

No. 1484

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PLAIN

May 19, 1945

AMLEGATION,

BERN

1857, Nineteenth

AMERICAN INTERESTS - JAPAN

Please request Swiss Legation to transmit following textually to Japanese Government:

QUOTE The United States Government charges the Japanese Government with the wanton murder of George J. Louis at the Los Banos Internment Camp, Philippine Islands, on January 28, 1945.

Mr. Louis, having left the camp to purchase food was shot, but not (repeat not) fatally, at 6:55 a.m. on January 28 as he was returning to camp. An appeal by internees to remove Mr. Louis to the Camp Hospital was denied by the Japanese authorities. At 7:10 a.m., three internees were summoned to the office of Major Iwanska, the Camp Commandant, and informed by him that Mr. Louis' execution must be completed, since he had ordered that the guards shoot SUBQUOTE until they kill END SUBQUOTE any person violating the camp boundaries.

A Committee of internees interceded with the Camp Commandant to stay the execution of Mr. Louis but the Commandant was adamant. Mr. Louis, still alive, was carried by guards on an improvised stretcher to a clump of bamboo outside the camp grounds and shot through the head.

The United States Government most vigorously protests the arbitrary action of Major Iwanska in carrying out the execution of Mr. Louis as being in direct violation of Articles 47, 50, 51, 52 and 60 through 67 of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention and a repudiation of the humanitarian standards which the Japanese Government has professed it is maintaining in its treatment of American nationals in its custody.

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In the early dawn it might be conceivable that the guard could not discern that Mr. Louis was returning to the camp and that the guard fired the first shot believing he was preventing a possible escape. There is no justification, however, for the summary and cold-blooded execution of Mr. Louis an hour and a half later.

The United States Government demands that Major Iwanska be brought to full account for this crime and expects that the Japanese Government will notify it of the punishment inflicted upon him. UNQUOTE

GREW
(Acting)