

Friday File Collections Guide

Friday: A Searchable Archive of Declassified Cold War Documents on Soviet Espionage · fridayarchive.org · September 2026

The original core of document collections in Friday were focused on archival collections relevant to the history of Soviet espionage in the United States from the 1920s through the 1950s. Collections focused on Julius Rosenberg, Alger Hiss, the Venona decrypts, and the Vassiliev notebooks are examples of this. To these were added collections focused on broader topics such as Communist political activity and subversion that also included some espionage related material. Examples include the extensive hearings and reports of the U.S. Senate Internal Security Subcommittee and the House Un-American Activities Committee as well as such collections as the Federal Bureau of Investigation's files on its COMRAP (Comintern Apparatus) investigation and the SOLO investigation of the domestic and international activities of the Communist Party, USA from the 1950s to the early 1980s. Consequently, Friday offers researchers with a wide variety of interests rapid access to extensive archival documentary holdings. Friday's database as of the fall of 2026 includes 43 archival collections comprising 1,130 files and more than 147,000 pages of documents. Researchers may choose to query all of Friday's collections or designate searching only such collections that are of interest to them.

Titles of collections are largely based on the title originally given the collection by its creator. Titles may be the name of a person (Greenglass, David FBI files), an institution (House Un-American Activities Committee Hearings), an investigation or project (Venona decrypts), or a special source (Alexander Vassiliev notebooks). The available collections in Friday are listed below in alphabetical order.

Collections designated 'Digitized' were either created in digital text or transcribed into digitized text from scanned documents. The texts of these collections are perfect or near perfect. Collections designated 'Friday OCR' were received by Friday as scanned PDF documents. These scanned documents were run through Friday's enhanced Optical Character Recognition (OCR) program for converting scans into searchable text. Those marked as 'Previously OCR'd' are those documents for which a third party previously ran OCR before the documents came to Friday. OCR programs have become more accurate, but even Friday's enhanced OCR is not perfect. When the original documents are of poor textual quality (faded print, low quality paper, hand-written notes superimposed on the printed text, stains, blots, smears, etc.) portions of the resulting scan may be difficult for any existing OCR program to read, and the resulting OCR text sometimes has misspelled or garbled words or phrases. If an word being searched for is garbled, then Friday's search will not find that particular instance.

Researchers have the option to download files and visually examine documents in question to see if garbled passages can be resolved.

Six of the largest previously OCR'd FBI collections (Greenglass, David; Greenglass, David and Ruth; Hiss and Chambers; Rosenberg, Julius; Silvermaster; and SOLO) arrived with badly damaged third-party OCR, with roughly one word in ten wrong and proper names worst affected. In 2026 Friday re-transcribed these collections from the page images using an ensemble of AI vision readers with majority-vote adjudication, which substantially improved search and readability. These entries are marked 're-transcribed by Friday.' The searchable text is a machine transcription that has not been verified by a human reader; the scan shown alongside remains authoritative, and quotations should be confirmed against it. The prior OCR text also remains searchable.

Alphabetical list of the archival collections searchable in Friday

1. **Albertson, William FBI file (HQ 65-38100)** — 1 file, 2,552 pages, 111.6 MB — Friday OCR. Albertson was a senior CPUSA official.
2. **Alscher, Ruth FBI files** — 2 files, 65 pages, 2.4 MB — Friday OCR. Ruth Alscher was called before the Rosenberg grand jury but invoked her 5th amendment rights not to testify. FBI Headquarters file 100-395341 (section 1) and New York field office file 100-111786 (vol. 1).
3. **Barr, Arthur FBI file** — 1 file, 10 pages, 0.9 MB — Friday OCR. Arthur Barr, brother of Joel Barr, was investigated as part of the Rosenberg case. FBI New York field office file 100-109733.
4. **Barr, Joel FBI files** — 11 files, 1,419 pages, 69.3 MB — Friday OCR. Joel Barr, an engineer recruited into Soviet espionage by Julius Rosenberg. He defected to the Soviet Union (by way of Czechoslovakia) in 1950. FBI Headquarters file vols. 1-7, New York field office vols. 1-3, and enclosure-behind-file EBF 296.
5. **Bentley, Elizabeth FBI files** — 24 files, 4,302 pages, 316.1 MB — Friday OCR. Courier between Jacob Golos and his espionage networks. Replaced him as manager of the networks after his death. Turned herself in to the FBI in late 1945. Headquarters files 61-6328, 134-435, 65-57904, 65-61222 and 9-16655; New York files 65-14778, 65-15639 and 134-182; plus a 2,136-page Headquarters/New York compilation that overlaps the individual volumes.

