

Dear Mr. President:

I understand that a government policy review on the International Criminal Court (ICC) may soon make recommendations to you. The ICC will come into existence in the next few months and U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan is expected to inaugurate it formally in September. I believe it is important that in deciding on your administration's ultimate policy toward the new court, officials recognize the many safeguards in the ICC treaty regime that protect American interests and the court's future capacity to prosecute mass murderers like the late Pol Pot and Saddam Hussein.

The large numbers of ratifications of the ICC treaty show that the members of the court's governing body will be overwhelmingly our allies and friends in Europe, Latin America, and Africa. Rogue states have not ratified the ICC treaty because that would give the court automatic jurisdiction over atrocities committed on their own territory or by their nationals. We should lead those governments that are joining the court and thus advance American interests.

America has always led in the cause of international justice, and is doing so today in the war against terrorism. Our partners in the anti-terrorism coalition are the strongest supporters of the ICC. Please reaffirm this nation's commitment to the rule of law and our proud heritage of military justice by standing shoulder-to-shoulder with democratic and free nations as the ICC is established and opportunities for cooperation with it arise.

Sincerely,

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Please copy your letters to the Secretaries of State and Defense and to the National Security Adviser as they will be advising the President on this issue. Please write immediately.

Addresses.....

President George W. Bush  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Honorable Colin Powell  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
Washington, DC 20520

Dr. Condoleezza Rice  
Assistant to the President, National Security Affairs

The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Honorable Donald Rumsfeld  
Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1000