

INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION
SUMMER SERIES ON THE HISTORY OF ESPIONAGE
LECTURE 8: ATOMIC ESPIONAGE







Stalin and Truman at the Potsdam Conference, July 24, 1945

“On July 24, I casually mentioned to Stalin that we had a new weapon of unusual destructive force. He showed no special interest. All he said was he was glad to hear it and hoped ‘we would make good use of it against the Japanese.’” —Harry Truman



**Melita Norwood
(1912-2005)**

“The great-grandmother who came in from the cold”



Exposed in 1999, at 87



**Melita Norwood worked
in the research department
of the British
Non-Ferrous Metals
Association:
TUBE ALLOYS
was the code name
for the British atomic
bomb project.**



DAVID BURKE

**THE SPY
WHO CAME
IN FROM THE
CO★OP**

MELITA NORWOOD AND
THE ENDING OF COLD
WAR ESPIONAGE



DIRECTED BY
TREVOR NUNN

FROM THE PRODUCER OF
SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE

RED JOAN

INSPIRED BY TRUE EVENTS

IN CINEMAS APRIL 19

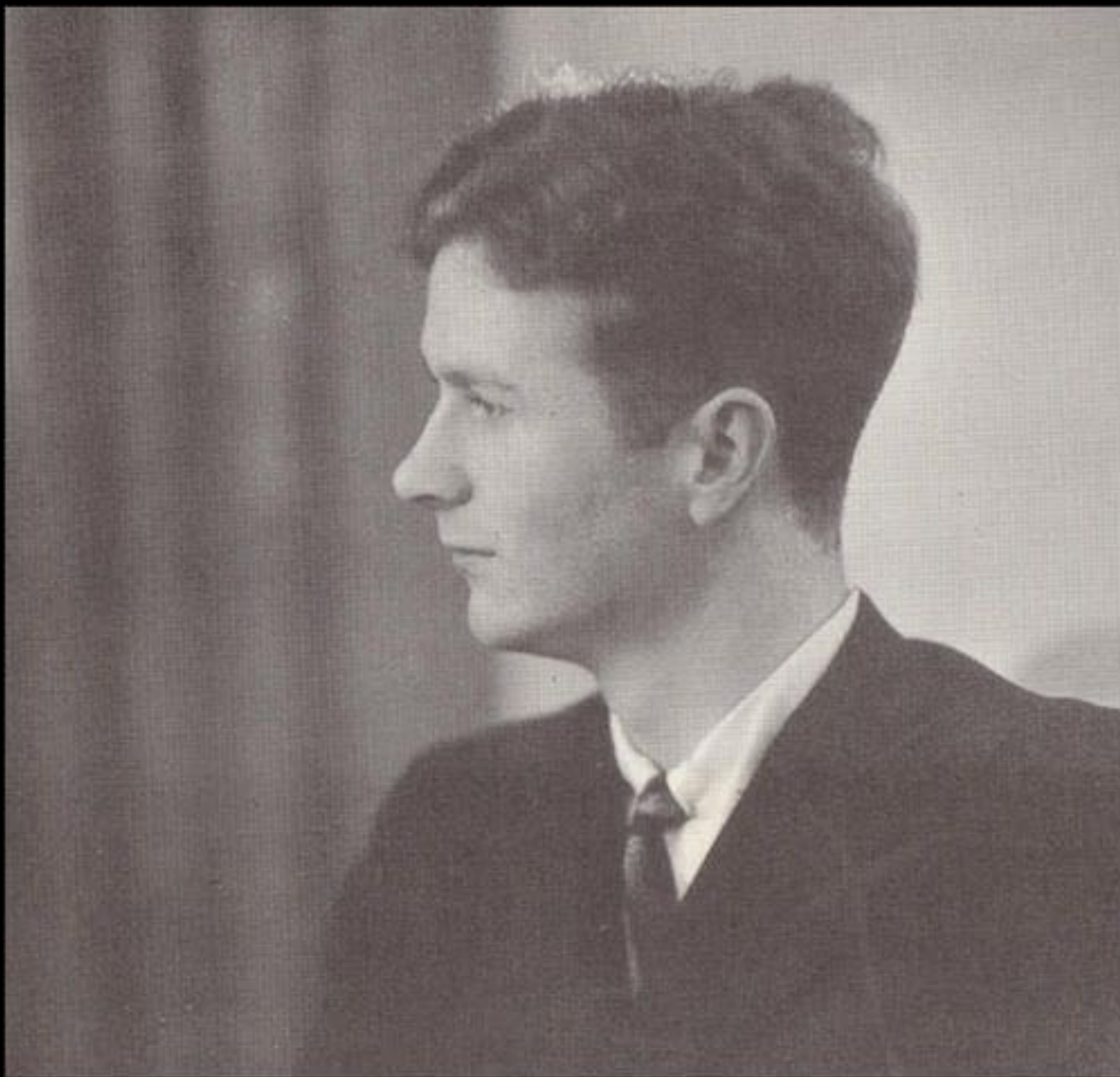




I did what I did not to make money but
to help prevent the defeat of a new
system which had, at great cost, given
ordinary people food and fares which
they could afford, a good education
and a health service.

— *Melita Norwood* —

AZ QUOTES



John Cairncross, one of the Cambridge Five spies, also sent information about TUBE ALLOYS to Stalin.



As did Donald Maclean, another member of the Five.




Klaus Fuchs (1911-1988)

A black and white photograph of a nuclear explosion, showing a large, billowing mushroom cloud rising from the ground. The cloud is dark and dense at the base, with a lighter, more diffuse top. The background is a bright, hazy sky. The text "THE MANHATTAN PROJECT" is overlaid in the center of the image.

