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June 15, 1993

Honorable Warren Christopher
Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of the American Bar Association, and on the eve of the United Nation's Conference on Human Rights, I write to urge the Administration to take all steps possible at the conference to increase international compliance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other human rights principles for which the concept of the United Nations stands.

The post-Cold War era provides an unprecedented opportunity to eliminate torture, genocide, and religious and ethnic repression and to establish the rule of law as the norm throughout the world. Given this opportunity we cannot allow basic principles of humane conduct toward all people to become subservient to political differences. Yet, many countries already have retreated on their earlier commitments to human rights enforcement. The U.N. Conference is in urgent need of vigorous leadership to protect the gains that have been achieved since the end of World War II and the adoption in 1948 of the Universal Declaration by the U.N.'s member nations. It is imperative that the U.S. government act now to provide that leadership.

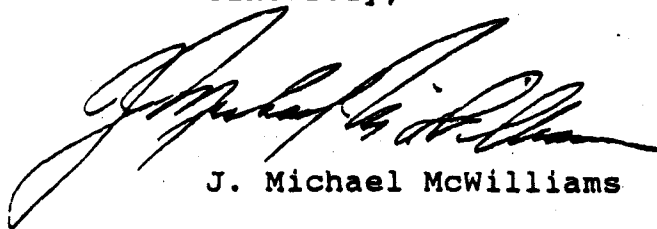
An essential first step for the Administration is to demonstrate the high priority it places on human rights enforcement by moving immediately to gain Senate ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; the Convention on the Rights of the Child; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the American Convention on Human Rights. The Administration also should press for quick passage of pending legislation to implement the Torture Convention, ratified a few years ago, and it should help ensure enforcement of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ratified in 1992.

Justice for
all
American Bar Association

Honorable Warren Christopher
June 15, 1993
Page Two

The American Bar Association has adopted as one of its nine goals the establishment of the rule of law throughout the world. We pledge the support of this Association to you as you move forward to ensure that human rights, the rule of law, and democratic principles will prevail around the globe. I will be arriving at the Conference in Vienna on June 21 and offer my assistance in pursuing these goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Michael McWilliams", written in a cursive style.

J. Michael McWilliams