

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: ASA 36/05/93
Distr: UA/SC

UA 336/93 Death Penalty

22 September 1993

SINGAPORE: Yeo Poh Choon, aged 26)	all
Yeo Choon Chau, aged 22, brother of Yeo Poh Choon)	Malaysian
Lai Kim Loy, aged 26)	nationals
Tee Seh Ping, aged 25)	

Amnesty International is concerned that the four people named above may soon be executed. In July 1993, Choon Chau, Lai Kim Loy, and Tee Seh Ping were sentenced to death for drug trafficking by the Singapore High Court. They were arrested on 13 May 1991 for reportedly trying to sell about 200 grams of heroin to an undercover agent of the Central Narcotics Bureau. The Court of Criminal Appeal dismissed their appeals against conviction on Monday 13 September 1993.

In the original trial Yeo Poh Choon was acquitted as the judge found that there was no evidence linking him to the heroin. However, at the Court of Criminal Appeal, the Deputy Public Prosecutor argued that there is no requirement in law that every conspirator must personally check and confirm the subject matter of a deal. The Court of Criminal Appeal quashed Yeo Poh Choon's acquittal and sentenced him to death for conspiracy to traffic drugs.

Their only hope for clemency now lies with President Ong Teng Cheong who has the power to commute these sentences.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express and airmail letters either in English or in your own language:

- expressing concern at the imposition of the death penalty on Yeo Poh Choon, Yeo Choon Chau, Lai Kim Loy and Tee Seh Ping, and urging that their sentences be commuted;
- stating Amnesty International's unconditional opposition to the death penalty, and urging that all existing and pending death sentences be commuted and that no more be imposed.

APPEALS TO:

- 1) The President:

His Excellency Ong Teng Cheong (elected 29 August 1993)
Office of the President
Istana Annexe
Orchard Road
Republic of Singapore 0922
Telegrams: President Wee Kim Wee, Singapore
Salutation: Your Excellency

page 2 of UA 336/93

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

The Prime Minister:
The Honourable Goh Chok Tong
Office of the Prime Minister
Istana Annexe
Orchard Road
Republic of Singapore 0923
Faxes: + 65 734 5244

Minister of Law:
Professor Shanmugham Jayakumar
Ministry of Law
250 North Bridge Road
Raffles City Tower 21-00
Singapore 0617
Republic of Singapore
Faxes: + 65 330 5891

and to diplomatic representatives of Singapore accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 3 November 1993.