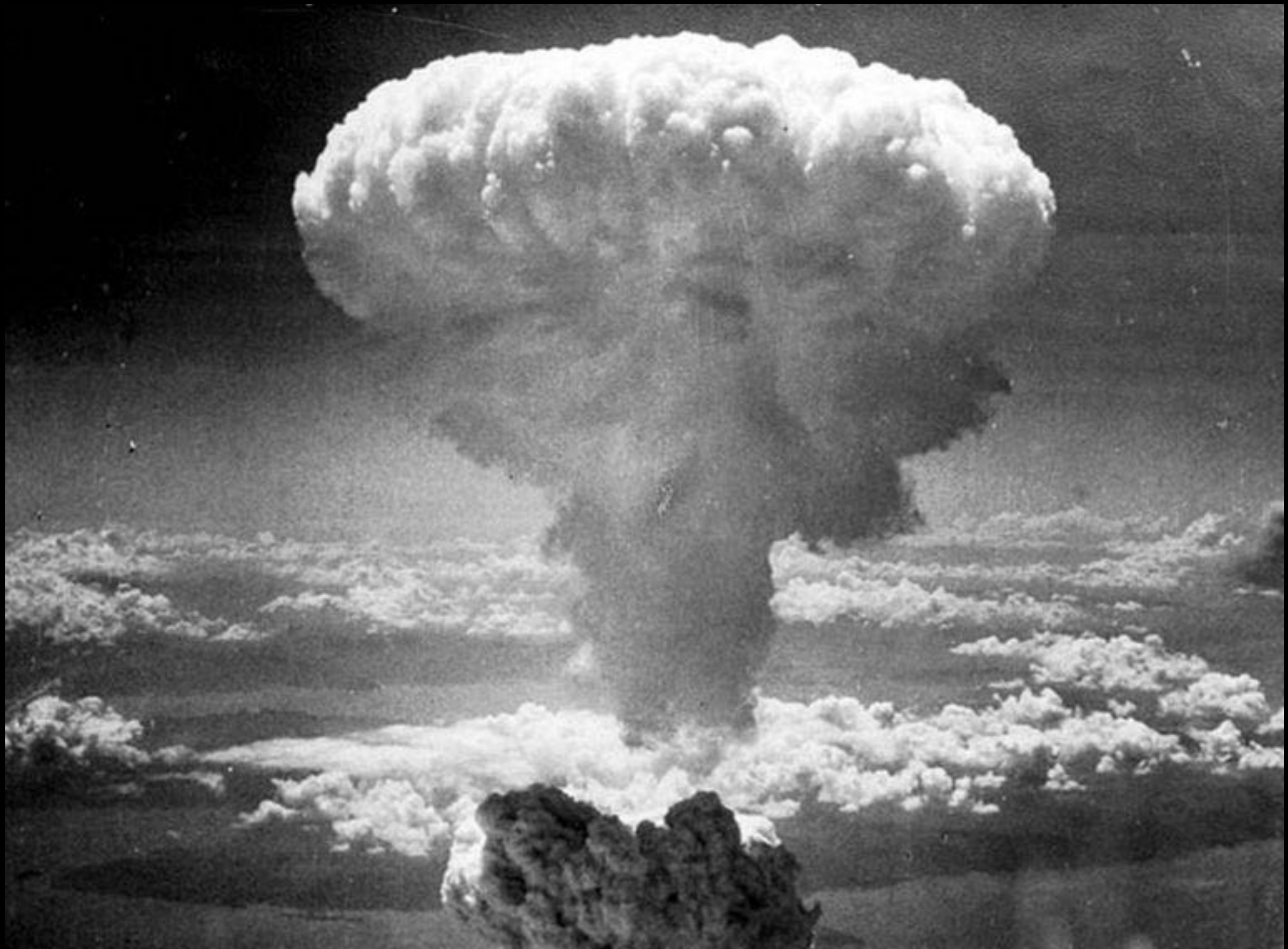
THE MANHATTAN PROJECT

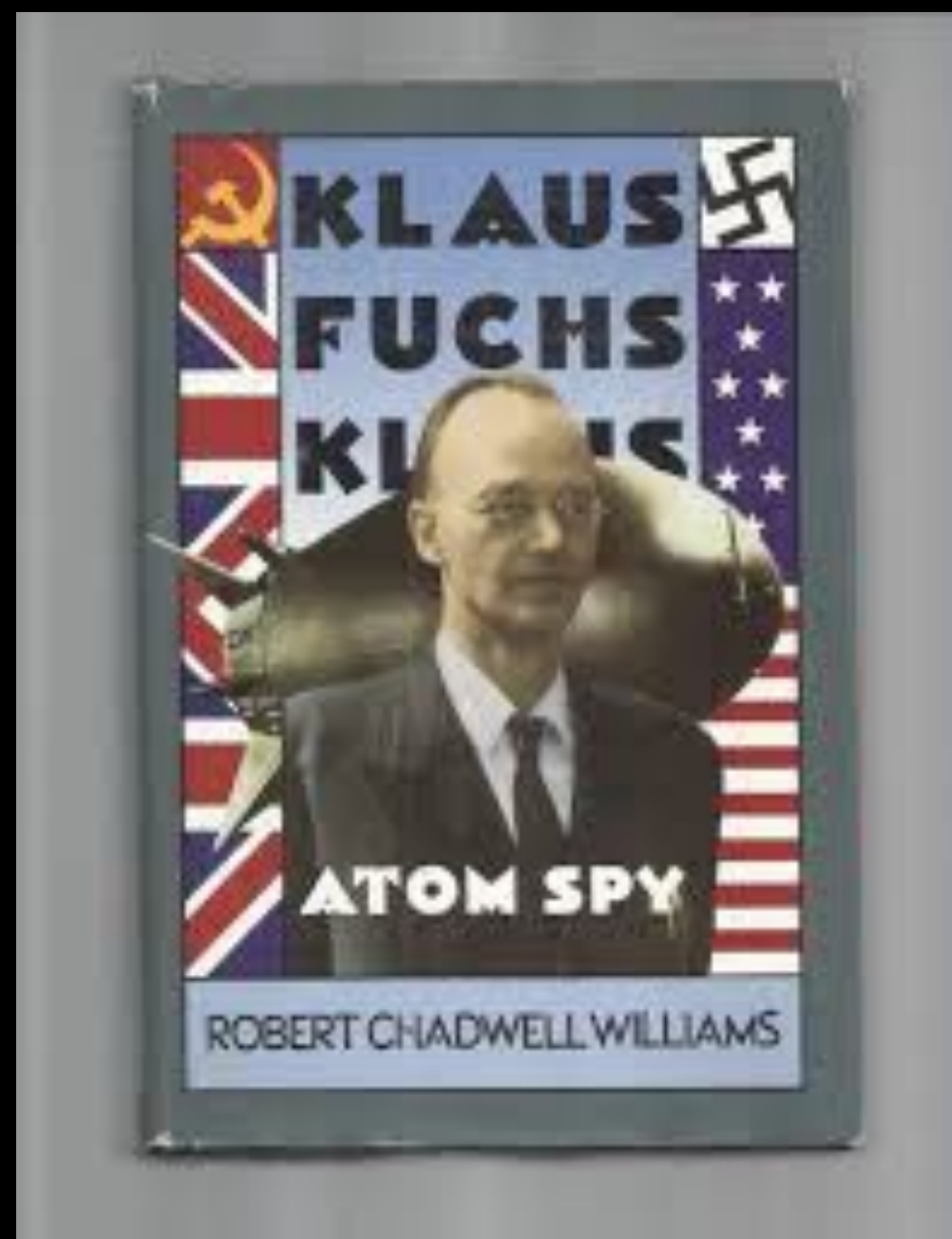
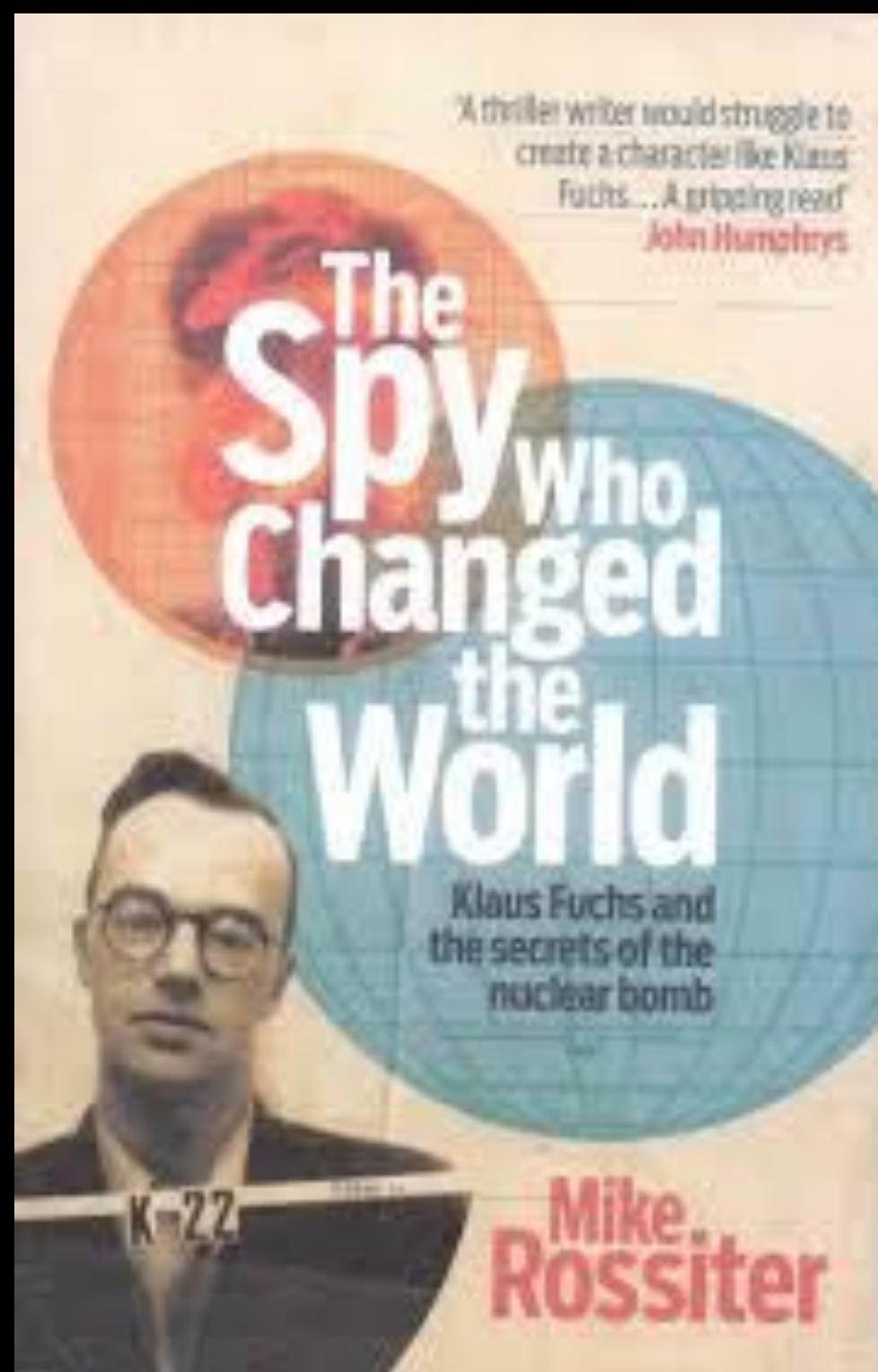
Why did one of the most intelligent men on the planet think he was performing a service to humanity by sharing the secrets of the most powerful weapon ever devised with a regime headed by one of the worst mass murderers in history?

