

4 April 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Letter of Thanks From Abel's Family

The following is a translation of the text of a letter purporting to come from the wife and daughter of Rudolf Ivanovich ABEL which was published in Izvestia on 23 February 1962.

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEWSPAPER 'IZVESTIYA'

"Esteemed Comrade Editor!

"We--Helen and Lidia ABEL, the wife and daughter of Rudolf ABEL--request the printing of our letter in your newspaper in order that the entire public of the Soviet Union might know about the humane act of the Soviet government.

Due to denunciation by an adventurer and provocateur, our husband and father Rudolf ABEL, was innocently arrested while in the U.S. in 1957 and accused of anti-state crimes, allegedly because he conducted espionage on behalf of the Soviet Union. He was illegally sentenced to thirty years of penal imprisonment.

"All our multiple efforts toward pardon for our dear, innocently sentenced father and husband, including those to the President of the United States, did not achieve positive results.

"Thereupon we turned to the Soviet government and effected contact with relatives of F. POWERS, sentenced in the USSR. From their side they appealed to the government of the USSR with the request that he be pardoned and requested the government of the U.S.A. to reciprocate completely in this matter.

"The Soviet authorities reacted favorably to these requests. As is known, F. POWERS was freed. 10 February of this year became for us, too, a great holiday. On that day the American government returned to our family its father and husband.



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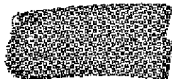
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Approved for Release
Date 12 SEP 1995

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"We with all our heart profoundly thank the Soviet government, and its head N. KHRUSHCHEV personally, for this highly humane magnanimity.

H. ABEL, L. ABEL."

"19 February 1962.

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