

impossible for them to maintain their national culture and even their language is half-forgotten. At school or work they constantly hear the epithet 'fascists.' . . . Up to now emigration by Soviet Germans to West Germany has received little support from abroad."

Sakharov also specified that he thought "the division of Germany is a tragic (and I hope temporary) phenomenon."

Sakharov was clearly no liberal, and came down solidly on the side of a strong Western anti-Communist stance: "The thoughtless, frivolous pursuit of leftist liberal fuddishness is fraught with great dangers. On the international level, one danger is the loss of Western unity and a clear understanding of the ever constant global threat posed by the totalitarian nations."

The illegal execution of the Rosenbergs

by Robert Fow

Fatal Error: The Miscarriage of Justice That Sealed the Rosenbergs' Fate

by Joseph H. Sharlitt
MacMillan, New York, 1989
110 pages, hardbound, \$24.95

Faced with the irrational vindictiveness of the U. S. judiciary in the LaRouche cases, one may be well instructed by this account of a world-famous case, where "conspiracy to commit espionage" was charged.

In March 1951, during the height of the McCarthy anti-Communist witchhunt, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were tried and convicted of "conspiracy to commit espionage" and given a death sentence by Judge Irving Kaufman. In June 1953, after a long appeals process up to the Supreme Court, the Rosenbergs were executed. The conviction and sentence were based on the testimony of Ethel Greenglass Rosenberg's brother, David Greenglass, a thief and self-proclaimed spy who testified that he stole secrets of the atom bomb, which he passed to the Soviets under the direction of Julius Rosenberg. Greenglass, who was arrested first, cooperated with the FBI and received only a 15-year sentence; his wife Ruth, who was also involved, was never even indicted. The conviction, said the opinion of the appeals court written by Judge Jerome Frank, could not be upheld if the Greenglass testimony were not believed. This book, while ignoring the issues of the

Rosenbergs' guilt or innocence, draws out the legal arguments showing that the Rosenbergs were definitely executed illegally.

In Chapter 11, author Joseph Sharlitt says, "Judge Kaufman's reasons for ordering execution of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg are explicit. 'I consider your crime worse than murder . . . your conduct in putting into the hands of the Russians the A-bomb years before our best scientists predicted Russia would perfect the bomb . . . caused . . . the Communist aggression in Korea . . . millions more may pay the price of your treason. . . .'"

"But the significance of what Greenglass betrayed through [the Rosenbergs], in comparison with what the Soviets had already learned from a far more rewarding source, Klaus Fuchs, makes Judge Kaufman's sentence a repudiation of hard facts. Those facts were available when [Kaufman passed sentence]. He was never given them. Foremost among them are two: It was Klaus Fuchs and not David Greenglass who gave the Soviets major secrets of the bomb; and Klaus Fuchs—whose betrayal of the West was catastrophic in comparison with Greenglass's transgressions—was sentenced to imprisonment of 14 years.

"As every scientist who ever commented on Fuchs had agreed, Fuchs's betrayal had monumental significance. It shortened the U. S. monopoly in atomic weaponry to four years. It gave the Soviets the ultimate weapon at the beginning of the Cold War. And as highly knowledgeable Americans have commented, it was an act of Olympian perfidy, felt across the world and for many years. The Joint Committee on Atomic Energy report states: 'It is hardly an exaggeration to say that Fuchs alone has influenced the safety of more people and accomplished greater damage than any other spy not only in the history of the United States but in the history of nations.'

"No David Greenglass could approach the scientific comprehension required to do what Fuchs had done. By far the most important secret that [Fuchs] passed on was the monumental step toward the bomb achieved when the Americans developed the gaseous diffusion process for isolating uranium-235, the explosive used in the bomb.

"If Fuchs had not betrayed the gaseous diffusion process and perhaps a good deal more (for Fuchs was never confined to gaseous diffusion in his roamings over the secrets of the Manhattan District, could meander almost at will over the entire atomic bomb project, collect precious scientific data, and give it away), the Soviets would not have paid much attention to David Greenglass. There is, indeed, evidence that Fuchs provided the Soviets with the concept of a lens mold used in the plutonium bomb dropped on Nagasaki—developed by the scientists at Los Alamos—which was simply confirmed by Greenglass's subsequent sketches, drawn with the crudeness of a machinist who knew little or nothing about implosion or any other triggering device. In proper perspective, Fuchs was—for the Soviets—the Nobel of

atomic weaponry. . . .”