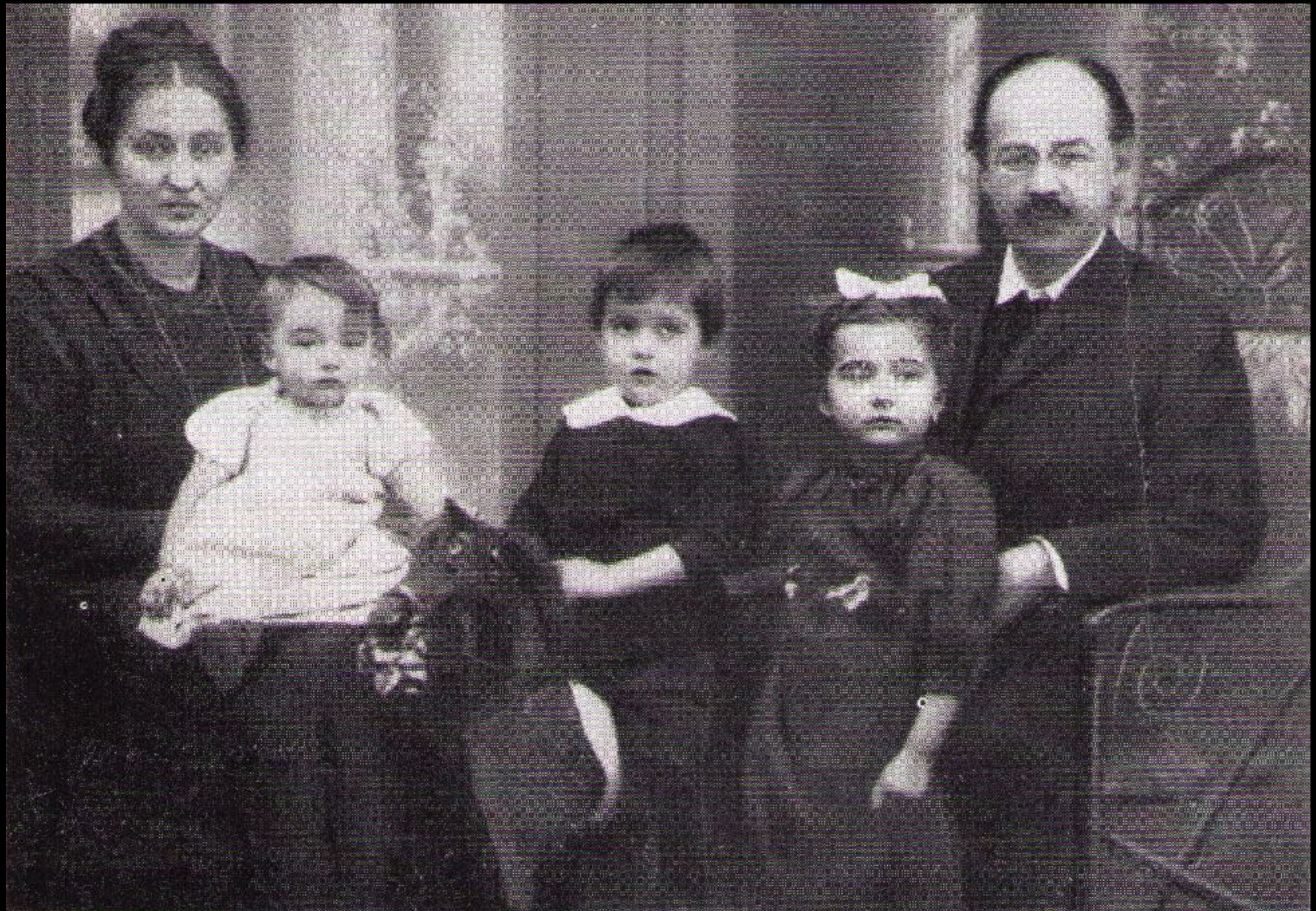



**WHAT YOU SEE HERE
WHAT YOU DO HERE
WHAT YOU HEAR HERE
WHEN YOU LEAVE HERE
LET IT STAY HERE**









Fuchs's father was a professor of theology



Germany 1920



Germany 1933



gettyimages®
PA Images

“The only people who had risen above the fear and demoralization of the victory of Hitler and the Nazis, who had kept their strength and optimism, were those who had fought. Only amongst those were there happy people.” —

Klaus Fuchs



Einstein addresses his fellow scientists



Nevill Mott
1905-1996

**University of
Bristol**



Max Born
1882-1970

University of Edinburgh



Rudolf Peierls
1907-1995

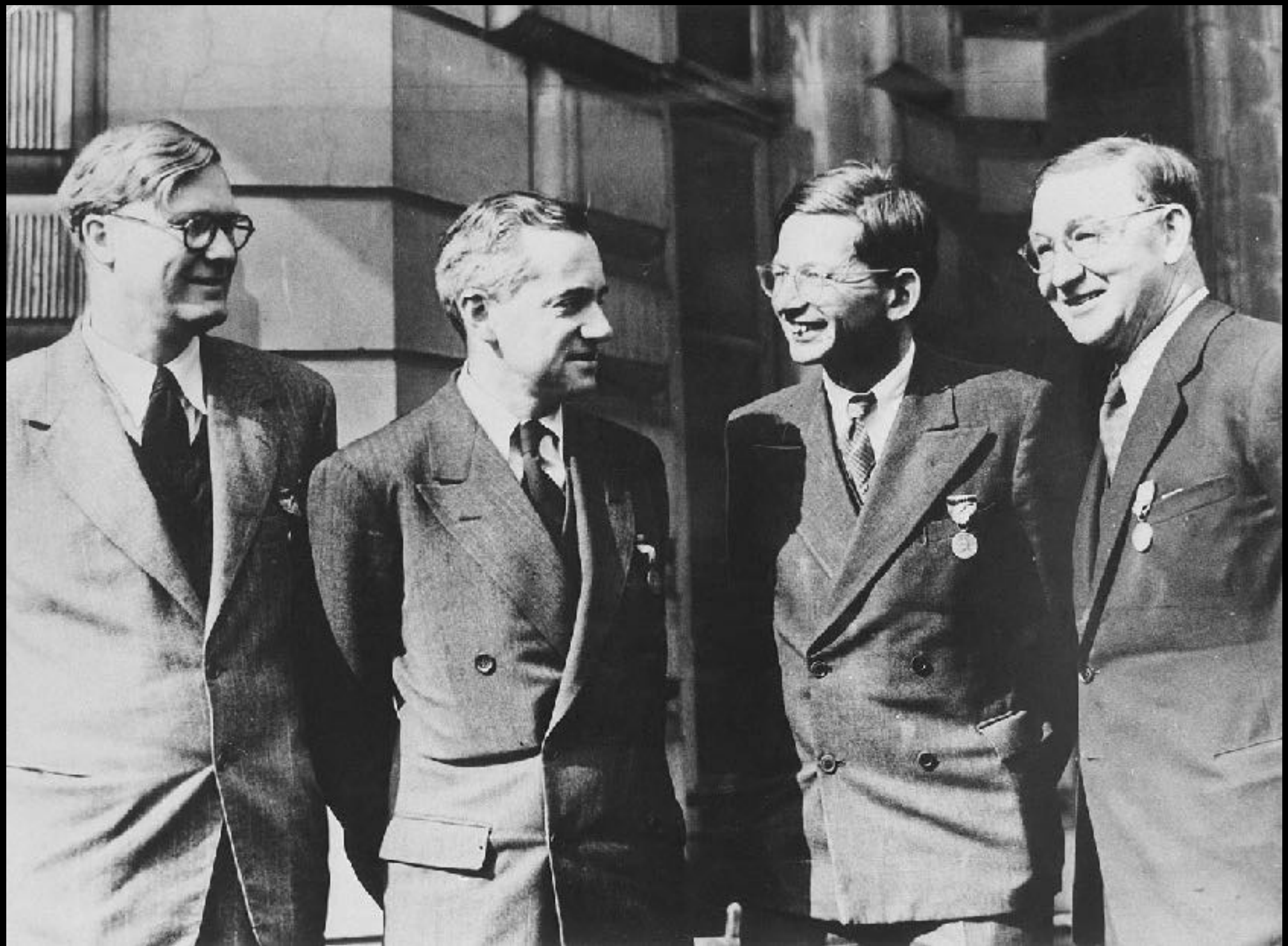
University of Birmingham



Poynting Physics Building, University of Birmingham



“On the Construction of a ‘Super-bomb,’ based on a Nuclear Chain Reaction in Uranium”



William Penney, Otto Frisch, Rudolf Peierls, and John Cockcroft receiving Medals of Freedom for their contribution to the Manhattan Project, 1946



Klaus Fuchs, 1940

“Between 1941 and 1943, Fuchs had handed over 570 pages of calculations and description of the construction of an atomic weapon and the process of enriching uranium. It was almost the sum total of the research that had been produced in Britain on the subject.” —Mike Rossiter

At that time I had
complete confidence in
Russian policy and I
believed that the
Western Allies
deliberately allowed
Russia and Germany to
fight each other to the
death.



Columbia University 1943

**Fuchs was sent to
work on the gaseous
diffusion method of
uranium enrichment**



The Manhattan Project: Los Alamos, New Mexico



Klaus Fuchs
1943

Bethe, Hans



Hans Bethe
1905-2006



Richard Feynman
1918-1988

Richard P. Feynman



**Harry Gold (1910-1972)
was Fuchs's
courier in New Mexico,
and David Greenglass's
contact as well.
Greenglass was Ethel
Rosenberg's brother.**



