

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

**AI Index: AMR 51/02/92**

**Distr: UA/SC**

**3 January 1992**

**Further information on UA 340/90 (AMR 51/34/90, 22 August 1990 and follow-ups AMR 51/40 90 25, September 1990 and AMR 51/41/90, 13 November 1990) - Death Penalty**

**USA (Wyoming):**

**Mark HOPKINSON**

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Mark Hopkinson is scheduled to be executed by lethal injection in Wyoming on 22 January 1992. If carried out, this will be the first execution in Wyoming for 26 years.

Mark Hopkinson, white, aged 40, was sentenced to death in September 1979. He was convicted of ordering the death of Jeffrey Green. Mr Green was killed two days before he was to testify before a Grand Jury investigating a house bombing which had resulted in the deaths of a lawyer, Vince Vehar and two members of his family. Hopkinson was charged with all four murders; he was convicted and received life sentences for ordering the murders of the Vehar family. He was sentenced to death for ordering the murder of Jeffrey Green.

At the time of Green's death Hopkinson was serving a prison sentence in California. Green's actual killer has not to date been arrested. Hopkinson's lawyers have argued that there is insufficient proof of Hopkinson's involvement in the crime, and that the death penalty is wholly inappropriate in a case such as this.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

As of 23 August 1991, there were two prisoners under sentence of death in Wyoming. The last execution in the state was that of Andrew Pixley in December 1965.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/faxes/telephone calls/express and airmail letters:**

- Asking Governor Sullivan to grant clemency by commuting Mark Hopkinson's death sentence;
- Expressing concern at Wyoming's move to resume executions after 26 years and urging that the state not take this retrograde step. Cite the world trend toward abolition of the death penalty, and any relevant developments in your

own country;

- Writing letters to newspapers citing other arguments against the death penalty such as its lack of any proven deterrent effect against violent crime, and the arbitrariness of its use in practice.

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**APPEALS TO:**

The Honorable Mike Sullivan  
Governor of Wyoming  
State Capitol  
Cheyenne, WY 82002  
USA

Telgrams: Governor Sullivan, Cheyenne, WY 82002, USA

Telephone: (307) 777 7434

FAX: (307) 777 6869

**Salutation:** Dear Governor

**LETTERS TO NEWSPAPERS:**

Casper Star Tribune

PO Box 80

Casper, WY 82602

USA

Attn: Charles Levendosky

Fax: (307) 266 0501

New York Times

The New York Times Company

229 W 43 St

New York, NY 10035

USA

Attn: Letters Editor

Fax: (212) 556 4603/

(212) 556 4607

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or your section office, if sending appeals after 21 January 1992.