MEDIA ADVISORY
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Senate Agrees Cooperation with International Criminal Court Necessary

WASHINGTON, June 5 -- Today the US Senate passed a watered-down version of the American Servicemembers' Protection Act that included language expressly permitting US cooperation with the International Criminal Court (ICC). The act was passed as an amendment to the Supplemental Appropriations bill on the Senate floor. The amendment's sponsor, Senator John Warner (R-VA), made clear in his comments that the Act was carefully drafted to permit cooperation with the ICC. The Senate also included by unanimous consent a provision offered by Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CT) that explicitly permits the United States to render assistance to international efforts to bring to justice Saddam Hussein, Osama bin Laden, Slobodan Milosovic and other foreign nationals accused of genocide, war crimes or crimes against humanity.

"The version of the American Servicemembers' Protection Act that passed today expressly allows cooperation with the Court, but is surrounded by empty rhetoric that does nothing but throw salt in the open wounds of our closest allies in the war on terror," said Heather B. Hamilton, Director of Programs of the World Federalist Association.

Many of America's allies in the war on terror have objected to the American Servicemembers' Protection Act. The legislation is known in Europe and around the world as "The Hague Invasion Act," as it gives the President expansive authority to use force against the Netherlands, future home of the ICC. Broad waivers in the bill allow the President to waive sections of the bill that prohibit military assistance to countries that ratify the ICC treaty and restrict US participation in UN peacekeeping. The amendment passed 75-19 after the inclusion of the Dodd provision.

The World Federalist Association coordinates the Washington Working Group on the International Criminal Court, composed of thirty American non-governmental organizations committed to US ratification of the ICC. For more information, visit http://www.wfa.org/wicc or http://www.USAforICC.org.
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