THE INVISIBLE HARRY GOLD

The Man
Who Gave the
Soviets the
Atom Bomb

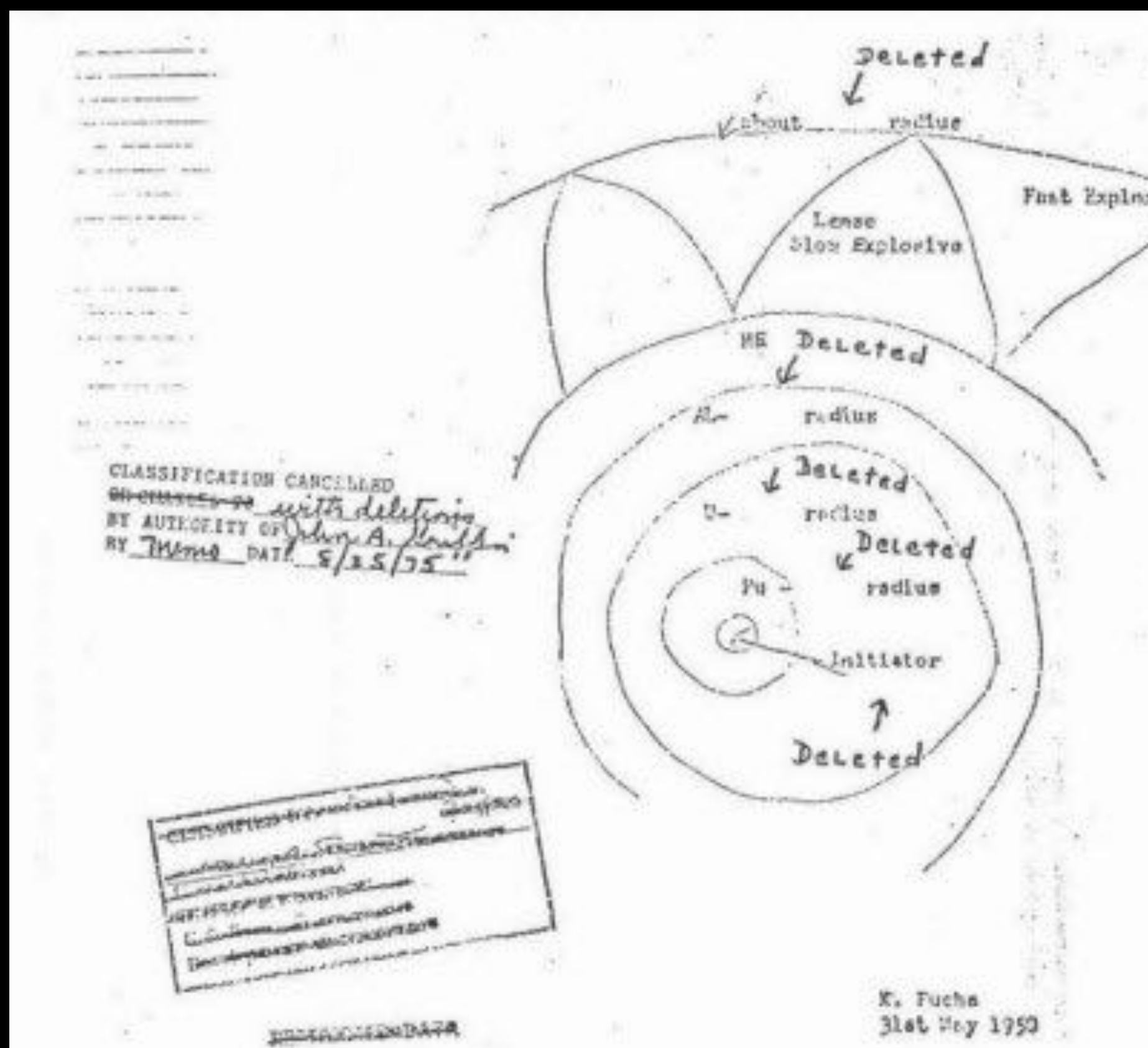
"A riveting page-turner."
Ron Radosh,
The Weekly Standard

ALLEN M. HORNBLUM



**Soviet diplomat-spy
Anatoly Yatzkov
(1913-1993)**

Fuchs's major contributions at Los Alamos: to calculate the approximate energy yield of an atomic explosion, and to design the complex ignition process that would initiate the explosion.



Fuchs gave this diagram to Alexander Feklisov, his controller in Britain, who had previously worked with Julius Rosenberg in New York



Alexander Feklisov
1914-2007

“Feklisov estimated that Fuchs gave him more than ninety documents covering the whole gamut of weapons research, from the construction of the bomb, the design of isotope-separation plants and nuclear reactors, to the recovery of plutonium. He also passed over information about production rates from which the NKGB could calculate the size of the nuclear arsenal of the United States.” —Mike Rossiter

~~SECRET~~

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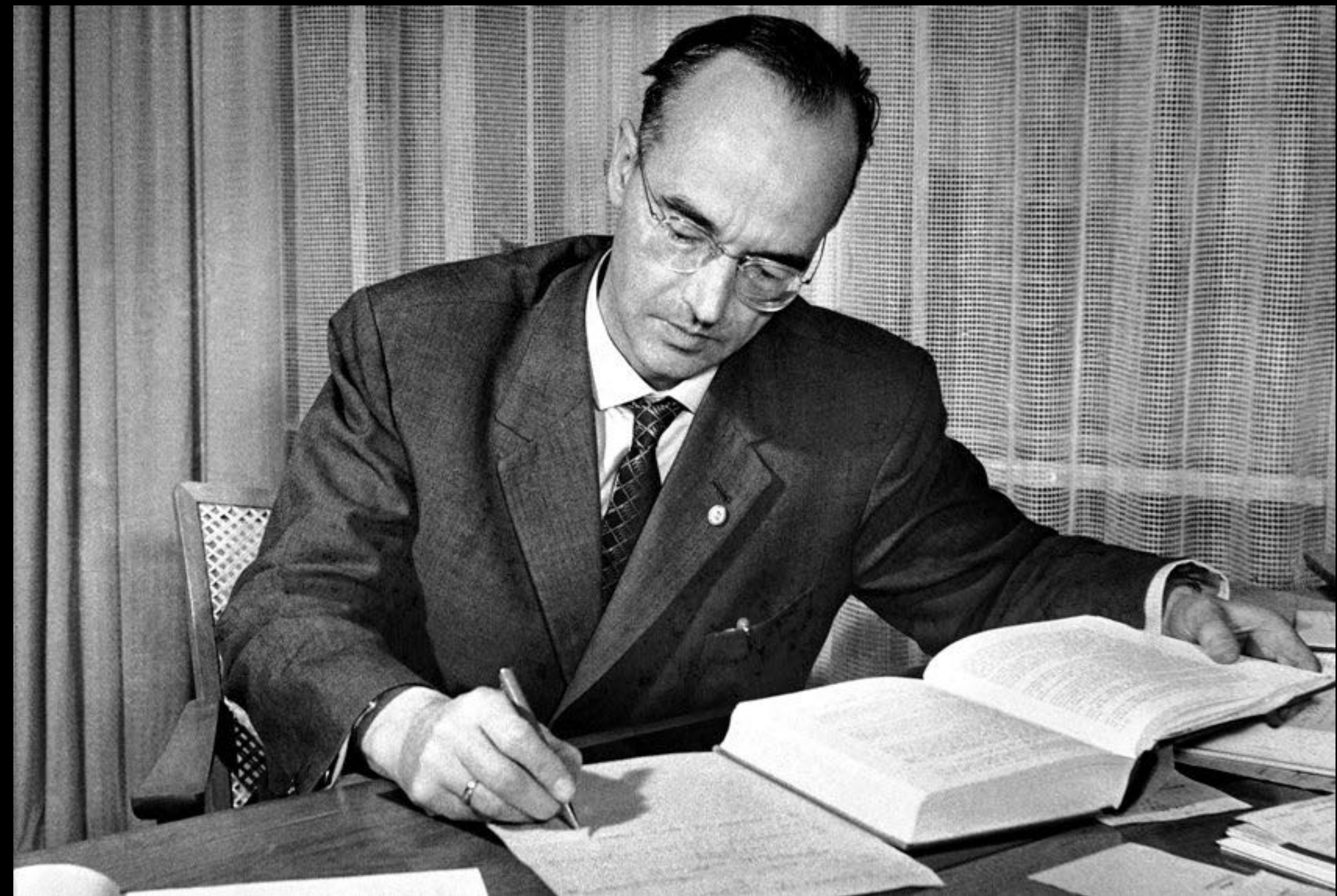
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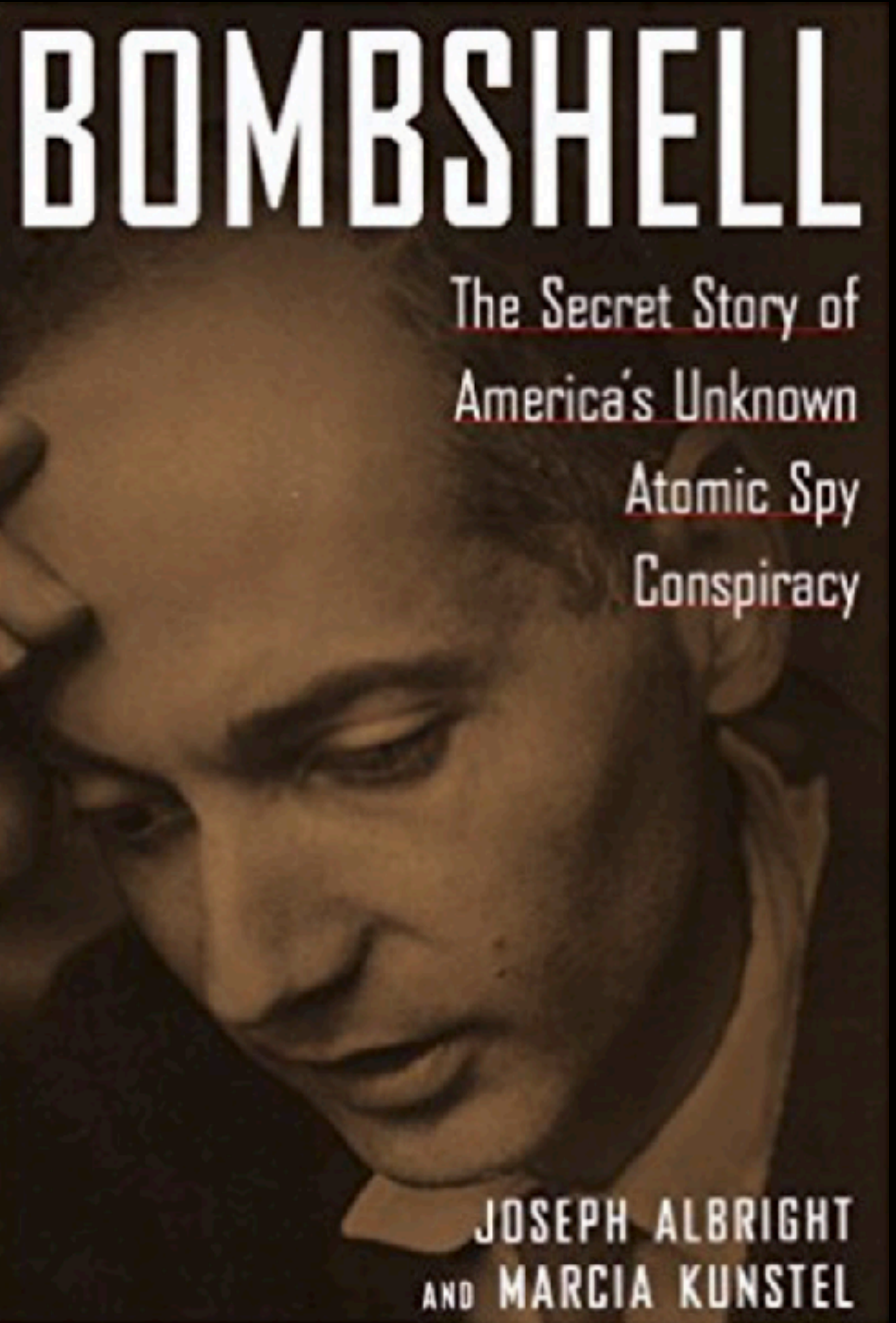


**William James Skardon
1904-1987**

**MI5 interrogator of
Klaus Fuchs
and the Cambridge Five**







Ted Hall

SIX PRINCIPALS IN THE RUSSIAN ATOMIC SPY RING



CHIEF AGENT: Anatoli Yakovlev, a Russian citizen, supervised operations and sent the data to Moscow.