6. **Black, Thomas FBI files** — 48 files, 5,147 pages, 372.0 MB — Friday OCR. Thomas Black served Soviet intelligence in a number of roles from the mid-1930s to the mid-1940s: industrial espionage, spying on Trotskyists, recruiting sources, and courier duties. Confronted by the FBI in the late 1940s, he became a cooperative witness. Headquarters files 65-59181, 65-59395 and 65-61847; New York file 65-15474; Philadelphia files 65-4332 and 134-279.
7. **Bloch, Emanuel FBI files** — 3 files, 469 pages, 24.3 MB — Friday OCR. Attorney for Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. FBI New York field office file 100-99876 (vols. 1-3).
8. **Brothman-Moskowitz Grand Jury Testimony (1947, 1950)** — 1 file, 291 pages, 21.9 MB — Friday OCR. One of the earliest post-WWII espionage cases. After Elizabeth Bentley turned herself in to the FBI in 1945 she identified Abraham Brothman as one of her contacts involved in industrial espionage for the USSR. The resulting investigation led to a federal Grand Jury proceeding that resulted in the indictment of Brothman and his business partner, Miriam Moskowitz, for conspiracy to obstruct justice. Both were tried, convicted, and sentenced to prison.
9. **Burdett, Winston FBI files** — 6 files, 1,160 pages, 167.5 MB — Friday OCR. Burdett as a young journalist was a secret CPUSA member. Working as a war correspondent in Europe from 1940 to 1942 he met with and assisted Soviet intelligence. He later dropped out of the CPUSA and in 1955 testified to a Senate committee about his participation in Soviet espionage.
10. **Childs, Eva (Operation SOLO) FBI Files** — 1 file, 404 pages, 143.3 MB — Friday OCR. Wife of Morris Childs, one of the principals in the FBI SOLO operation (see below SOLO operation).
11. **Childs, Jack (Operation SOLO) FBI files** — 19 files, 3,229 pages, 238.9 MB — Mixed: Friday OCR (17), Previously OCR'd (2). Senior CPUSA cadre and a principal in the FBI SOLO operation (see below SOLO operation).
12. **Childs, Morris (Operation SOLO) FBI files** — 19 files, 3,662 pages, 391.6 MB — Mixed: Friday OCR (18), Previously OCR'd (1). Senior CPUSA cadre and a principal in the FBI SOLO operation (see below SOLO operation).
13. **CINRAD (Communist Infiltration of the Radiation Laboratory) FBI Summary report** — 1 file, 45 pages, 3.5 MB — Friday OCR. Summary report of an investigation into Communist infiltration of the Radiation Laboratory at the University of California, Berkeley during WWII.
14. **COMRAP (Comintern Apparatus) FBI Files** — 3 files, 613 pages, 35.8 MB — Previously OCR'd. Early 1940s investigation of clandestine links between the CPUSA and the Communist International.

15. **Coplon, Judith FBI files** — 11 files, 5,616 pages, 1.24 GB — Mixed: Previously OCR'd (6), Friday OCR (5). Coplon, a secret Communist and an employee of the Department of Justice's Foreign Agents Registration section, which worked closely with the FBI on espionage investigations, was convicted twice of turning over Justice Department and FBI records to Soviet intelligence. Both convictions were overturned for technical legal reasons.
16. **Gold, Harry FBI files** — 104 files, 16,040 pages, 1.19 GB — Friday OCR. Harry Gold, a chemist and communist sympathizer, first worked for Soviet intelligence in the mid-1930s as a industrial spy. Later he became the courier to a number of other Soviet industrial and technical spies. Eventually he became the courier to Klaus Fuchs, a British physicist working in the Manhattan project. Confronted by the FBI in 1950, he confessed to his long career as a Soviet espionage courier and identified both Fuchs and David Greenglass as sources in the Manhattan project. He was convicted and sentenced to a thirty years in prison but was paroled after serving nearly sixteen year. Headquarters files 65-57449 (vols. 1-33), 65-59199, 65-60584 and 9-19204 with referrals and 'see references'; New York files 65-15324 and 65-16067; Philadelphia file 65-4307; Albuquerque file 65-38; and New York and Philadelphia electronic surveillance logs.
17. **Golos, Jacob FBI files** — 3 files, 322 pages, 168.8 MB — Friday OCR. Golos, a senior CPUSA official and liaison between the CPUSA and Soviet intelligence, converted members of clandestine CPUSA political units consisting of U.S. government employees into espionage sources for Soviet intelligence in WWII. Golos's networks were among the most productive sources for Soviet intelligence in the United States.
18. **Gouzenko, Igor Canadian and British security service files (KV 2/1419-1429)** — 34 files, 2,278 pages, 1.35 GB — Friday OCR. Igor Gouzenko was a Soviet GRU (military intelligence) cipher officer at the Soviet embassy in Canada who defected in September, 1945. The information Gouzenko provided uncovered extensive Soviet espionage in Canada in WWII and identified Alan Nunn May, a British physicist, who had worked at Canadian facilities that were part of the Anglo-American atomic project, as a Soviet source. The British Security Service (MI5) files on the case (code-named CORBY) include telegrams, RCMP and Royal Commission material, interrogation reports and correspondence from 1945 onward.
19. **Greenglass, David and Ruth FBI Files** — 14 files, 2,456 pages, 362.7 MB — Previously OCR'd; page text re-transcribed by Friday in 2026 (see note above). David Greenglass was a Soviet source at the Los Alamos laboratory of the Manhattan Project. Ruth, his wife, was recruited by Julius and Ethel Rosenberg (her brother- and sister-in-law) to recruit David.