The author spends several pages on Fuchs’s personal history and his membership in the German Communist Party since 1932. Two other scientists, spies working in the atomic bomb field, are also examined—Bruno Pontecorvo and Allan Nunn May, who worked in Canada and England.

Coverup of the U.K.-U.S. ‘special relationship’

An intriguing few pages are spent on Donald Maclean of the homosexual British Communist team of Burgess-Maclean-Philby-Blunt, suggesting yet another route by which the Soviets could have gotten the secrets of the U.S. atom bomb. Fuchs and these others were British subjects, born or naturalized. Sharlitt reports: “Maclean had been a spy for the Soviet Union at least ten years before he arrived in Washington. What Maclean then did for his Soviet masters during his year and a half in Washington has never been either disclosed in detail nor evaluated. But the public record contains damning evidence.

“By the time Maclean arrived in Washington in 1947, both London and Washington were in a legal quandary. Under no less than three agreements between the governments, full and complete exchange of atomic secrets between the United States and Great Britain was obligatory. The Quebec Agreement of 1943 was the first of these accords; but far more important were private agreements between Roosevelt and Churchill (executed at Roosevelt’s home at Hyde Park in September 1944) and a later personal accord signed by Truman and Atlee in 1945. The formal body that served as the funnel for the exchange of this information was called the Combined Policy Committee. It should surprise no one that Maclean was chosen as British secretary of this body, positioned so that all major atomic information exchanged between the two governments went through his hands.

“On a less formal basis, it was under the umbrella of these agreements that Klaus Fuchs was able to operate with total impunity. Similarly, these accords made access to American atomic information possible to Bruno Pontecorvo, the brilliant scientist and Soviet spy. ”

Therefore, the motivation for sentencing the Rosenbergs to death, which was also used by President Dwight Eisenhower in his refusal for clemency, is shown by the Sharlitt book to be spurious.

Sabotaging the stay of execution

Sharlitt also argues that the Rosenbergs were tried under the wrong law. The argument that induced Justice William O. Douglas to issue a Stay of Execution, three days before the death sentence was to be carried out, according to Sharlitt, was “a relatively simple one. The Rosenbergs had been charged, tried and convicted under the Espionage Act of 1917. The act permitted a judge to sentence certain violators of the act (such as the Rosenbergs) to death on the judge’s

own determination, without requiring any recommendation from the jury. But a new law [the Atomic Energy Act of 1946] had been passed just seven years before the Rosenbergs were executed; it required that spies who passed atomic secrets could be executed only on the recommendation of the jury sitting in the case. From the day that the Rosenbergs were indicted [in 1951] until three days before they were executed, the Atomic Energy Act of 1946, although applicable, was ignored by everyone connected with the case.”

The same day that Justice Douglas issued the stay, a resolution to impeach him was made public, already signed by 11 congressmen. Justice Jackson arranged a meeting between Attorney General Brownell and Chief Justice Vinson that day, at which Brownell requested and Vinson granted a reconvening the next day of the full Supreme Court to over-ride Douglas’s stay.

Moreover, Justice Hugo Black stated, “I find no statute or rule of Court which permits the full court to set aside a mere temporary stay entered by a justice in obedience to his statutory obligations.” Douglas stated, “The cold truth is that the death sentence may not be imposed for what the Rosenbergs did unless the jury so recommends.” Yet, the stay was vacated.

On Friday, June 19, the day set for execution, there were feverish attempts at last-minute avoidance of it. Justice Felix Frankfurter was tricked into thinking some precious hours of extension had been granted so the Rosenbergs would not be killed on the Jewish Sabbath. Brownell, however, rather than delaying the execution until after sunset on Saturday, when Sabbath would have ended, moved it *up* some hours, before sundown on Friday, marking the Sabbath’s start.

Here the reviewer wishes to interject some points of his own, based on two earlier books on the Rosenberg case I enjoyed reading: *The Last Will and Testament of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg* (also called “Letters from Sing Sing”) from the mid-1950s, and *We Are Your Sons* by their children Robert and Michael Meeropol, néés Rosenberg. My conviction is that the Rosenbergs were innocent, and had nothing to do with spying; likewise, for their co-defendant Morton Sobell, who served a 30-year sentence at Alcatraz Island. David Greenglass was not a spy, but a thief, caught stealing radioactive material worth some hundreds of dollars. After the Justice Department frightened him with the consequences of that, he agreed to commit perjury; and Greenglass’s wife did also. Harry Gold the “spy-courier” was not such, but a fantasizer with moral sickness, and his fantasy served the Justice Department as the basis for linking the Rosenberg case to the British Fuchs case.

