

February 17, 2005

Full Senate Appropriations Committee Hearing on FY 2005 Emergency Supplemental

Chaired by US Senator Thad Cochran, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice as witness

<http://appropriations.senate.gov/releases/record.cfm?id=232251>

LEAHY: Well, no, we don't. And we should discuss this further. Let me ask you about one question, because time is limited.

And I will submit a number of questions, Mr. Chairman, for the record.

But you've asked for authority to spend money on an ad hoc tribunal for Sudan. I sent you a letter on this a couple of weeks -- you've been traveling. You haven't had a chance to respond. But here's my understanding.

Under current law, the U.S. is prohibited from spending any money on the **International Criminal Court**, which is perfectly capable of handling these cases. Instead, you're asking to set up a new tribunal which will cost \$530 million over the next five years. Your ambassador-at-large for war crimes set up ad hoc tribunals in Rwanda. The professionalism of some of the personnel has been called into question, lack efficiencies, too slow, and all.

Now, we've got a superb setup already other than the fact -- you know, the Sudanese victims of violence haven't even been asked what they'd like. They would tell you if you ask them. If you ask a victim of this crime, they'll say let's go to the court that's already set up.

Other than trying to make some geopolitical statement of undermining a court that's working, why in heaven's name not give these victims a chance to have cases heard against those who committed basically genocide against them -- in a court that's up and running?

RICE: Well, we believe very strongly in the need for accountability of those who committed these crimes. We do not believe that countries that are not party to the **ICC** should be held to an unaccountable potentially politically-motivated prosecution. That's the reason we are not a part of the...

LEAHY: Yes, but we're not doing anything.

COCHRAN: The senator's time has expired.

LEAHY: I'll follow up later. And please answer my letter on that.

RICE: I certainly will, Senator.