

Soering's saga started with death of Haysoms

April 3, 1985 — Derek and Nancy Haysom, a prominent couple who had retired here from Nova Scotia three years earlier, are found dead in their Boonsboro home.

October 1985 — Elizabeth Haysom and her West German boyfriend, Jens Soering, leave the University of Virginia, which they both attended on prestigious scholarships, and go abroad. The Bedford Sheriff's Department has still not made any arrests in the case. Friends said later that Haysom and Soering fled when investigators began questioning them about the slayings.

April 1986 — More than a year after the slayings, British authorities arrest Haysom and Soering on charges of bank fraud. When British police enter their names in the Interpol computer system, they find they are wanted for questioning in Bedford.

June 1986 — Bedford investigators fly to England to interview Haysom, then 22, and Soering, then 19, who are being held in a British prison. The pair confess to the murders.

June 13, 1986 — A Bedford grand jury indicts the couple. Haysom faces two counts of first-degree murder; Soering one count of capital murder and two counts of first-degree murder. Bedford officials begin the process of extraditing them from Great Britain to stand trial in Bedford.

December 1986 — Haysom and Soering plead guilty to bank fraud in a British court and are sentenced to one year in prison, most of which they have already served.

May 8, 1987 — Britain agrees to extradite Haysom, who does not contest the decision. She arrives in Bedford that night and is taken to Bedford Jail to await trial.

June 16, 1987 — A British magistrate rules that Soering should be returned to Virginia to stand trial. Soering says he will fight extradition because he wants to be tried in his native West Germany.

June 29, 1987 — Soering's British lawyers file an appeal to

block extradition. He remains in a British prison. They object to the capital charge Soering faces, which can be punished by the death penalty.

August 24, 1987 — Elizabeth Haysom pleads guilty to being an accessory to her parents' murders. She is now serving a 90-year sentence at the Virginia Correctional Center for Women in Goochland.

July 30, 1988 — Britain's House of Lords denies Soering's appeals and rules he should be sent back to Bedford.

August 5, 1988 — Soering appeals his case to the European Commission of Human Rights.

August 10, 1988 — British authorities say the Home Secretary has signed Soering's extradition warrant. U.S. marshals and Sheriff Carl H. Wells make plans to fly to London to retrieve Soering on Aug. 19.

Nov. 11, 1988 — After an initial hearing, the European commission agrees that the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France should hear Soering's appeal.

July, 1989 — The European court rules spending time on Virginia's "Death Row" would violate Soering's human rights.

August 2, 1989 — British officials agree to extradite Soering but only on the first-degree murder charges. They have the right under a 1972 extradition treaty not to extradite on capital charges.

August 4, 1989 — Soering's lawyers file another appeal with Britain's High Court.

November 10, 1989 — The High Court turns down Soering's appeal.

January 3, 1990 — Soering's attorneys say no more appeals will be filed and authorities begin making arrangements to return him to Virginia.

January 12, 1990 — Soering is in custody in Bedford Jail. He is scheduled to appear in Bedford Circuit Court Tuesday afternoon for an advisement hearing.

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