The Meeropol brothers exposed as a lie that their father Julius Rosenberg had stolen a detonator mechanism from his U.S. Signal Corps employer during World War II in their book *We Are Your Sons*. That book also deals well with another prosecution lie: They proved that their parents had actually purchased a buffet table from Macy’s that the Justice

Department claimed was a Soviet gift with a special arrangement for microfilming military secrets. In the letters Julius and Ethel Rosenberg wrote to each other, they come through as Jewish and American heroes and patriots, who defied a gnostic and satanic Establishment by refusing to deny their innocence even at the cost of their lives.

The Rosenberg case was a massive media trial manipulated to the effect of providing patsies. The first half of the Sharlitt book deals with the intricacies of court battle and appeal, the deviousness of Attorney General, prosecutor, several judges, and how the wrong law was deliberately chosen by the Justice Department to assure that the Rosenbergs could be killed. A Stay of Execution, issued by Justice Douglas three days before the Rosenbergs' death by electrocution, was vacated most irregularly by the Supreme Court. President Eisenhower allowed them to be murdered.

Ayn Rand: national security risk

by Ana Maria Papert

Judgment Day, My Years with Ayn Rand

by Nathaniel Branden

A Marc Jaffe Book/Houghton Mifflin, Boston, 1989
436 pages, illustrated, hardbound, \$21.95

Aside from the "soap-opera" side of the book, which could fit into another TV series like "Dallas," with all its pornography, immorality, nonsense, and paganism, Nathaniel Branden's book *Judgment Day, My Years with Ayn Rand*, does give a very interesting insight into the minds of some of those who have shaped the policies of the last two administrations. Many officials in the two Reagan administrations, and now in the Bush administration, have been and are devout followers of the Russian writer Alice Rosenbaum, better known as Ayn Rand.

In fact, Reagan and Rand might have met in Hollywood. Rand "had come to Hollywood, hoping to find work writing scripts," but according to Branden's story, by some "stroke of good fortune" she fell into a conversation with Cecil B. De Mille, who gave her her first job and helped her get around.

Alan Greenspan, chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve Board, was, during many years, one of her most dedicated followers and admirers.

When Greenspan joined "The Collective," the inner circle that met every Saturday with Ayn Rand for more than a decade to discuss the infamous *Atlas Shrugged* and other topics, Greenspan was "not a free enterpriser but a Keynesian . . . [and] he was also a logical positivist, which meant that he was adamant about his inability to know anything with certainty," says Branden. Then he quotes Greenspan saying: "I think I exist . . . but I can't be certain. In fact, I can't be certain that anything exists." Greenspan was 26 years old at the time.

The fact that the head of the Federal Reserve has been a follower of someone who believes "that a human being is an end in himself, not a means to the ends of others, which means he has a right to exist for his own sake, neither sacrificing himself to others nor others to himself," could represent a national security risk. This is the kind of thinking that has existed under the insane economic policies of the past years and that has brought the United States to the worst economic depression in its history.

Ayn Rand was a follower of Aristotle and a passionate hater of Plato. She could not stand hearing Beethoven's music nor admire a painting by Rembrandt. Her favorite music was "tiddlywink" music, such as "It's a Long Way to Tipperary."

Rand thought "that virtually every evil ascribed to *laissez-faire* capitalism is in fact the result not of *laissez-faire* but of government intervention, government control, the betrayal of *laissez-faire*. . . . Remember, capitalism means *laissez-faire*, not government controls—hands off—a totally free market." This kind of "capitalism" is for Rand "the only moral system."

President John F. Kennedy was killed after Rand gave a speech "The Fascist New Frontier," at Ford Hall Forum, in which she drew parallels between the ideology of fascism and that contained in the speeches of John F. Kennedy, emphasizing her view that both demand personal "sacrifice" on the "altar of public good." She obviously hated Kennedy's famous words, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but rather ask what you can do for your country." Random House refused to publish her speech and the contract with Rand was broken.

On the military, Greenspan's idol thought that "military conscription contradicts the basic principle of a free society: a man's right to his own life. It's sickening how many conservatives favor the draft, while pretending to be champions of freedom. The bastards."

Denying God

The role of man on Earth, as made in the living image of God, the Creator, is completely destroyed. Rand says, "I became an atheist at 13 . . . for two reasons. First because there were no rational grounds for believing in God. And second, and terribly important to me, because God was held to be the greatest entity in the universe, that made man