

16 June 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: CHIEFS ALL AREA AND DIVISIONS

ATTENTION: CHIEFS

SUBJECT: Polish Government Offer of Sanctuary for Julius and Ethel Rosenberg

Julius Rosenberg

Attached hereto is a propaganda guidance on the offer made on 15 June by the Polish Government to grant asylum to condemned atom spies, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, if the United States Government will permit them to leave U.S. territory. Since the Rosenberg execution date is set for 18 June, it is recommended that these propaganda lines be transmitted by cable to areas where covert media can react immediately to the Polish offer.

Attachment:

As stated above

Distribution:

#1486

Security Information

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PROPAGANDA GUIDANCE ON POLISH OFFER OF SANCTUARY FOR ROSENBERGS

1. The entire Communist campaign on behalf of the Rosenbergs has been merely a token effort to keep the Rosenbergs from taking until they reach the electric chair and this dramatic offer by the Polish Government, while ostensibly aimed at helping the Rosenbergs, is actually cynically designed by the Communists to place the United States Government in a position where it cannot easily grant them clemency. The Polish Government is well aware that its unprecedented offer of sanctuary amounts to interference in the internal affairs of the United States and that American reaction to such an attempt to impinge on the sovereignty of U. S. law will be to decry it. It is the hope of the Communists that by arousing public indignation to this act they will eclipse all chances for clemency for the Rosenbergs.

2. Increasingly frequent rumors that the Rosenbergs are planning to reveal details of their spying activities in exchange for clemency, forced the Communists to make this offer of sanctuary in the hope that it would either placate the Rosenbergs to silence or actually achieve their release to Polish custody where they would no longer represent a threat to the espionage network of international Communism. The Communists' great concern over the Rosenbergs stems from the fact that the Rosenbergs are in a position to identify Communist spy rings still in operation which receive their directions and transmit stolen data through the Soviet and satellite diplomatic missions abroad.

3. The Polish claim that this offer is based on humanitarian principles should be ridiculed by exposing the absence of justice in Poland and by suggesting that humanitarianism should begin at home where, according to Lt. Franciszek Jarecki, recently defected Polish MIG pilot, "in the factories scores die daily, exhausted by the demands of the speed-up system. If you don't meet your quota, you face trial for sabotage." (Washington Evening Star 10 June 1953). In this connection, it might be pointed out that Poland, in making this offer and speaking of "humanitarian principles", is acting on orders from the Soviet Union which so amply demonstrated to Poland its own concern with "humanitarian principles" by the Katyn Forest massacre and during the Warsaw uprising when 350,000 Polish patriots were massacred because the Red Army was ordered to delay crossing Vistula and liberate Warsaw in time to save them.

4. Speculate as to whether even the Rosenbergs would prefer life in Communist Poland to justice as practiced in the United States since, as Rosenberg Trial Judge Irving Kaufman said, when sentencing the Rosenbergs in April, 1951, "I recall the defendant, Julius Rosenberg, testifying that our American system of jury trials met with his approval and was preferred over Russian justice." With such a statement on record it is hardly likely that Julius Rosenberg's life expectancy in Poland would postdate his propaganda value to the Communists.