COORDINATOR: Julius Rosenberg recruited spies and advised them what information was required.



ACCOMPLICE: Mrs. Ethel Rosenberg aided her husband in recruiting and typed up the data collected.



SOURCE: Klaus Fuchs turned over material on basic atomic research and on the bomb's design.



Photos by The New York Times, Associated Press, Keystone, The Des Moines Register
SOURCE: David Greenglass contributed information on the intricate techniques of A-bomb manufacture.



COURIER: Harry Gold collected data from the spy ring's various sources and submitted it to Yakovlev.



DIAGRAM OF SOVIET SPY RING





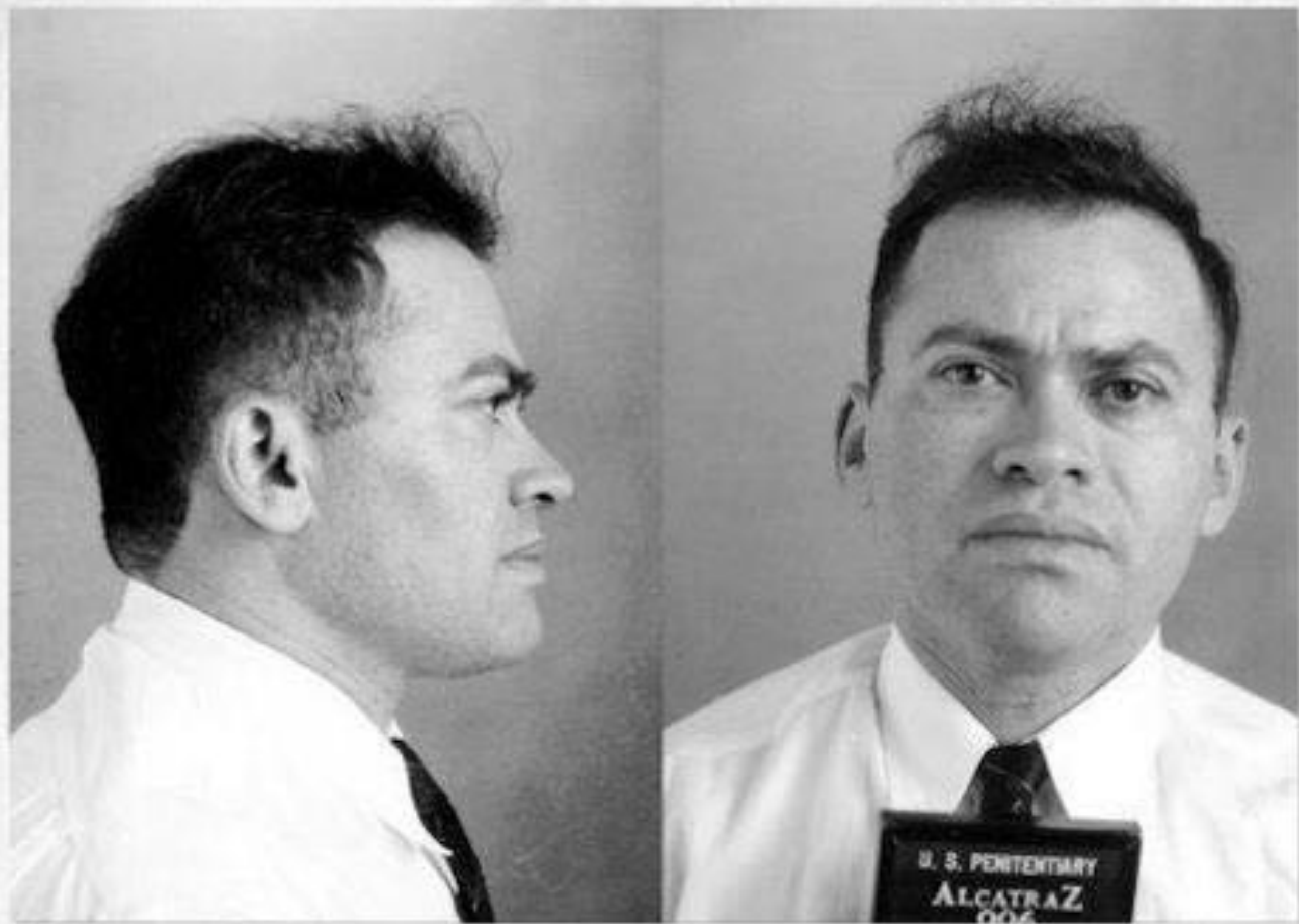
CCNY



Joel Barr and Al Sarrant



Morton Sobell (1917-2018)



Achievements of the Rosenberg spy ring:

- the design for the proximity fuse that brought down Francis Gary Powers's U-2 spy plane**

- production drawings for Lockheed's P-80 Shooting Star aircraft**

- military secrets pertaining to sonar, infrared rays, and the aiming devices for artillery pieces and anti-aircraft weapons**

- the first data on missile guidance systems and airborne radars for night-time navigation and bombing**

- altogether over 12,000 documents**

Theodore
von Kármán
Aerospace Scientist



USA

29

During a non-stop photo session over a July 4 weekend in 1947, Rosenberg, Sobell, and Perl photographed 1885 pages of documents from the safe of Theodore von Karman, at that time the nation's most prominent aerospace engineer.

ENGINEERING COMMUNISM

how two americans
spied for stalin and
founded the
soviet silicon valley



steven t. usdin

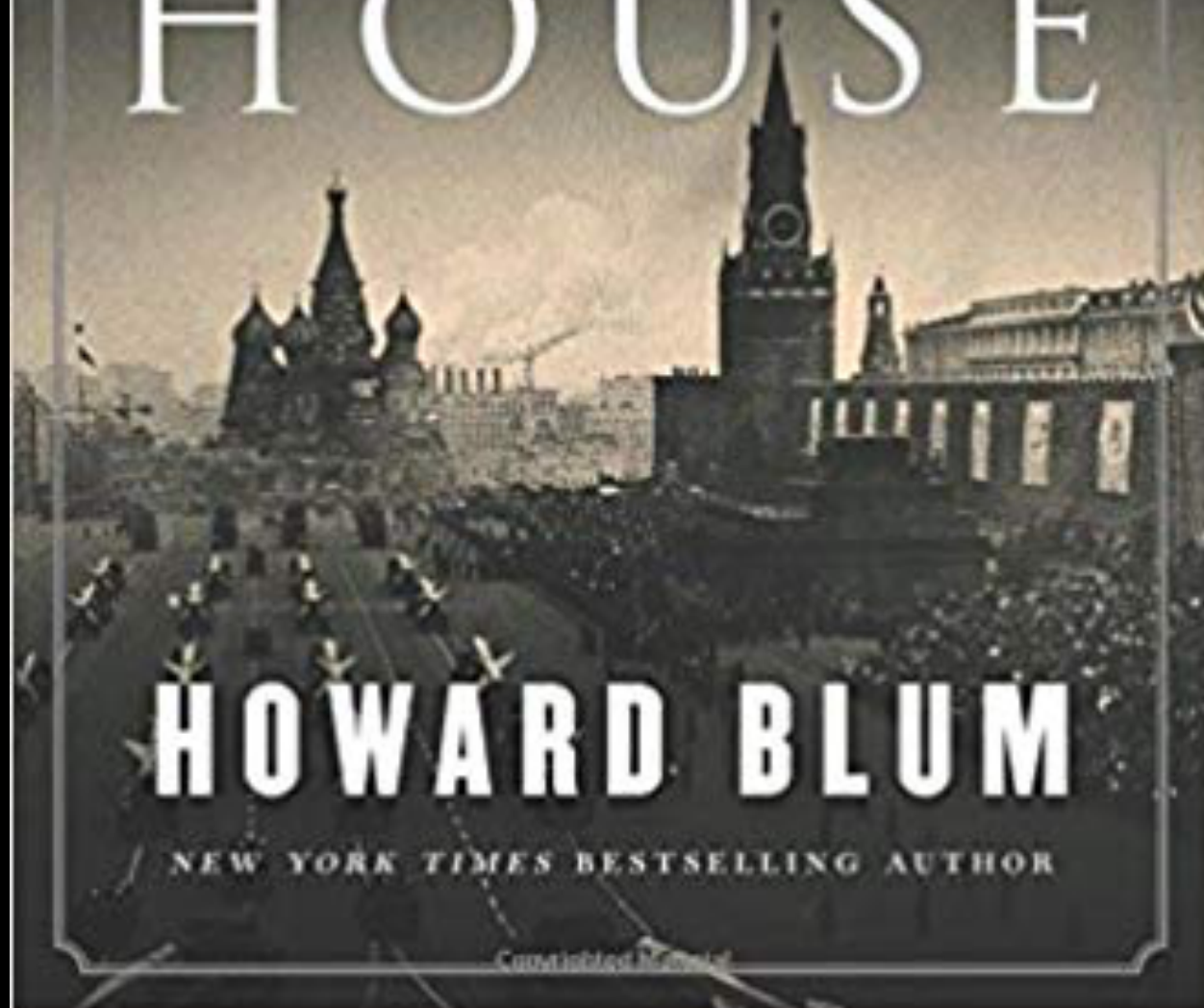
“Rosenberg’s band of amateur spies turned over detailed information on a wide range of technologies and weapons systems that hastened the Red Army’s march to Berlin, jumped-started its postwar development of nuclear weapons and delivery systems, and later helped Communist troops in North Korea fight the American military to a standoff.”—Steven Usdin, *Engineering Communism*

