



Submission No. 168

11 Carnarvon St
Hamilton, Vic. 3123
20 March 2001

Secretary
Joint Study Committee on Treaties
Dept. of House of Reps
Parliament House
Canberra, ACT 2600,

Dear Sir / Madam,

I urge the members of your committee not to ratify the creation of an International Criminal Court in their recommendations to the Australian Parliament. Such a court would threaten the sovereignty of Australia in a number of ways and reverse the very encouraging recent trend of our country's resisting arbitrary interference by overseas groups at the instance of interested local parties.

Our sovereignty is threatened by the I.C.C. because it would undermine the High Court position as the final court of appeal, under the Constitution. The concept of 'unable or unwilling' to prosecute would be a form of blackmail.

In addition, the wording of the proposal is fraught with danger, as definitions of such concepts as 'most serious crimes of international concern' could mean anything, including such inflated / heated complaints as the alleged 'genocide' of aboriginal people — which means something different in the Balkans from what it means in indigenous rhetoric in Australia.