



United States Department of State

Office of War Crimes Issues

Washington, D.C. 20520

April 28, 2008

Bernard F. Reilly  
Center for Research Libraries  
6050 South Kenwood Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60637-2804

Dear Mr. Reilly:

Thank you for your letter of January 30, 2008. I too, am concerned with regards to the records of the International Criminal Tribunals. Our office is working hard to promote the legacy of these courts and to make sure that their business is concluded in a careful and responsible manner. It is of great importance that appropriate facilities and protocols be created to ensure the retention and protection of these court records.

As both the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) were established under Chapter VII authority by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), the UNSC will ultimately make a decision on the type of facilities, location, and methods for retaining these records. The UNSC will make these decisions based on the recommendations of the UNSC Working Group on International Tribunals. The U.S. Mission to the United Nations, in consultation with my office, is engaged in this working group's efforts to address the issue of the archives of these courts and will continue to promote an appropriate solution to their final disposition.

After the UNSC addresses this issue for the ICTY and the ICTR, then the international community will have a guidepost for addressing the issue in other courts (*i.e.*, Special Court for Sierra Leone, Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, Special Tribunal for Lebanon).

Once again, I wish to emphasize that our office shares many of the concerns of your organization—it is essential that an appropriate plan be created for retaining and protecting the archives of these International Criminal Tribunals.

Thank you again for expressing your concerns. I invite you to remain in contact with my staff on this subject or other relevant issues. Feel free to contact my special assistant, Mathew Lavine, at (202)647-9670 or [LavineMD@state.gov](mailto:LavineMD@state.gov).

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clint Williamson".

Clint Williamson  
U.S. Ambassador at Large for War Crimes