

**HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY**  
OF RHODE ISLAND  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Wednesday, April 10, 2002

As my colleagues are aware, since coming to Congress I have been highly supportive of an I.C.C., and I strongly believe in its principal, that human rights abusers who commit crimes against humanity or genocide should be brought to justice... A permanent international criminal court which can bring future perpetrators of war crimes to full and complete justice is in our national interests....I feel strongly that if we are not to ratify the Rome Treaty at this time, at a minimum, adopt a policy of constructive engagement with the Court. We must be engaged to ensure that we use our Security Council referral power in a responsible manner to both deter war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide to ensure that those who commit such crimes are brought to justice. As leaders of the free world, we must recognize that the only way to achieve a court that we can live with, is to stay engaged in the continuing negotiations over the scope, purpose, and construction of it.