

REPUBLIK  ÖSTERREICH

DR. ALFRED GUSENBAUER
BUNDESKANZLER

The Honorable George W. BUSH
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington DC 20500
United States of America

Vienna, 22 October 2008

Mr. President,

Our respective justice departments have been seized with the matter of Mr. Sholam Weiss for almost a decade.

In 2002, the Republic of Austria granted the extradition of Mr. Weiss, trusting in assurances from the United States that Mr. Weiss would receive both a re-sentencing and a full appeal of his conviction and sentence. However, after 6 years he has received neither a re-sentencing nor a full appeal, resulting in ongoing correspondences between our governments.

One possibility to solve this issue rapidly would be a Presidential commutation of the sentence handed down to Mr. Weiss to 10 years. This would correspond to the maximum sentence had he been tried in Austria for the same crimes.

I would be most obliged if you could positively consider such a step.

An additional consideration for the commutation is that, as I have been informed, Mr. Weiss has had surgery for colon cancer and is in poor health, and is willing to accept a commutation to 10 years.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "A. [unclear]". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and a long horizontal stroke.