

Gary Powers

19 JAN 1970

CPYRGHT

EXPERT IN SPY CASES

Lawyer James Donovan Dies



JAMES B. DONOVAN

NEW YORK (AP) — James B. Donovan, 53, the lawyer who set up the trade of a Soviet spy for U2 pilot Francis Gary Powers and arranged the ransom of prisoners taken by Cuba in the Bay of Pigs invasion, died early today.

He was a resident of Brooklyn and died in Methodist Hospital there.

The spy trade and prisoner release negotiations in the early 1960s were highlights of a career in which Mr. Donovan also worked on the war crimes trials in Nuernberg and service with the U.S. Office of Scientific Research and Development, which supervised the

development of the atomic bomb.

Mr. Donovan also had a thriving private law career, was president of Pratt Institute and ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. Senate as a Democrat against Sen. Jacob K. Javits in 1962.

A spokesman at Pratt Institute said he died of heart failure.

Mr. Donovan's most celebrated case probably was that in which he defended the Soviet master spy, Col. Rudolph Abel, in 1957 and saved him from the death penalty. The Russian had lived for years in

the United States, masquerading as an artist.

The court-appointed Donovan made the point during his defense that executing Abel might lead to Soviet refusal to exchange American spies held in Russia.

Abel was sentenced to 30 years in prison, but five years later Mr. Donovan's prophecy was borne out when Abel was used to win Powers' freedom.

Powers' piloted U-2 spy plane was downed over the Soviet Union in 1960. His capture gave Premier Nikita Khrushchev the pretext for scrapping a summit meeting with President Dwight D. Eisenhower.