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THE SECRET SAGA OF THE FBI AGENT
AND THE CODE BREAKER WHO CAUGHT
THE RUSSIAN SPIES



IN THE ENEMY'S HOUSE



HOWARD BLUM

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

Copyrighted Material

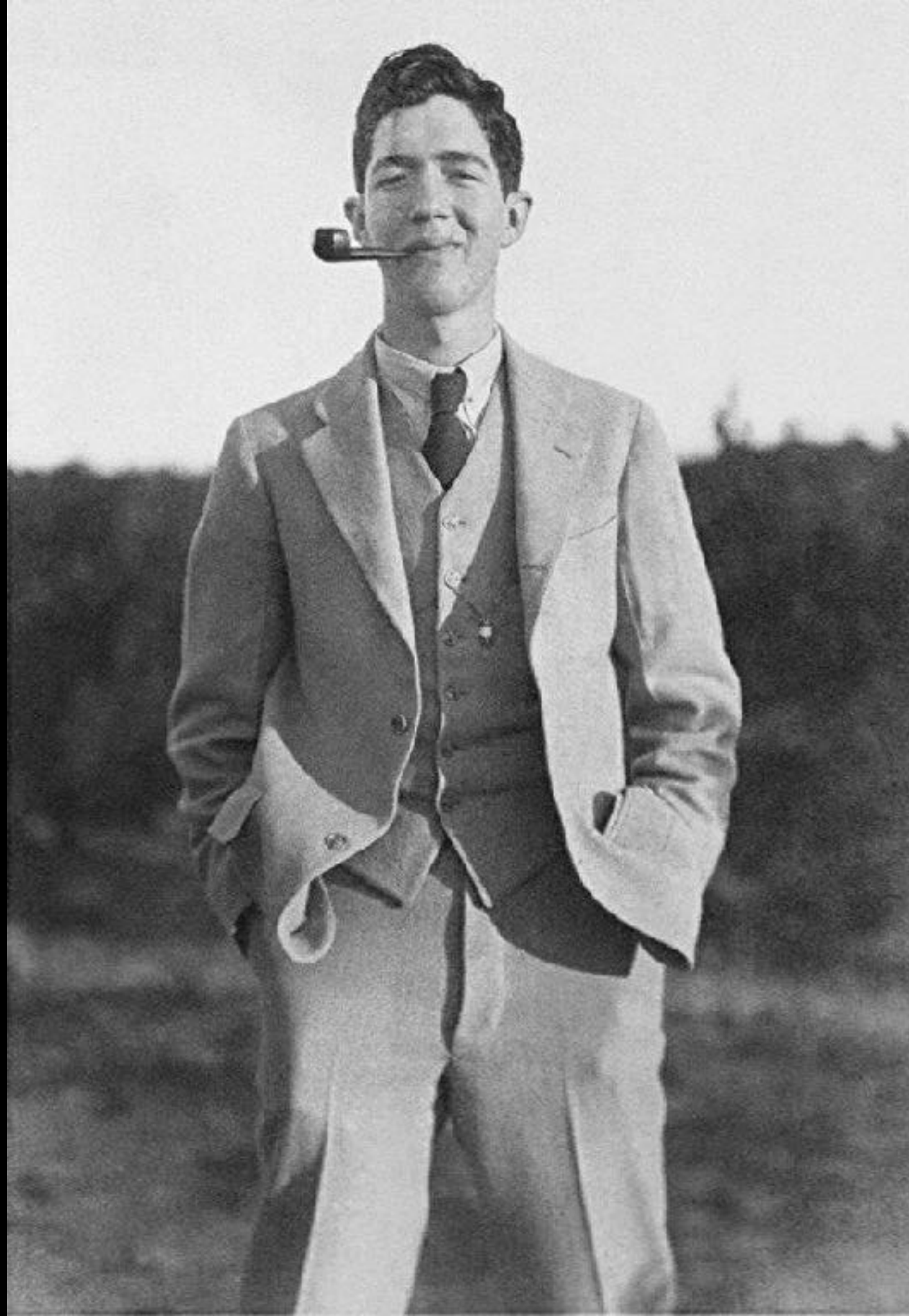


Arlington Hall



Code Breakers at Arlington Hall







FBI Agent Robert Lamphere (1918-2002)



FBI agents Hugh Clegg and Robert Lamphere



Igor Gouzenko (1919-1982), Soviet defector



Igor Gouzenko



Elizabeth Bentley
1908-1963

fineart
america



**David Sarnoff's RCA
provided encrypted
wartime KGB cables
for the code breakers
at Arlington Hall**

Sarnoff



Donald Maclean
HOMER

~~TOP SECRET~~

VENONA

Reissue (T9.2)

From: NEW YORK

To: MOSCOW

No: 1657

27 November 1944

To VIKTOR[i].

Your no. 5356[a]. Information on LIBERAL's[ii] wife[iii]. Surname that of her husband, first name ETHEL, 29 years old. Married five years. Finished secondary school. A FELLOWCOUNTRYMAN [ZEMLYAK][iv] since 1938. Sufficiently well developed politically. Knows about her husband's work and the role of METR[v] and NIL[vi]. In view of delicate health does not work. Is characterized positively and as a devoted person.

No. 922

Advise on the possibility of using in our work the engineer MAZURIN Vladimir N. [viii]. He worked as deputy to the constructor of Plant 155. He graduated from MAI[viii] in 1936. Is now working at ARSENIJ's[ix] plant [x]. [2 groups unrecovered] [D% I request your decision on the question].

No. 923

ANTON[xi]

Notes: [a] Not available.

Comments:

- [i] VIKTOR: Lt. Gen. P. M. FITIN.
- [ii] LIBERAL: Julius ROSENBERG.
- [iii] Ethel ROSENBERG, nee GREENGLASS.
- [iv] ZEMLYAK: Member of the Communist Party.
- [v] METR: Probably Joel BARR or Alfred SARANT.
- [vi] NIL: Unidentified.
- [vii] Vladimir Nikolaevich MAZURIN.
- [viii] MAI: i.e. MOSKOVSKIJ AVIATSIONNYJ INSTITUT, Moscow Aviation Institute.
- [ix] ARSENIJ: Andrej Ivanovich SHEVCHENKO.
- [x] Bell Aircraft Plant, NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y.
- [xi] ANTON: Leonid Romanovich KVASNIKOV.

1 May 1975

~~TOP SECRET~~

VENONA

Reissue (T1362)

From: NEW YORK

To: MOSCOW

No: 1340

21 September 1944

To VIKTOR[i].

Lately the development of new people [D] has been in progress]. LIBERAL[ii] recommended the wife of his wife's brother, Ruth GREENGLASS, with a safe flat in view. She is 21 years old, a TOWNSWOMAN [GOROZHANKA][iii], a GYMNAST [FIZKUL'TURNITSJA][iv] since 1942. She lives on STANTON [STANTAUN] Street. LIBERAL and his wife recommend her as an intelligent and clever girl.

[15 groups unrecoverable]

[C] Ruth] learned that her husband[v] was called up by the army but he was not sent to the front. He is a mechanical engineer and is now working at the ENORMOUS [ENORMOZ][vi] plant in SANTA FE, New Mexico.

[45 groups unrecoverable]

detain VOLOK[vii] who is working in a plant on ENORMOUS. He is a FELLOWCOUNTRYMAN [ZEMLYAK][viii]. Yesterday he learned that they had dismissed him from his work. His active work in progressive organizations in the past was the cause of his dismissal.

In the FELLOWCOUNTRYMAN line LIBERAL is in touch with CHESTER[ix]. They meet once a month for the payment of dues. CHESTER is interested in whether we are satisfied with the collaboration and whether there are not any misunderstandings. He does not inquire about specific items of work [KONKRETNAYA RABOTA]. In as much as CHESTER knows about the role of LIBERAL's group we beg consent to ask C. through LIBERAL about leads from among people who are working on ENORMOUS and in other technical fields.

Your no. 4256[a]. On making further enquiries and checking on LARIN[x] we received from the FELLOWCOUNTRYMEN through EKH0[xi] a character sketch which says that they do not entirely vouch for him. They base this statement on the fact that in the Federation LARIN does not carry out all the orders received from the leadership. He is stubborn and self-willed. On the strength of this we have decided to refrain from approaching LARIN and intend to find another candidate in FAECT [FAKHIT][xii].

