

### Resource Sheet #03

## Rosenberg Trial Evidence Packet

### Source A – Prosecution’s Opening Statements

#### EXCERPT 1

We realize that every criminal prosecution has grave implications, both for the defendants and for the people of our country. The facts, as they are developed before you here, will demonstrate that this case, where a Grand Jury has charged a conspiracy to commit espionage in behalf of a foreign power, is one of unusual significance. The significance of a conspiracy to commit espionage takes on added meaning where the defendants are charged with having participated in this conspiracy against our country, at this, the most critical hours in our history, in time of war, around 1944.

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Mind you, however, the seriousness of this charge does not make the issue complicated. The indictment returned by the Grand Jury is a simple one. The Grand Jury, as you know, is a body of citizens, like you, chosen by lot, as you were, and sworn to investigate and uncover crime. Such a Grand Jury has charged that the three defendants before you, Julius Rosenberg, his wife, Ethel Rosenberg, and Morton Sobell, conspired with others to commit espionage. The Grand Jury charge is contained in a one-count indictment, which his Honor has read to you. It is charged that the three defendants, the Rosenbergs and Sobell, from 1944, until the time when they were indicted by this Grand Jury some months ago, conspired and agreed with each other and also with other conspirators, including Harry Gold, David Greenglass, David's wife, Ruth

hls 8

Greenglass, and one, Anatoli Yakovlev, an agent and official of the Soviet Union, and with others. The Grand Jury has charged that the object and the purpose of this conspiracy by these people was their plan to deliver information, documents, sketches and material vital to the national defense of our country, to a foreign power, namely, to Soviet Russia.

It is charged by the Grand Jury that these conspirators did that with the intent that the information, the documents, the sketches and material, which have described to you, should be used by the Soviet Union to its advantage. That is the charge which is now before you for your final judgment.

EXCERPT 2

The evidence will show that the loyalty and the allegiance of the Rosenbergs and Sobell were not to our country, but that it was to Communism, Communism in this country and Communism throughout the world.

**Source:** *United States of America vs. Julius Rosenberg, Ethel Rosenberg, Anatoli A. Yakovlev, also known as "John", David Greenglass and Morton Sobell.* United States District Court, Southern District of New York, March 6, 1951. Rosenberg Trial Transcript, p. 220. Famous Trials website by Douglas O. Linder. University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law. Accessed 2/13/14.

<[http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/rosenb/ROS\\_TRIA.HTM](http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/rosenb/ROS_TRIA.HTM)>

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Source B – Defense’s Opening Statements

EXCERPT 1

What I would like to impress upon you now is to remember at all times the oath that you took when you were sworn in as jurors, which followed the sequence of questions addressed to you by the Court to test your impartiality that you will render an honest and a true verdict according to the evidence and according to the law as laid down by the Court. We ask you, we plead with you, don't be influenced by any bias or prejudice or hysteria.

This is a very grave crime that these defendants are charged with. Very grave. And this trial arises in a rather tense international atmosphere. And I think all of us delude ourselves that we believe that we are completely free from all of those pressures and influences that every minute of the day are upon us.

EXCERPT 2

These defendants are charged with a conspiracy to commit espionage. The Government has to show not

that they believed in one ism or another ism, but that they conspired to commit espionage.