20. **Greenglass, David FBI Files** — 21 files, 3,371 pages, 771.9 MB — Previously OCR'd; page text re-transcribed by Friday in 2026 (see note above). U.S. Army machinist and Soviet source at the Los Alamos laboratory of the Manhattan Project. He confessed after his arrest and testified against his brother-in-law and sister, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. He was sentenced to fifteen years in prison and served nine and a half.
21. **Hiskey, Clarence FBI Files** — 62 files, 336 pages, 138.6 MB — Friday OCR. Hiskey, a chemist and secret Communist, assisted Soviet intelligence while working at Manhattan Project facilities at Columbia University in New York and the Metallurgical Laboratory at the University of Chicago.
22. **Hiss, Alger and Whittaker Chambers FBI files** — 63 files, 5,208 pages, 848.0 MB — Previously OCR'd; page text re-transcribed by Friday in 2026 (see note above). Investigation into the accusation by journalist Whittaker Chambers that he had know former senior State Department official Alger Hiss as a Communist and Soviet source in the mid-1930s. Hiss was convicted of perjury in 1951, sentenced to five years in prison, he was paroled after serving three years and eight months.
23. **HUAC (House Un-American Activities Committee) Hearings (1947-1967)** — 15 files, 2,662 pages, 208.2 MB — Previously OCR'd. Hearings and testimony cover a wide variety of subjects, from Communist political activity, subversion, espionage, and Soviet propaganda.
24. **HUAC (House Un-American Activities Committee) Reports (1948-1964)** — 25 files, 3,089 pages, 214.3 MB — Previously OCR'd. Reports cover a wide variety of subjects, from Communist political activity, subversion, espionage, and Soviet propaganda.
25. **Koval, George Abramovich FBI files (65-62911)** — 7 files, 923 pages, 33.0 MB — Friday OCR. Koval was born in 1913 in Sioux City, Iowa, the son of Russian Jewish immigrants. In 1932 his parents, ardent Communists, returned to the Soviet Union, taking their American children with them. Koval in the mid-1930 attended the Mendeleyev Institute of Chemical Technology. He was recruited by the GRU, Soviet Military Intelligence, and trained as a intelligence officer. He was sent back to the United States in 1940 where he resumed his American identity. Drafted into the Army, his technical skills earned him assignment to Army technical teams assisting the Manhattan project, positions he used to produce significant atomic intelligence. He quietly returned to the Soviet Union after WWII.

