



**International Covenant  
on Civil and  
Political Rights**

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***Reservations, declarations, notifications and objections relating to the  
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional  
Protocols thereto : . 24/08/1994.  
CCPR/C/2/Rev.4. (Basic Reference Document)***

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

[Original: English]

Upon ratification

Reservations

"(1) That article 20 does not authorize or require legislation or other action by the United States that would restrict the right of free speech and association protected by the Constitution and laws of the United States.

"(2) That the United States reserves the right, subject to its constitutional constraints, to impose capital punishment on any person (other than a pregnant woman) duly convicted under existing or future laws permitting the imposition of capital punishment, including such punishment for crimes committed by persons below 18 years of age.

"(3) That the United States considers itself bound by article 7 to the extent that 'cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment' means the cruel and unusual treatment or punishment prohibited by the fifth, eighth, and/or fourteenth amendments to the Constitution of the United States.

"(4) That because United States law generally applies to an offender the penalty in force at the time the offence was committed, the United States does not adhere to the third clause of paragraph 1 of article 15.

"(5) That the policy and practice of the United States are generally in compliance with and supportive of the Covenant's provisions regarding treatment of juveniles in the criminal justice system. Nevertheless, the United States reserves the right, in exceptional circumstances, to treat juveniles as adults, notwithstanding paragraphs 2 (b) and 3 of article 10 and paragraph 4 of article

14. The United States further reserves to these provisions with respect to States with respect to individuals who volunteer for military service prior to age 18.

## ITALY

[Original: English]

[5 October 1993]

"The Government of Italy, ..., objects to the reservation to article 6, paragraph 5, which the United States of America included in its instrument of ratification.

In the opinion of Italy reservations to the provisions contained in article 6 are not permitted, as specified in article 4, paragraph 2, of the Covenant.

Therefore this reservation is null and void since it is incompatible with the object and the purpose of article 6 of the Covenant.

Furthermore in the interpretation of the Government of Italy, the reservation to article 7 of the Covenant does not affect obligations assumed by States that are parties to the Covenant on the basis of article 2 of the same Covenant.

These objections do not constitute an obstacle to the entry into force of the Covenant between Italy and the United States."