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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 1, 2002

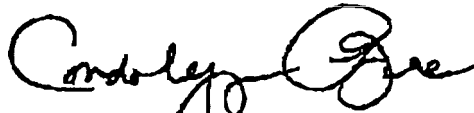
Dear Mr. Hirshon

Thank you for your letter to the President regarding the Rome Statute that establishes the International Criminal Court (ICC). The United States is a forceful advocate for the principle of accountability for war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity. We support justice but cannot support the creation of a court which we believe does not advance the cause of justice. On May 6, 2002, the United States notified the United Nations of its intention not to ratify the Rome Statute that establishes the ICC.

We are opposed to the Rome Statute because it establishes a court that threatens principles of national sovereignty and national responsibility, will be susceptible to political pressures and unaccountable to appropriate authorities, and creates potential conflict with the UN Charter. In addition, the Rome Statute proposes to claim jurisdiction over nationals of all states, whether they have become parties to the treaty or not.

For your reference, I enclose a copy of the May 6, 2002 remarks of Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Marc Grossman at the Center for Strategic and international studies in Washington, D.C. Ambassador Grossman gives a detailed explanation of the Administration's opposition to the ICC and our support for alternative mechanisms to ensure that those who commit war crimes are brought to justice.

Sincerely,



Condoleezza Rice
Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs

Mr. Robert E. Hirshon,
President
American Bar Association
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