberate betrayal of the entire nation and could very well result in the death of many, many thousands of innocent citizens. By their act these two individuals have in fact betrayed the cause of freedom for which free men are fighting and dying at this very hour.

We are a nation under law and our affairs are governed by the just exercise of these laws. The courts have provided every opportunity for the submission of evidence bearing on this case. In the time-honored tradition of American justice, a freely selected jury of their fellow-citizens considered the evidence in this case and rendered its judgment.

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All rights of appeal were exercised and the conviction of the trial court was upheld after full judicial review, including that of the highest court in the land.

I have made a careful examination into this case and am satisfied that the two individuals have been accorded their full measure of justice.

There has been neither new evidence nor have there been mitigating circumstances which would justify altering this decision, and I have determined that it is my duty, in the interest of the people of the United States, not to set aside the verdict of their representatives.

In order that the people of the United States may be reminded of the character of the crime for which these two individuals are being punished, I am making available a summary of the facts in the case which has been prepared for me by the Department of Justice.

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