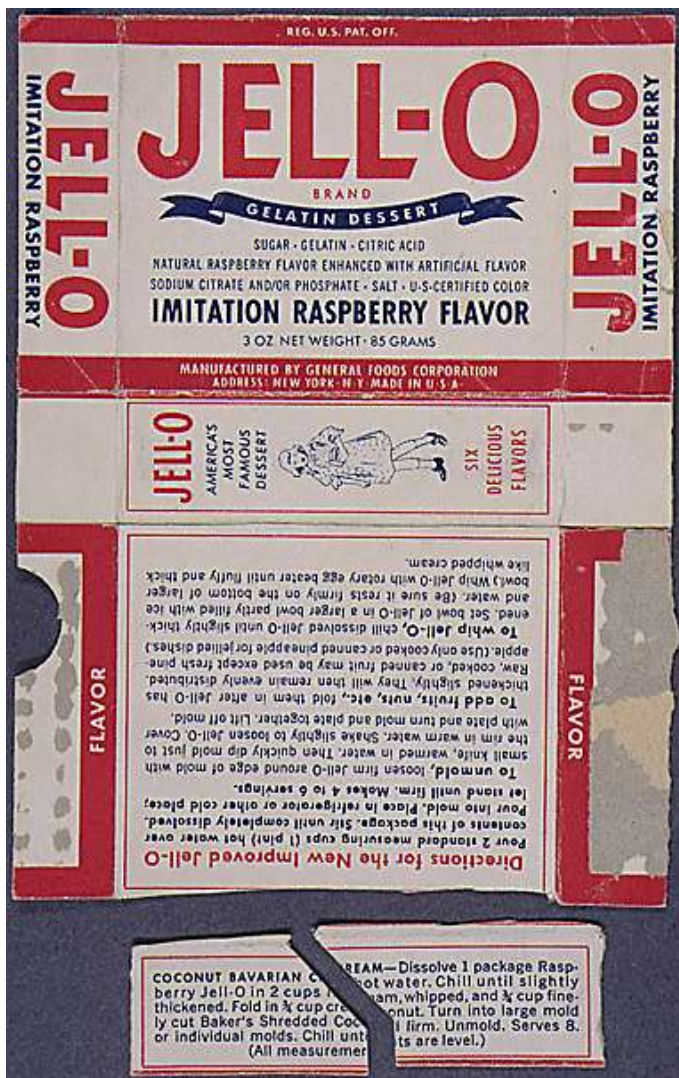
Finally, I would like you, of course, to pay particular attention to the witnesses that appear here and judge th issues by what comes out of the witnesses' mouths. And in that connection pay very careful attention to the witness. Test yourself by the same standards which guides your conduct in your everyday affairs; is this the kind of person who is telling the truth? What motive has this person to say thus and so. And I want you to focus your attention particularly on three witnesses who we now hear will appear for the Government. One is David Greengrass, who is a defendant here and who has pleaded guilty. In other words, he is a self-confessed conspirator. And the testimony of his wife, Mrs. Ruth Greengrass, who is an alleged co-conspirator but not a defendant, and who, and I am talking about the Greengrasses

**Source:** *United States of America vs. Julius Rosenberg, Ethel Rosenberg, Anatoli A. Yakovlev, also known as "John", David Greenglass and Morton Sobell.* United States District Court, Southern District of New York, March 6, 1951. Rosenberg Trial Transcript, p. 238. Famous Trials website by Douglas O. Linder. University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law. Accessed 2/13/14.

<[http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/rosenb/ROS\\_TRIA.HTM](http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/rosenb/ROS_TRIA.HTM)>

## Resource Sheet #03

### Rosenberg Trial Evidence Source C – Jell-O Box



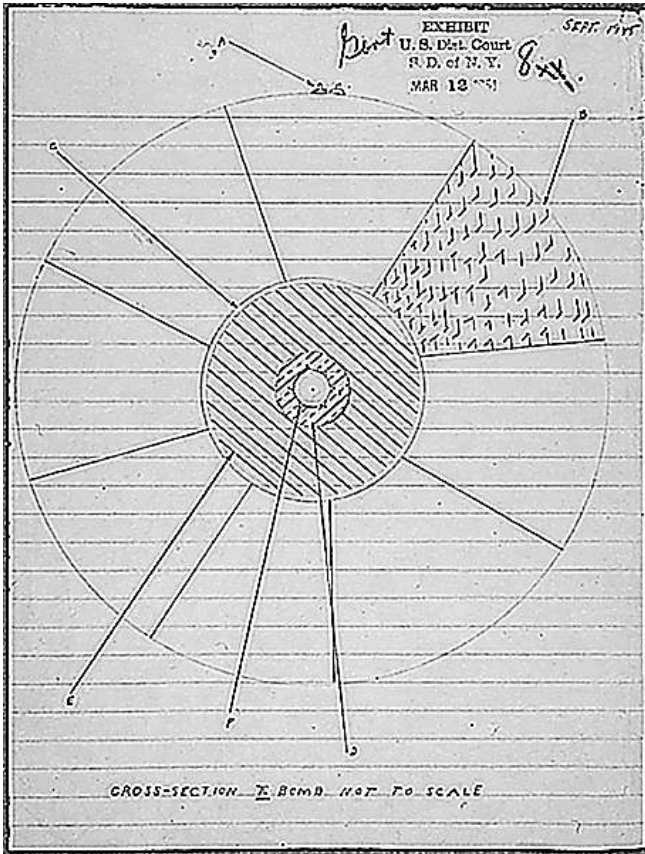
**National Archives General Notes:** The trial transcript shows that the prosecution introduced this facsimile Jell-O box to represent the recognition signal supposedly devised by Julius Rosenberg for David and Ruth Greenglass and Harry Gold. According to trial testimony of David and Ruth Greenglass, after dinner at the Rosenbergs' apartment in January 1945, Julius went into the kitchen with Ruth and Ethel, took an empty Jell-O box and cut a side panel into two irregular parts. He gave one piece to Ruth, saying that the person contacting her and David in Albuquerque [New Mexico] would identify themselves by presenting the other half. In cross-examining David Greenglass, defense attorney Bloch challenged his story by asking the flavor of the real Jell-O box. David did not remember. Roy Cohn [member of Department of Justice's prosecution team] is credited with selecting raspberry for the facsimile.

