

Extradition of Jens Söring

C.C. F.W. 11/29/4
[Ltr by Henr Genscher
w/ CDP - not PM]
CDP 29/xi

I wish to draw your attention to the case of a young German awaiting extradition in the United Kingdom about which I am particularly concerned. His name is Jens Söring, the son of a member of our Foreign Service then on assignment in the United States, who whilst studying at the University of Virginia is alleged to have killed the parents of his girlfriend.

The British Government have received an American and a German request for his extradition. They have informed us that, owing to the fact that the crime was committed in the United States and that the United States request arrived first, they intend to extradite Jens Söring to the United States.

I urgently request you to reconsider whether Söring cannot be extradited to the Federal Republic of Germany. I am prompted to make this request by the following circumstances and considerations:

- Söring, who at the time of the crime was 18 years old, apparently was under the influence of his older girlfriend - the daughter of the persons killed - and possibly acted in a kind of erotomania. These facts, and the question of diminished responsibility, can be judged much better in Germany than in a third country.
- With such a young offender special consideration should be given to the concept of rehabilitation provided for in European criminal law. As Söring has no family ties in the United States and considering the conditions prevailing in the prisons of Virginia, his chances of rehabilitation in the United States must unfortunately be judged much less favourable than if he were extradited to the Federal Republic of Germany. And only here can he be adequately cared for by his family during his detention.

My request is based on the understanding that although there are important criteria as expressed in article 10 of the British-American extradition treaty which speak in favour of Söring's extradition to the United States, the

British Government are free to decide otherwise and in particular to give priority to the criterion of the offender's nationality which is likewise provided for in article 10.

Finally, you might also consider whether, in the case of conflicting requests for extradition, the request from a European partner state should not generally be given precedence.