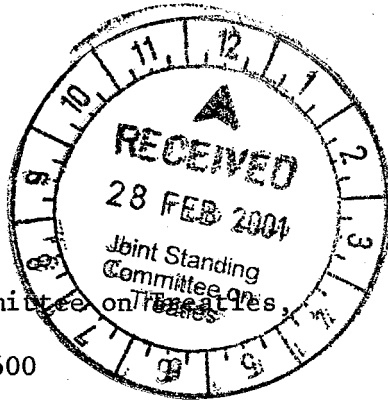


17 Greenknoll Avenue,  
ROSTREVOR, SA. 5073

24th February, 2001

The Secretary,  
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties,  
Parliament House,  
CANBERRA, ACT. 2600



Submission No. 133

Dear Sir/Madam,

1998 STATUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL  
CRIMINAL COURT

It has just been brought to my attention that your committee is considering whether or not to ratify the abovementioned treaty.

I oppose most vehemently any further relinquishment of our sovereignty to overseas interests.

The elector, who presently has the power and right to dismiss a government if not satisfied with its performance, laws etc. will be powerless should ultimate judicial responsibility pass to a foreign court. This proposed move will in fact, supersede our own High Court and determine matters of Australian law which will be binding.

My country has dispensed with the Privy Council for good and proper reasons and it is obvious the intention is to 'swap' the Privy Council for another overseas court.

Ratifying this treaty will make my country more vulnerable to further foreign intrusion and I stress we Australians must be in charge of our own laws and their ultimate determination.

I cannot conceive any Australian government absolving itself of this responsibility.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graham H. McGowan'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

GRAHAM H. MCGOWAN