

Security Information

20 February 1953

Julius Rosenberg

PROCESSED FOR: CHIEFS, ALL AREA & DIVISIONS

ATTENTION: OFFICERS

SUBJECT: Communist Exploitation of the Rosenbergs

1. In areas where efforts are being made to expose the hypocrisy of the Communist agitation on behalf of the Rosenbergs, it is suggested that the severe sentences imposed by a Czechoslovakian court this week on nine defendants charged with "spying for British intelligence" may be cited as evidence that the Communists are interested in the Rosenbergs for propaganda purposes only.

2. Of the nine Czechs condemned by Ostrava Regional Court for spying for the British, 2 were sentenced to death, 2 to life imprisonment and 5 to from 12 to 25 years in prison. The intelligence information alleged to have been transmitted to the British concerned certain Czech iron works and in no sense could be considered of comparable strategic importance to the atomic data supplied the USSR by the Rosenbergs.

3. The following lines are suggested for exploiting this illustration of the double standard the Communists apply in their treatment of events in their own sphere and those in the free world:

a. While the Communists feel free to mete out cruel punishments to their own people with regard neither to clemency nor justice because neither concept exists for Communists, they cynically demand clemency for the Rosenbergs in an effort to exploit the respect in which the free world holds these same concepts;

b. Had the Rosenbergs been tried within the Soviet orbit their punishment would have been so swift and merciless that even if someone dared ask for clemency the execution would have taken place before the ink was dry on such a petition;

c. Injustice and cruelty have become so much a part of Communism that the Czech regime didn't even consider how the Ostrava trial would expose their real motives in the Rosenberg clemency campaign.

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