



THE WATCHTOWER SOCIETY AS A UNITED NATIONS NGO

a critical look at the conspiracy theory

Did Jehovah's Witnesses have "secret deals" with the UN, agree to support it and its goals, and then lie to cover it up? We show direct evidence that such a conspiracy theory is **nonsense**. We also show how apostates use **deliberately misleading** "evidence". Furthermore, the most prominent Internet writer on the theory **knows full well** his claims are full of errors but has tried to silence his critics and cover-up the evidence.

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In the Beginning

In October 2001 *The Guardian* newspaper in the United Kingdom accused Jehovah's Witnesses of hypocrisy for being registered with the United Nations' (UN) Department of Public Information (DPI) as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO). The newspaper claimed that all NGOs must support the United Nations, therefore Jehovah's Witnesses were guilty of hypocrisy because of teaching the United Nations is the prophesied “disgusting thing” of Revelation.



The Watchtower Society, the legal corporation used by Jehovah's Witnesses, immediately withdrew the DPI NGO membership. They explained that the requirements for being a DPI NGO had changed since they first signed up in 1992, and they then thanked *The Guardian* for bringing the matter to their attention. —See the *Letter from the Chairmans Committee in the Letters and Scans* section

More to it?

However, since that time many former disgruntled Jehovah's Witnesses and other opposers have claimed that the NGO requirements never changed. Conspiracy theorists claim the Watchtower Society knew they were supporting the United Nations and kept it a “secret”. They even go so far as accusing the Watchtower Society of having deliberately distributed pro-UN propaganda in issues of the *Awake!* as “part of the deal” with the UN.

One conspiracy theorist has gone a step further, declaring the Watchtower Society has turned “apostate” and committed “spiritual adultery”, and is now part of a global conspiracy to promote a totalitarian world government under the UN. They claim that the letters of explanation from the Bethel are full of “lies” and “cover-ups”.

An investigation

What really happened? Are these accusations based in fact? Does the paper-trail of evidence support these claims? Do the records held at the UN corroborate the Watchtower Society's story? Furthermore, are the ones making these allegations trustworthy?

This work will demonstrate, using evidence directly from the United Nations records and the Watchtower Society's publications, why we believe such accusations are without merit. We will endeavor to show that the “evidence” presented by conspiracy theorists is often highly selective, grossly misleading,

and often has mistakes. Furthermore, we will also inform you about those who make these claims yet know full well that their arguments have serious flaws, and how they have openly tried to censor and cover-up this information.

If you have previously read the claims of such men, we implore you to set aside all prejudice and any other emotions, to fairly and dispassionately consider the other side of the argument without any pre-conceived ideas, and be happy to change your views if necessary. A judge in a court of law would not make a decision before considering the arguments of the defense, and neither should you. A truly humble person would do so.

Summary

- **The Watchtower Society became a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) with the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) in 1992.**
- **The Guardian's report led to the Watchtower Society ending the membership in 2001.**

Know Your NGOs!

When you hear that the Watchtower Society was a United Nations NGO, you may not be aware that there is actually more than one kind of NGO. This fact is important, and is often deliberately obscured by those who try to condemn and criticize the Society.

In the United Nations system, there are NGOs who are associated with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and there are also NGOs associated with the Department of Public Information (DPI). The Watchtower Society was of the latter kind — associated with the DPI.



However, many websites and at least one book deliberately misleads their readers by quoting rules and stipulations to ECOSOC NGOs, and then pretending that those resolutions and rules apply to DPI NGOs, of which the Watchtower Society was one. This tactic is grossly dishonest and many of those who make this claim know full well they are misleading their readers. Let us now examine the true differences between the NGO types, which apostates and other opposers often try to keep hidden.

What's the difference?

The difference between the two types is quite stark. The online political magazine Insight has this to say on the matter:

*“For an NGO to be recognized by the United Nations, however, there are requirements, and even two statuses for which an NGO might apply. **The DPI status is under the authority of the U.N. Department of Public Information (UNDPI), which controls U.N. archives and research facilities...***

*“The other status for which the NGOs may apply is ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council) status. The U.N. Website says that **to obtain ECOSOC standing an NGO must prove that its work is directly relevant to U.N. goals. With ECOSOC standing an NGO may enter into a formal consultative relationship with access to officials of U.N. member states and must provide useful or special information to the U.N. Economic and Social Council...***”

Notice how DPI NGOs are under a department which controls “archives and research facilities”, yet on the other hand ECOSOC NGOs have a “formal consultative relationship” with the United Nations, and it's work must be “directly relevant” to the UN's goals. In other words, the ECOSOC NGO consults with the UN on it's policies and helps it achieve it's political aims and direct it's policy-making.

This is exactly what apostates are accusing the Watchtower Society of doing. Yet, this is not a description of the type of NGO the Watchtower Society was, but it is a description of the other type of NGO — that associated with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

The Watchtower Society was a totally different type of NGO associated with a different UN department — the Department of Public Information (DPI). Accusers deny this, and claim the differences are “irrelevant facts”, when we can clearly see that is not how the UN feels about the matter. Let us now examine the original Resolutions of the United Nations to show the difference between ECOSOC and DPI NGOs.

Resolution 1296 of ECOSOC

The idea of creating NGOs associated with ECOSOC was actually first written into the United Nations charter, where it says:

“The Economic and Social Council [ECOSOC] may make suitable arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations which are concerned with matters within its competence. Such arrangements may be made with international organizations and, where appropriate, with national organizations after consultation with the Member of the United Nations concerned.” —Article 71 of the United Nations Charter

Later, ECOSOC adopted a resolution concerning NGOs, which says, in part:

*“The Economic and Social Council [ECOSOC],
Having regard to Article 71 of the Charter of the United Nations, Recognizing that **arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations provide an important means of furthering the purposes and principles of the United Nations.** Considering that **consultations between the Council and its subsidiary organs and the non-governmental organizations should be developed to the fullest practicable extent,** Approves the following arrangements, which supersede those set out in its resolution 288 B (X) of 27 February 1950.” —ECOSOC Resolution 1296 (XLIV) Arrangements for Consultation with Non-Governmental Organizations; 23 May 1968*

This same resolution goes on to state that an ECOSOC NGO “...**shall undertake to support the work of the UN.**”

Yet, those infamous words often quoted by apostates as “proof” that the Watchtower Society agreed to support the United Nations were actually words penned by ECOSOC in one of their resolutions — talking about *their* NGOs — not those of the DPI which is a separate UN department.

These words of resolution 1296 never applied to the Watchtower Society as they were never an ECOSOC NGO. However, the ECOSOC also made another resolution, 1297. What does that say?

Resolution 1297: “...bear in mind the letter and spirit...”

In their next resolution, 1297, the ECOSOC gave the Department of Public Information, the DPI, it’s power to associate it's own NGOs. The resolution says, in part:

*“[ECOSOC] [r]ecommends that **the Secretary-General bear in mind the letter and spirit of Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) governing consultative status, in associating international and national non-governmental organizations with the Office of Public Information [DPI];”***

This is often quoted as proof that, although the Watchtower Society was not under the previous resolution (1296) which says the NGO must “support the work of the UN”, this next resolution did apply to the Watchtower Society — and this resolution says it must “bear in mind the letter and spirit of Council resolution 1296”.

Yet, is that really what it says? No. The resolution is giving an instruction to the “Secretary-General” — not to the NGOs themselves. It does not say that “the NGO must bear in mind the letter and spirit of Council resolution 1296”. No — it is an instruction to the Secretary-General, and to no-one else.

This fact is reflected in the original forms which the Watchtower Society completed in 1991 to become a DPI NGO. If you carefully examine the forms, you will notice that it nowhere says that the Watchtower Society should “bear in mind the letter and spirit of Council resolution 1296”. Why? Because as said, the instruction was to “the Secretary-General” — just as it says in the resolution — and not to the NGOs at all. —See *the original 1991 application forms in the Letters and Scans section*

If, in fact, it had been a requirement, you would imagine that it would have been on the forms somewhere. Perhaps the forms would have said something like, “You agree to bear in mind ECOSOC resolution 1296” or perhaps even say, “We hereby agree to support the UN and it's charter”, followed by a dotted-line for a signature, legally confirming that the NGO agreed to those terms. Yet, that is not what we find anywhere. Nowhere does it say anything about supporting “the work of the UN” on any of the forms, nor does it mention the ECOSOC resolution. In fact, there doesn't seem to be a single part of those forms which says anything which may compromise our Christian beliefs.

So we can see that the Watchtower Society *never* agreed to be subject to Resolution 1296 of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) where it says NGOs must support the UN. That resolution

only applied to ECOSOC NGOs — of which the Watchtower Society has never been. The next resolution was an instruction to the Secretary-General, and to no-one else, and neither was it reflected in the forms that the Watchtower Society completed.

This brings us on to another important subject — the forms themselves. What did those forms say? Do their contents corroborate with what the Watchtower Society claimed happened?

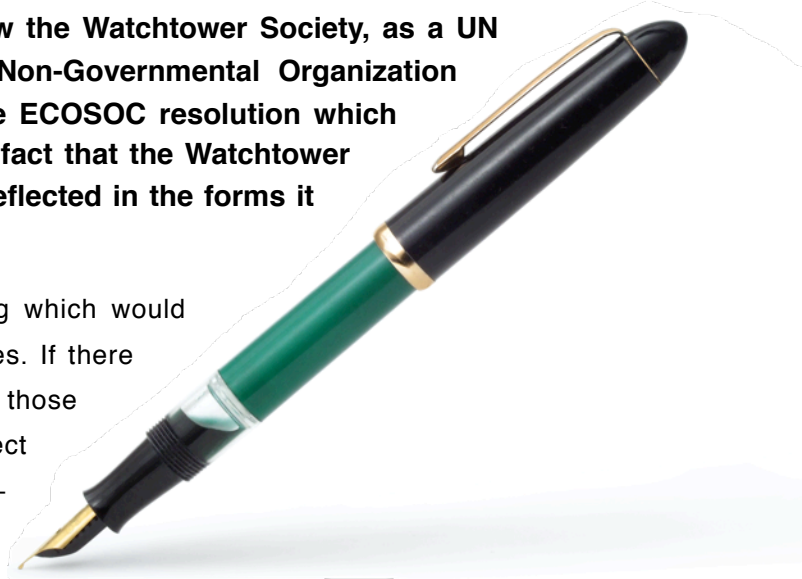
Summary

- **The Watchtower Society was a NGO with the DPI, not ECOSOC.**
- **DPI NGO's have access to research materials of the UN.**
- **ECOSOC NGO's have consultative status with the UN .**
- **ECOSOC's resolution stating it's NGOs should support the UN applied to it's own NGOs.**
- **ECOSOC's next resolution advised the Secretary-General to keep in mind the spirit of it's previous resolution — not the DPI's NGOs.**
- **The forms the Watchtower Society signed did not say anything to compromise Jehovah's Witnesses beliefs, nor did it mention ECOSOC's resolutions.**

Please Sign Nowhere

In the previous chapter, we showed how the Watchtower Society, as a UN Department of Public Information (DPI) Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), was not under the authority of the ECOSOC resolution which said NGOs should “support” the UN. The fact that the Watchtower Society was not under that resolution is reflected in the forms it completed in 1991.

No where on those forms is there anything which would compromise the beliefs of Jehovah's Witnesses. If there was something there then we could read it on those forms ourselves — as some critics would expect — but instead there is simply *nothing* there. — See the original 1991 forms in the Letters and Scans section



You will also notice that there doesn't even seem to be a place to put a signature. This corroborates what the Watchtower Society itself said in it's letter to *The Guardian* newspaper, where the spokesman for the London Bethel explained, “At the time of the initial application no signature was required on the form.”

However, some critics claim that the Society is being deliberately misleading. They claim that NGOs had to renew their status with the DPI each year and re-apply. They usually show a copy of a 2005 “Accreditation Form” for yearly status renewal — complete with a place for a signature and date at the bottom. That form states that the NGO “must support and respect the principles of the Charter of the United Nations”. Therefore, they make the accusation that the Watchtower Society not only had to sign a new application every year, but were also well aware that they were supporting the United Nations because it was on the form. However, is this argument valid?

Yearly renewal?

No, the argument is not valid. In fact, the critics are being deliberately misleading and are hoping you won't notice. If we actually take the time to read through the 2005 “Accreditation Form”, yes the very document they present as “proof” that the Society renewed it's application each year, what do we find? We find that it says this:

*“In 2002 we **instituted** the review process for NGOs associated with DPI.”*

That's right — the renewal process where the NGO must reapply and sign a form each year was not started *until the year after the Watchtower Society resigned as an NGO!* This very fact is stated in the

document apostates use a “proof” that the Society “renewed their application each year”! Evidently, the apostates just hope you will believe what they say and won't notice what's written in the text of the document. Amazing.

This fact is further confirmed by a United Nations Press Release in December of 2001, which says, in part:

*"During the year the DPI **has instituted a review process for the first time**, in order to better measure the effectiveness of its liaison activities with associated NGOs."*

So the evidence shows that the Watchtower Society did not have to renew its NGO status at any time during its membership, nor did any other NGO associated with the DPI. Only between the end of 2001 to the beginning of 2002 did the process begin, months after the Society resigned as an NGO. That is when the Accreditation Form was changed to say NGOs must support the UN and when the form became a renewal application.

However, prior to that date the Society (and other NGOs) certainly did have to sign the previous version of the Accreditation Form every year. What did the previous version of the form say? Who signed it?

Yearly representatives and areas of interest

Each year, the DPI required its NGOs to sign the Accreditation Form to state who its representatives would be — to allow them to gain access to the DPI's extensive facilities at the United Nations in New York.

Here we have a copy of the Accreditation Form as it appeared prior to 2002 — before the renewal process began and before the form was changed to become a renewal application. See the form for yourself in the Letters and Scans section of this work. As you can see, this earlier version of the form says *nothing* about supporting the United Nations. The form is merely there to allow representatives of the NGO to access the DPI's facilities. The form itself clearly states:

*"This form should be **used to confirm your currently accredited representative** and/or to authorize newly appointed representatives."*

The form the Society signed each year was obviously not a renewal application. To deny this and continue to insist that they did renew their status each year, would be senseless. Interestingly, also appearing on this earlier form is the following question:

*“Please indicate **your organization's main area(s) of interest** (e.g. development, disarmament, religion, environment, human rights, conflict resolution, women, etc.)”*

Some apostates have found lists of UN NGOs where the Watchtower Society is listed, complete with items such as “human rights”, and “women” listed as the Society's areas of interest. They have noticed how these areas of interest have changed in the records from year-to-year. Therefore, they have argued that it “proves” the Society must have annually renewed their NGO membership because the “areas of interest” kept changing. Yet, as we can clearly see from the form, that question did not appear on a yearly renewal form at all — but on the form to get the representatives their access passes.

It is clear, then, that the Watchtower Society did not reapply for it's NGO status each year, and that the Accreditation Form (prior to 2001/2002) which the Society did sign annually, was simply to state who it's representatives would be along with their areas of interest for accessing the DPI's facilities.

It is also clear that the Watchtower Society was being truthful when it said “At the time of the initial application no signature was required on the form”, and that the forms signed by the Society really did not conflict with Jehovah's Witnesses beliefs. We can see the evidence for ourselves.

Summary

- **No signature was required on the DPI NGO application form in 1991.**
- **No DPI NGO renewal process was in place until 2001/2002 — after the Society resigned.**
- **Before 2001/2002, the yearly accreditation form was for declaring who would be the NGOs representatives at DPI facilities.**
- **The Watchtower Society did not sign anything that said Jehovah's Witnesses agree to support the UN.**

The Changing World of NGOs

The United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) produces a special brochure for its Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). This brochure acts as an introduction to new NGOs and stipulates the requirements of being an NGO.

To mislead their readers, many critics of Jehovah's Witnesses quote from the *current* version of the DPI's NGO brochure and falsely claim that those requirements are what the Watchtower Society originally signed up to in 1991. The requirements given by the brochure for the DPI's NGOs include the requirement that the NGO should support the UN. Critics quote this brochure as the "proof" that the Society secretly knew they were supporting the United Nations. They claim that this requirement was in place since before 1991, and has remained unchanged ever since. Is this claim true?



No. The critics are lying. They simply hope that you won't think too much about it, and that you won't delve a little deeper and discover the evidence that the NGO world has changed considerably since 1991. We do not have the brochure from 1991, but we do have a copy of the 1994 brochure, which is considerably different from the current version which the apostates quote.

A new relationship

In fact, the 1994 brochure even testifies to the very fact the requirements and expectations of the DPI's NGOs were changing. Page six of the 1994 document says this:

"A new relationship between the UN and NGOs is now being created. We have seen this new relationship begin to **mature**. NGOs are taking on important new responsibilities."

Indeed, the above statement proved accurate. For if we compare the current (2005) brochure to the 1994 brochure, we see major changes. For example, the 2005 brochure says the following:

"What are the Criteria for NGOs to become associated with DPI? The NGO must support and respect the principles of the Charter of the UN and have a clear mission statement that is consistent with those principles;"

Apostates often use the above quote, and repeat it endlessly as “proof” of the Watchtower Society's support of the UN. Yet this appears in the 2005 brochure, do we know if it appears in the older brochures? We already stated that we have a copy of the 1994 brochure, so does that phrase appear there? No, not at all. On the contrary, in the 1994 brochure we find that the above statement has replaced the following original statement:

*“Who is eligible for association with the DPI? **Non-profit organizations which: share the ideals of the UN charter;**”*

Notice the difference. In 2005, NGOs must *support the principles of the UN Charter*. In 1994, the NGOs must simply *share the same ideals*. Just what are those ideals?

