

JUDGES CHAMBERS,
SUPREME COURT,
ADELAIDE

28 November 2000

The Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam,

Inquiry into the International Criminal Court

I write in my capacity as President of the South Australian Branch of the International Commission of Jurists, Australian Section, and in response to the public invitation to comment on the current Inquiry by the Committee into the International Criminal Court. The ICJ is an international organisation whose principal objective is to protect and sustain the rule of law throughout the world and to promote the observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

It is imperative that Australia ratify the Statute for the International Criminal Court, and give its full support to the creation and successful operation of that Court. The rule of law throughout the world cannot be fully and effectively protected without such an institution, where international crime knows no borders.

It is proposed that the International Criminal Court should have jurisdiction in respect of many crimes, the trial of which cannot effectively be committed to the jurisdiction of national courts, and in areas which gravely affect people's fundamental human rights and freedoms. An effective means of prosecuting and bringing to justice those who commit crimes which are an assault to such basic rights and freedoms is essential.

I would urge the Australian government to ratify the Statute and to use such influence as it has to bring it into effect and to ensure that the Court operates fully and effectively.

Yours faithfully,

The Hon Justice Bleby

cc The Hon Justice Dowd AO

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