



Southern Illinois  
University at Carbondale  
Carbondale, Illinois 62901

Center for the Study of Crime, Delinquency, and Corrections  
618-453-5701

February 18, 1981

Dr. Joseph Scott  
American Society of Criminology  
1314 Kinnear Road  
Columbus, OH 43212

Dear Joe:

Enclosed is the formal statement petitioning the Board of Directors for establishment of the Division on International Criminology. Attached are the signed statements I have received as of my drafting of this letter. Since the exact size of the active ACS membership is not known to me, I am not certain that the number of petitioners constitutes three percent of the membership. I will forward the additional signed statements as they reach me before the March 4 meeting of the Board. By sending those statements I do have, my intention is to give your staff sufficient time to assure that the statements qualify.

I am operating under some handicap because on February 1 I was subjected to emergency surgery on both eyes for detached retina. Without the operation--to my complete surprise--I would have been permanently blind in my right eye in a few days. Now I see double and otherwise will be severely handicapped for several weeks until my right eye overcomes swelling and other traumatic effects.

My hope is that the three percent is met before March 4. If not, I trust that additional responses will meet the requirement. Therefore, I ask that your office retain this correspondence until the complete number of statements are made available to me and, then, to your office.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Elmer'.

Elmer H. Johnson, Ph.D.  
Professor of Sociology  
and Criminal Justice

EHJ/sm

Enclosures

Received at ASC Office 2/25/81 - cc: ASC Executive Board

PETITION FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF DIVISION ON  
INTERNATIONAL CRIMINOLOGY

TO: Executive Board  
American Society of Criminology  
1314 Kinnear Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43212

FROM: Elmer H. Johnson, Chair (1980-1981)  
Committee on International Criminology

1. The proposed name for a new division within the American Society of Criminology is "Division on International Criminology: A Division of the American Society of Criminology."
2. For the following reasons, this proposal constitutes "an active and functionally unitary interest of a group of members":
  - (a) The establishment by the American Society of Criminology of the Committee on International Criminology attests to the long-term recognition of the Society of its active interest and of profound appreciation of the importance of our collegueship and common purposes with criminologists in other parts of the world.
  - (b) There are a significant number of ASC members who have demonstrated over the years their active interest in this facet of criminological activities through their participation in the affairs of the Committee on International Criminology.
  - (c) The programs of ASC Annual Meetings perennially have given remarkable provision for papers and other forms of presentation in international criminology, as well as including criminologists from outside the United States in its membership and program participants. ASC Annual Meetings have been held outside of the United States to indicate a broad definition of the term American Society of Criminology.
  - (d) Regardless of dissimilarities among the versions of criminology found in different nations, criminologists share theoretical and practical interests. Presumably, the criminologists of one nation can gain reliable and profound understanding of the issues that concern them by exchanging experiences and findings with criminologists of other nations. The accumulation of reliable knowledge can be accelerated through fuller communication and coordinated research at the transnational level. By testing their own premises and theories in other sociocultural environments, criminologists can free themselves of the parochial thinking that mistakes notions of cultural superiority for scientific truths.
  - (e) The advantages suggested above for the American Society of Criminology and its membership can be gained more effectively with the establishment of an especially organized platform for expressing and cultivating the growing recognition of the importance of comparative criminology. Thereby, the ASC will provide another important element in qualitatively improving the viability of transnational collaboration and the reliability of comparative studies.

Executive Board

Page 2

3. As the elected Chair of the Committee on International Criminology, I speak for the petitioners and am authorized to respond in subsequent communications for my term of office ending with the Annual meeting. Thereafter, the newly elected Chair will assume this function.
4. Attached please find the statements and addresses of individuals who join in this petition as ASC members in good standing. They represent more than three percent of the ASC members in good standing.
5. After approval of this Division by the ASC Executive Board, the Division shall draw up rules of procedure within the framework of the Society's By-Laws, shall establish the nature of its officers and their method of election, and otherwise specify its governance. The relevant documents will be filed with the Executive Board. Further, the requirements of Sections 7 and 8 of the "Resolution for the Establishment of Divisions in the American Society of Criminology" will be observed.

Attachment



# THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY

1314 KINNEAR ROAD • COLUMBUS, OHIO 43212 • (614) 422-9207

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444 West 56th Street  
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The Ohio State University  
1314 Kinnear Road, Suite 212  
Columbus, OH 43212

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Charles H. McCaghy  
Department of Sociology  
Bowling Green State University  
Bowling Green, OH 43403  
Business Address:  
1314 Kinnear Road, Suite 212  
Columbus, OH 43212

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James A. Inciardi  
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University of Delaware  
Newark, DE 19711

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## PETITIONERS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF DIVISION IN ASC ON INTERNATIONAL CRIMINOLOGY