*“to maintain international peace and security; to suppress acts of aggression that threaten world peace; **to encourage friendly relations among nations; to protect the fundamental freedoms of all peoples without discrimination based on race, sex, language, or religion;** and to achieve international cooperation in solving economic, social, and cultural problems.”*

Does the Watchtower Society and Jehovah's Witnesses *share those same ideals*? They most certainly do — and have done so for years before the UN formed! It is understandable why NGOs should share these same ideals, for the UN would not want to assist or help any organization which promotes contrary ideas. For example, the resolution which gave the DPI power to associate NGOs elaborates on this desire:

*“...the Secretary-General [should] ensure that the Office of Public Information [DPI], while reviewing the status of present organizations or considering new applications, **excludes all those organizations whose aims or practices tend or contribute to the propagation of nazi ideology and racial and/or religious discrimination;**”*

We now have a better idea of why the 1994 requirements for being an NGO should stipulate that any associated organization should *share the same ideals* as the UN charter. They must share the same ideals of religious and racial tolerance and should not in any way promote contrary, racist or discriminatory ideas.

Support the UN by featuring UN information

Some have pointed to page 7 of the 1994 brochure where it states that the NGO must show that they “can prove, during the initial two years of association with DPI, that they support the United Nations by featuring UN information in their publications and outreach activity.”

However, take note that it does not say support the UN by supporting the *principles and charter of the UN*. Nor does it say to *support the UN by supporting all their endeavors*. The support spoken of is by writing articles about the UN. In other words, the word ‘support’ as defined in Webster’s Dictionary in this case means “to provide corroborating evidence or information”. –Read more about the word support in the chapter *Principle Support*

The 53rd General Assembly

Clearly, the requirements in 1994 were different than in 2005. There is further confirmation that the NGO world was changing. In 1998, the 53rd General Assembly of the United Nations reflected this changing situation, and declared it was entering a “new era” in its relationship with NGOs:

*“80. In the aftermath of the global conferences and with the emergence of a new international environment characterized by unrestricted flows of information, **the United Nations has entered a new era in its relations with NGOs and other civil society actors. The Economic and Social Council recognized this changed relationship** when it adopted resolution 1996/31. Many agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system have followed suit. The Secretariat, for its part, has tried to adapt to this **new situation** in creative and innovative ways and will pursue its efforts in this field. The United Nations is committed to seek the participation and contribution of NGOs in its work. **New approaches, attitudes, methods and responses are required** throughout the United Nations system if we are to meet this challenge effectively”*

We now have two confirmed lines of evidence showing the United Nations relationships with NGOs (both ECOSOC and DPI) changed over the 1990's.

Changing very fast

In June 1999 the Global Policy Forum, a ECOSOC NGO organization which monitors policy making at the United Nations, published a report which stated:

“The [DPI & ECOSOC] NGO world is changing very fast, in terms of activities and needs, and UN offices that relate to NGOs must be change-oriented and flexible. The offices should consider a streamlined, web-based application system.”

If the requirements and expectations of NGOs have not changed since 1991, as apostates claim, we wonder why the Global Policy Forum would make such a statement. Clearly it is because the critics are wrong, and that the NGO world really has changed “very fast” and the evidence proves it.

Proposing a booklet

In 1999 the Secretary-General published a report in which he stressed the need for a brochure to be sent to all NGOs:

*“It was also **proposed that each NGO should receive an orientation/welcome booklet** and/or session upon obtaining formal status with the UN. The information should include specifics about the NGO liaison offices in the UN system, including names, contacts, locations. The booklet should reinforce mutual rights and responsibilities, as well as practical guidelines for the functioning of NGOs within physical structures and protocols of the UN, including how to follow debates and so forth.” — Section 24*

We wonder why in 1999 the Secretary General should have “proposed” that each NGO should receive a welcome booklet or brochure including “specifics” about the UN system and “practical guidelines” and “protocols” for NGOs, if the NGOs were already receiving such a booklet prior to this.

Perhaps receipt of this booklet was sporadic, perhaps it was not sent every year. Perhaps the Watchtower Society didn't even receive one when their status was granted in 1992. What is certain, however, is that they certainly did not receive the 2005 brochure which opposers constantly quote from — the Society couldn't have possibly received that version 13 years earlier, for we know it's contents have changed. When opposers quote from the 2005 version as proof that the Watchtower Society supported the UN — they are simply wrong. Whatever was said in the 1991 brochure which the Society received — if they received one at all — it certainly did not say that. Further, when it is claimed the NGO requirements did not change, this is also clearly wrong for the UN has said they changed.

So far in this work we have shown how many claims of apostates have proved false. They do not distinguish between ECOSOC and DPI NGOs, misapplying ECOSOC's requirement to that of the DPI's NGOs. They have wrongly claimed the Society had to renew its application each year, when we can see from their own “proof” that they did not. They have also lied and stated that the 1991 NGO requirements remained unchanged when we can clearly see they did not. We are not stupid, we can see they have changed — as can the DPI department itself, the 53rd General Assembly, the Global Policy Forum, and the Secretary-General have all acknowledged on several occasions. If there was no change, we wonder why the forms are now so different and why all these people would say such things.

Now we have established these facts, we can move on to consider exactly how the Watchtower Society explained it's NGO relationship. Were the Society's letters of explanations truthful? Or are they full of lies and cover-ups, as many critics claim?

Summary

- Apostates quote requirements from the 2005 brochure when it is clear from copies of earlier brochures that they have changed.
- In 1994 the UN said a new relationship between the UN and its NGOs was being created.
- In 1998 the General Assembly of the UN acknowledged that the NGO world was entering a new era.
- In 1999 the Global Policy Forum said the NGO world is changing very fast.
- It is clear that requirements and expectations for NGOs changed over the 1990s.

Following it to the Letter

When *The Guardian* first published its article about the NGO situation, the London Bethel wrote a letter to the Editor correcting the article and clarifying the situation.

Critics, however, claim that Bethel's letters of explanation are a "cover-up", and that Bethel have shown themselves to be "outright liars". Are these accusations valid? Does the evidence corroborate what Bethel stated, or does the evidence show them to be "liars" as some would have us believe? — See the three letters from Bethel here, here, and here.

Why become an NGO?

Let's examine what Bethel is claiming in the letters. First, concerning the reason for becoming a DPI NGO, in two of the letters from Bethel claims it was:

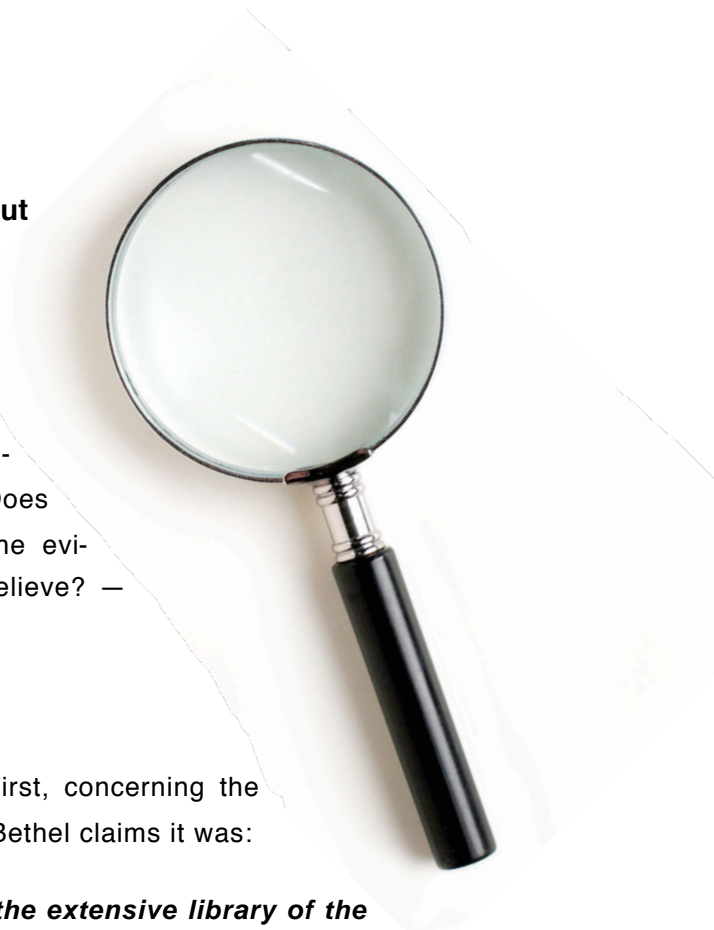
*"...for the sole purpose of **getting access to the extensive library of the United Nations**. This enabled a writer who received an identification card, to enter their library for research purposes and to obtain information that has been used in writing articles in our journals about the United Nations."*

*"Our purpose ... was to **have access to research material** available on health, ecological, and social problems at the **United Nations library facilities**."*

Some claim the above statements are lies. They claim that absolutely anyone could have accessed the libraries and that there was absolutely no need to gain NGO status. Bethel acknowledged that their explanation is not believed by the critics. They said:

*"Although **critics may claim that access to the libraries could have been obtained without the need to register as an NGO, that is not what our research personnel were told at the time**. They found it necessary to present an **authorized pass to gain access to those specific areas**, which were off limits to the public."*

The critics often quote statements from the United Nations that the main library, the *Dag Hammarskjöld Library* and its depository libraries, were accessible to absolutely anyone prior to September 2001. You can read e-mails from the UN itself saying this exact thing.



However, if that is completely true we wonder why the 1994 NGO brochure stated that:

*“For NGOs associated with DPI, the United Nations provides: ... **use of the Dag Hammarskjold Library.**”*

If absolutely anyone could use the entire facilities, we wonder why the brochure advertises use of that library as a perk of being a DPI NGO. Of course, if we look carefully we can see that the Watchtower Society did not say they merely wanted access to the “main library”. Bethel said that it was “necessary to present an authorized pass to gain access to those *specific areas*”. Yes, Bethel never claimed it needed a pass to access the Library itself, but to “specific areas” of that library and specific “library facilities”. A quick investigation reveals that there is far, far, more to the United Nations libraries than simply a main library full of books — and far, far, more than simply the *Dag Hammarskjold* building.

The library facilities of the United Nations, under the Department of Public Information, includes the following:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • books | • seminars |
| • film and audio libraries | • conferences |
| • photo libraries | • film screenings |
| • access to meetings | • commemorations |
| • language courses | • concerts |
| • briefings | • the DPI NGO Resource Center |

To access the full range of these facilities you need a DPI NGO pass. Prior to September 2001 you may have been able to simply walk into the *Dag Hammarskjold Library* as the opposers correctly say — but it is entirely misleading to say all the “library facilities” were available to anyone, because they were clearly not. An NGO pass was required to access everything — otherwise why would the 1994 brochure advertise full access to that library as an NGO privilege? There is only one logical reason: because around 1991 the DPI was making further facilities available at the library, but only to those with an NGO pass.

Did NGO status really become necessary?

Knowing about the full range of facilities offered by the DPI helps explain Bethel's other claim in it's letters:

*"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.**"*

*"In any case, we had been using the library facilities at the UN for many years prior to 1991. In that year, our **researcher was advised by UN personnel that it would be necessary to register as and NGO to have continued access to the various libraries** we were using."*

The Watchtower Society's researcher was apparently told he could no longer access certain areas or facilities without an NGO pass. Why? Perhaps the facilities were new, and reserved only for DPI NGOs. Perhaps existing facilities were now being reserved only for the use of DPI NGO representatives. Perhaps the brother wished to access certain documents which were off-limit to the general public. Or perhaps certain exhibitions or events were taking place that were DPI NGO-invitation only. These possibilities are hinted at in one of Bethel's letters, where it states that a DPI NGO pass was necessary to access "specific areas", presumably areas which were previously accessible. Whatever happened, the Watchtower Society researcher was told they needed an NGO pass to continue with the same level of access they previously enjoyed.

There is, of course, one other possibility: that the employee who advised of the need for an NGO pass was simply mistaken. How many of us can say we have not experienced some kind of incompetence or received some wrong advice from a government employee? If we are honest, we know that government agencies are often notorious for giving contradictory advice. In the UK's large welfare state, it is a running joke that you can call a government helpline and receive a different answer to the same question if you call twice.

The Global Policy Forum's report, which we quoted earlier, had this to say about the competence of both the DPI and ECOSOC NGO staff:

*"The DPI office gets good marks for timely processing of pass requests and for overall courtesy and helpfulness. But **its management of documents in the NGO Resource Center tends to be chaotic. Serious problems exist in both offices.**"*

*"Many NGOs complain that some of the notoriously bureaucratic and unresponsive behavior of the ECOSOC office in the past still persists. The office employs **cumbersome and time-consuming procedures for issuing passes, it too often it loses accreditation letters, and its staff can be discourteous.**"*

*“NGOs also find the application procedures for new accreditation in both offices tend to be bureaucratic and paper-bound. **Staff have lost or mislaid accreditation folders** and have been inflexible in applying rules for evaluation.”*

We do not quote the above to try and “lay the blame” on the UN for the situation, but just to show that it is quite reasonable to consider whether a UN employee could have given incorrect advice to a visitor. Also, think how the above report is from 1999. Can you imagine how much more confusing the NGO situation must have been in the early 1990's — when the NGO world was still finding its feet? If they can lose papers and forms, then it is neither surprising nor unreasonable to wonder whether the brother was simply given wrong advice from the UN employee.

For whatever reason, the Watchtower Society researcher was informed that to continue his currently level of access, he needed to be a representative of a DPI NGO. Perhaps he tried to access “specific areas” which were now off-limits, or perhaps he was misinformed. We do not know. However, this part of Bethel's story is both plausible and believable. We can see that many facilities were only available to NGOs and therefore Bethel's explanation is entirely reasonable. Thus we have no basis to claim Bethel is lying whatsoever.

No signature?

The implications of the critic's claims is that the Watchtower Society was — in some way — heavily involved with the UN. Some even claim that there were secret back-room deals and negotiations, that the UN and the Society were working together in a conspiracy-like manner. However, all of this is just fantasy. In Bethel's letter they try to emphasize how such ideas are nonsense, and that the so-called “secret links with the United Nations” really amounted to an application form that didn't even require a signature. In the letter they correctly state:

*“At the time of the **initial application no signature was required** on the form.”*

We know this statement to be true, because we have copies of 1991 DPI NGO

There's more to it than a “library card”!

Some have uncovered records of Watchtower representatives attending a conference on the holocaust for NGOs. They quote this as “proof” that Bethel was “lying” and that there was really more to their NGO membership than merely a “library card”. On the contrary, such a conference is exactly the kind of facility requiring DPI NGO status. Conferences on subjects such as the holocaust are part of the “extensive library facilities” on offer by the DPI to representatives of its NGOs. The idea that the Society signed up just for a “library card” is actually a phrase invented by apostates on the Internet, the Society did not coin the expression as it is misleading and inaccurate — which was probably the reason apostates invented it in the first place.

sign-up forms, and we notice a distinct lack of a place to put a signature (see the 1991 initial application form in the Letters and Scans section). Bethel was not lying whatsoever, but showing how the “secret back-room deals” conspiracy theorists obviously do not know what they are talking about. These so called “secret back-room deals” amounted to completing a form to gain DPI passes which didn't even require a signature on this first application. It's incredible to think this, but we know it's true because we have the evidence.

On the other hand, consider the application that ECOSOC NGOs must complete (for consultative status). Their application, which the Watchtower Society never applied for, includes an agreement to outright support the United Nations – with a signature required. If all NGOs, even those with the DPI, signed such an application and agreement, it should be easily found – and yet no such thing exists for DPI NGOs.

The first page says:

Application for Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council

The last page says:

I/we declare that I/we have answered the questions contained in this form to the best of my/our knowledge.

*I/we declare, that if granted consultative status, **my/our organization will act in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and ECOSOC resolution 1996/31.***

The undersigned signature/es is/are duly authorized to sign this declaration.

[signature]

This is the form for organizations wishing to become ECOSOC NGOs, but no form with similar requirements existed for DPI NGOs when the Watchtower Society was involved. This application can be found on the UN website at <http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/> (then click on “Forms and documents” and then “Application in English”).

No statements that conflict?

The last comment by Bethel concerning the forms is:

*“Registration papers filed with the United Nations that we have on file **contain no statements that conflict with our Christian beliefs.**”*

Again, after examining the initial application form, and the subsequent forms to confirm the annual representatives (see the Letters and Scans section), we can see this is a factual statement. As we have already covered previously, there are “no statements that conflict with our Christian beliefs” anywhere. There is nothing about supporting the UN, the UN charter, nor any mention of any ECOSOC resolution.

*“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.**”*

This is indeed a truthful quote. Perhaps this statement has been said many times by the UN, the DPI, and its representatives when discussing the NGO relationship. The DPI NGO status was, after all, there to give interested organizations easy access to information, library resources, documents, and events on the UN. The idea that organizations with this association would be given “privileges, immunities, or special status” or be “incorporated into the United Nations”, or were in a “political partnership” is ridiculous. How really comical it is when critics on the Internet argue that the Watchtower Society's DPI NGO status granted exactly those things! How bizarre are the accusations that DPI NGO status meant the Society became “part of the United Nations” or even “a United Nations member”! We know that DPI NGO status was nothing like that whatsoever, and any person who claims otherwise couldn't be more wrong.

