



The Honorable George W. Bush
Governor of the State of Texas
State Capitol
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

Washington, August 9, 2000

Dear Governor Bush,

We, as the representatives of the Presidency of the European Union, France, together with the next president, Sweden, and the European Commission wish to convey to you an urgent humanitarian appeal by the EU on behalf of Mr. John Satterwhite. We make this request in the framework of the European Union's policy of seeking a global moratorium on the use of the death penalty (which we have long renounced in Europe), as a step toward its worldwide abolition.

The execution of Mr. Satterwhite, a U.S. citizen, is scheduled to be carried out by Texas State Authorities on August 16, 2000.

The case of Mr. Satterwhite seems to us to particularly merit your clemency, as Mr. Satterwhite is considered by many experts to be both mentally ill (borderline paranoid schizophrenic) and mentally retarded. Furthermore, according to Mr. Satterwhite's defense, there was mitigating evidence withheld by the state and not made known to the jury.

We urge you to demonstrate compassion with regard to this case.

The EU considers that the execution of Mr. Satterwhite would be contrary to generally accepted human rights norms. In particular, it is our opinion that his execution would violate the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Resolution 1989/64 of 24 May 1989 on the implementation of the safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty. As you know, this resolution recommends that United Nations Member States eliminate the death penalty for persons suffering from mental retardation or extremely limited mental competence, whether at the stage of sentence or execution. It would also be contrary to Resolution 2000/65 adopted at the last session of the United Nations' Commission on Human Rights, which specifically urges all States that still maintain the death penalty *"not to impose the death penalty on a person suffering from any form of mental disorder or to execute any such person"*.

The European Union respectfully urges you to commute Mr. Satterwhite's sentence to any other penalty compatible with international law.

Sincerely,

Bo Eriksson, Charge d'Affaires, a.i. of Sweden to the US



Jean Richardson,
Charge d'Affaires, a.i.

Delegation of the European Commission

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