1. Dr. Freda Adler  
School of Criminal Justice  
Rutgers University  
15 Washington Street, Rm 1106  
Newark, NJ 07102
2. Dr. John C. Ball  
Psychiatry  
Temple Univ. Sch. of Medicine  
3401 N. Broad Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19140
3. Dr. Donald M. Barry  
School of Criminal Justice  
Rutgers University  
15 Washington Street  
Newark, NJ 07102
4. Dr. Israel L. Barak  
Department of Sociology  
Wayne State University  
Detroit, MI 48202
5. Dr. Alexander Bassin  
School of Criminology  
Florida State University  
Tallahassee, FL 32306
6. Dr. James A. Black  
Department of Sociology  
University of Tennessee  
Knoxville, TN 37916
7. Dr. Karen L. Blomquist  
University of Lowell  
12 Bradbury Street  
Allston, MA 02134
8. Dr. Ronald L. Boostrom  
Criminal Justice Program  
San Diego State University  
San Diego, CA 92182
9. Dr. Stanley L. Brodsky  
Psychology Department  
University of Alabama  
P. O. Box 2968  
University, AL 35486
10. Dr. Duncan Chappell  
Department of Criminology  
Simon Fraser University  
Burnaby, B.C. V5A 1S6  
CANADA
11. I. J. Croft  
Home Office Research Unit  
Queen Anne's Gate  
London SW1H 9AT, UNITED KINGDOM
12. Dr. Eugene H. Czajkoski  
School of Criminology  
Florida State University  
Tallahassee, FL 32306
13. Dr. Pedro R. David  
Sociology Department  
University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, NM 87106
14. Dr. Theodore N. Ferdinand  
College of Criminal Justice  
Northeastern University  
Boston, MA 02115
15. Dr. Michael Fooner  
Mercy College  
131 Riverside Drive  
New York, New York 10024
16. Dr. Dorothy L. Gates  
San Bernadino Valley College  
701 S. Mt. Vernon  
San Bernardino, CA 92403

1981 Annual Meeting - November 11-14 - Washington, D.C. - Capital Hilton Hotel

Theme: *The Future of Criminology*

17. Dr. Gilbert Geis  
Program in Social Ecology  
University of California  
Irvine, CA 92717
18. Dr. G. Thomas Gitchoff  
Criminal Justice Program  
San Diego State University  
San Diego, CA 92182
19. Dr. Jim Hackler  
Department of Sociology  
University of Alberta  
Edmonton, Alberta  
CANADA T6G 2H4
20. Dr. Alan J. Harland  
Criminal Justice Research Center  
1 Alton Road  
Albany, NY 12203
21. Dr. Clayton A. Hartjen  
Department of Sociology  
Rutgers University  
Newark, NJ 07102
22. Dr. Leonard J. Hippchen  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
816 West Franklin Street  
Richmond, VA 23284
23. Dr. C. Ronald Huff  
Program for the Study of Crime  
and Delinquency  
Ohio State University  
1775 College Road  
Columbus, OH 43210
24. Dr. Joan E. Jacoby  
Jefferson Institute for Justice Studies  
1990 M St., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20036
25. Dr. Elmer H. Johnson  
Center for the Study of Crime,  
Delinquency, and Corrections  
Southern Illinois University  
Carbondale, IL 62901
26. Dr. Richard D. Knudten  
Department of Sociology, Anthropology  
and Social Work  
Marquette University  
Milwaukee, WI 53211
27. Dr. Robert A. Lorinskas  
Center for the Study of Crime,  
Delinquency, and Corrections  
Southern Illinois University  
Carbondale, IL 62901
28. Dr. Ariela Lowenstein  
School of Social Work  
Haifa University  
48 Hague  
Haifa, ISRAEL 34980
29. Dr. Donale E.J. MacNamara  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice  
444 W. 56th Street  
New York, NY 10019
30. Dr. Richard A. Myren  
American University School  
of Justice  
Washington, D.C. 22091
31. Dr. J. S. E. Opolot  
Justice Center  
University of Alaska  
3211 Providence Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99504
32. Dr. Thomas R. Phelps  
Department of Criminal Justice  
California State University  
6000 Jay Street  
Sacramento, CA 95819
33. Dr. Marc Riedel  
Center for the Study of Crime,  
Delinquency, and Corrections  
Southern Illinois University  
Carbondale, IL 62901
34. Dr. Cyril D. Robinson  
Crime Study Center  
Southern Illinois University  
Carbondale, IL 62901
35. Dr. Harjit S. Sandhu  
Sociology and Corrections  
Oklahoma State University  
Stillwater, OK 74078
36. Dr. Joseph E. Scott  
Department of Sociology  
The Ohio State University  
Columbus, OH 43210
37. Dr. Sanford Sherizen  
Department of Sociology  
Boston University  
Boston, MA 02215
38. Ms. Manju Sheth  
Sociology Department  
Glassboro State College  
Glassboro, NJ 08028

39. Dr. Richard J. Terrill  
Center for Studies in Criminal Justice  
St. Cloud State University  
St. Cloud, MN 56301
40. Angelos Constantin Thermos  
Attorney at Law, Bar of Athens, Greece  
3058 Sunset Drive  
Columbus, OH 43202  
59 Thiron Street  
Elefsis, Attica, GREECE
41. Dr. Gordon B. Trasler  
Psychology Department  
University of Southampton  
Highfield  
Southampton, SO9 5NH, ENGLAND
42. Dr. Donald J. Weisenhorn  
Criminal Justice Center  
Sam Houston State University  
Huntsville, TX 77341
43. Marshall H. Whithed  
Administrative Office of Courts  
State House Annex, CN037  
Trenton, NJ 08625
44. Dr. Nanci Koser Wilson  
Center for the Study of Crime,  
Delinquency, and Corrections  
Southern Illinois University  
Carbondale, IL 62901
45. Dr. Sherwood E. Zimmerman  
Crime Study Center  
Southern Illinois University  
Carbondale, IL 62901
46. Dr. Daniel E. Georges-Abeyie  
Center for the Study of Crime,  
Delinquency, & Corrections  
Southern Illinois University  
Carbondale, IL 62901
47. Walter T. Haesler, Ph.D.  
President, Swiss Working Group of Criminology  
Witikonerstrasse 180  
CH-8053 Zuerich, SWITZERLAND
48. Louise Shelley  
School of Justice  
American University  
3409 Patterson St., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20015
49. Richard J. Lundman  
Sociology Department  
Ohio State University  
190 North Oval Mall  
Columbus, OH 43210
50. Dennis R. Longmire  
Sociology Department  
300 Administration Building  
The Ohio State University  
190 North Oval Mall  
Columbus, OH 43210