Requirements Changed

Let's continue on to the next claim of Bethel's letters:

*“**Years later, unbeknown to the Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses, the United Nations published “Criteria for Association,” stipulating that affiliated NGOs are required to support the goals of the United Nations.**”*

We now know this statement is true. In an earlier chapter, we saw how the 1994 NGO brochure was changed. Also we saw how many have acknowledged the changing relationship between the UN and its NGOs. Clearly the 'Criteria for Association' for NGOs took on a different meaning, thus the NGO brochure was revised, the Accreditation Form changed to become a renewal form, and the review process was initiated for the first time in 2001/2002. The requirements and expectations of DPI NGOs did change, just as Bethel said. We can see this for ourselves.

Therefore we can continue to appreciate how Bethel was telling the truth when it said it has no UN documents on file which “conflict with our Christian beliefs”. The paper trail shows that the Society could not have had any such conflicting documents, because they did not exist during those years.

*“**Still, the Criteria for Association of NGOs-at least in their latest version- contain language that we cannot subscribe to.**”*

This “latest version” that Bethel is talking about here was the current version in 2001, which it does not seem Bethel ever signed. This version, and subsequent versions (particularly 2005), are the ones constantly quoted by critics, falsely claiming that the Society somehow magically signed it 10 years before it was written.

“After learning of the situation, our membership as NGO was withdrawn and the ID card of the writer was returned. We are grateful that this matter was brought to our attention.”

This statement is certainly true. We know that in the years after the Society first applied for DPI NGO status and received DPI access passes, that the situation and requirements changed. When the Society learned of the changes in 2001, the passes were returned. The evidence we have considered seems to show that the Society did everything properly, despite what opposers say regarding the matter. They even thanked *The Guardian* for bringing the recent change to their attention — despite it being obvious that the article was riddled with errors and was nothing more than an effort to misrepresent and ridicule Jehovah's Witnesses.

In Conclusion

It seems clear from what we have thus far considered, that the letters from Bethel were perfectly in accord with the facts. They are hardly “lies” or “cover-ups”, as some grossly misinformed persons and the odd conspiracy theorist may believe. To claim that DPI NGO status to access DPI libraries and related research facilities can be part of some “back-room agreement” and “conspiracy” is just comical.

- We know the original application on file did not need a signature. This confirms that DPI NGO status, at least in 1991, was a formality, and not some sort of special status or privilege, nor was it any sort of incorporation into the United Nations system — as the UN itself has said.
- We know the registration papers did not contain any statements that conflict with the teachings of Jehovah's Witnesses because we can read such forms today.
- We know that DPI NGO status was necessary to gain access to all the facilities, documents, publications, and events provided by the DPI.
- We know that the relationship between the UN and its DPI NGOs changed, as did the application, the forms, and the brochures which also changed to reflect that fact.
- We know that in the very same year the UN documents were revised, that the Watchtower Society withdrew their status, and even thanked those bringing it to their attention.

There are no lies in the letters. There is no secret “cover-up”. The truth is that certain men are deliberately misrepresenting the facts, and some Jehovah's Witnesses have been caught up in the lies and the deceitful presentations by opposers and apostates.

Here is what we believe probably happened back in 1991. It is in agreement with all the evidence we have thus far presented:

Brother Aulicino from Bethel in New York went to the UN Headquarters on many occasions, and was permitted to use the library facilities. However, on this occasion in 1991 he was told by a UN employee that he could not use a certain facility without a DPI NGO pass. Perhaps the employee was mistaken, or maybe the brother was trying to access an area containing something now only for DPI NGO representatives. He therefore requested an application for a DPI NGO pass.

The application was completed and submitted with no signature. A few months later in 1992, the DPI NGO status was granted. The Society proceeded to use that status for the next 10 years to assist in research for *Awake!* articles, using the high quality — and highly authoritative — UN facilities. Later, in 2001, when apostates contacted *The Guardian* and it came forth with the story that the DPI NGO status was now inappropriate, the Society realized that they could not remain a NGO member if that was the criteria. They withdrew immediately. Inquiries were made, and letters were written answering the inquiries. The letters are not “lies”. They speak the truth and are in accord with all the evidence we can find.

Summary

- **DPI NGO status granted more than simple access to a main library.**
- **Bethel's researcher evidently tried to access areas or facilities that were for DPI NGO representatives only.**
- **In 1991 the application was a formality and not a guarantee of support for the UN or it's charter. It didn't even require a signature.**
- **When the DPI NGO requirements changed and Bethel made aware of it, they withdrew the status and returned the DPI NGO passes.**
- **The letters of explanation sent by Bethel are in full accord with the facts and paper-trail of evidence. Bethel has not lied even once about the matter.**

Hail to the Chief

After the Guardian story broke, the United Nations DPI was inundated with many requests for information on the matter, especially from former Jehovah's Witnesses. Hence, Paul Hoeffel, the chief of the DPI's NGO section wrote an open letter on the matter to anyone who is interested in the subject.

Many persons refer to this letter as further “proof” that the Society's NGO relationship was inappropriate, and that the Society lied about the situation. Is this true? What does the letter say, and just why is it important? Let us examine this letter closely and find out for ourselves.

It begins with:

“4 March 2004

To Whom It May Concern,

*Recently the NGO Section has been receiving numerous inquiries regarding the association of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York with the Department of Public Information (DPI). This organization applied for association with DPI in 1991 and was granted association in 1992. **By accepting association with DPI, the organization agreed to meet criteria for association, including support and respect of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and commitment and means to conduct effective information programmes with its constituents and to a broader audience about UN activities.**”*

This seems like pretty damning evidence. However, we must remember that these statements were made in 2004 and after the fact. As we saw earlier, in no place on any of the forms signed by the Society was anything said about “support and respect of the principles” of the UN charter. Those statements simply are not there on the original forms. Some may deny it, but the facts speak for themselves.

Of course, now the UN is suddenly being very clear about their requirements — over ten years too late. Therefore it begs the question, why did Mr Hoeffel not make it plain and state that the 1991 forms did not include such requirements? We wonder if the DPI is trying to cover-up their own ineptness for not putting such a statement on the original form when it, perhaps, should have been.



To illustrate, imagine you join a video-rental store, such as Blockbusters. The membership form you completed when you join is simple and straightforward, entitling you to access any of the videos you wish. Strangely, it doesn't even require a signature. Then, 10 years later, the video store turns around and says, "Oh, by the way, although it wasn't on your membership form, and you haven't signed anything to this effect, you have agreed to rent pornographic videos on a regular basis." Say what? No, that cannot be. No one can turn around and say "you agreed to this, you agreed to that" a decade later — especially since you never signed any form stating such things. Yet this is the exact scenario with the Watchtower Society found itself in with the DPI and their changing requirements.

The chief of the DPI is being misleading — either by intentionally trying to cover his department's failings or from simply making an honest mistake. He is quoting the then-current 2004 requirements for a DPI NGO. Notice how he fails to say those were the requirements back in the early 1990's. Why does he not make it clear that the original applications said nothing about supporting the UN charter, as we can see for ourselves today? Who really is being untrustworthy and trying to "hide the facts"? Is it the Watchtower Society, whose explanation agrees with the 1991 evidence? Or is it not the DPI, who has wrongly insinuated that the criteria to support the UN as a DPI NGO was on the original application — when we know for a fact that it was not?

"redissemination of information"

Mr Hoeffel's letter continues:

"In October 2001, the Main Representative of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York to the United Nations, Giro Aulicino, requested termination of its association with DPI. Following this request, the DPI made a decision to disassociate the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York as of 9 October 2001.

*Please be informed that it is the policy of the Department of Public Information of the United Nations to keep **correspondence between the United Nations and NGOs associated with DPI confidential**. However, please see below the paragraph included in all letters sent to NGOs approved for association in 1992:*

*"The **principal purpose of association of non-governmental organizations with the United Nations Department of Public Information is the redissemination of information in order to increase public understanding of the principles, activities and achievements of the United Nations** and its Agencies. Consequently, it is important that you should **keep us informed about your organization's information programme as it relates to the United Nations, including sending us issues of your relevant publications.**"*

Notice how he now quotes from 1992 requirements. He quotes the part that the “principle purpose of ... [DPI NGOs] is the re-dissemination of information in order to increase public understanding ... of the United Nations”. The Watchtower Society was already interested in doing exactly that — and had been doing so for decades, ever since the UN was formed.

During World War II the League of Nations had, for all intents and purposes, ceased to function in any practical or meaningful way. However, The *Watchtower* magazine reckoned on the re-emergence of the League of Nations in a new form, after interpreting the contents of the prophecies in Revelation. Yes — the Watchtower Society was interested in educating the public on the United Nations and how it will play a part in Bible prophecy — *even before it was formed!* Ultimately the Society has been interested in educating the public on how the UN, along with all other governments, will be replaced by God's Kingdom under the rule of Christ. Yet the UN and its activities are still not very well-known by the General Public. Hence, the Society is very interested in educating the public about the “principles, activities and achievements of the United Nations and its Agencies.” Hence, we know the Society would be happy to continue to do something it was already doing.

As for the rest of this part of the letter, it is more interesting when we look at what it does *not* say — or what it should say if the critics were correct — rather than what it actually does say. What do we mean?

Mr Hoeffel is happy to quote that particular fact from the 1992 form, so why does he not quote from it more often? Why does he not quote from a part which says the DPI NGO application required support of the UN and its charter? This would have been definitive proof that the Watchtower Society knew what they were doing. Yet he cannot make such a quote from the 1992 requirements because no such statement exists. Instead, he quotes from the 2004 requirements, then selectively quotes from the 1992 requirements afterwards. This gives the wrong impression that the current criteria was in place in 1992 — when we know it was not. Incidentally, we also notice that Mr Hoeffel got the name of Bethel's representative wrong.

The wrong brochure, the wrong requirements

Returning to the letter, we read:

*“We are **enclosing a brochure** on the “The United Nations and Non-Governmental Organizations”, which will give you some **information regarding the NGO relationship.**”*

Why does Mr Hoeffel not enclose a copy of the 1992 brochure, clearly showing that there was criteria to support the UN and its charter in that year? Why did he not take the opportunity to confirm the point? Perhaps it is because the 1992 brochure said nothing of the sort. We know the 1994 brochure

does not say such a thing, and therefore have no basis for thinking it was in the 1992 brochure either, if one was even sent.

Finally, Mr Hoeffel outlines the criteria for organizations who wish to become DPI NGOs:

“In addition, the criteria for NGOs to become associated with DPI include the following:

- *that the NGO **share the ideals of the UN Charter**;*
- *operate solely on a **not-for-profit basis**;*
- *have a **demonstrated interest in United Nations issues and a proven ability to reach large or specialized audiences**, such as educators, media representatives, policy makers and the business community;*
- *have the commitment and **means to conduct effective information programmes about UN activities** by publishing newsletters, bulletins and pamphlets, organizing conferences, seminars and round tables; and enlisting the cooperation of the media.*

We expect that you will share this information with your concerned colleagues, as we are unable to address the scores of duplicate requests regarding the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society that are being directed to our offices. Thank you for your interest in the work of the United Nations.

Sincerely,

*Paul Hoeffel
Chief, NGO Section
Department of Public Information”*

Much of the criteria listed above is, again, not found in the initial application, nor the annual forms for representative passes. In other words, not in anything we are aware that the Watchtower Society was sent or signed during its DPI NGO tenure. So here we have another misleading statement from the DPI.

Notice the statement that the NGO must “share the ideals of the UN Charter”. We discussed this briefly in a previous chapter, however it might now be appropriate to again ask, *In what way can true Christians share the ideals of the UN charter, and if the Society did agree to support the UN, would that compromise our beliefs?*

Summary

- The DPI's NGO chief quotes from the 2004 requirements, not the 1991/1992 requirements which the Watchtower Society has on file.
- The Watchtower Society was granted DPI NGO status as they were already educating the public on the activities of the United Nations and it's Agencies.
- The DPI provided a copy of the 2004 brochure, which we know had changed since 1992 and did not include the requirement that DPI NGOs must support the UN and it's charter.

Principle Support

In the current version of the DPI NGO brochure, it asks the question “What are the Criteria for NGOs to become associated with DPI? The NGO must support and respect the principles of the Charter of the UN”, however in a previous chapter we saw how in earlier versions as late as 1994, the brochure said, “Who is eligible for association with the DPI? Non-profit organizations which: share the ideals of the UN charter”.



So the requirement clearly changed from happening to share the same ideals as the charter, to active support of the principles of the charter. Therefore, we know the Society never agreed to the words “support ... the principles of the Charter of the UN”. However, they may have been aware of the the requirement to “share the ideals” of that Charter. Does this requirement — if the Society ever agreed to it, of course — compromise our Christian beliefs?

Part of the UN?

Jehovah's Witnesses have certainly never been a part of the United Nations, despite what many grossly misinformed people may claim. Even when the Watchtower Society was a DPI NGO, the UN itself clearly stated to all such organizations that the “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.**” The very idea that access to the DPI's resources — although many and varied — was some sort of “political partnership” or “political alliance” as many of our critics claim, is not based in reality.

The DPI has never made any associated NGO organization “part of the UN” or gained that organization any kind of special treatment. This may be the case with ECOSOC NGOs, but certainly not with DPI NGO's in the 1990's!

DPI NGO status to gain prominence?

Some have speculated that the Watchtower Society's “real motive” was to gain prominence in the eyes of the UN and other governments, particularly where governments were persecuting Jehovah's Witnesses. However, there is absolutely no evidence that having DPI passes to access their library resources, exhibitions and events, could ever have such a benefit. To speculate that a government, such as that of France, would stop persecuting Jehovah's Witnesses because the Bethel staff in New York

have access to books, audio and film libraries, and can attend UN education workshops in buildings in New York, is a bizarre concept with absolutely no evidence or precedent to back it up.

This is especially so when we consider the great number of high court judgments the Witnesses have won. If the Watchtower Society wanted to gain legal status and recognition, they would do it via the courts as they have successfully done for decades. Who would seriously expect a government to think again about persecuting Jehovah's Witnesses, because their staff in New York were granted passes by the UN Department of Public Information to help write *Awake!* articles? Considering France again, exactly what legal baring would the Society's NGO status have on the dispute with interpretations of French tax laws?

The claim that the DPI NGO status was to gain political influence over various governments is nothing more than ridiculous speculation — a speculation usually entertained by those who are not in a position to know any of the facts.

The word “support”

Although the evidence indicated that the Watchtower Society never signed or completed one document that said they would support the United Nations, for a moment let's do as many critics do, and pretend that the evidence doesn't exist. Let's pretend we have evidence that the Society did indeed sign a document where they agreed to support the UN and the principles of the UN's charter. What implications would such an agreement have? Would it compromise our Christian beliefs?

The word “support”, in English, is a general term, and we are not at all helped in defining exactly what it means to the UN. In their documents they do not stipulate exact specifications of what it means to support the UN and the principles of their charter — neither in a practical nor philosophical sense.

According to *Websters*, when the word “support” is used as a verb, can mean to “**uphold or defend as valid; to furnish corroborating evidence for; to act in a secondary or subordinate role to.**” Using these definitions, what are the implications of supporting the UN and it's charter?

Definition of support

When the Watchtower Society began educating the public on the United Nations and it's place in Bible prophecy from 1945 onwards, it could be said that our support was to “**furnish corroborating evidence for**” to the UN whether we intended to or not — at least in the sense of educating the public in what the UN is, what it is there for, and what it does. The UN wants the public to know about its existence and relevance in the world. That is why even organizations which criticize the UN's failings can remain DPI NGOs — as did the Watchtower Society. Since the DPI is there to disseminate information it is reasonable to believe that the definition “**to furnish corroborating evidence for**” would be the applicable definition for the word ‘support’ in this case.

However it is also true that by being “in subjection” to the governments as Romans 13 tells us to do, we are supporting them in that we are acting in a “**secondary or subordinate role.**” It says:

*“Everybody must submit to the ruling authorities for none exists without God's permission and it is he who puts them in their place. So **anyone who opposes the authority is setting himself against God's arrangement**, and those who do so will only bring punishment upon themselves. ... So pay to all what is due, the property tax to the tax collector, customs to the customs officer, and **respect and honour to all whose positions call for it.**” —Romans 13:1-2, 7;
The 21st Century New Testament, Insight Press, Bristol, UK*

Lets say that the definition to “**uphold or defend as valid**” is what is meant by the word ‘support.’ By paying our taxes and being in subjection to God's arrangement, true Christians support and encourage the rule of law and the authority of all human governments, for by doing any different we would be setting ourselves “against God's arrangement”. We uphold and defend as valid the application of the constitution of the country we live in when it does not conflict with Bible principles. For example, this would particularly apply to the right to choose and practice one's own faith. This includes the *Bill of Rights* if you live in the United States, the *European Convention on Human Rights* if you live within the European Union, and the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* within every UN member state.

Furthermore, we use the court system of many countries to advance true worship; Many brothers and sisters sign documents which state they will protect the constitution or laws of the land they reside in. Yes, we support and encourage the rule of law and the authority of the governments put in place by God, for “none” exists without God's permission and “it is he” who put them in their place — yes, including the United Nations.

