



# WATCH TOWER

BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY OF BRITAIN

THE RIDGEWAY LONDON NW7 1RN

TELEPHONE 020 8906 2211

EF August 29, 2002

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

We are pleased to respond to your letter of August 26, 2002, wherein you inquire about the Watch Tower Society's former registration with the United Nations as an NGO (nongovernmental organisation) with the UN's Department of Public Information (DPI).

Our purpose for registering with the Department of Public Information as an NGO in 1991 was to have access to research material available on health, ecological, and social problems at the United Nations library facilities. We had been using the library for many years prior to 1991, but in that year it became necessary to register as an NGO to have continued access. Registration papers filed with the United Nations that we have on file contain no statements that conflict with our Christian beliefs. Moreover, NGOs are informed by the United Nations 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."

Still, the Criteria for Association of NGOs—at least in their latest version—contain some language that we cannot subscribe to. When we realised this, we immediately withdrew our registration. We are grateful that this matter was brought to our attention.

For a balanced view of the United Nations organisation, please see *The Watchtower* of October 1, 1995, page 7, of which a photocopy is enclosed.

We are glad to provide the above comments in answer to your inquiry. Please be assured of our best wishes and warm Christian love.

Your brothers,

Enclosure

*Watch Tower B. & T. Society*  
OF BRITAIN