



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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August 31, 2012

Mr. Christoph Strasser
Member of Parliament
Platz der Republik 1
11011 Berlin
Germany

In Re: Jens Soering
No. 1161655

Dear Mr. Strasser:

Thank you for your letter to me, received August 28, 2012, concerning Jens Soering. You asked that the Parole Board release Mr. Soering so that he could return to Germany.

As you are aware, in March of 1985, Mr. Soering brutally murdered his girlfriend's parents in their home, stabbing each repeatedly and slashing their throats. The murders had been planned for several weeks. Following the crimes, Mr. Soering and his girlfriend dropped out of the University of Virginia and fled to Europe, finally being captured in England as a result of passing bad checks. The two were subsequently returned to Virginia after prosecutors agreed to forego the death penalty. Mr. Soering was convicted in September, 1990, and sentenced to two consecutive life terms.

You are correct in your understanding that Mr. Soering has been a compliant inmate and taken advantage of a number of programs. We expect that of all inmates.

In reviewing any offender for parole, the Board considers not only the offender's conduct and treatment while in prison, but also the nature and circumstances of the crime.

Mr. Christoph Strasser
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While the risk to public safety is of paramount importance, a low risk to re-offend and the offender's efforts at rehabilitation are off times offset by the serious nature of the crime and the sentence imposed. Simply stated, that balance has not yet tipped in Mr. Soering's favor.

We appreciate your having written us.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William W. Muse". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

William W. Muse
Chairman

WWM:jaw