The charter's principles

While it may be acceptable to support a government in the sense of encouraging it's God-placed authority through co-operation and so forth, what about supporting the *principles* of the United Nations charter? Those principles and goals expressed in the charter are:

*“to maintain international **peace and security**; to **suppress acts of aggression** that threaten world peace; to **encourage friendly relations among nations**; to **protect the fundamental freedoms** of all peoples **without discrimination based on race, sex, language, or religion**; and to achieve **international cooperation in solving economic, social, and cultural problems.**”*

Do we or do we not support and give “approval” to these principles? If you do not support those principles, what kind of person would you be? Indeed, if Jehovah's Witnesses as a religion did not support and approve of those principles above, what kind of horrible religion would we be members of?

Is it appropriate to support the UN upholding the religious freedom and the human rights of our brothers, provided that we do not become incorporated in that organization? Absolutely. Can't we promote and support the same ideals without promoting it as the Kingdom of God on earth? Most certainly. Can't we use the court system and other avenues of the both UN and its member states to gain religious freedom for our brothers? Of course we can.

“in accordance with its own aims”

Even the 1996 resolution by the ECOSOC concerning an ECOSOC NGO's support of the UN makes the following statement about that type of NGO (remember, the Society was not an ECOSOC NGO):

*“3. The organization shall **undertake to support the work of the United Nations** and to promote knowledge of its principles and activities, **in accordance with its own aims and purposes** and the nature and scope of its competence and activities.”*

Note that even an ECOSOC NGO, which is in a consultative relationship with the UN, isn't even obligated to support all the work of the UN. It says its support must be “in accordance with its own aims and purposes”. This means that the particular ECOSOC NGO would not support all the aims of the UN, but only those “aims and purposes” in the “scope of its competence and activities.”

In the case of Jehovah's Witnesses, those ‘aims and purposes’ would be in the field of religious freedom and human rights. That is the “scope of its competence and activities.” There is certainly nothing wrong with supporting that type of work and using whatever avenues are available for assistance. Further, if this qualified definition of “support” applied to the consultative-status ECOSOC NGO's, how much more qualified the definition of “support” must be to the DPI NGOs which enjoy no such status.

Of course, one of the main interests of the UN is human rights. If the UN wants to come to the aid of brothers being persecuted for their religious beliefs, should we not support that? The UN has not yet attacked God's people and proved itself to be an enemy of God. Did not Paul appeal to Rome when he was being persecuted? Yes — did he not use the legal system of a government which later proved to be the foretold “disgusting thing”, to advance true worship?

A Christian view of the United Nations

The Watchtower of October 1st, 1995 provides a clear description of how we should view the United Nations:

*“In Bible prophecy, **human governments are often symbolized by wild beasts**. (Daniel 7:6, 12, 23; 8:20-22) Hence, for many decades the Watchtower magazine has identified the wild beasts of Revelation chapters 13 and 17 with today's worldly governments. This includes the **United Nations, which is de-***

picted in Revelation chapter 17 as a scarlet-colored beast with seven heads and ten horns.

*“However, this Scriptural position **does not condone any form of disrespect toward governments or their officials.** The Bible clearly states: “Let every soul be in subjection to the superior authorities, for there is no authority except by God; the existing authorities stand placed in their relative positions by God. Therefore he who opposes the authority has taken a stand against the arrangement of God; those who have taken a stand against it will receive judgment to themselves.”—Romans 13:1, 2.*

*“Accordingly, **Jehovah s Witnesses, who are maintaining strict political neutrality, do not interfere with human governments. They never foment revolution or participate in acts of civil disobedience.** Rather, they recognize that some form of government is necessary to maintain law and order in human society.—Romans 13:1-7; Titus 3:1.*

*“**Jehovah s Witnesses view the United Nations organization as they do other governmental bodies of the world. They acknowledge that the United Nations continues to exist by God s permission. In harmony with the Bible, Jehovah s Witnesses render due respect to all governments and obey them** as long as such obedience does not require that they sin against God.—Acts 5:29.”*

In 1st Corinthians 7:31, the apostle Paul said that **“those making use of the world [should be] as those not using it to the full...”** In view of these scriptures, after reasoning on the matter, and in view of the definitions connected to the word ‘support’, would it really be wrong to say that you agree to ‘support’ the UN and the principles of it's charter — especially so in the field in which the Society specializes in, that of human rights and religious freedom? Yet our brothers in Bethel, upon realizing the new wording of the UN's criteria for association as a DPI NGO, and even though it may not be unscriptural to remain a DPI NGO, chose to withdraw membership rather than risk stumbling others. Is that not commendable and loving on their part?

However, when the Society was a DPI NGO, did the Society deliberately put forth extra effort to maintain their DPI NGO status? Did they deliberately write articles “praising” the UN and it's accomplishments, as critics claim?

Summary

- **DPI NGOs do not become “part of the UN”, or “a UN member”, nor do they enter a “political relationship” where the NGO can influence the UN's policies.**
- **If the Society agreed to support the UN and the principles of it's charter — which they did not — it would not violate bible principles.**
- **Jehovah's Witnesses view the UN as any other government, just as the Apostle Paul viewed Rome.**

Awake to Propaganda?

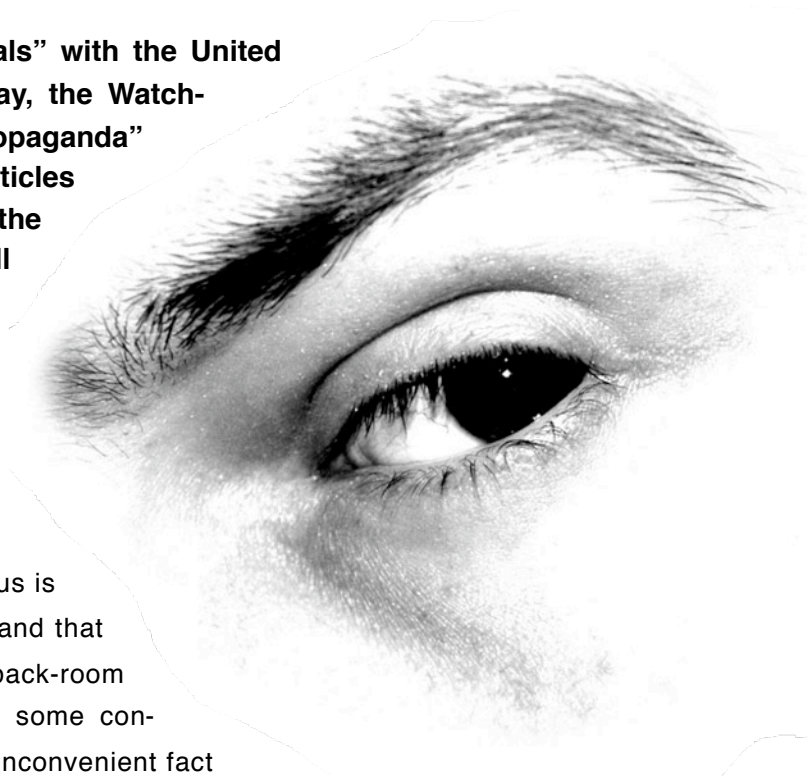
As part of the alleged “secret deals” with the United Nations, the conspiracy theorists say, the Watchtower Society “agreed” to write “propaganda” for the UN. They claim a series of articles published in the *Awake!* during the 1990's were simply written to fulfill their NGO requirement — their “end of the bargain”. Is this a reasonable assessment of the evidence, or is it shallow circumstantial evidence for a crazy conspiracy theory?

We earlier showed how DPI NGO status is very different to ECOSOC NGO status, and that being a DPI NGO is hardly a “secret back-room deal” to create a “political alliance” as some conspiracy theorists claim. They ignore the inconvenient fact that a mere DPI NGO does not have political influence over the UN, nor does it gain any kind of status.

Yet, one of the requirements of any organization wishing to be a DPI NGO and have access to the DPI's vast resources, is that the organization makes full use of them. They must be at least using the facilities for a purpose in harmony with the DPI itself — to educate the public on the role and activities of the UN. To prove the organization is doing so, they must send copies of the organization's journal to the DPI as proof.

There is nothing wrong with this — it proves the Society was indeed making use of the resources, and not abusing them by promoting values contrary to that of the UN charter, such as Nazism, racism, or any such ideas. It is a sensible precaution on behalf of the DPI and completely appropriate.

The conspiracy theorists, however, see the *Awake!* articles published in the 1990's as part of the great conspiracy to promote the UN as a world government. One even goes so far as claiming that the Governing Body has apostatized — possibly through infiltration from One-world conspirators (influence of the Masons and the Illuminati has not been ruled out) — and now secretly worship the beast of the UN. One claims the Society have stealthily changed the *Awake!* to “become a UN publication” and it now only “occasionally makes off-handed reference to Jehovah's kingdom.” He also claims the *Awake!* made just as many references to the UN as God's Kingdom in it's pages during the time of the DPI

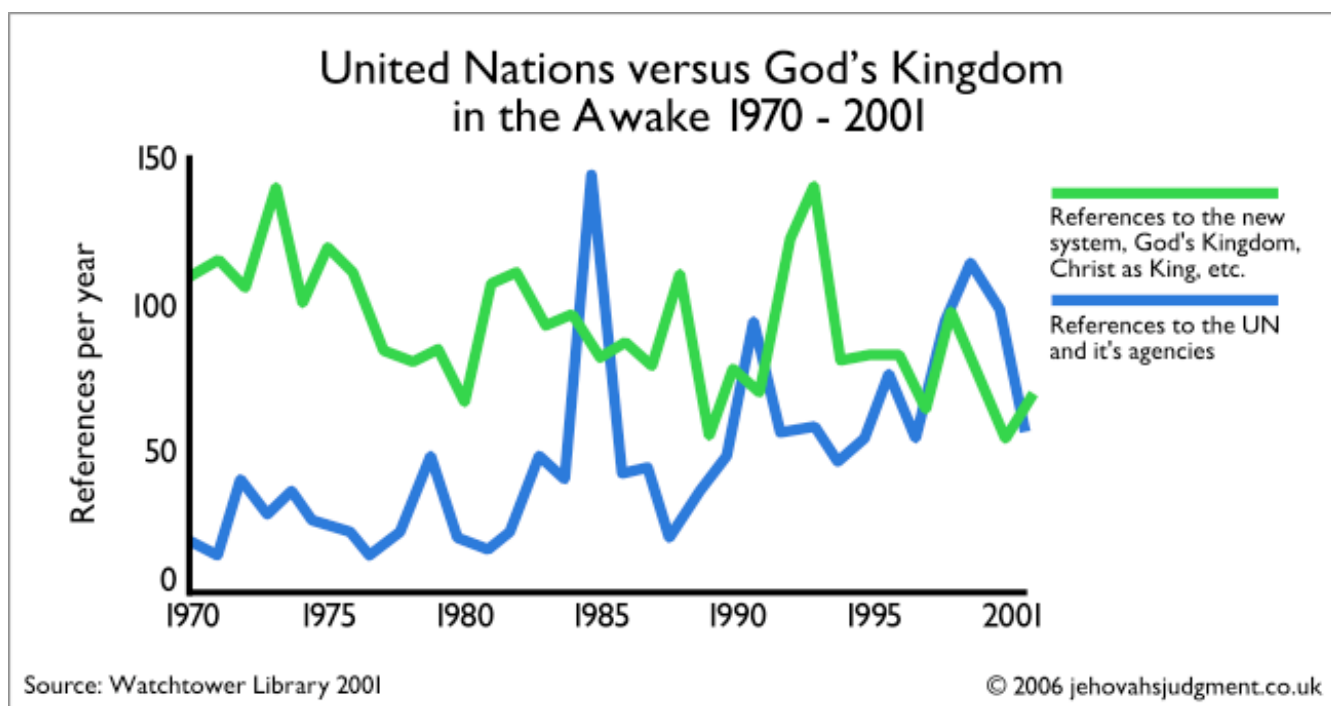


NGO status. Of course, any regular reader of the *Awake!* will laugh at these accusations, but is there any truth to them?

A “UN publication”?

References to the United Nations have increased somewhat in the pages of the *Awake!* over the years. That much is certainly true — especially in news items and articles on subjects such as the environment, human rights, and religious freedom. If we count the number of references to words such as “United Nations” or “UN”, we can plot the number on a chart, as in this chart. We have also plotted the number of references to “new system”, “Christ's Kingdom”, “new world”, etc., on the same chart for comparison.

We can see that mentions of the “United Nations” (or simply the “UN”) did intermittently increase from around 1980, while the number of references to the new system have actually remained pretty much the same, usually being more numerous than mentions of the UN. This certainly isn't a magazine which only “occasionally makes off-handed reference to Jehovah's kingdom”! We know this is a ridicu-

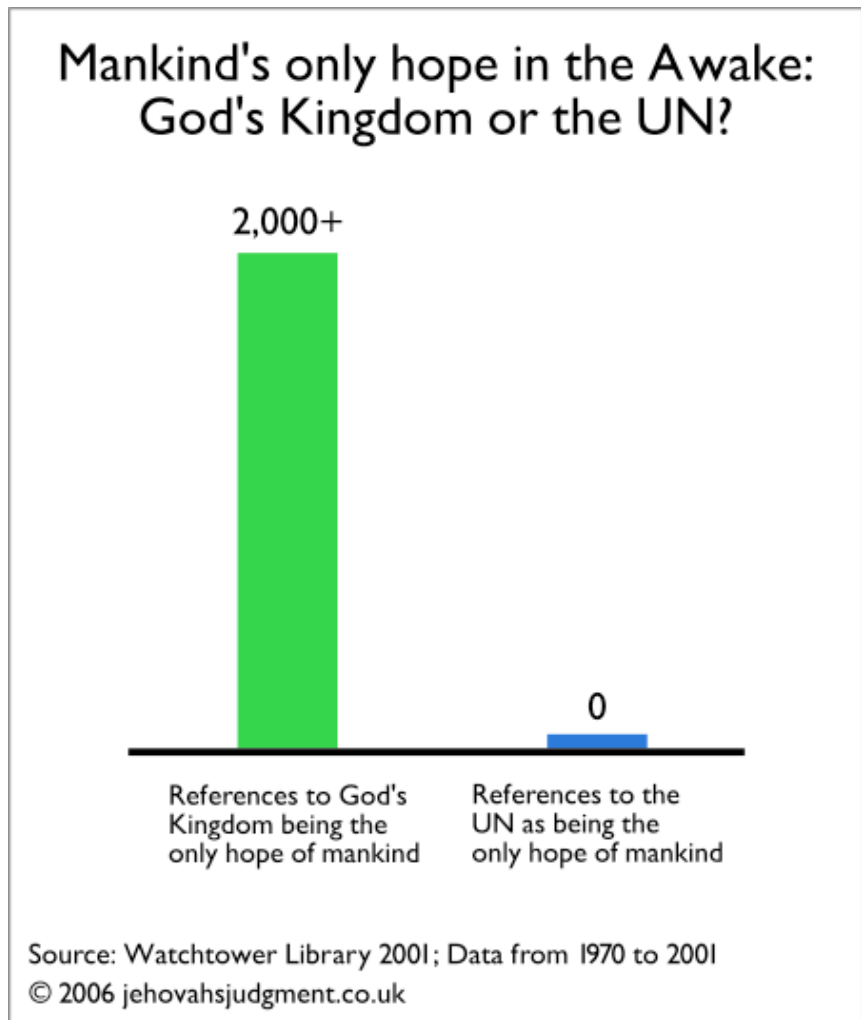


lous statement that flies in the face of the solid evidence presented above. The *Awake!* mentioned the new system of things hundreds of times over the 1990's — roughly as often as it did in the 1980's!

Furthermore, the only thing this chart proves is that the United Nations — and it's agencies, of which there are numerous — are mentioned in the *Awake!* somewhat more often in the 1990's than during the 1970's and early 80's. It doesn't tell us much else. For example, how many of those references to the UN are negative? Probably quite a few. How many references are utterly trivial references to a UN

agency — such as would be found in a news item? Probably quite a lot. More to the point, how many of those references to the UN or a UN agency are promoting the UN as mankind's only hope for peace? We know the answer to this last question, as shown on this chart to the right.

Yes, even though the *Awake!* has increased its references to the UN, it has never once portrayed the UN as a viable world government, and certainly never as God's Kingdom on earth. The *Awake!* is hardly a “UN publication”! However, why has the *Awake!* increased its references to the UN — positive, negative, or otherwise? What could be behind that increase? Has it also increased references to any other organization, government, or agency?



America, America, America

“I’m not reading that American rubbish” said my father when I tried to show him an article I thought he may find interesting. Like many people of the older generation in Britain, anything American is looked down upon. Indeed, anti-American sentiment has long been a problem for the preaching work in Europe and in other parts of the world, where we are often referred to as an “American sect” — the emphasis being on the American part more than the sect part.

