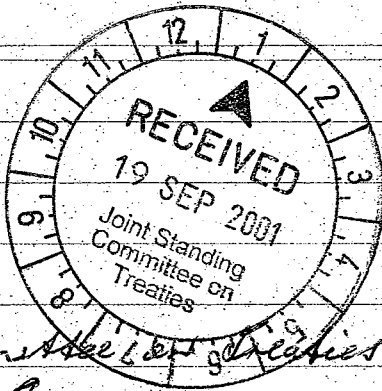


Submission No. 242



11 Glyndon Av  
Dorchester  
Melbourne  
3058.

Joint Standing Committee on Treaties  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT. 2600.

I have concern regarding the response I received from a letter to the Attorney General regarding the government ratifying the International Criminal Court statute.

For the following reasons I suggest the joint standing committee on treaties recommend that Parliament do not ratify the statute.

Our Attorney General in a speech delivered to the West Australian division of the Australian Red Cross International Law Committee said "If a crime falls under national law and is being investigated or prosecuted under that law, the I.C.C. is conclusively prevented from pursuing it" Article 17A of the I.C.C. statute says in fact "this court operates not to shield domestic law from international intrusion, but to ensure that the domestic law conforms in all respects to International Law."

2. Regarding our Constitution Article 49 gives immunity to members of Parliament and Article 80 guarantees trial by jury with the High Court the final arbiter of legislation in Australia. Under the I.C. Court statute no one charged with a crime by the I.C. Court can claim immunity or have trial by jury. This will need changes to our present constitution, and these changes will be forced upon us by an outside body.

3. Our Attorney General also says "It is false to suggest the I.C. Court will change our social policy".

The crime of genocide in the International Criminal Court includes not only killing, but also causing serious mental harm. Already in our Court's claims have been made that our Government have not done enough for our indigenous people, the aboriginal claimant argued that they had suffered extreme mental distress because of this. There are many groups of people in Australia that could argue a case of serious mental harm. Imagine what could happen if these charges came under the jurisdiction of the I.C. Court.

Our Attorney General is trying to mislead the Australian people with false and absurd claims and scare tactics.

I suggest the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties consider these remarks in relation to Article (17) A.

Why would we want to hand over our domestic system to an outside body?

Yours Sincerely

Launce Chantrelli.