No 751
20 September

MAJ[xiii]



© Getty Images





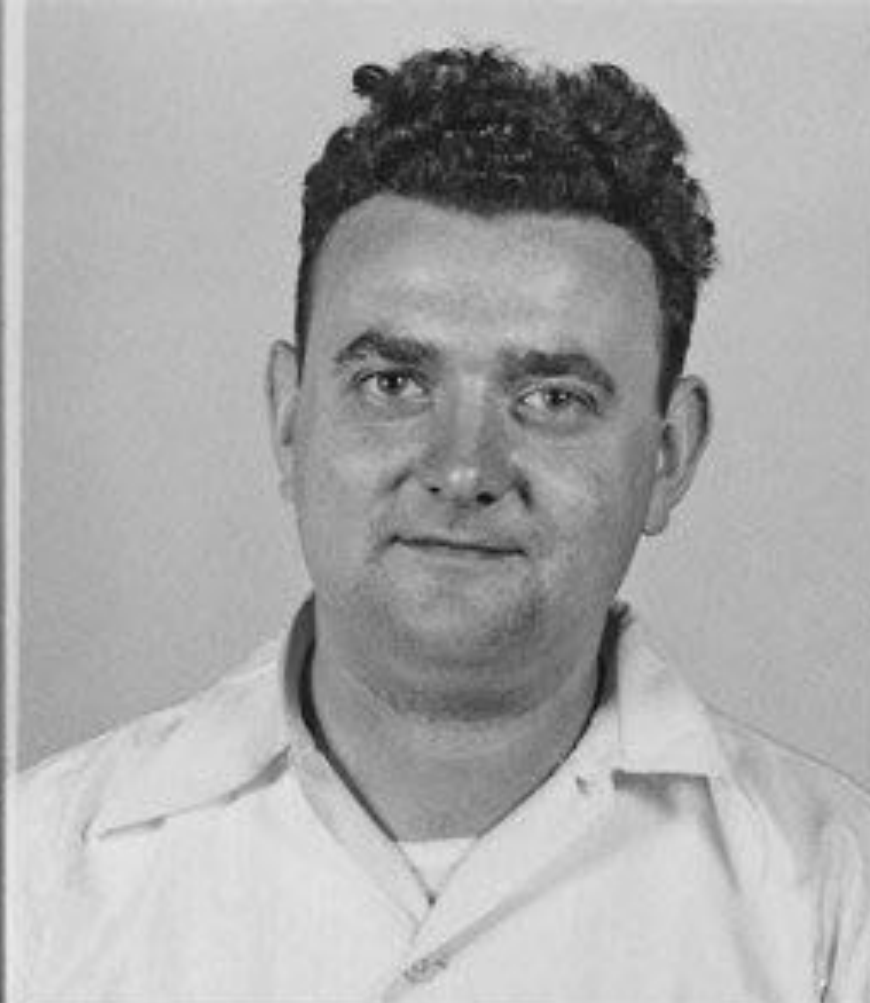


Julius and Ethel Rosenberg









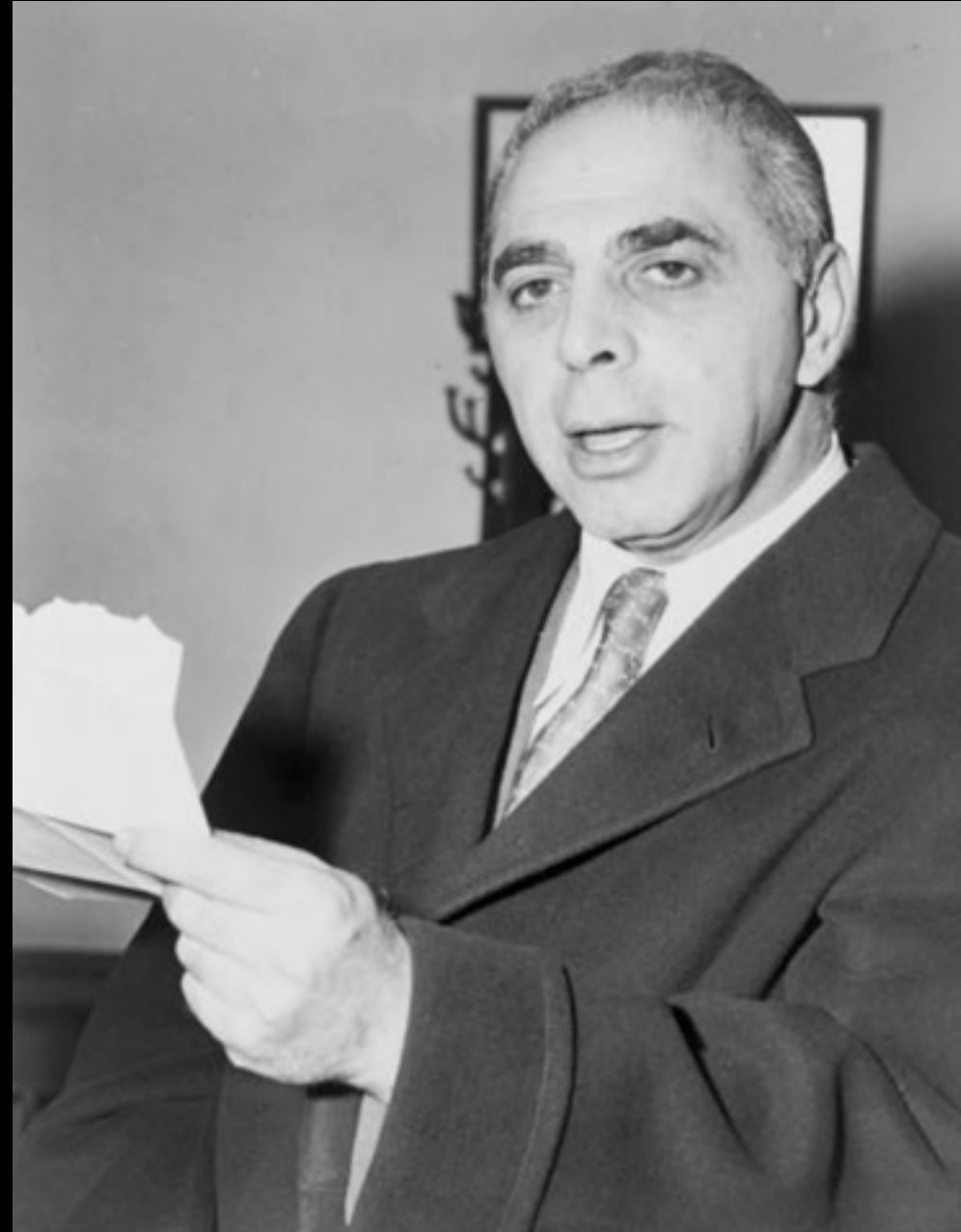
**David and
Ruth
Greenglass**







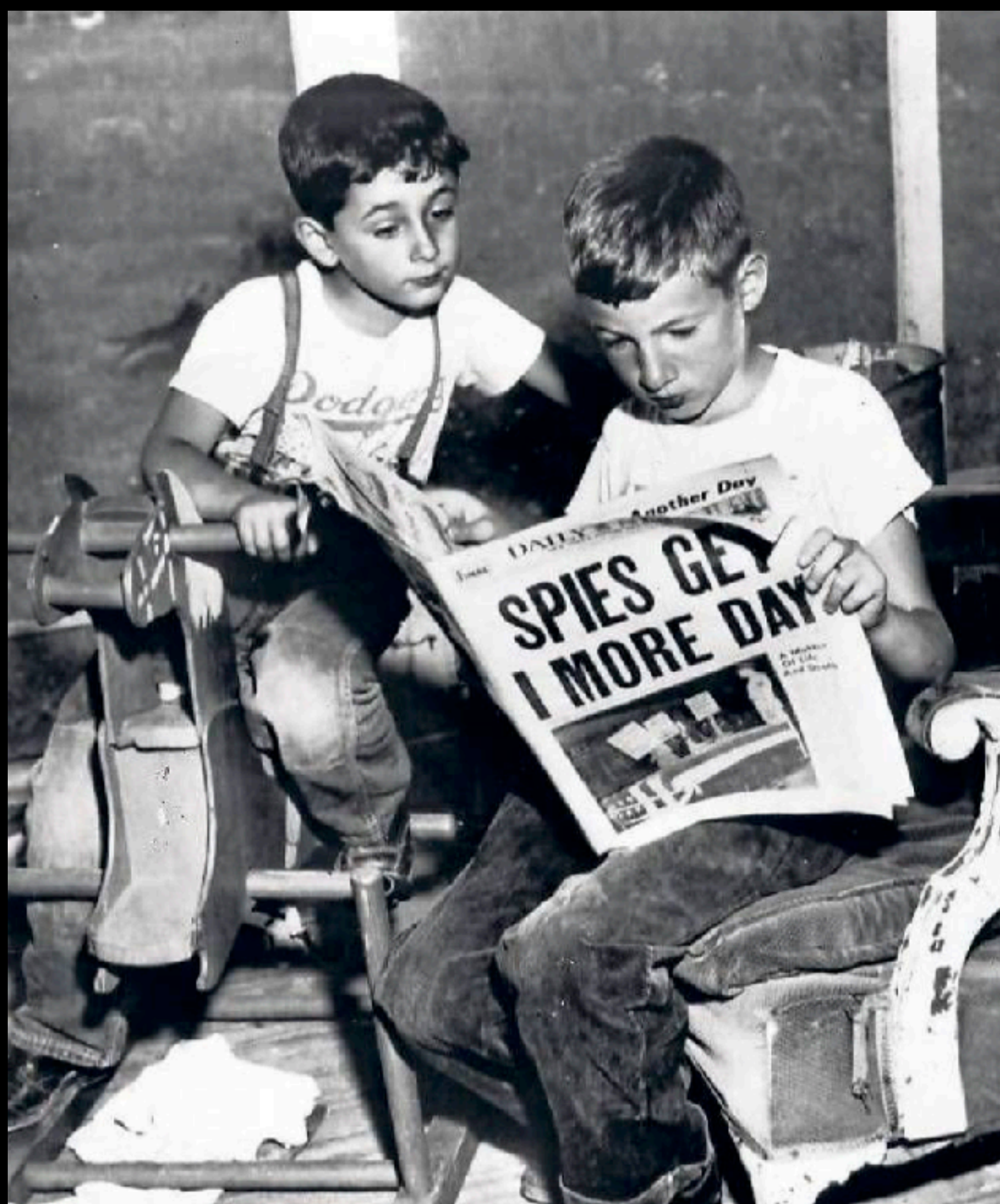






SAUVONS LES ROSENBERG







RACE
RESULTS

Los Angeles Times

PICTORIAL

VOL. LXXII

IN THREE PARTS

SATURDAY MORNING, JUNE 20, 1953

42 PAGES

DAILY, 10¢

ROSENBERGS DIE

Pair Executed for Atom Spying



Supreme Court and Eisenhower Reject Couple's Last Pleas

OSWING, N.Y., June 19—Atom Spies Julius and Ethel Rosenberg died in Sing Sing Prison's electric chair shortly before sundown today. The executions followed quickly after the Supreme Court set aside a stay of execution granted Wednesday by Justice William O. Douglas and President Eisenhower's refusal to grant them clemency.

