

March 15, 2002

Via Regular Mail, Facsimile and E-Mail

Senator Arlen Specter
United States Congress
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Specter:

As the Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association, I am Writing to you on behalf of the 12,500+ members of our Bar. In April of 1998, the Bar's Board of Governors passed a resolution in support of the formation of a permanent International Criminal Court (ICC), which subsequently was adopted on July 17, 1998 by the Rome Conference for an ICC. I am enclosing a copy of the resolution. That resolution recommended a permanent International Criminal Court be established by multilateral treaty in order to prosecute and punish those individuals who commit the most serious crimes under accepted international law. It is my understanding that our Bar was one of three US city bars to pass such a resolution. In and since Rome, our Bar has been actively involved in and represented at the follow-up PrepComs as a member of the Coalition for an International Criminal Court (CICC).

The United States had significant input into the contents of the Rome Statute. We feel that it is in the national interest of the US to continue its active engagement in helping to develop and shape this court. As you know, the ICC will come into being within the next few months with only five more ratifications to meet the needed 60.

We understand that you seem to have some reservations about ratifying the ICC Treaty, yet we also know that you have and continue to be in the forefront of promoting international justice and the rule of law, particularly for the heinous crimes covered by this Treaty.

As a result, on behalf of the Philadelphia Bar Association, my colleagues and I request that you consider being a co-sponsor of the "Dodd Bill", the "American Citizens Protection Act" (currently S. 1296). Short of ratification, doing so will give this Bill the strongest of bipartisan support needed to keep the US as an active participant in the ICC deliberations. This will enhance US interests among its allies, who, like the European Union and other like-minded countries, have solicited continued US involvement.

We hope you will consider our request. I would be happy to discuss this matter further with you.

Best wishes,

ALLAN H. GORDON

AHG:moe
Enclosure