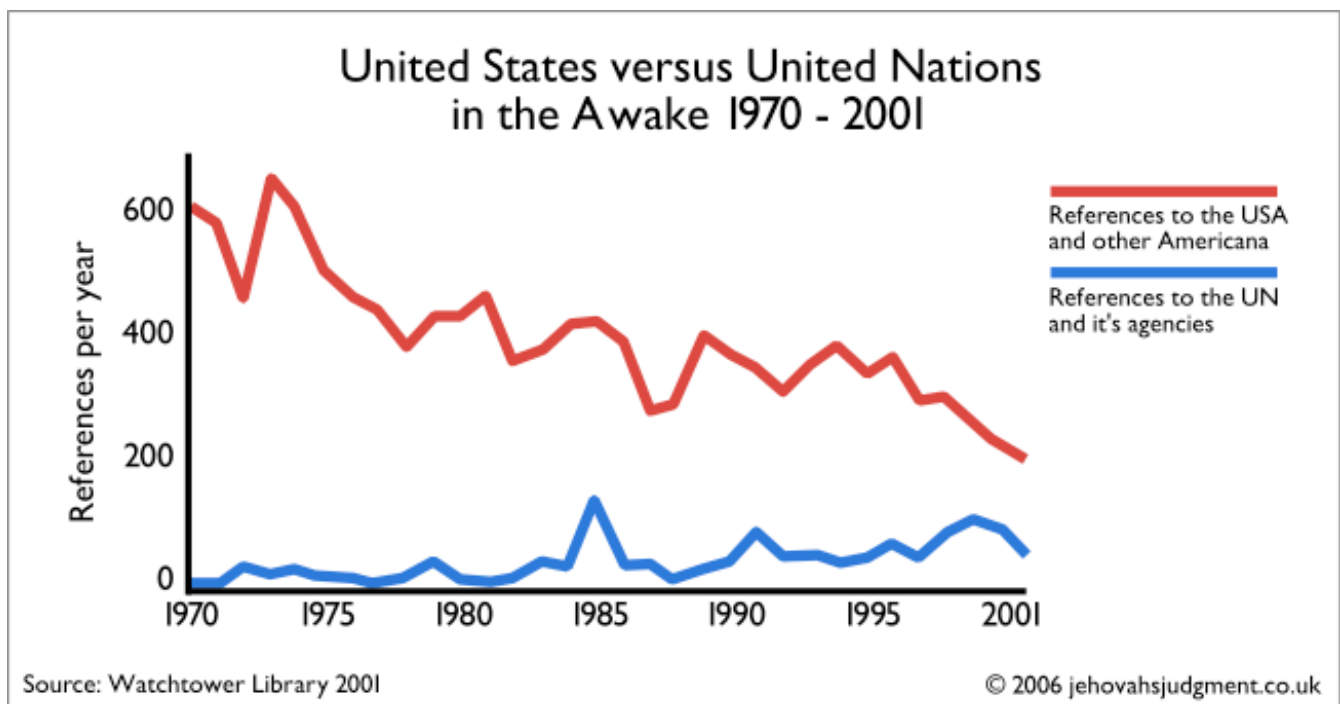
As of 2006, approximately 85% of Jehovah's Witnesses are non-Americans. Yet it was not always that way. At one time most Witnesses were from the States, and there is where most of our literature was written and printed. This meant the *Watchtower* — and particularly, the *Awake!* — often concentrated on American events, news items, and what American institutions (religious or otherwise) announced or advised. This often irritated both publishers and members of the public who read our publications outside of the USA — as it did my father. However, in the 1970's this began to change.

The fall of America

Over a few years, the *Awake!* gained a far more international feel. Articles about American Institutions (whether scientific, religious, or political) seemed to be becoming less frequent, with mentions of non-American people, non-American organizations, and countries other than America becoming more frequent. International organizations which work across borders, rather than simply American ones, became quoted as sources more frequently. Rather than reporting what some American board of health has decided, the World Health Organization would be cited instead. Rather than the *American Bill of Rights* being discussed and how it relates to religious freedom, the *International Declaration of Human Rights* is considered instead. Rather than some American environmental group being quoted, international organizations like Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, the World Wildlife Fund, or the United Nations Environmental Programme would be consulted their place.

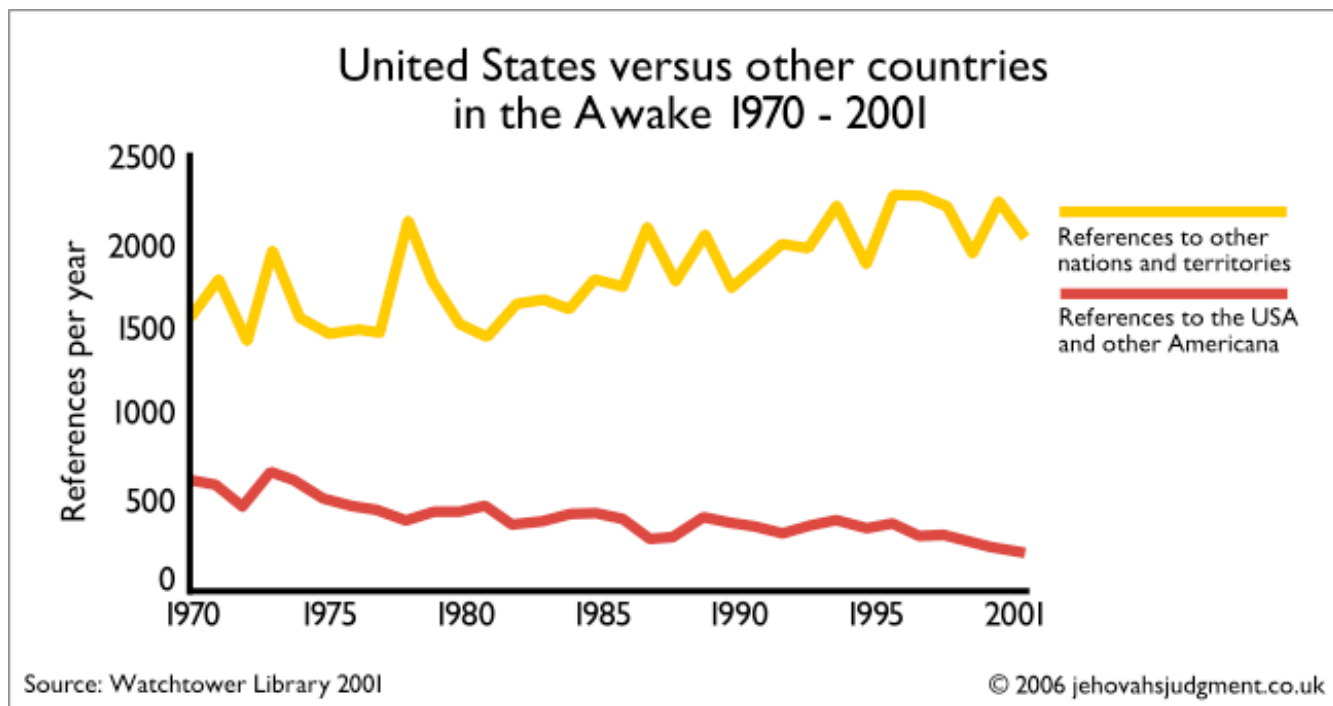
This strong trend in the *Awake!* magazine to refocus itself away from the USA can be shown in our chart below. As you can see the written mentions of “America”, “American”, “United States”, “USA”, “New York”, and other terms relating to the superpower dropped significantly, while references to the United Nations increased by a small amount.

You will also notice that despite the increase in mentions of the United Nations, references to that



government has not even come close to the phenomenal number of references to the United States of America prior to the change. However, the small increase in mentions of the UN obviously did not re-

place all those references to the USA. So what did replace them? Our next chart, below, provides us with the answer.



From this we can see that while the references to the USA decreased, references to Britain, Japan, France, other European countries, and international organizations, increased to compensate — replacing the USA. This change, along with the small increase in references to the UN, fully accounts for the drop in references to America.

This evidence demonstrates that, rather than being part of some crackpot conspiracy of a “secret political partnership” to support a world government, the increased mentions of the United Nations in Watchtower Society literature from the 1970's onward, was due to their researchers using more international sources for the *Awake!* articles. Rather than use American institutions, news sources, and correspondents, the magazine moved away to international sources, including international Government agencies. After all, the Society did say the only reason for becoming a DPI NGO was to have continued access to the DPI's vast international research materials, did they not?

As we discussed earlier, the current level of references to the United Nations is no where near the previous levels of references to *American* institutions and *American* Government agencies. Would our conspiracy theorists have us believe, therefore, that the *Awake!* was once publishing that information in a secret deal to curry favor with the United States Government? Or was it not, rather, a symptom of having mainly American writers and an American readership? Of course it was. Likewise, the trend towards more international and non-American references reflects the new nationality of the writers and the greatly expanded international readership.

Readers from 230 countries and territories want to read about international organizations, issues, and government decisions that effect *them*, they do not want to read what what is of importance to Americans all the time (I'm sure American readers also appreciate the new international feel). That is why the *Awake!* now quotes from more international sources than ever before (including the UN), and uses correspondents from many different countries.

Propaganda pieces?

Despite the obvious change in the *Awake!*, the conspiracy theorists still insist that the increase in UN references in the *Awake* was “*really*” due to “*a secret back-room deal*” to promote a “*totalitarian world government*”. They even say the Society is guilty of getting the brothers involved in the alleged “*apostasy*” by getting them to distribute the UN “*propaganda*” in the field. Is there any truth in this extraordinary accusation?

Let us examine these so-called “*propaganda*” pieces in detail, and see whether these allegations have any merit.

The “heavenly Government is invisible but real”

According to one accuser, the “*most blatant propagandizing in support of the United Nations*” was the November 22nd 1998 cover article of the *Awake!*, talking about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This was appropriately published on the 50th anniversary of the declaration's signing. The conspiracy theorist says this was written to “*publicize the event*” on behalf of the UN. Is this accurate? Consider the last few paragraphs of the article. Do they promote the UN as a viable world government?

*“Just as the Bible shows that the Creator is the source of the faculties that underlie human rights, it also informs us that **he is the source of a world gov-***

The most international magazine on earth

The *Awake!* is now arguably the most International magazine on earth. The average issue is written by authors in several different countries, published on six continents, and translated into a staggering 81 languages for dis-



tribution in over 230 countries and territories. For this magazine to have maintained its previous high concentration on American issues and citations would be wholly inappropriate. Much more fittingly it now quotes International organizations, such as the United Nations various cross-border organizations on health, the environment, children, poverty, etc., in its pages. As it's own description states, the magazine “always stays politically neutral and does not exalt one race above another.”

ernment that ensures them. This heavenly government is invisible but real. In fact, millions of people, perhaps unwittingly, pray for this world government when saying in what is commonly called the Lord's Prayer: "Let your kingdom come. Let your will take place, as in heaven, also upon earth." (Matthew 6:10) The God-appointed **Head of that Kingdom government is the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ.**—Isaiah 9:6.

This world government will succeed in creating a truly global and lasting human rights culture by, among other things, eliminating war forever. The Bible prophesies: "He [the Creator] is making wars to cease to the extremity of the earth. The bow he breaks apart and does cut the spear in pieces; the wagons he burns in the fire."—Psalm 46:9

How soon will this happen on a global scale? **The Bible study program provided by Jehovah's Witnesses includes a satisfying answer to this question.** We encourage you to get acquainted with this program. If you care about human rights, you will not be disappointed."

The article leaves the reader to consider how the "Prince of Peace" Jesus Christ — not the UN — will create a "truly global and lasting human rights culture". This is an appropriate end, for in the previous paragraphs the article shows how the UN has failed to accomplish its Human Rights goals. First of all, this supposed "propaganda" for the UN says:

"For millions of people around the world, human rights violations are impossible to ignore. Their daily plight is still marred by discrimination, poverty, starvation, persecution, rape, child abuse, slavery, and violent death. For these victims the promising conditions spelled out in the towering stack of human rights treaties are a thousand miles away from the world they know. In fact, for most of mankind, even the basic rights listed in the 30 articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights remain an unfulfilled promise."

We wonder what kind of "propaganda" in a "UN publication" calls the UN's Human Rights declaration "an unfulfilled promise" for "most of mankind". After this, it goes on to list several areas where the UN has failed and Human Rights continue to be violated world-wide. These areas are listed under subheadings entitled, 'Equality for All?', 'Children Without Childhoods', 'Choosing and Changing One's Religion', 'Sore Back but Empty Purse', 'Medical Care for All'. Each subheading headlines how the UN has failed to accomplish their goals in each of these areas. Of course, conspiracy theorists do not tell you about *that* part of the article.

While the article definitely *informs* us about the UN, it certainly does not *support or promote it as a viable world government*. The only thing it seems to be promoting is Jehovah's Witnesses' free Bible

study program. Oh, but yes, it certainly does point to a world government as the solution to Human Rights violations — but that government is God's Kingdom, not the United Nations in New York. As the Watchtower Society have quoted many times in relation to the efforts of human governments:

"It does not belong to man who is walking even to direct his step." —Jeremiah 10:23

"mankind will be united in pure worship"

A few months after the above article was published, the *Awake!* had an article entitled *Religious Intolerance Today*. The conspiracy theorists say its publication was *"transparently pandering to the United Nations to protect the rights of Jehovah's Witnesses"*. Is this a reasonable assumption, or inductive reasoning to reach a conclusion one has already made?

First, the article considers how religious intolerance is a problem in the modern world. It quotes from five UN sources, one newspaper, three books, and a university professor. The next part of the article considers the history of persecution of Christians starting in the 1st century. It quotes one history book, one encyclopedia, one book on religious freedom, one court judge, four other magazines, five newspapers, a parliamentary deputy, one professor, and one doctor, five historical figures who defended religious freedom, and finally from one UN source. The next article in the series quotes from three UN sources, two newspapers, a book on democracy, and the Bible five times. The final article quotes one newspaper, three UN sources, and the Bible twice.

How does the article end? Does it say the UN will solve the problems of religious tolerance? Does it appeal to the UN to step in and defend Jehovah's Witnesses? No, but it does end in this fashion:

*"The Bible promises that **soon mankind will be united in pure worship of the one true God**. This unity will result in a true worldwide fraternity, or brotherhood, where respect for others will prevail. Humans will no longer be plagued by ignorance, as **God's Kingdom will teach people Jehovah's ways**, thus satisfying their intellectual, emotional, and spiritual needs. (Isaiah 11:9; 30:21; 54:13) Real equality and liberty will cover the earth. (2 Corinthians 3:17) **By acquiring an accurate understanding of God's purposes for mankind, you can counter ignorance and intolerance.**"*

In the past, Jehovah's Witnesses have put forth much effort to get governments to change their minds. They have fought in the courts, even to the highest courts in the land. They have initiated letter-writing campaigns to get brothers released from prison. They have published articles deliberately criticizing certain governments policies, such as with Malawi and Singapore. They have launched special campaigns with specially printed leaflets, as occurred in France with the leaflet *People of France* —

You are Being Deceived! Countless other initiatives have taken place all over the earth to establish religious freedom for Jehovah's Witnesses.

The series of articles we considered above were extremely well-balanced and well-written, showing the problem of religious intolerance today and how “in numerous countries where intolerance and discrimination are hard realities, countless millions of people today do not enjoy religious freedom.” If we want to appeal to the UN to help protect our rights, we would do so directly, not by writing an article and hope it will please them in such a way that they would protect us. When the accuser says these articles were specially written for “*transparently pandering to the United Nations to protect the rights of Jehovah's Witnesses*”, we think that is an unfounded presumption. We are perfectly capable of defending our own rights, and the UN is already dedicated to protecting the rights of all religious minorities anyway. The most reasonable deduction is that Society was making good use of the UN's extensive library facilities to write high-quality *Awake!* articles such as this, just as they claimed.

“a heavenly government... the definitive solution”

Regarding the November 8th 1999 *Awake!*, the accuser says, “*Most people probably do not even know that there is such an agency as the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs; but the Watchtower Society has seen to it that its readership is made aware—if only superficially—of even obscure UN agencies.*”

Does the *Awake!* inform its readers of “*obscure UN agencies*” for the purpose of “*promoting its global agenda*” as the accuser says elsewhere? Or does the *Awake!* quote from that agency because it is international, authoritative, and reliable? Here are the final paragraphs of that same *Awake!* Magazine. Read and decide for yourself whether it promotes God's Kingdom or the UN's “*global agenda*”:

*“If the war on drugs is to be won, there must be a global solution because the problem is already a global one. In this regard **the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs notes:** “While drug abuse, drug trafficking and the criminality connected to the drug problem were in most countries perceived as one of the main threats to security, the public was less aware of the fact that **illicit drugs were a global problem that could no longer be solved by national efforts alone.**”*

But will the governments of the world band together to eradicate this global scourge? The results so far have not been encouraging. The Bible, however, points to a heavenly government that will transcend national boundaries as the definitive solution. The Bible assures us that God's Kingdom, ruled by Jesus Christ, will last “forever and ever.” (Revelation 11:15) Hence, under God's Kingdom, divine education will ensure that the demand for drugs will disappear. (Isaiah 54:13) And the social and emotional

*problems that now provide fertile soil for drug abuse will be gone forever.—
Psalm 55:22; 72:12; Micah 4:4.*

Are You in Need of Help?

*Even now, hope in **God's Kingdom in the hands of Christ is motivating people to say no to drugs.** If you would like more information, please contact Jehovah's Witnesses in your area."*

Needless to say, we could go on and on. If you wish to see more so-called examples of the "UN propaganda" please see the Appendix entry entitled *More on the Awake! Articles*.

The question now needs to be asked: Do these articles promote the UN or God's Kingdom as the hope for mankind? They all, without exception, are showing how God's Kingdom will succeed in remedying the problems of mankind where the UN and all human governments have failed. They hold a respectful attitude towards the UN and all governments while recognizing their sincerity and desire to improve the world. They tactfully declare the message of God's Kingdom so as not to turn people off when reading it.