**Source:** Jell-O Box Exhibit Used in the Espionage Trial of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg and Morton Sobell, 03/06/1951 - 03/29/1951, searchable by ARC Identifier 278774. Photographs and other Graphic Materials from the Department of Justice, Office of the U.S. Attorney for the Southern Judicial District of New York (1870- ). Record Group 118: Records of U.S. Attorneys, 1821-19914. The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration at New York, New York, NY. Accessed 2/13/14.  
<<http://research.archives.gov/description/278774>>

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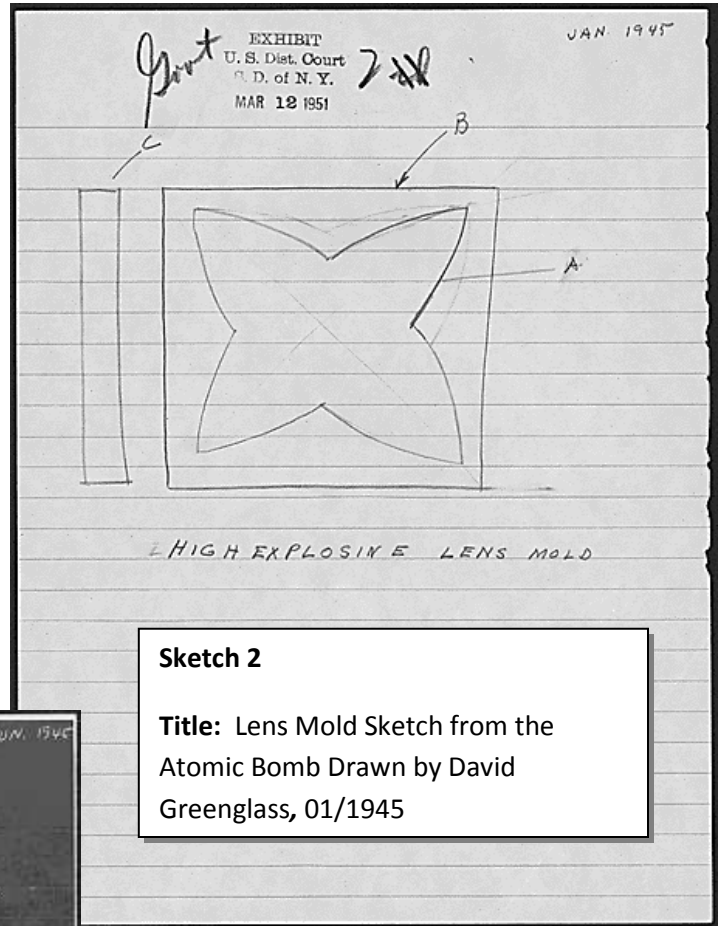
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Source D – Sketches Re-created by David Greenglass



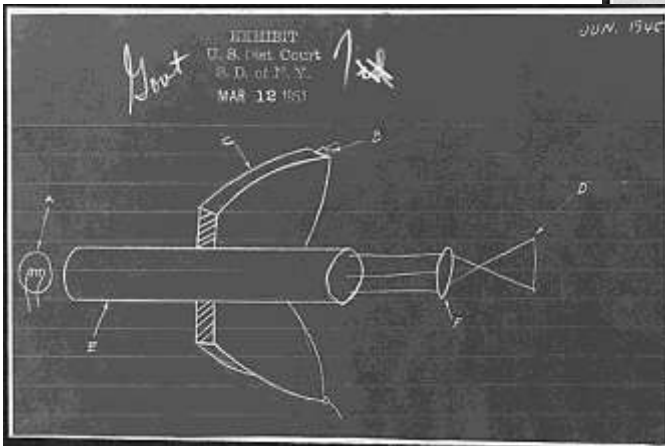
Sketch 1 (Left)

Title: Cross-section Sketch of Atomic Bomb, 03/12/1951



Sketch 2

Title: Lens Mold Sketch from the Atomic Bomb Drawn by David Greenglass, 01/1945



Sketch 3 (Left)

