

July 22, 2002

Alexandria, Virginia

Dear _____:

Thank you for contacting me regarding your views on the International Criminal Court. I appreciate your sharing your opinions with me and I value your input on this important matter.

As you may know, I sponsored both the American Servicemembers' Protection Act and Senator John Warner's amendment to attach this legislation to the 2002 Supplemental Appropriations Act for Further Recovery From and Response To Terrorist Attacks. The Warner amendment protects United States military personnel and other elected or appointed U.S. officials against criminal prosecution by an International Criminal Court to which the United States is not party. I continue to believe that the International Criminal Court (ICC) poses a threat to the sovereignty of the United States and the individual freedoms of Americans.

I oppose ratifying the Rome Treaty that establishes the Court for numerous reasons. First, the ICC would have the jurisdiction to punish individual American officials for the foreign policy and military actions of the U.S. government. Second, the rules and laws of the court do not offer the due-process rights guaranteed and protected under our Bill of Rights, thereby running contrary to the very foundation of justice upon which our nation was built. Furthermore, it is unlikely that all persons upholding the authority of the court will hold the same values as the United States, given that countries such as Iran, Iraq, Sudan and Syria have signed the Rome Treaty that establishes the court. I adamantly oppose allowing U.S. servicemen and women to be subjugated to the rulings of officials from countries with such deplorable records of justice and equality.

President Clinton signed the Rome Treaty during the final days of his presidency. Thankfully, since there has been no action by the Senate, President Bush notified United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan of our intention not to become a party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Acceding to the ICC would compromise the rights, freedoms and justice of Americans. In reality, the ICC would erect an institution that would be superior to the State and federal governments, thus holding dominion over the people of the United States. It would force our nation's systems of laws, courts and criminal justice to surrender authority and limit our government's control over the well-being of American citizens. While the U.S. has been and will continue to be a strong advocate for prosecuting war criminals, crimes against humanity and genocide, being a part of the ICC will not advance or further those efforts. Instead, it would leave U.S. citizens subject to the jurisdiction and authority of those that do not share our beliefs or values. Please know that as a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I will continue to work to protect the freedoms and rights of all Americans.

Once again, I appreciate you alerting me to this matter and please do not hesitate to contact me again about issues important to you. As Americans continue to stand united in their devotion to freedom and justice, please know that I consider it a high honor and privilege to work for you in the United States Senate.

With warm regards, I remain

Sincerely,

George Allen

GA/js