SING SING PRISON, N.Y., June 19 (AP)—Atom Spies Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were ordered electrocuted late today for betraying their country's secrets to Russia and threatening the lives of millions by bringing the world closer to an atomic war.

The Justice Department set the time for the doomed couple's death in Sing Sing Prison's electric chair after a day of suspense in which the U.S. Supreme Court denied their final appeals and President Eisenhower again refused executive clemency.

Warden Wilfred Derno announced that the husband and wife espionage team would be put to death in the gray-walled prison's death chamber "before sundown," which comes at 8:30 p.m. (EST) today at Sing Sing. Later he said the first gasolene would come at 8 p.m. EDT, with the second a few minutes later.

Spent Time Together

The Jewish Sabbath starts at sundown, and the plans to execute the couple before that time, instead of at the traditional 11 p.m., were announced after the prison rabbi said he would ask the Rosenbergs if they wanted to request a delay until tomorrow night.

The Rosenbergs spent their last afternoon together and then ate a dinner of regular prison fare—hard-boiled

WEST BERLIN'S RED OFFICES WRECKED

Anti-Communist Mob Storms Party Building;
Soviets Rush Reinforcements in East Sector

20 Injured as Fireworks Blast Levels Factory

TRUCE DELEGATES FACE CRUCIAL TALK

Reds Demand Session as Communist Radicals
Charge Conscience by U.S. in POW Escapes

Clouds Clamp Cool Damper as Summer Nears

END OF TRAIL—Summers to death in electric chair come swiftly for Atom Spies Ethel and Julius Rosenberg after stay was revoked and clemency was refused.

The New York Times.

Copyright, 1953, by The New York Times Company.

LATE CITY EDITION

Fair and quite warm today. Hot and humid tomorrow.

Temperature Range Today—Max., 80; Min., 66
Temperature Yesterday—Max., 85; Min., 63
Full U. S. Weather Service Report, Page 2

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 1953

Times Office, New York 20, N. Y.
Telephone: LAdy 4-1000

RAG PAPER EDITION
SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

RECAPTURE PRISONERS; RECESS AGAIN

AID BILL APPROVED AS DEMOCRATS SAVE MEASURE IN HOUSE

G.O.P. Split on Cutting Funds, but 280-108 Vote Prevails—4.9 Billion Authorized

By FELIX BELAIR Jr.
Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, June 19—The House of Representatives authorized today an appropriation of \$4,983,722,500 for military, economic and technical aid to fifty-six free governments and dependencies resisting communism. The vote sending the measure to the Senate was 280 to 108, with one Representative merely voting "present."

Throughout the afternoon, a smoothly functioning bipartisan majority shouted down repeated attempts to cut the authorization items below the recommendations of the Foreign Affairs Committee. But it was the Democrats under Representative Sam Rayburn of Texas, the minority leader, who provided the margin of victory.

Republicans by the score deserted the leadership of Speaker Joseph W. Martin Jr. to vote for economy amendments. There was no record vote on any of the attempts to slash the measure and, although the foreign policy prestige of President Eisenhower had been thrown into the debate by the Republican leadership, it was the Democrats who gave him his vote of confidence.

On the final vote, 160 Democrats joined with 120 Republicans

ROSENBERGS EXECUTED AS ATOM SPIES AFTER SUPREME COURT VACATES STAY; LAST-MINUTE PLEA TO PRESIDENT FAILS

SIX JUSTICES AGREE

President Says Couple Increased 'Chances of Atomic War'

Texts of related documents in case are printed on Page 7.

By LUTHER A. HUSTON
Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, June 19—President Eisenhower and the Supreme Court refused today to save Julius and Ethel Rosenberg from death in the electric chair.

The high court vacated the stay granted to the atomic spies on Wednesday by Justice William O. Douglas. It upheld the legality of the death sentence imposed by Federal Judge Irving R. Kaufman.

Less than an hour after the court had announced its verdict, President Eisenhower refused Executive clemency for the second time. He had denied a similar petition on Feb. 11.

"I can only say that, by immeasurably increasing the chances of atomic war, the Rosenbergs may

Their Death Penalty Carried Out



Julius Rosenberg



Ethel Rosenberg

PAIR SILENT TO END

Husband Is First to Die—Both Composed on Going to Chair

By WILLIAM R. CONKLIN

Special to The New York Times.

OSSING, N. Y., June 19—Stole and tight-lipped to the end, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg paid the death penalty tonight in the electric chair at Sing Sing Prison for their war-time atomic espionage for Soviet Russia.

The pair, first husband and wife to pay the supreme penalty here, and the first in the United States to die for espionage, went to their deaths with a composure that astonished the witnesses.

Julius, 35 years old, was first to enter the glaringly lighted, white-walled death chamber. He walked slowly behind Rabbi Irving Katslowe, a chaplain at Sing Sing, who was intoning the Twenty-third Psalm, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." As Rosenberg neared the brown-stained oak chair he seemed to sway from side to side.

Eisenhower Is Denounced To 5,000 in Union Sq. Rally



Rudolf Abel (1903-1971)

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WAR AND PEACE

WAS ONE HONEST MAN.

**BRIDGE
OF SPIES**
INSPIRED BY TRUE EVENTS

IN CINEMAS NOVEMBER 27



Roy Cohn
1927-1986

**McCARTHY
and His Men**

TIME

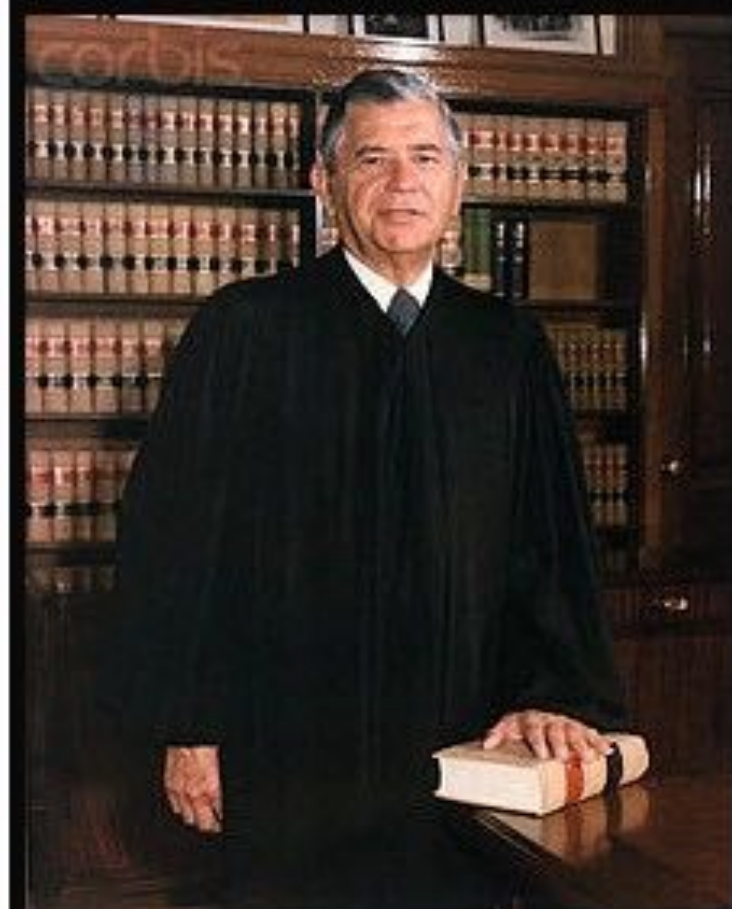
THE WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE



COHN & SCHINE
The Army got its orders.



Judge Irving R. Kaufman
1910-1992



Your crime is worse than murder.... Who knows but that millions more of innocent people may pay the price of your treason. Indeed, by your betrayal you undoubtedly have altered the course of history to the disadvantage of our country.

(Irving R. Kaufman)

izquotes.com

The information Stalin gleaned from his networks in the United States and Great Britain enabled the Soviet Union to “punch above its weight” as a player in international relations, allowing the USSR to produce advanced weapons systems after World War II without the expense of research. Stalin’s possession of these weapons and of information about American negotiating positions encouraged him to harden his own line and to behave more aggressively in hot spots like Korea than he would otherwise have dared. The golden age of Soviet espionage in the West exacerbated the Cold War, introduced a paranoid element into international relations, strengthened the hand of one of the most brutal tyrants of the twentieth century, and saved the Stalinist regime in North Korea that is now threatening us with nuclear weapons.

XXV ANIV. DEL ASESINATO DE LOS ESPOSOS ROSENBERG

13 CUBA aereo 1978