Title: Sketch of Setup to Implode Tubular Materials, 03/12/1951

Source: U.S. vs. Julius & Ethel Rosenberg and Martin Sobell. Photographs and other Graphic Materials from the Department of Justice, Office of the U.S. Attorney for the Southern Judicial District of New York (1870- ). Record Group 118: Records of U.S. Attorneys, 1821-19914. The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration at New York, New York, NY. Accessed 2/13/14.  
Sketch 1: <http://research.archives.gov/description/278753>  
Sketch 2: <http://research.archives.gov/description/278747>  
Sketch 3: <http://research.archives.gov/description/278752>

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**Source E – Trial Testimony of David Greenglass**

**EXCERPT 1**

Q: Now will you tell us just what happened, Mr. Greenglass, after you handed this sketch and the descriptive material concerning the atomic bomb to Rosenberg? What did he do, what did the others there do?

A: Well, he stepped into another room and he read it and he came out and he said, "This is very good. We ought to have this typed up immediately." And my wife said, "We will probably have to correct the grammar involved," because I was more interested in writing down the technical phrases of it than I was in correcting the grammar. So they pulled—they [the Rosenbergs] had a bridge table and they brought it into the living room, plus a typewriter.

Q: What kind of typewriter?

A: A portable.

Q: Then what?

A: And then they set that up and each sentence was read over and typed down in correct grammatical fashion.

Q: Who did the typing, Mr. Greenglass?

A: Ethel did the typing and Ruth and Julius and Ethel did the correction of the grammar.

**EXCERPT 2**

Q: Well, the question is, did you lose money?

A: I did lose money.

Q: How much?

A: I lost all of the money I originally put into G. & R. [business partnership with Julius and David's brother], plus subsequent loss of money in salaries that I did not get.

Q: And how much did that total, in your mind?

A: Well, I don't know.

Q: Approximately?

A: A few thousand dollars.

Q: Now, is it not a fact that you never recovered a single penny of that money?

A: I never recovered a single penny of it.

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Source F – Testimony of Ruth Greenglass to the Grand Jury, August 1950

bd 11	Ruth Greenglass
Q Well, now, you returned to New York in the early part of December, 1944; is that correct?	A Yes, + did.
Q And when you returned did Julius Rosenberg come over to see you at your home at 266 Stanton Street, New York City?	A A few days later he came.
Q Did he come alone?	A Yes.
Q And he had a conversation with you?	A Yes.
Q Now, was there anyone present besides you and Julius Rosenberg when you had this conversation?	A No.
Q Now, can you relate as best you can, to the best of your recollection, the conversation that took place between you and Julius Rosenberg on this occasion?	A Well, Julius asked me if I had related the information to my husband, and I told him I had, and that he had consented to do this. And then I told him as best as I could remember what David told me about the physical setup and the names of the scientists I have already given.
Q And what did Rosenberg say?	A Well, he was pleased at receiving the information.
Q Didn't you write that down on a piece of paper?	A Yes, I wrote that down on a piece of paper and he took it with him.
Q In longhand?	A Yes.
Q And did you write it down in his presence?	A I believe so.
Q And did you say he said he was pleased?	A Yes.



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### Source G – Excerpt of Trial Testimony of Ruth Greenglass, March 1951

“RUTH GREENGLASS: Well, Ethel said that she was tired, and I asked her what she had been doing. She said she had been typing; and I asked her if she had found David's notes hard to distinguish. She said no, she was used to his handwriting. Then she said that Julie, too, was tired; that he was very busy; he ran around a good deal; that all his time and his energies were used in this thing; that was the most important thing to him..”

**Source:** Testimony of Ruth Greenglass, March 1951. From “Famous Trials Page,” University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law. Accessed 2/6/14. <[http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/rosenb/ROS\\_TRGR.HTM](http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/rosenb/ROS_TRGR.HTM)>

### Source H – Excerpt of Prosecution’s Closing Speech

“This description of the atom bomb, destined for delivery to the Soviet Union, was typed up by the defendant Ethel Rosenberg that afternoon at her apartment at 10 Monroe Street. Just so had she on countless other occasions sat at that typewriter and struck the keys, blow by blow, against her own country in the interests of the Soviets.”

**Source:** Closing Speech of Prosecutor Irving Saypol,, Rosenberg Case. From “Famous Trials Page,” University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law. Accessed 2/6/14. <[http://law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/rosenb/ROS\\_TSAY.HTM](http://law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/rosenb/ROS_TSAY.HTM)>