



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

NO. 20

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 1958

THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THE NINE ALLIED GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED HAVE AGREED TO REDUCE THE SENTENCES OF JAPANESE MAJOR WAR CRIMINALS SENTENCED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST TO THE TIME ALREADY SERVED.

2. THE RIGHT TO GRANT CLEMENCY TO JAPANESE MAJOR WAR CRIMINALS IS VESTED IN THE GOVERNMENTS WHICH BOTH RATIFIED THE SAN FRANCISCO PEACE TREATY OF 1951 AND PARTICIPATED IN THE WORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST. THE NINE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED ARE THOSE OF AUSTRALIA, CANADA, FRANCE, THE NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, PAKISTAN, THE PHILIPPINES, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES.

3. THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST SENTENCED SOME OF THE MAJOR WAR CRIMINALS TO DEATH AND HANDED DOWN SENTENCES UP TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT TO THE OTHERS WHO WERE FOUND GUILTY. THERE ARE NOW ONLY TEN SURVIVING JAPANESE MAJOR WAR CRIMINALS AND ALL OF THESE HAD ALREADY BEEN RELEASED ON PAROLE BY DECISION OF THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED. THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST WAS CREATED UNDER AN ORDER OF THE SUPREME COMMANDER IN THE PACIFIC (GENERAL DOUGLAS MACARTHUR) IN 1946. THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL WAS CONCERNED ONLY WITH WAR CRIMINALS WHOSE CRIMES WERE OF A GENERAL NATURE. CRIMES AGAINST INDIVIDUALS WERE TRIED BY MILITARY COURTS CREATED BY THE INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED.