

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 9, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

The President was shocked to learn that Angolan President Neto has refused to commute the death sentence of Daniel Gearhart for alleged mercenary activity in Angola. The death sentence is unjustified by the facts presented at Mr. Gearhart's trial and unwarranted by international law. We will continue to use every available means in urging President Neto to reconsider his decision and to commute Mr. Gearhart's sentence as an act of justice and humanity.

The President hopes that President Neto would reconsider in a humanitarian spirit the death sentences of the others which were reconfirmed today.

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