

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As the Senate is about to return from recess, the Administration is still in the process of reviewing pending treaties in order to determine their placement on the treaty priority list requested by then-Chairman Helms in his letter of March 12, 2001 and by you in your follow-up letter of June 29, 2001. We will forward you the list once our review is complete.

In the meantime, there are two treaties relating to child protection that urgently need Senate approval, and we did not want to lose any time in identifying them to you so that the Senate could move forward in scheduling hearings on these important treaties. These are:

- The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. Done at New York May 25, 2000 (Treaty Doc. 106-37); and
- The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. Done at New York May 25, 2000 (Treaty Doc. 106-37).

Although styled as protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, these two agreements are independent treaties and neither require nor have the effect of

The Honorable  
Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Chairman,  
Committee on Foreign Relations,  
United States Senate.

ratification of the Convention itself, nor imply any support for it. As you know, there is a United Nations General Assembly special session on children in New York in mid-September, and it would send a strong message about the importance the U.S. assigns to these protocols - and the issues of child soldiers and other abuses of children - if hearings have been held before this date.

We look forward to working with you on these and future treaty matters. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Paul V. Kelly  
Assistant Secretary  
Legislative Affairs