26. **McCarthy Senate Subcommittee Hearings (1953-1954)** — 5 files, 4,316 pages, 10.5 MB — Digitized. Senator Joseph McCarthy, chair of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Government Operations, focused these hearings on Communist infiltration of U.S. government agencies. Executive session transcripts as typeset and released by the Government Printing Office in 2003.
27. **Mink, George British Security Service (MI5) file (KV 2/2067)** — 1 file, 37 pages, 5.5 MB — Previously OCR'd. Mink, an organizer of the American Communist sponsored Marine Workers Industrial Union and served in a number of positions in the Communist International. In 1935 he was convicted of espionage in Denmark.
28. **Pravdin, Vladimir British Security Service-MI5 files (KV 2/1898)** — 2 files, 105 pages, 63.3 MB — Friday OCR. Pravdin, a long-serving Soviet NKVD/KGB field officer stationed in the USA, UK, and various European countries.
29. **Rosenberg Grand Jury Testimony (1950-1951)** — 1 file, 1,073 pages, 68.7 MB — Friday OCR. Testimony by George Bernhardt, Vivian Glassman, Michael Sidorovich, Mark Page, Stella Page, Florence Pasternack, Morris Pasternack, Louis Pasternack, Vivian Glassman, Harry Gold, Harold F. Good, Ethel Rosenberg, Ernest Pataki, Stella Page, Stanley E. Price, William Perl, Ruth Greenglass, Mervin Isaacs, Michael Sidorovich, Ann Sidorovich, Ross C. Merritt, Mildred Pflieger, Helen Elitcher, Oscar Vago, Abraham Surovell, Florence Cohen, Samuel Levine, Ruth Alscher, and Frank Wilentz,
30. **Rosenberg Trial transcripts (1951)** — 34 files, 122 pages, 8.4 MB — Mixed: Friday OCR (20), Digitized (14). Testimony and statements by Julius Rosenberg, Ethel Rosenberg, Elizabeth Bentley, David Greenglass, Ruth Greenglass, Emanuel Bloch, Evelyn Cox, Max Elitcher, Harry Gold, Irving Kaufman, Walter Koski, Irving Saypol and Ben Schneider.
31. **Rosenberg, Ethel FBI files** — 10 files, 343 pages, 17.8 MB — Friday OCR. Ethel Rosenberg, wife of Julius Rosenberg, was tried, convicted, and executed with him in 1953. FBI Headquarters file 65-16985 (vol. 1, serials 1-19) and the Headquarters 'see references' series (A-I), cross-references to Ethel Rosenberg in other Bureau files. (Formerly listed within the Rosenberg, Julius collection.)

32. **Rosenberg, Julius FBI files** — 187 files, 15,395 pages, 3.01 GB — Previously OCR'd (180), Friday OCR (7); page text re-transcribed by Friday in 2026 (see note above). Julius Rosenberg, an electrical engineer and secret communist, was both a source (recruited via Jacob Golos) in his own right but also recruited and managed a large network of other sources, mostly engineers and communists he had met at the City College of New York. He was arrested, tried, convicted, and executed (along with his wife, Ethel) in 1953 for his role in recruiting his brother-in-law, David Greenglass, a Soviet source at the Los Alamos atomic bomb laboratory in World War II. He denied being a communist or of any participation in espionage. The FBI files on Ethel Rosenberg are now a separate collection (see above).
33. **Seborer, Oscar FBI and other U.S. agencies files** — 63 files, 2,224 pages, 289.8 MB — Mixed: Friday OCR (50), Previously OCR'd (13). Oscar Seborer was a Soviet source while serving as a Army technician at the Manhattan Project's Los Alamos Laboratory. In 1951 Oscar, his brother Stuart (also later suspected of espionage), Stuart wife, Miriam, and Miriam's mother, Anna Zeitlin, left the United States for a long European vacation. Late that year all four vanished, quietly defecting to the Soviet Union. Both brothers were given positions at the Institute of World Economy and International Relations of the USSR Academy of Sciences. They never returned to the United States.
34. **Senate Internal Security Subcommittee (1956-1959), "Scope of Soviet Activity in the United States" hearings and reports** — 7 files, 6,951 pages, 469.2 MB — Previously OCR'd. Seven volumes of hearings, testimony, and reports of the Internal Security Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee. It consists of ninety-one parts discussing a wide variety of subjects, from Communist political activity, subversion, espionage, and Soviet propaganda.
35. **Silvermaster, Nathan FBI files** — 153 files, 24,295 pages, 1.91 GB — Previously OCR'd; re-transcribed by Friday in August 2026 (see note above). Nathan Gregory Silvermaster, an economist employed by a number of U.S. government agencies, was a secret Communist and Soviet source. During WWII he and his wife, Helen, were recruited by Jacob Golos to run a network of Soviet sources inside the U.S. government, reporting the intelligence gathered, via Elizabeth Bentley, to Golos who then passed it to the NKVD. After Golos's death in late 1943, Bentley conveyed the intelligence directly to the NKVD. After Bentley's defection to the FBI in late 1945 the FBI began a massive investigation into the more than thirty Soviet sources she identified. The Silvermaster file became the depository for the many hundreds of FBI reports and memos of this wide-ranging investigation, not just reports on the Silvermasters themselves.

