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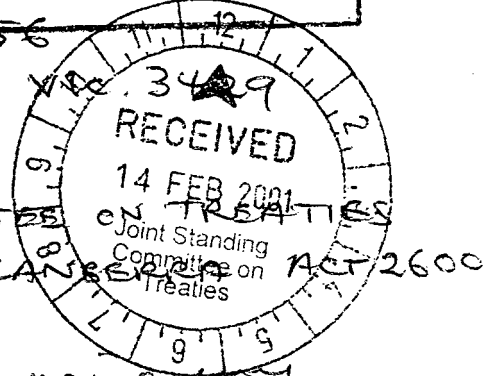
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SUNBURY VIC 3429



To THE SECRETARY.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE

PARLIAMENT HOUSE CANBERRA

Dear Sir / madam

May I please voice my concern over the 1998 statute for the International Criminal Court.

Firstly, under the statute, the International criminal court would have power to determine any cases, including those relating to crimes committed by our own citizens, which this international court deems we are not able to prosecute whereas our constitution provides for our own High Court to be the final court of Appeal here.

Secondly, the definitions are not clear and open to distortion and manipulation by various minority groups. In the definition of genocide was included the words "...causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group"

Also "persecution" refers in Article 7 to "the intentional and severe deprivation of fundamental rights contrary to international law by reason of a group" --- since the number of "fundamental rights contrary to international law" is increasing enormously, there may well be problems to contain the jurisdiction of this international court.

Ratification of this statute would endanger Australia's sovereignty and our own people's protection under our judicial system. Members of our Executive Government also do not have the constitutional right to make decisions on ratification on behalf of our nation.

May I implore the committee not to ratify this 1978 Statute for the International Criminal Court with its misleading terminology and hidden agenda,
Yours sincerely
Peter Sewerda