

Zu HAW-ally - 56/02

Der Generalbundesanwalt
beim BGH-BZR-Bonn
Eing. 23. JUN 2003
.....Amt.....Hefte.....Bände



The Secretary General

Mr Hans-Michael Veith
Head of Section
Der Generalbundesanwalt beim Bundes-
gerichtshof
Bundeszentralstelle für Auslandsadoption
Adenauerallee 99-103
53113 BONN
Federal Republic of Germany

1.) Herrn R.D. Westeel 23.6.03
Herrn Pi-AG Dr. Klapote
Frau Pi-LG Brandenburg
m.d. B.m.K.
2.) Wv.
Ch 23/6

THE HAGUE, 17 June 2003

No 22709(03)VL/SA/WZ/LJM

Dear Mr Veith,

On 29 May this year, we commemorated the fact that it was ten years ago when the *Hague Convention of 29 May 1993 on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption* was first signed at the Peace Palace at The Hague, following its unanimous approval by 66 States.

Following the most recent ratification by India, the Convention now has 53 Contracting States, both countries of origin of children and receiving States, in approximately equal numbers. There is no question that the Convention has already contributed to establishing sound intercountry adoption practices worldwide.

The role of Central Authorities – your role – is critical to the operation of the Convention. The importance of this role cannot be overstated: it is no easy matter to discharge the many duties which the Convention imposes upon the Central Authorities, including the task of maintaining fruitful co-operation with counterparts all over the world. Within the limits of its resources, the Permanent Bureau does what it can to assist Central Authorities, and will continue to do so, in close co-operation with other institutions such as the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and UNICEF, and non-governmental organisations such as the International Social Service International Resource Center for the Protection of Children in Adoption.

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I am writing this letter in particular to highlight the invaluable supportive work of the International Resource Center for the Protection of Children in Adoption (ISS/IRC). ISS/IRC has over the years built for itself an unrivalled reputation as a Center which provides unique services to a selective network of beneficiaries, including all of the Central Authorities designated under the *Hague Convention of 29 May 1993 on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption*. As you know, these services include: providing information and documentation on the laws, policies and procedures of many countries in relation to protection of children, children's rights, and adoption; analysis of laws and education tools, as well as professional training and support, in particular towards establishing policies aiming at sound adoption practices, better protection of children at risk of being deprived of their family of origin, preventing abandonment, combating institutionalisation of children, etc.

The experience gathered by ISS/IRC from its work in support of the 1993 Convention is unique, and will also be of great significance to the Special Commission on the practical operation of the 1993 Convention which we hope, if funds permit, to organise by the end of 2004.

The Center is highly committed, its services of high quality, and it deserves our support. For its resources, ISS/IRC depends entirely upon voluntary contributions from Central Authorities. ISS/IRC does not receive contributions from countries of origin. Your support is therefore critical, and it is also a mark of solidarity to the countries of origin.

ISS/IRC will shortly approach you with a request to support its activities. I strongly recommend, not only that you consider this request favourably, but also that you will decide to make the necessary arrangements so that ISS/IRC may count on an annual generous contribution on your part. Through the support to ISS/IRC, you will be supporting countless children and their families as well as sound adoption practices.

Yours sincerely,

Note: This letter is being addressed to Central Authorities designated (copy to National Organs), or to be designated following ratification in the future, under Article 6 of the *Hague Convention of 29 May 1993 on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption*, of:

Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium (Kind en Gezin and Accueil), Canada (Ministry of Human Resources Development) + Central Authorities for all provinces and territories, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain (Ministerio de Trabajo y Asuntos Sociales) + Central Authorities for all autonomous communities, Sweden, Switzerland (Office fédéral de la Justice and CA for Tessin), United Kingdom.