

Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses

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ECH:ECO March 16, 2004

[Redacted]

Dear Brother [Redacted]

We are pleased to respond to your letter of January 16, 2004, wherein you request clarification regarding the Watch Tower Society's former registration with the United Nations as an NGO (nongovernmental organization) with the UN's Department of Public Information (DPI). You include a copy of a letter from the Chairman's Committee of the Governing Body to Branch Committees regarding this matter. In addition to what appears in that letter, the following information may be helpful to you.

As to what actually occurred, please note that in 1991 it was UN personnel on duty at the time who told our representative that it would be necessary to register as an NGO in order to have continued access to the libraries we had been using long prior to that time. Even though the UN now states that it was not necessary to register to use the libraries, this is what our representative was told at the time. As was noted in the letter you enclosed, NGOs are informed by the United Nations' Web site that "association of NGOs with the DPI does not constitute their incorporation into the United Nations system, nor does it entitle associated organizations or their staff to any kind of privileges, immunities or special status." Thus, we never were part of the United Nations. We used their library system and quoted them as a source in our publications, just as we quote from any other respected sources.

No doubt you will find to be helpful the information on our view of the UN in the enclosed photocopy of page 7 from *The Watchtower* of October 1, 1995. There it shows that Jehovah's Witnesses view the United Nations in the same way they view other governments, and we have used UN library facilities just as we normally use individual national government facilities, such as libraries and court systems.—Matthew 22:21; Romans 13:1-7.

We trust the above comments will be helpful.

Your brothers in Jehovah's service,

*Christian Congregation
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Enclosure