36. **Smedley, Agnes FBI Files** — 7 files, 1,803 pages, 299.5 MB — Friday OCR. Smedley, a leftist journalist, worked closely with Indian nationalists, the Chinese Communist Party, the CPUSA, the Communist International, and the Soviet GRU's Asian espionage network headed by Richard Sorge.
37. **SOLO Operation FBI Files** — 101 files, 20,410 pages, 1.47 GB — Previously OCR'd (99), Friday OCR (2); page text re-transcribed by Friday in 2026 (see note above). SOLO was the FBI's highly successful penetration of the senior leadership of the Communist Party, USA (CPUSA). In the early 1950s the FBI recruited two brothers, Jack and Morris Childs, veteran CPUSA cadre. Both became trusted colleagues of long-serving CPUSA general secretary Gus Hall. Morris became the CPUSA's chief liaison with the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU), meeting regularly with its senior leadership to report on CPUSA activities and to receive political and ideological guidance. Morris also served as the CPUSA liaison with other foreign Communist parties. Jack carried out a variety of clandestine international activities, including receiving and disbursing illegal Soviet monetary subsidies (\$28 million in total over the life of the SOLO operation, 1952–1980). All the while, the Childs brothers reported their activities in detail to the FBI. (See also the individual collections of Jack, Morris, and Eva Childs above.) A 2026 audit removed 23 files that duplicated other files in the set.
38. **Soviet Atomic Espionage hearings and reports, Congressional Joint Committee on Atomic Energy (1951)** — 1 file, 240 pages, 17.5 MB — Previously OCR'd. Discusses the cases of Klaus Fuchs, Bruno Pontecorvo, Alan Nunn May David Greenglass, Harry Gold, Arthur Adams, Clarence Hiskey, John Chapin and others.
39. **Soviet Intelligence Travel and Intelligence Techniques, CIA report** — 1 file, 79 pages, 3.0 MB — Previously OCR'd. Discusses cover identities and false identities used by Soviet intelligence officers abroad.
40. **Vassiliev, Alexander Notebooks** — 9 files, 1,164 pages, 4.9 MB — Digitized. Translated and transcribed versions of Alexander Vassiliev's nine notebooks that were originally hand-written in Russian. Alexander Vassiliev, a former KGB officer, was authorized by the SVR (successor to the KGB) in the mid-1990s to make verbatim extracts, summaries, and notes from KGB archives about Soviet espionage operations in the United States in the 1930s and 1940s for an authorized book project. Vassiliev gave the original notebooks and the digitized translations to the Library of Congress where they have been open for research since 2009.

41. **Venona Decryptions, National Security Agency** — 44 files, 2,990 pages, 6.1 MB — Digitized. From 1943 until 1980 the National Security Agency and its predecessors conducted a decryption project focused on a set of uniquely vulnerable coded Soviet cable messages sent between 1942 and 1951 (most were in the period from 1943 to 1945). Nearly 3,000 cable messages with nearly 5,000 pages of text were decoded in whole or in part. While some of the cables dealt with diplomatic and trade (chiefly lend-lease aid), most were messages between the Soviet intelligence agencies in Moscow and their field offices around the world. The largest number were between Moscow and the NKVD station at the Soviet consulate in New York, the NKVD's chief American station. Messages were also decoded between Moscow and Soviet stations in Istanbul, Kazvin, London, Meshed, Mexico City, Montevideo, Ottawa, Paris, Prague, San Francisco, Sofia, Stockholm, Tokyo, and Washington.
42. **Volodarsky, Iosif (aka Armand Feldman) British Security Service-MI5 files (KV 2/2881–2882) and Canadian Royal Commission testimony (1946)** — 3 files, 157 pages, 51.0 MB — Mixed: Friday OCR (2), Previously OCR'd (1). Iosif Volodarsky was a NKVD officer who sent to the United States as an illegal (no diplomatic cover) in 1933, using a fraudulent Canadian passport in the name of Armand Labis Feldman. Facing possible recall to Moscow during the purges, he quietly dropped out of Soviet service and later moved to Canada. The RCMP, however, discovered his false identity in 1940 and he faced deportation to the USSR. He then cooperated with the RCMP and the FBI, telling them of his espionage in the United States in return for being allowed to remain in Canada. In 1946 he testified to the Canadian Royal Commission on Espionage.
43. **Witzak (Witczak), Ignacy British Security Service-MI5 files (KV 2/1635)** — 2 files, 123 pages, 54.0 MB — Friday OCR. A GRU officer, real name Zalman Litvin, operated in the United States, chiefly in California, in the early 1940s under the assumed name of Canadian Ignacy Witzak (also spelled Witczak). Igor Gouzenko revealed his fake Canadian identity to Canadian authorities in 1945 who alerted the FBI. Witzak eluded FBI surveillance and returned to the Soviet Union.