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**§ 261. Policy as to settlement of disputes and disarmament**

It is declared to be the policy of the United States to adjust and settle its international disputes through mediation or arbitration, to the end that war may be honorably avoided. It looks with apprehension and disfavor upon a general increase of armament throughout the world, but it realizes that no single nation can disarm, and that without a common agreement upon the subject every considerable power must maintain a relative standing in military strength.

(Aug. 29, 1916, ch. 417, 39 Stat. 618.)

SHORT TITLE OF 2010 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 111-158, §1, Apr. 26, 2010, 124 Stat. 1121, provided that: “This Act [enacting section 262p-12 of this

title] may be cited as the ‘Haiti Debt Relief and Earthquake Recovery Act of 2010’.”

SHORT TITLE OF 1977 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 95-118, §1, as added by Pub. L. 97-35, title XIII, §1361(a), Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 745, provided that: “This Act [enacting sections 262c, 262d, 262e to 262g-3, 282i, 284n, 285s, 285t, 286e-1f, and 290g-10 of this title, repealing sections 283y, 284m, and 290g-9 of this title, and enacting provisions set out as notes under 262c and 282i of this title] may be cited as the ‘International Financial Institutions Act’.”

**§ 262. President’s participation in international congresses restricted**

The Executive shall not extend or accept any invitation to participate in any international congress, conference, or like event, without first having specific authority of law to do so.

(Mar. 4, 1913, ch. 149, 37 Stat. 913.)

**§ 262-1. Restriction relating to United States accession to any new international criminal tribunal**

**(a) Prohibition**

The United States shall not become a party to any new international criminal tribunal, nor give legal effect to the jurisdiction of such a tribunal over any matter described in subsection (b) of this section, except pursuant to—

- (1) a treaty made under Article II, section 2, clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States on or after October 21, 1998; or
- (2) any statute enacted by Congress on or after October 21, 1998.

**(b) Jurisdiction described**

The jurisdiction described in this section is jurisdiction over—

- (1) persons found, property located, or acts or omissions committed, within the territory of the United States; or
- (2) nationals of the United States, wherever found.

**(c) Statutory construction**

Nothing in this section precludes sharing information, expertise, or other forms of assistance with such tribunal.

**(d) “New international criminal tribunal” defined**

The term “new international criminal tribunal” means any permanent international criminal tribunal established on or after October 21, 1998, and does not include—

- (1) the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia, as established by United Nations Security Council Resolution 827 of May 25, 1993; or
- (2) the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighboring States, as established by United Nations Security Council Resolution 955 of November 8, 1994.