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Sent: Sunday, February 11, 2001 10:37 AM
To: jsct@aph.gov.au
Subject: Submission to the Joint Committee on Treaties

Mr. Bob Morris,
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties,
House of Representatives,
Parliament House,
Canberra ACT 2600.

Sunday, 11 February 2001.

Dear Sir,

Being of an age to have outlived Hitler's "Tausand Jahriger Reich" and the states ability to put minorities beyond the protection of the law, I view the Nuremberg Trials as having been one of the most widespread and beneficial influences for the world, though these trials were imposed by the will of the victors as much as for an ethical sense of justice.

We have seen how innocent people, accused of IRA Terrorism, have found justice because a European Court rejected an unjust and final ruling by the British system of justice and by judges of, otherwise high standing; National interest is too small a range for justice.

We have seen how McCarthyism could ride roughshod over democratic principle, in a nation of strong Constitutional protection and where a 'Fourth Estate' hid in fear for a long time.

We have seen how, in Australia a Government can suppress a treaty of 'Anti Racial Discrimination' that did not suit it, eg Native Title and the 'Ten Point Plan'.

Our political representatives are elected to Parliament more by party faction endorsement than public choice and their advancement progressed more by Executive will and Party power, than by "Representatives" choice.

Our "Fourth Estate" may be guided by political benefit, ownership influence and the diminutive sized bite.

Principle of law include that:

All should be equal before it; therefore it may protect the weaker.

It takes time to change it: therefore it is not easily adaptable to whim.

The independence of the Judiciary; therefore it has resistance to lynch or private gain.

Many of our Treaties, such as that protect against discrimination or a possible formation of an International Court, are likely to be safer for the citizen, because they must be derived from principles of their rights; they will probably help us as citizens under the limited Constitution that we have and safety in treaties of justice, may rely on their limiting of the decisions mad by a non-representative 'Executive/Party will'

Other non-rights treaties may be less safe for the citizen, while those that do give us protection may be evaded with impunity unless they require referenda endorsements.

Any Joint Standing Committee is conducive to Representative Democracy and so: In all respect I am most respectfully yours,

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