

EISENHOWER SPARES LIFE OF U. S. TRAITOR

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 2 (AP)—President Eisenhower has saved Tomoya (Meatball) Kawakita from death in the San Quentin Prison gas chamber.

The American-born Japanese was convicted of treason by a jury that heard testimony of sadistic brutality on American prisoners in a World War II Japanese prisoner of war camp. Kawakita, now 30 years old, served there as interpreter and foreman.

President Eisenhower acted after ten months of deliberation. He commuted the death penalty to life imprisonment and a fine of \$10,000 as in "the interests of the United States."

The clemency action followed the receipt of petitions for commutation signed by thousands of Japanese living on the West Coast and in cities throughout Japan.

Notice of the commutation was received by Edmund L. Smith, clerk of the Federal district court here, by airmail this morning.

Kawakita soon will be transferred from the Los Angeles County Jail to Alcatraz Federal Prison, authorities said.

The United States Supreme Court had upheld Kawakita's death sentence, which was pronounced by Federal Judge William C. Mathes after the defendant was convicted in 1948.

Shortly before World War II, the California-born Japanese went to Japan. He became a prison camp interpreter. After the war, he returned to the United States and was recognized by Sgt. William L. Bruce, one of his former prisoners, in a local department store.

Thirty former prisoners testified to Kawakita's brutality to Americans in the camp.