

US Department of State
Daily Press Briefing

Adam Erel, Deputy Spokesman
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Excerpt on UN-ICC Relationship Agreement:

QUESTION: Adam, yesterday up in New York, the Secretary General signed an agreement with the head of the International Criminal Court, your favorite organization, which gives the tribunal access to UN funds. Now, back when this agreement was first being looked at or when it was adopted by the General Assembly or by a grouping before then, the U.S. position was that non-state parties to the Rome Statute which created the court should not have to contribute to its upkeep.

But, on Friday, your representative said that -- he appeared to change that a little bit and said that all UN funding to the court should be reimbursable, suggesting that, in fact, you will be -- some U.S. money or some money from other non-parties to the Rome Treaty, their money would be going to the court's maintenance but it would have to be paid back.

What's going on here?

MR. ERELI: As far as I know, there's no intention by the United States to contribute resources to the International Criminal Court.

QUESTION: Not bilaterally. I mean you are the largest donor to the United Nations, your money gets -- your money is, with the exception of specific cases where you make it non-fungible, say the UNFPA, your money is commingled with everyone else's. So what's the U.S. position on --

MR. ERELI: How we're going to get money back that the UN spends on the ICC?

QUESTION: Well, is there some provision in there, in this agreement, that says that the U.S. contributions to the UN system will not go to the ICC? And if there isn't, how are you going to get money back from the ICC if -- how are you going to get the ICC, a institution which has no visible means of self-financing, how are you going to get that money back?

MR. ERELI: Let me see what -- let me check and see what kind of firewalls we've instituted to ensure that U.S. funds don't make their way to the ICC.

QUESTION: Okay, and then one other on the same subject. Last week, you guys very quietly signed another Article 98 agreement with -- maybe not quietly, but with Papua New Guinea. What does this bring the total to now?

MR. ERELI: I'd refer you to the website, which keeps --

QUESTION: The website hasn't been updated in about three months. I just looked.

MR. ERELI: You did? All right, let me see if I can get you the latest numbers. I'm surprised that it's not updated because they're pretty good about that.