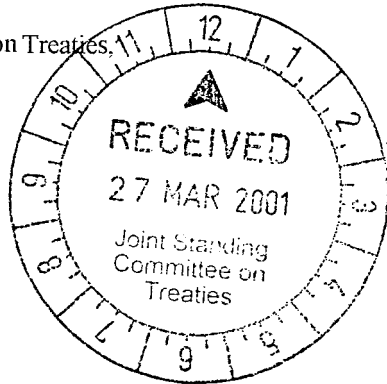


The Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties,
House of Representatives,
Canberra
A.C.T. 2600.



4/13 Volum Street.
Manifold Heights.
Victoria 3218.
March 24th 2001

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Submission No. 180

With such atrocities being committed in the world as in Yugoslavia and East Timor the establishment of an International Criminal Court is an attractive one to many countries including Australia, however in our own case whether it is in Australia's national interest to ratify this treaty is questionable. The ICC will have power to determine any cases, including those relating to crimes committed in Australia by Australians. The High Court of Australia has always been the final court of appeal. If Australian judges determine there is no case to answer it would seem the ICC could intervene and conduct its own hearing and reach its own judgment. Another matter of concern is the loose definitions of the most 'serious crimes of international concern'. Australia may not agree with the ICC decision in regards too a particular crime and it would be of further grave concern if for example Australians were involved.

It would seem the ICC Prosecutor has the power to initiate investigations independently subject only to the agreement of the Pre-Trial Chamber. This is potentially dangerous and subject to corruption.

ON these grounds alone Australia should not surrender its sovereignty by ratifying the 1998 Statute of the ICC. To do so would allow an alien body to interfere in Australia domestic affairs.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. F. McCormack".

J. F. McCormack.