Another pertinent question to ask is whether the writer of the above accusations actually read the entire articles or if he simply has an agenda is to misrepresent the facts. Should we really expect that every article about the UN should conclude with how the UN is the wild beast and will be ultimately destroyed by God's Kingdom? That is absurd. Yet to be sure there were certainly a few articles during the decade of the 1990's that did just that. —See the 12/8/90 and 7/8/96 *Awake!*; also the 5/1/93 and 10/1/95 *Watchtower*

Pre-1991 articles

What about *Watchtower* and *Awake!* articles written before and after the Society was a DPI NGO? Has there been any articles which, if had been published during the 1991 to 2001 status, would now be declared as "UN propaganda" by Internet conspiracy theorists? Certainly!

One article which would have definitely been considered "propaganda" printed as "part of the deal" with the UN, is in the February 22nd 1979 *Awake!*. When examining this article are we to assume that that the Watchtower Society had a 12-year plot to become a DPI NGO with the UN and thus began writing "UN propaganda"?

Here are a few quotes from that article. While reading it, just imagine what kind of accusations a conspiracy theorist would make.

"Commendable Goals

*The **goals of the United Nations organization are commendable.** "The purposes of the United Nations are," so reads its charter, "to maintain international peace and security."*

Article 55 of the charter says: "With a view to the creation of conditions of stability and well-being which are necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, the United Nations shall promote: a) higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development; b) solutions of international economic, social, health, and related problems; and international cultural and educational cooperation; and c) universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion."

*Fine goals, but to what extent have they been reached? To what extent can they be reached? An article in the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung in 1965 called attention to certain facts that still apply today 14 years later: "A balance of twenty years of UN history and **a long list of conciliation and mediation measures shows that the United Nations have been successful** in cases where the super powers have not been directly involved."*

*The article called attention **to the fine work done by organs of the United Nations in other fields**, such as by the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and by **a host of others.***

*There are U.N. agencies, for example, dealing with the peaceful uses of outer space, of atomic energy and of the seabed. Questions of the environment, industrial development and economic development also come up for consideration. There is a United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. **Much has been done in the way of disaster relief. One of the most remarkable achievements was caring for the needs of millions of Bangladeshi refugees after the war with Pakistan.***

***A Committee on Crime Prevention and Control has also done fine work.** The first major intergovernmental conference ever devoted solely to women was sponsored by this organization in Mexico City in 1975."*

Here is another example, a December 8th 1974 Awake! article entitled *What the Poor Nations Are Saying*:

*"In the spring of 1974, the **"underdeveloped" countries sponsored a special session of the United Nations General Assembly.** This three-week session was devoted to their problems, especially the use of their raw materials by the richer countries."*

"United Nations Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim answers:

"The single most devastating indictment of our current world civilization is the continued existence of stark, pervasive poverty among two-thirds of the world population."

"It permeates every phase of life in developing countries: in the malnutrition of children, in the outbreaks of diseases, in widespread unemployment, in low literacy rates, in overcrowded cities."

Ah, now it is becoming clearer. The Watchtower Society had a 17-year plot to disseminate information for the UN in order to become a DPI NGO! That is almost comical. Needless to say there are others, and of course all the articles close with, as the accusers will say, the 'token' references to God's Kingdom and that it will accomplish what man-made governments have failed to accomplish.

Post-2001 articles

Do the Watchtower Society publications show a change since withdrawing membership as a DPI NGO? Would the articles written continue to be viewed as 'UN propaganda' if the Society was still a DPI NGO today? Lets examine some of these articles in the *Awake!* magazine since 2001.

The March 22nd 2005 *Awake!* cover-article *Mountains Vital for Life On Earth* is one recent example. Here is a quote from it:

"The United Nations Environmental Programme sponsored the International Year of Mountains 2002. To emphasize mankind's dependence on the mountains, organizers coined the phrase "We Are All Mountain People." They aimed to increase awareness of the problems facing the world's mountains and seek solutions to protect them. This concern is a valid one..."

Other references are made to what the UN has done and, as always, the article closes with what God's Kingdom will accomplish. Can you not just here the accusations, *"Most people did not even know that 2002 was the International Year of mountains. But here again the Watchtower has seen to it that its readership is made aware of even obscure International Years."* Is this not precisely what would be said?

Another example is January 8th 2005 *Awake!* article *Can Planet Earth Be Saved?* Here is a quote from it:

*“True, **world leaders have made commendable efforts to curb pollution, deforestation, and other environmental problems. Starting with the UN Conference on Human Environment in 1972, and followed by other conferences at regular intervals, up to 163 nations have met to endorse action plans.**”*

Imagine if this had been written in the 1990's, we would no doubt hear the same tired old accusations of conspiracy and deception from accusers, *“It's more one-world propaganda for the UN! They are praising the 1972 conference and the so-called commendable efforts of the UN!”*

Also consider the February 22nd 2003 *Awake!* article *Malnutrition “The Silent Emergency”*. As you can just imagine from the title, there are many references made to the UN. Here is one that would definitely be given as “proof” if written during the time the Society had DPI NGO status:

*“...in 1996 the World Food Summit of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) set the goal of reducing the number of the world's undernourished by half—some 400 million people—by the year 2015. **Commendably, some progress has been made.**”*

Listen! Can you here the accusatory statements about the blatant way the Watchtower promotes the goals of the UN and informs us of the UN's proposed solutions as part of their global agenda?

Let's take one final example, although we could go on and on. Consider the February 22nd 2005 *Awake!* article *The Role of Mothers as Educators*. Here the Writing Department has the gall to put a picture of the UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, and quote what he said about women in the center of page 5! Can't you just hear the accusations? *“What purpose could this possibly serve but to promote the UN and their agenda?”*

Yet the fact is that all of these articles were written after 2001 when the Watchtower Society withdrew its DPI NGO status. Perhaps someone needs to tell them that they can stop their *“blatant propagandizing for the UN”* since they no longer need to disseminate such information as part of the *“back room deal”*. That is certainly a ridiculous statement, but it well demonstrates how absurd the previous accusations are about the Watchtower Society's deliberately publishing *“UN propaganda”* and the *Awake!* allegedly becoming a *“UN publication”* to fulfill the UN's requirements.

Each article featuring the UN has always closed with how God's Kingdom, not the UN, will solve all the problems of mankind. Besides, articles of these exact same sentiments were published both before and after the DPI NGO years anyway.

The conclusion, all things having been heard

In conclusion, have we as Jehovah's Witnesses disseminated information about the UN? Of course we have. We did this long before we were a DPI NGO — even before the UN was formed — and we continue to do so to this day. Did we give our publications to the UN as proof of our concurrence with DPI requirements? Yes, and why not? Such a provision was a sensible precaution of behalf of the UN's DPI to ensure their facilities were not being misused by undesirable organizations who “contribute to the propagation of nazi ideology and racial and/or religious discrimination”. These are the words of the UN's own resolution on the matter, not ours.

Furthermore, all the articles point to God's Kingdom! Does writing honest articles about the UN, showing how God's Kingdom will succeed where the UN has failed, make us a political partner with the UN? Does it mean we are guilty of printing “propaganda” to promote their “global agenda”? We believe the reasonable answer is firm 'no' and that the conspiracy theorists are reading into the evidence what they wish to see.

However, there are other statements in the magazines which opposers have highlighted. They say these statements show our Society has “condemned itself” in becoming a DPI NGO and that our Society has violated its own standards. What are these statements? Do the opposers actually have a fair point this time, or are these arguments also misleading?

Summary

- **References to God's Kingdom in the Awake! have remained pretty much the same throughout the 1980's and 1990's.**
- **References to America have dropped significantly since 1970.**
- **References to other countries and international agencies has increased to compensate. This includes the UN.**
- **All alleged “propaganda” for the UN shows how God's Kingdom will succeed where the UN is still working or has failed.**
- **Articles of the exact same sentiments were printed both before and after the DPI NGO status.**
- **The Awake! has never once portrayed the United Nations as mankind's solution to a single problem.**

Self Condemnation?

In addition to pretending the Watchtower Society signed documents they never signed, agreed to criteria they never agreed to, pretending there is no difference between ECOSOC and DPI NGOs, and pretending the Awake! disseminated one-world propaganda, the accusers also say the Society has “condemned itself” in the matter. How so?



“It’s fun to stay at the Y-M-C-A...”

The most popular argument is that the Watchtower Society has shown itself to be a hypocrite due to its policy on membership of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA). The January 1st 1979 issue of *The Watchtower* explains:

*“In joining the YMCA as a member a person accepts or endorses the general objectives and principles of the organization. He is not simply paying for something he receives, such as when buying things being sold to the public at a store. (Compare 1 Corinthians 8:10; 10:25.) Nor is his membership merely an entry pass, as when a person buys a theater ticket. **Membership means that one has become an integral part of this organization founded with definite religious objectives, including the promotion of interfaith.** Hence, for one of Jehovah's Witnesses to become a member of such a so-called “Christian” association **would amount to apostasy.** Some individuals have on occasion not become members but have paid a onetime admission fee, viewing this as simply paying for a commercial service available. Even in this regard it is wise to consider whether this course will adversely affect the consciences of others. — 1 Cor. 8:11-13.”*

The argument goes something like this: if the Society can say, on the one hand, that membership of the YMCA means you become “an integral part” of that organization which amounts “to apostasy”, then surely the Society's NGO status meant they became “an integral part” of the UN and therefore have committed apostasy by their own standards.

Is this a fair point? Not really, no. First of all, when you become a member of the YMCA — an inter-faith “Christian” group — you are recognized as being “integral” to that organization, a little like when you get baptized and become part of Jehovah's Witnesses. Is this the case with DPI NGOs? No, for on the contrary DPI NGOs are specifically told by the UN itself that:

“association of NGOs with the DPI **does not constitute their incorporation into the United Nations system**”

So comparing the two situations is like comparing apples to oranges. NGOs do not become “an integral part” of the UN — *no, not even if they wanted to be*, and those are the UN's words — not ours.

Furthermore, the YMCA is a false religious organization — the UN is not. While the Bible tells us to be in subjection to worldly governments by obeying the law, paying our taxes, registering in certain programs, and using governments to “legally establish” the preaching work, the Bible puts us under no such obligations to any of the false religions in this world. Revelation 18:4 tells us to “get out from among” false religion, while Romans 13:1 says to “be in subjection” to the government. Using government programs and facilities for our benefit cannot be compared to using similar things from false religions.

The Society has not committed apostasy by its own standards — it is simply opposers glossing over the differences between governmental and religious organizations, and sweeping under the carpet what the UN itself has said when it becomes inconvenient.

Catholic NGOs condemned by The Watchtower

Another popular argument uses the June 1st 1991 issue of *The Watchtower* to show how the Society has supposedly condemned itself. It states:

*“A recent book gives an idea when it states: **“No less than twenty-four Catholic organizations are represented at the UN.** Several of the world's religious leaders have visited the international organization. Most memorable were the visits of His Holiness Pope Paul VI during the General Assembly in 1965 and of Pope John Paul II in 1979. Many religions have special invocations, prayers, hymns and services for the United Nations. The most important examples are those of the Catholic, the Unitarian-Universalist, the Baptist and the Bahai faiths.”*

The context of this quote shows that these twenty-four Catholic organizations were represented at the UN by being NGOs. The accusers then say the Society was being a hypocrite for condemning the Catholics for being UN NGO's, while in the very same year also applying to become an NGO itself. Yet, is this accurate? Of course not.

In an earlier chapter we discussed how apostates try to hide the difference between ECOSOC NGOs (which consult the UN on its policies) and DPI NGOs (who have access to UN research materials) — with one prominent apostate ignorantly claiming the difference is “irrelevant”. In this case, the same old tactic is used.

The UN's own records available to anyone online show that the Catholic Church has many organizations registered as ECOSOC NGOs with consultative status. These NGOs have the power to influence decision and policy-making at the United Nations. The Watchtower Society has never been an ECOSOC NGO, so the argument that the Society has condemned itself by condemning the Catholic NGOs is based on nothing more than a deliberate twisting of the facts.

Summary

- **Membership of the YMCA means you become incorporated into that organization.**
- **The UN says DPI NGO status does not incorporate the NGO into the UN system.**
- **The YMCA is a religious organization, the UN is not.**
- **The Bible says we can use worldly governments to further the good news, it does not allow us to do the same with false religions.**
- **The Watchtower condemned the Catholic church for its political meddling.**
- **The Catholic Church has over 20 ECOSOC NGOs with consultative status at the UN to this very day.**
- **The Watchtower Society was once a DPI NGO — which has no political influence — before withdrawing.**
- **Accusers pretend there is no practical difference between the two NGO statuses.**

Consider the Source

There are many websites that promote the NGO conspiracy theory. Their claims range from mere factual inaccuracies, such as the hopelessly wrong authors who claim the Watchtower “joined the UN” or “became a UN member” (which only countries can do, of course) — to the more clever individuals who twist the evidence, ignore select parts, and exploit emotions in order to promote their own agenda.



We shall only consider one of the latter type of authors, Mr Robert King of Michigan, USA. Why this person? This disfellowshipped man has done an extraordinary amount to promote the NGO conspiracy theory and condemn Jehovah's Witnesses on the Internet. Also, he has spent thousands of dollars sending letters to the elders of every congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses in the United States, some congregations in the UK, and all of the branch offices worldwide to promote his ideas. Furthermore, he wrote a book entitled *Jehovah Himself Has Become King*, of which he has distributed tens of thousands of copies. If you, or someone you know, has received one of his letter or a copy of his book — you may find the following information of great interest.

In an *Awake!* article, when warning readers of the effects of propaganda, once advised that it's readers should ask:

“What is the motive for the message? ... try to check the track record of those speaking. Are they known to speak the truth? ... Why should you regard this person—or organization or publication—as having expert knowledge or trustworthy information on the subject in question?”

This is sound advice. As Mr King is one of the prime promoters of the NGO conspiracy theory, it is only proper to ask serious questions about him, his track-record, and whether he is a trustworthy source of information.

“Jehovah Himself has Chosen King”

Robert King of Michigan, USA, believes himself to be a “watchman”, or prophet of God. On the Internet he goes by the name of “e-Watchman”. He believes he was predicted to appear in the scriptures as a modern-day fulfillment of the prophet Ezekiel. In his own words, he describes his supposed transformation this way:

“...a few years ago I had an intense, life-altering spiritual experience that very few of Jehovah's Witnesses living today can relate to. For lack of a better term, I became born again, as Jesus worded it. I refer to it as 'my little change.' It was like reading the Bible for the first time. Everything seemed fresh and new, as if, like Paul described, scales had fallen from my eyes, so as to see things in a new light.”

King went on to write scores of essays detailing how the Watchtower Society has fallen from God's favor and is to be destroyed — partly due to the NGO issue. He calls Jehovah's Witnesses “liars”, “Baal-worshippers”, and “spiritual adulterers”. Despite all of this, King falsely claims to be a:

“...devoted Jehovah's Witness”

Yes — despite all he writes against Jehovah's Witnesses, he attracts members to his sect by hiding the truth. Any new reader to his website is deliberately given a specially crafted false impression of him. They are fooled into thinking he is a loyal and faithful Jehovah's Witness who is simply “re-examining” our prophetic interpretations. This false front has lured many spiritually weak worshipers of Jehovah into his way of thinking.

What Robert King plays down is the fact he was disfellowshipped for apostasy in 2005 and he did not get his ideas from any “little change” sent from heaven. We believe his teachings were copied from the writings of an Alabama man named Donald Burney. Most of King's teachings are identical to Burney's — with some copied almost word-for-word, using the same phrases, sentence-structures, and even step-by-step arguments appear in the same order. Interestingly, the man we say he copied his teachings from does not believe himself to be a mere prophet, but Burney believes that he is Jesus Christ — yes the Messiah (the claims vary, sometimes he merely claims to be equal in importance to the Messiah). After reading this man's ideas, in 2002 Robert King set up a website to promote his own version of those ideas, and declared himself a “watchman” who is “serving Jehovah's Witnesses and the Watchtower Society”.

Soon a few Jehovah's Witnesses and former Witnesses were persuaded by his writings and joined with him in arguing that due to the NGO status, the Watchtower Society is now spiritually unclean, has committed “spiritual adultery”, and will shortly be destroyed by Jehovah God. His website simply became an online sect. In time, quite a few of these sect members became “anointed” — with some even claiming to have seen and heard strange things from angels, and at least one now wondering whether she receives messages from God in her dreams.

Spiritually clean?

Nowadays, most of those former brothers and sisters cannot lower themselves to attend meetings at the Kingdom Hall, because there might be something “spiritually unclean” there — as they are far too

oh-so holy to take part. Yet, amongst these supposedly spiritually pure “Christians”, is pure spiritual filth. To cite just one example, the sect's own webmaster and King's closest associate openly promotes some Trinitarian ideas such as teaching that Jehovah's name is Jesus, and that Trinitarians can be in the New Covenant with God. He has returned to the Christendom mentality in that he now refuses to denounce the Trinity as a false teaching that leads persons away from the truth about God. And he also talks about praying to Jesus and considers this, as well as the Trinity doctrine, to be a personal decision that is unimportant as far as salvation and truth is concerned. Yet King sees nothing wrong or hypocritical about this. In fact, almost every teaching from Babylon the Great has been promoted in some way among his sect on it's discussion board — all with King's silent approval. There are also admirers and followers of other prominent apostates. So much for “anointed” King's much-touted “truth seeking” and spiritual cleanness!

