

August 8, 1942

[Execution of Sentences of 8 Nazi Saboteurs]

FDR Speech File

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The White House announced that:

The President has completed his review of the findings and sentences of the Military Commission appointed by him on July 2, 1942 which tried the eight Nazi saboteurs.

The President approved the judgment of the Military Commission that all of the prisoners were guilty and that they be given the death sentence by electrocution. However, on the unanimous recommendation of the commission concurred in by the Attorney General and the Judge Advocate General of the Army, he has commuted the sentence of two of the prisoners because of their assistance to the Government of the United States in the apprehension and conviction of the others. The commutation was to confinement at hard labor for life ~~in the~~ ^{in the case of Bergin} ~~case of one of the prisoners.~~ ^{in the case of each of the} ~~other prisoners' sentence~~ was commuted to confinement at hard labor for thirty years.

The sentences ~~will~~ ^{will} ~~be~~ ^{of about 1 day.} carried out. Six of the prisoners have been electrocuted. The other two have been confined to prison.

The records in all eight cases will be sealed until the end of the war.