

Britain Agrees To Extradite Murder Suspect

LONDON (AP) — Jens Soering, accused in the slayings of his girlfriend's wealthy parents, will be returned to Virginia for trial on the condition that he not face capital murder charges, Home Secretary Douglas Hurd says.

Hurd agreed on Tuesday to extradite Soering, 22, a German national whose father is the West German consul in Detroit. No date for the extradition was set.

A Bedford County, Va., grand jury indicted Soering and his girlfriend, Elizabeth Haysom, on murder charges after the two former University of Virginia students had fled to London.

Miss Haysom, 24, did not challenge extradition from Britain and was sentenced in October 1987 to 90 years in prison after admitting being an accessory to the March 1985 slayings of her parents, Derek Haysom, 72, and Nancy Haysom, 55, at their Bedford County home. Miss Haysom is serving her sentence at the Women's Correctional Center in Goochland, Va.

Soering resisted extradition and took his case to the European Court, a branch of the 23-nation Council of Europe to which Britain belongs. The court ruled in July that extradition would contravene the Human Rights Convention if there was a risk that Soering might be sentenced to death and have to spend a long time on death row before execution by electric chair.

The convention would not be breached if the possibility of the death penalty was removed, the court said.

The Home Office said U.S. authorities had confirmed in an exchange of diplomatic notes that the effect of extradition on the agreed terms was that Soering could not be prosecuted on a capital murder charge. Authorities in Virginia, where Soering will stand trial, accepted that that was the position in U.S. law, the statement added.

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