Also, the sect members have been repeatedly known to lie and use abusive and foul language — especially to those who leave the sect. One follower who returned to the truth had his e-mail account flooded with so many abusive messages from King's other followers, that he was forced to close the account. Also, recently King and his webmaster, Timothy Kline, threatened former members of the sect by gathering personal information about them to use against them, and by tracing where they live! Yes — this is the sort of people that they really are, and these are the sort of people who want you to leave Jehovah's Witnesses and become your “clean” spiritual guides.

*“Be on the watch for the false prophets that come to you in sheep s covering, but inside they are ravenous wolves. **By their fruits you will recognize them.**”*
—Matthew 7:15, 16a

A real “cover-up”

One former follower of Robert King, and a researcher for this work, tells us what happened when he discovered that King's claims about the NGO issue were wrong. He comments:

*“I think my final post on [Robert King's] discussion board was when I told those that had been disfellowshipped for accusing the Watchtower Society of being a [spiritual] prostitute over the NGO thing that they should go to the elders and tell them they were wrong, apologize, and seek reinstatement. At that point, since King was one who had been disfellowshipped over [the] NGO [issue, he] booted me off — saying that I had nothing worthwhile to add to their discussion board. Then came the directive that **anyone defending the Watchtower Society on their “adultery” with the UN would be immediately removed ...**”*

As soon as Robert King was presented with the arguments shown here, he banned any discussion of these points and the evidence which shows errors in his NGO essays. Now anyone who wishes to dispute King's claims would be automatically removed and silenced. He continues:

*"It became quite clear that they were **not interested in the truth** and 'Christian freedom' but only to promote their own apostate agenda."*

Interestingly, when the evidence presented in this work was first published on the Internet, Robert King banned all outside links on his discussion board. He claimed this was to "protect the flock" from links to possible harmful websites. In reality, this was a lie. The real reason for the sudden ban was to prevent his followers from reading allegations that he had stolen his interpretations of scripture from false Messiah Donald Burney, and also that his NGO accusations were full of errors.

As part of King's further action to censor the truth, he successfully managed to take over this author's e-mail account and also got this website temporarily shut down — then for a while tried to keep his actions secret, blaming this site's owner its sudden disappearance whenever someone asked. Yes, "anointed" watchman of God, Robert King and his Christendom promoting associate, Timothy Kline, ignore the evidence and censor the facts in a deliberate effort to hide the truth about both themselves and the NGO issue.

At the start of this chapter, we quoted from an *Awake!* article which advised that we should consider the source of the information we read. After learning the key facts about the most prolific promoter of the NGO conspiracy theory today, do you think he is worth listening to? —*See the Appendix entry, "e-Watchman — a conspiracy theorist or an anointed prophet?" for more information*

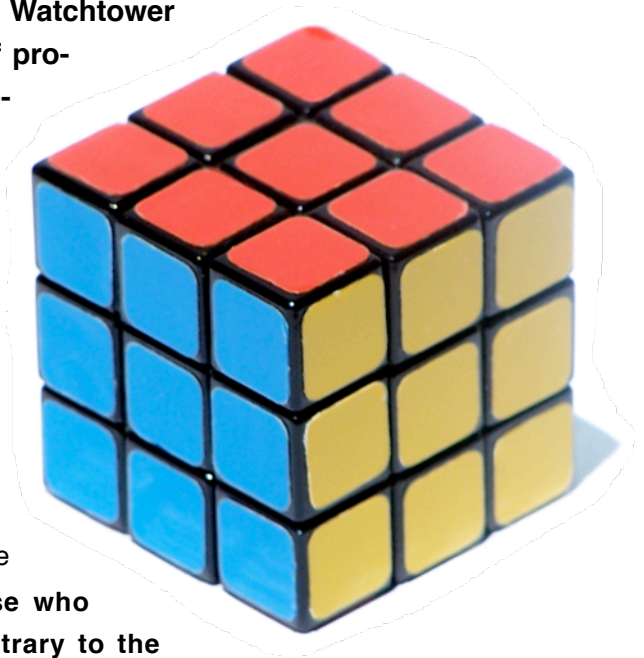
Summary

- **Robert King, of Michigan USA, is the most prolific promoter of the NGO conspiracy theory today.**
- **He believes he is an anointed "watchman", or prophet, of God.**
- **His religious teachings are almost identical to that of a False Messiah cult.**
- **He pretends to be a "devoted" Jehovah's Witness to pull in new followers, while his closest associate promotes teachings of Christendom.**
- **King tries his best to censor and hide the evidence shown here.**
- **He and his followers have repeatedly tried to silence the authors of this work, even using threats. So far, it hasn't worked.**

A Not-Guilty Verdict

In this brief work we have shown you how the Watchtower Society's DPI NGO status has been blown out of proportion by opposers — and how those same opposers wish to silence us. We have seen how the Society's version of events corroborates with all of the evidence we have been able to find — even the “evidence” presented by apostates.

It really saddens us when we think of those former brothers and sisters who listened to such apostates and were misled to the point of either disassociating themselves or being put out of the congregation. The Bible clearly advises us to “**avoid**” apostate teachers, instructing us to “**keep your eye on those who cause divisions and occasions for stumbling contrary to the teaching that you have learned, and avoid them.**” Why? Because “**men of that sort are slaves, not of our Lord Christ, but of their own bellies; and by smooth talk and complimentary speech they seduce the hearts of guileless ones**”. (Romans 16:17-18) The Apostle warned, “**your adversary, the Devil, walks about like a roaring lion, seeking to devour someone.**” (1 Peter 5:8) It is very sad to see those who have been devoured by the apostate's NGO conspiracy theory.



Here is a letter written by the German Bethel to a brother in in that country regarding the NGO matter:

Dear Brother ---,

What makes us always a bit sad is the fact that some of our brothers seem to have a stronger confidence in the media and reports launched by our opposers than to statements made by the Organization by means of which they have learned the truth. Of course we expect to be reproached, slandered and that any tiny occasion is used to put us in a bad light. We expect that and we are even happy about it because we endure this for Jehovah and his son (Matthew 5:11; 1 Peter 4:14). But we are hurt, when some of our brothers uncritically accept those presentations, getting set against Jehovah's organization or even letting themselves become a mouthpiece. Surely, no one of us wants to belong to those mentioned in

Matthew 24:49 and 3 John 10. Of course, Satan would be happy if he urged us that far.

Our opposers always spread the idea that we do some secret operations while keeping the publishers ignorant. These accusations are likely as old as Christianity itself - with the difference that today modern media are used. That does not mean that we condemn these media in general which can be seen by the fact that the Headquarters and some branches run their own Websites. But warnings are not without reason, because through the Internet you can easily get in touch with the thoughts of apostates, which the Bible clearly warns against (2 John 8-11).

Especially in intellectual circles of society it is viewed as "chic" to doubt everything on principle and to insinuate bad motives everywhere. How bad would it be if that destructive-critical spirit was transferred to God's people. Paul said, love "believes all things" (1 Corinthians 13:7). That does not mean credulity but a positive confidence in Jehovah, his word and his organization. Of course, Jehovah's organization is not perfect. It was not in the first century and it was not at the time of the judges and kings of Israel.

Nevertheless, those putting their confidence in the leading of the men appointed by God were blessed.

One example for this is Absalom's rebellion. He reproached God's anointed king David when he told those who came with a legal case to the king: "See, your matters are good and straight; but there is no one from the king giving you a hearing." (2 Samuel 15:3).

Maybe he even gave examples of persons who seemed to have been treated unjustly. But Jehovah did not bless those believing Absalom but those sticking to David who was appointed by God and who had obviously Jehovah's blessings. Surely, we want to follow Ittai's example who firmly stood by Jehovah's anointed (2 Samuel 15:21).

We hope that these statements are helpful to you. In the confidence that Jehovah is giving us all the power to endure we are sending Christian greetings,

Your brothers

We fully concur with this letter. Since there is no real proof of deceitfulness or lying on behalf of the Bethel, and the evidence supports their version of events, should we not, if we call ourselves Christians, give our brothers the benefit of the doubt and not impute or imply bad motives? If you wish to judge them in a condemnatory way that is your right, but be aware that you are insisting your brothers are lying — no matter what explanation they offer and even though, when examining the facts, it becomes clear that they are not lying after all.

If you have read the claims of apostates and believed what they said, we would like to say this to you: At one time, we too were persuaded by the apostates. Some of us believed that the Society had “committed spiritual adultery” by becoming an NGO. However, when we saw the evidence for ourselves we realized that it was us — in fact — who were in the wrong, not the brothers.

If you have been disfellowshipped or have disassociated yourself over the NGO matter, we implore you to consider our evidence honestly and to humbly accept that your views on the matter may be wrong, and return to the Christian congregation. Be courageous and offer an apology for accusing the brothers of spiritual adultery and of lying. Tell them that you now realize there is not enough evidence to boldly (and unlovingly) call our brothers liars. Describe the evidence proving the apostates wrong — perhaps print out this essay to show them — and they will be able to see and understand how you were misled, just as some of us were. There is no dishonor in admitting we were wrong. Write a letter stating these things and that you want to come back home to Jehovah's worldwide congregation. You will be glad that you did!

The truth about ‘the truth about the truth’

Those who have left the congregations over this matter and wish to remain outside, often call it “The truth about The Truth”. Yet we can say without a doubt, that *the truth about*, “The truth about the Truth”, is this:

How to seek reinstatement

Write a letter to your body of elders stating you wish to return to the congregation. Ask to meet with the elders to discuss the matter. Although it will take several months (or longer depending on your situation) to be reinstated, it is well worth the effort.

We are not guilty of printing “propaganda” for the UN. We are not guilty of agreeing to “support the UN”, nor did we become “part of the UN” or a “UN member”. We signed nothing that conflicts with our Christian beliefs. At the time, our DPI NGO status was entirely appropriate until the requirements changed and we withdrew. Jehovah's Witnesses as an organization are not guilty of spiritual adultery, nor of lying and scheming to hide it. Those who promote the conspiracy theory are dishonest, use selective evidence, hide the facts they don't want you to know, and the most enthusiastic accuser around today thinks he's a modern-day prophet Ezekiel.

Our organization is like no other religious organization on earth today. Just as the first century congregation was not perfect, neither is our organization, yet it is the organization that has been blessed by Jehovah. It is the one that Jehovah has used to teach us the basic truths of the Bible, and it is the one who is bringing the truth about Jehovah, his Son, and the Kingdom to millions of people around the globe today.

This concludes the main part of this essay. Please continue on to the Miscellaneous Questions section and the Appendix for further reading.

Miscellaneous Questions

Records show the Society has registered other NGOs in several countries, such as the Former Soviet Republic of Georgia. What about these NGOs?

What about them? Even many apostates admit these other NGOs are nothing to do with the United Nations DPI.



An NGO is simply a widely-used term for an organization which is not part of a government. Although the term was coined by the UN, it has not been an exclusive piece of terminology used by the United Nations for decades — other organizations and governments use it all over the world.

There are an estimated 2 million NGOs in the United States alone, with millions of others worldwide. Of these, nearly 30,000 operate internationally. Now compare that to the number (as of 2006) registered with the UN's DPI — just 1,500, and those registered with ECOSOC — just 2,300. Clearly, just because an organization is an “NGO” does not mean it is automatically anything to do with the United Nations. This is typical of the bad logic of apostates on Internet discussion boards, using so-called “common sense” to reach a conclusion instead of checking their facts. —*See the appendix entry, “e-Watchman — a conspiracy theorist or an anointed prophet?” for more examples of the bad argumentation used by opposers*

Why did the DPI state in an e-mail that requirements for association of NGOs has not changed since 1991?

The UN staff member who wrote that widely-circulated e-mail is wrong. On the one hand the UN representative says the requirements did not change since 1991, yet the UN's own website and scans of forms we have in our possession tells us the exact opposite. Of course the requirements changed — the forms did! It seems the left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing at the UN, as the saying goes. —*See chapter 2 and 3 for more information on the changing NGO world*

The 1997 NGO brochure says DPI NGOs are there to increase grassroots support for the UN. Since this was during the Watchtower Society's NGO membership period, doesn't this mean the Society agreed to those terms?

No, why should it? The 1997 DPI NGO brochure is only sent to new NGOs. The Society would not have received that brochure as it was granted DPI NGO status five years earlier in 1992. Why would the UN send a “welcome” booklet to all of the existing NGOs every year? Also, how would the Society agree “to those terms” by allegedly receiving a brochure in the mail? The Society knew exactly what

“terms” they had “agreed to” when they completed their initial application form in 1991 (see the Letters and Scans section), which we can read today and see that there is nothing there about increasing “grassroots support” for the UN.

The UN has stated they do not “trick” organizations into becoming NGOs. Does this not mean the Watchtower must have known what they were doing?

This kind of argument is known as a “straw man”. The Watchtower Society has never once claimed they were tricked into agreeing to anything, so the point is irrelevant. The DPI's annual accreditation form changed in 2001, and in that year the Society withdrew its status. We have copies of the forms the Watchtower Society completed (with and without signatures) so the Society knew exactly what they agreed to, and we can read those forms today. The Society was never “tricked” into agreeing to anything that compromises our Christian beliefs. When the requirements on the accreditation form changed ready for the 2002 year, they were now inappropriate, and the Society did not sign them but instead ended their DPI NGO status. There was no trickery anywhere.

Doesn't the Watchtower teach that the UN is the unclean thing and should not be touched?

No, the Watchtower Society does not teach that at all and never has. This is a deliberate lie by apostates to make the Society look like a hypocrite, but they're hoping you will not check the facts yourself. A quick search in the Watchtower's archives turns up countless results showing the “unclean thing” to be applied to pagan religions. Here are two fairly typical quotes:

*In her desire to win pagan hearts, the church therefore did not adhere to the truth. She justified the practice of syncretism, the absorption of heathen beliefs and practices “dear to the masses.” The result was a hybrid, apostate church, far removed from the teachings of true Christianity. In this light, perhaps it is not so surprising that a former Roman temple to “all gods”—the Pantheon—should become a **Roman Catholic church** dedicated to Mary and all the “saints.”*

*It ought to be obvious, however, that changing the dedication of a temple or the name of a celebration is not sufficient to transform the worship of devils into the service of the true God. “What agreement does God's temple have with idols?” asked the apostle Paul. “Get out from among them, and separate yourselves, says Jehovah, and **quit touching the unclean thing**; and I will take you in. And I shall be a father to you, and you will be sons and daughters to me, says Jehovah the Almighty.”—2 Corinthians 6:16-18.*

—March 15th 1999 Watchtower

*Christians realize that the Bible draws a sharp distinction between true worship and false. They know that God does not approve of **religious organizations that do not adhere strictly to the teachings of his Word**. Therefore, they do not share in any way in the services of such organizations. Rather, they heed the Scriptural counsel: "Do not become unevenly yoked with unbelievers. For what sharing do righteousness and lawlessness have? ... Or what portion does a faithful person have with an unbeliever? ... Therefore get out from among them, and separate yourselves, says Jehovah, and **quit touching the unclean thing**." —2 Cor. 6:14-17.*

—15th January 1965 Watchtower

Although there was nothing technically wrong with being an NGO with the DPI in 1992, should the Watchtower have not avoided anything to do with the United Nations to avoid stumbling the brothers?

No, because if the requirements had not changed the apostates quoted in *The Guardian* would have had nothing to exploit, and no one would have been stumbled. The actions of the Society were clearly innocent and its letters regarding the matter honest, as the evidence in this work shows. The ones doing the stumbling are the apostates who twist the situation and present misleading evidence to others. To illustrate: if I start slandering a brother in your congregation by using selective evidence, misapplying quotes, and hiding all contrary evidence, who is doing the stumbling? Is it the brother, or myself?

There was nothing wrong with the UN's Department of Public Information recognizing the Watchtower Society as an NGO in 1992, so the Writing Department could use their extensive library facilities for research. Only after the requirements of such a status changed did it become inappropriate, thus the status ended in 2001. The only stumbling done is by those who twist and hide the evidence to promote their own arrogant agenda.

One brother who formerly believed the apostate's conspiracy theory comments:

"...even if it was not a "wise" move [on the part of the Society], who really caused the stumbling? If apostate propaganda did not exist, extreme elaborated stories and theories, the brothers would have humbly accepted the response the Watchtower Society gave, and gone on with their Christian lives. However we had apostates embellish the story, then make it out into a whole prostitution thing, ... etc etc, ... then brothers started looking at it differently with apostate lighting as it were — yeah, then they got on the bandwagon of Watchtower-bashing and so-called 'standing up for the TRUTH' Bleh!"

If the Society is innocent, how come they haven't sued the United Nations for lying?

This is another straw man argument: *if the Society is innocent how come that...*? The fact is the UN has not lied or misled the Society in any way, therefore there are no grounds for a lawsuit whatsoever. While the UN staff have sometimes given wrong advice, have given out misleading information, and others have reported their incompetence, they did not do anything to deliberately hurt the Watchtower Society nor did they trick the Society into signing any documents. When we applied for the status, we signed nothing that compromised our beliefs. However, after we became a DPI NGO the DPI's requirements and expectations of its NGOs changed, but once the Governing Body was made aware they promptly ended the status. There is absolutely no grounds to sue the United Nations nor any purpose in doing so.

The DPI said, “The financial records of the organization must be turned over to the UN DPI for review.” Why would the Watchtower turn over their financial records because some guy at the UN told them they had to in order to get a library card?

