

TOP SECRET

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It was proposed to extend the amnesty to all inmates having been sentenced on or before May 29th, 1953, to imprisonment for six months or more. Subject to the normal application of good conduct principles, it was proposed that 30 days amnesty be granted for each year of sentence. Amnesty time so granted would be over and above any good conduct credits which might have been accumulated by inmates. It was not proposed to extend the amnesty to prisoners serving life or indeterminate sentences nor to convicted persons who were at large on bail pending the hearing of appeals.

If the proposals were approved, the amnesty would be declared by proclamation.

12. In the course of the discussion, it was pointed out:

(a) that, although an amnesty on the basis suggested by the Minister of Justice would likely have a salutary effect on inmates of Federal penitentiaries, it should be ascertained that no ill effects would result in so far as inmates of provincial penal institutions were concerned; and,

(b) that such an amnesty would result in persons sentenced on security grounds being released sooner than otherwise would be the case.

13. The Cabinet, after discussion, agreed that the necessary steps be taken to extend an amnesty, on the occasion of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth, to inmates of Federal and provincial penal institutions on the basis recommended by the Minister of Justice, provided it was ascertained that such an amnesty would not have any undesirable results in so far as the inmates of provincial penal institutions were concerned.

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Secretary to the Cabinet

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