

101-70  
H. Rosenberg

JUN 23 1953

June 17, 1953

The President

The White House

Dear Mr. President:

I find you herewith a petition for executive clemency, dated June 16, 1953, prepared by Emanuel H. Block, Esquire, as Attorney, and signed by Ethel Rosenberg and Julius Rosenberg. This petition was filed with the Pardon Attorney in the Department of Justice yesterday. We have carefully reviewed it and find that it does not contain any facts warranting a reversal of your previous action in this matter.

Since your denial of the previous petitions, the United States District Court of the Southern District of New York, the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and the United States Supreme Court have rejected various applications on behalf of the petitioners covering a number of aspects of the case. Nothing has transpired during this period which casts any doubt on the fairness of the trial or the protection of the rights of the petitioners to full judicial review of their case. Indeed, as you know, the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court has recalled the Court into special session to consider the one remaining aspect of the case before the Courts.

The Department of Justice has in recent weeks investigated every allegation brought to its attention reflecting adversely upon the conduct of the trial or of the witnesses, and has found that none of these allegations is substantial. As I stated to you at the time you were considering the prior application for executive clemency, the evidence of the guilt of these petitioners for a crime of heinous proportions, affecting the safety of our country and its people, is credible and convincing. The verdict is justified, and the completeness

CROSS CARD FOR STAFF SECRETARY

and fairness of the trial cannot be questioned. There is plain proof that this couple constitute the head and center of a conspiratorial espionage group bent on betraying this country's interest into the hands of another Nation.

The petition intimates that some representative of the Government offered the petitioners the guarantee of life for the price of a confession of guilt. This statement is untrue. The petition also intimates that certain pleas for clemency in support of the petitioners' applications for executive clemency have been concealed from you by the Department of Justice. This will confirm your statement to you that you have personally been kept advised by us from time to time since receipt of the original petitions for executive clemency as to the nature and volume of pleas received by the Justice Department and the State Department in connection with the case of the petitioners.

I advise that the petition be denied.

Respectfully,

Petition denied:

Dwight D. Eisenhower  
June 19, 1953

Attorney General

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*petition + orig. held to justice 6/22/53*