The quote is from the DPI's Paul Hoeffel in 2003 after the rigorous review process was put in place. The original 1991 application shows that any financial disclosure was simply to give proof that they were a non-profit organization and nothing more. Critics try to twist this requirement to make it look like something sinister — as if the Watchtower Society were somehow giving control of their finances to the UN, when it was clearly nothing of the sort. Also, note that the DPI NGO status was not just to “get a library card”. —See *chapter 4*

Where can I get the data on which you based your charts?

The data came from the 2001 edition of the *Watchtower Library CD-ROM* (published by Jehovah's Witnesses) by searching for single words such as 'America', 'USA', 'UN', etc, and phrases like “United Nations” in double quotes (the quotation marks are important for an accurate count). All one needs to do is add up the results in a spreadsheet program, then generate a chart based on the data (a program such as the free *OpenOffice* is capable of this).

If you try this yourself, remember to include different phrases and words for the same thing. For example, in the 1990's the Society started using the phrase “new world” to describe the new system, and it accounts for a large percentage of all references to Christ's Kingdom. If you forget to include a phrase like that, you will have grossly distorted results. Also remember to discern which words have double meanings, like how “new world” can also refer to Columbus' discovery of America, for example. Take care to get your data right, and double check it.

Appendix A: e-Watchman – a conspiracy theorist or anointed prophet?

The full story about the Watchtower Society's NGO status, as told by the self-appointed prophet-like “watchman of God”, Robert King (e-Watchman), goes something like this:

The Governing Body has turned apostate, possibly through infiltration by one-world conspirators (influence from the Masons and the Illuminati back in the 19th century cannot be ruled out). Thankfully, God has raised Robert King (e-Watchman) from Michigan as a prophet, or “watchman” to warn Jehovah's Witnesses of their impending doom when Jehovah comes to execute and destroy the Society for their apostasy.

The Society had a secret plot to support the UN as a counterfeit world government, and that is why they “really” became a DPI NGO. All the letters sent from Bethel are cover-up stories. Possibly the whole Governing Body — and others at Bethels throughout the world — are all in on the secret and sinister plot, we do not know for sure.

This scheme is to support the “new world order” of the United Nations, and their plan to destroy the nation-state system, starting with the United States! Already the American financial markets are moving towards disaster — deliberately maneuvered to do so by the “unseen hand”, the people behind the scenes who “really” run the world. These people are connected to the Masons, the Illuminati, and other one-world conspirators.

Meanwhile, the Watchtower Society is in some way under their influence or control. How thankful we are that Robert King has been raised by Jehovah as an anointed prophet to uncover this sinister plot and rescue us all!



Doesn't this sound like a far-fetched conspiracy theory to you? Indeed, for if we examine the main features of a conspiracy theory, we see every single feature is shown in e-Watchman's NGO claims.

The features of a flawed conspiracy theory

The *Wikipedia* online encyclopedia lists the main features (i.e. flaws) of a conspiracy theory. Let's compare these traits with Robert King's NGO teachings. First of all, a conspiracy theory is ...

“Initiated on the basis of limited, partial or circumstantial evidence”

This is certainly the case here. The total amount of **“evidence”** is nothing more than a handful of letters, a couple of brief newspaper articles, and getting quotes off the UN website. This is indeed **“limited”** and **“partial”** evidence. The other **“evidence”**, the *Awake!* articles, are merely **“circumstantial evidence”**. The encyclopedia also comments that conspiracy theories are often conceived in **“reaction to media reports and images, as opposed to, for example, thorough knowledge of the relevant forensic evidence.”** Yes, rather than arising from direct and relevant first-hand evidence (such as the forms the Society has on file), the whole NGO conspiracy arose from a report in a British newspaper.

“Addresses an event or process that has broad historical or emotional impact”

The key here is the phrase **“emotional impact”**. The encyclopedia comments that successful conspiracy theories must have **“near-universal interest and emotional significance, a story that may thus be of some compelling interest to a wide audience.”** Among Jehovah's Witnesses and former Witnesses, an outrageous claim that the Society betrayed your trust and *“propagandized on behalf of the UN”* is certainly going to have **“emotional significance”** and be of **“compelling interest.”** It is ideal 'bait' to put on the 'hook' to reel you in so you will read more.

“Reduces morally complex social phenomena to simple, immoral actions... Personifies complex social phenomena as powerful individual conspirators”

This means that conspiracy theories disregard broad social trends, and assumes that such social changes are really due to a few individuals directing matters to some evil purpose. Elaborating, the same list says **“Impersonal, institutional processes, especially errors and oversights, [are] interpreted as malign, consciously intended and designed by immoral individuals.”** In the NGO conspiracy, this feature is shown in the theorists being unwilling to concede that the Society would have ever made a mistake or overlooked anything. Each action regarding the NGO status is interpreted as **“malign, consciously intended and designed”** by the Governing Body. Apparently, the evil conspirators in Bethel never make oversights or mistakes. Further, the **“complex social phenomena”** could be applied to the great demographic change in the readership of the *Awake!* from mostly American, to mostly non-American, which resulted in less references to America and more to other countries and the UN. Yet rather than see this for what it is — the result of **“complex social phenomena”**, the theorists

see it as “really” caused by a few powerful individual conspirators directing matters to secretly promote a world government.

“Allots superhuman talents or resources to conspirators”

Indeed, the Governing Body must have “**superhuman**” powers, if we believed the theorists. They claim the Society was in a “political alliance”, printed “propaganda”, and wish to support the future UN “world government”. If things really were that heavily involved, we must ask how the Governing Body kept this all secret for 10 years? How did they keep this bombshell from leaking out to the Bethelites, the Branch Offices (and Branch committees), the District Overseers, the Writing department and everyone else? The only conclusion is that they have “**superhuman**” powers. Yet strangely it is not powerful enough to stop *The Guardian* from finding out.

“Key steps in argument rely on inductive, not deductive reasoning”

In other words, one does not interpret the evidence to reach a conclusion. Instead, one interprets evidence to support the conclusion one already has. This is exactly what King and all conspiracy theorists do. Back in 1994, years before King started spouting his accusations, false Messiah Donald Burney had already published a book claiming the Watchtower Society was being secretly controlled/influenced by the evil conspirators behind the United Nations. We strongly suspect King read this book or an online version of it. Years later when he saw *The Guardian* article, everything he had read from Burney was “confirmed”. Thus, he has never used deductive reasoning in his NGO conspiracy theory, but interpreted the evidence to lead him to a fore-gone conclusion. He probably already believed the Society was under the evil control of the people who are “really controlling the world” at the UN. All evidence he has seen since then has fitted around his prior belief.

“Appeals to common sense ”

What does this mean? The encyclopedia elaborates, saying: “**Common sense steps substitute for the more robust, academically respectable methodologies available**”. In this case so-called “common sense” deductions would be something like ‘The requirement to be an NGO was to publish information on the UN, therefore when the *Awake!* published articles on the UN it was so they could fulfill their NGO membership requirement.’ Unfortunately, such “**common sense**” is flawed, for “**more robust, academically responsible methodologies**” show such reasoning to be false. As our charts showed, the increase in UN references is explained by studying references to other countries and by counting them. Further, a thorough examination of the *Awake!* archives shows that the magazine already published such articles beforehand, and continued to after the NGO status was withdrawn. Hence, conclusions reached by so-called “**common sense**” is often a poor replacement for “**robust, academically respectable methodologies**”, or fact-checking.

“Exhibits well-established logical and methodological fallacies”

There are many places where you can read about logical fallacies online. One example often cited is when “evidence which would change the outcome of an inductive argument is excluded from consideration”. Obviously, this is the most oft-used logical fallacy by NGO conspiracy theorists. They endlessly claim the Society signed documents on which they agreed to support the UN, but scans of those very 1991 forms which prove otherwise are ignored or pushed to the back of web archives and forgotten.

“Is produced and circulated by 'outsiders', often anonymous, and generally lacking peer review”

This is a common feature of conspiracy theorists. For example, people who deny that man landed on the moon tend not to be scientists or people who have any connection to NASA whatsoever. They are outsiders, often anonymous, and their claims are not put up for peer-review by scientists and those who actually know what they're talking about.

The encyclopedia elaborates, saying the **“story originates with a person who lacks any insider contact or knowledge”**. Indeed, with Robert King he is an outsider, neither connected to the UN nor to the Watchtower Society Headquarters. He was also **“anonymous”** for many years. It goes on to say that the conspiracy theory will only enjoy **“popularity among persons who [also] lack critical (especially technical) knowledge”**. It is the same situation with those who believe the NGO conspiracy — neither are they in any position to know the facts, nor to they have any insider contact either. They are also anonymous outsiders, just like the man who persuaded them to believe it. The scriptures said in regards to apostates, “these men are speaking abusively of all the things *they really do not know*”. — Jude 10

“Is upheld by persons with demonstrably false conceptions of [the] relevant science... Enjoys zero credibility in expert communities. At least some of the story's believers believe it on the basis of a mistaken grasp of elementary scientific facts.”

Obviously the NGO conspiracy is not a science-based conspiracy, unlike the moon-landings conspiracy, for example. However, those that believe certainly do have a **“mistaken grasp”** of the most **“elementary”** facts of the DPI NGO situation. To cite one example, King himself mistakenly believes that the great differences between ECOSOC NGO and DPI NGO statuses are *“irrelevant”*. This is incredible. He really could not have found a more elementary fact to to be mistaken about.

For this reason and others, no one in the **“expert community”** of people who actually know how ECOSOC and DPI NGOs work would never agree with King's position. King's poor fact-checking would enjoy **“zero credibility”** among such experts — never mind the part about him being raised by God as the prophesied modern-day Ezekiel!

“Rebuttals provided by experts are ignored or accommodated through elaborate new twists in the narrative”

This has certainly happened before this author's very eyes. When the rebuttal on which this work is based was first published online, King largely ignored it. Apart from insulting the author several times, the points raised were not counter-acted with any new evidence. Further, any links to the rebuttal were banned on his discussion board, and when it did become known, many of his supporters refused to read it anyway. Although it was not written by accredited “**experts**”, we can certainly say that so far **“rebuttals provided... are ignored”**. The encyclopedia further comments on another tactic, **“the conspiracy is elaborated (sometimes to a spectacular degree) to discount the new evidence, often incorporating the rebuttal as a part of the conspiracy”**. This is certainly the case with the letters from Bethel. All of the letters were incorporated **“as a part of the conspiracy”**, where Bethel spun their “lies” and “cover-ups”, which fearless King courageously uncovered. Yes, the **“rebuttal [became] part of the conspiracy”** just as the encyclopedia says!

“The conspiracy is claimed to involve just about anybody... The conspiracy centers on the usual suspects ”

Who is involved in King's conspiracy theory? No one seems to know. At times it has been a few individuals, perhaps one or two on the Governing Body, while at other times the whole Governing Body has been “in on it”. Some speculate that even more people are part of the plot. One brother points out how there are *“such spiritual, conscientious people in the research department”* and therefore asks, *“Are there any cases of ones who protested it and/or resigned over it? I don't think so.”* A good point. This idea of a secret plot really is impossible to believe.

Interestingly, the encyclopedia comments that **“as the adherents struggle to explain counter-arguments, the conspiracy grows even more”**, that is, to encompass ever more people. We wonder if, in an effort to explain how the conspiracy was kept secret, the theorists may concoct ways by which the Governing Body supposedly kept other people quiet. How about these suggestions? They threatened them with disfellowshippings by rousing two fake witnesses to an alleged crime? Or perhaps with all that money the Society supposedly has, they bribed anyone who found out to keep quiet? Alternatively, *the print-room is always a dangerous place... it would be a shame if you were to suffer an “accident”, wouldn't it?*

We look forward to reading their paranoid explanations in the near future.

What about the phrase **“the conspiracy centers on the ‘usual suspects’”**? It elaborates on this saying **“organizations with a bad or colorful reputation feature prominently, such as the Templars, the Nazis and just about any secret service”**. Among apostate ex-Jehovah's Witnesses the **“usual suspects”** are always those at the Watchtower Headquarters and specifically the Governing Body. They are always the ones accused, blamed, criticized and the ones behind every dastardly deed

and evil plot. Although many who have met the Governing Body members will tell you how much they find them to be humble and very spiritual men, there are many “**outsiders**” who would be willing to persuade you that they are money-grabbing and blood-thirsty evil megalomaniacs who are dangerous and need to be stopped. Yes, it is no surprise that the NGO conspiracy theorists inevitably lay the blame at the feet of the “**usual suspects**” yet again — the Governing Body.

From examining this list conspiracy theory features, in this authors opinion it becomes quite obvious that Robert King's accusations are not good, sound, and reasonable arguments. They have all the traits of a crazy conspiracy theory based in nothing more than circumstantial evidence, selective “proof”, paranoia, poor logic, and hatred.

This is no surprise to me. Among Kings followers there are many people who read conspiracy theory websites and own books on the subject. Regular topics of conversation center around various conspiratorial world-views and the latest report of some highly dubious “news” source. Almost everyone in the sect believes some sort of conspiracy theory — especially theories surrounding the UN and how it will destroy the United States to build it's totalitarian World Government. King himself has often linked to conspiracy theory websites, which he evidently reads and believes. King has even recommended certain conspiracy theory books and magazines to others. In fact, when he published his own interpretations of the book of Daniel, he proudly announced that it was based, not on years of research into the Bible, but on many years of research into the conspiratorial view of history. Yes — King and his supporters undoubtedly earn the title “conspiracy theorists”. In fact, many of them would probably be proud to hold such a label, for it shows they are the ones who “really know whats going on in the world”.

Characteristics of conspiracy theorists

A popular work on the Internet entitled “*10 characteristics of conspiracy theorists*” makes many good points about the characters of these sorts of people. Here's a few choice quotes:

*“**Arrogance.** They are always fact-seekers, questioners, people who are trying to discover the truth: [on the other hand,] skeptics are always “sheep”, patsies for Bush and Blair etc.”*

Anyone who is familiar with King or has ever associated themselves with his followers will know that they are constantly congratulating themselves for being “**fact-seekers, questioners, people who are trying to discover the truth**”. They use these and similar phrases in reassuring themselves of how they are oh-so more righteous than Jehovah's Witnesses, and they say such things constantly. Just like the skeptics who are ridiculed with names like “**sheep**” or “**patsies for Bush and Blair**” by other theorists, those who defend the Society are given the disparaging title “Watchtower Defenders” and made out to be spineless and ignorant fools who cannot think for themselves and haven't “seen the light” yet, unlike the conspiracy believers who are oh-so wise and intelligent — but their superiority is really just “**Arrogance**”, as the quote above correctly says.

Another trait of these arrogant people is:

“Relentlessness. *They will always go on and on about a conspiracy no matter how little evidence they have to go on or how much of what they have is simply discredited.”*

Robert King indeed goes on about the theory so much, so thoroughly, and so often, that it has become a cornerstone of his sect and claim to ecclesiastical authority. Despite the distinct lack of evidence and the rebuttals presented in this work and elsewhere, these are overlooked and his discredited arguments are said time and time again ad nauseum to anyone willing to listen.

“Inability to answer questions. *For people who loudly advertise their determination to the principle of questioning everything, they're pretty poor at answering direct questions from skeptics about the claims that they make.”*

King has been asked direct questions about the NGO situation several times, and has become notorious for avoiding answering the question, like some sort of politician. Usually a direct question ends with him going off into some sort of rant. Nowadays his solution seems to be simply to ban all such questions. Anyone who questions his NGO teachings now simply get booted off his discussion board and is verbally insulted by the “watchman of God” and his followers for not being as wise as they are.

“Inability to withdraw. *It's a rare day indeed when a conspiracy theorist admits that a claim they have made has turned out to be without foundation, whether it be the overall claim itself or any of the evidence produced to support it.”*

It certainly has been a rare occasion when he has admitted to being wrong about something. The number of adjustments and self-corrections King has made to his NGO stance can be counted on the fingers of one hand. Indeed, King could never admit himself to being in error over the whole NGO affair. To do so would negate his claim to being a prophet, or “watchman” of God. He would be publicly humiliated and shown to be a bad researcher and false accuser. To admit he was wrong about the matter would be absolutely impossible. It would take an immense amount of humility, and he would be forced to admit that he was grossly mistaken from day one and has misled a huge number of people. In this author's opinion, he will never admit he is wrong.

Education or propaganda?

Another interesting thing to do is to compare Robert King's NGO claims to the features of propaganda. The *Awake!* of 22nd June 2000 stated:

“THERE is a difference—a big difference—between education and propaganda. Education shows you how to think. Propaganda tells you what to think.”

King's NGO essay unquestionably **“tells you what to think”**. His website, his letters sent to the congregations, and his distributed book are all designed to turn you over to the view that the Watchtower has turned apostate and God has raised King as a prophet, or Watchman. That's the purpose. He is preaching to convert others to become his followers of the e-Watchman sect.

“Good educators present all sides of an issue and encourage discussion. Propagandists relentlessly force you to hear their view and discourage discussion.”

He presents one side of the the issue — his. The rebuttal is ridiculed and censored from his site. Members of his discussion board are forced to send links to rebuttals (such as this one) in private messages to avoid being noticed by the “truth seeking” site censor.

“Often their real motives are not apparent.”

His real motive is certainly **“not apparent”**. Rather than seeking “truth” or “exposing apostasy”, I charge that his **“real motives”** are to set himself up as a religious teacher over others and to promote his teachings to as many people as possible.

“They sift the facts, exploiting the useful ones and concealing the others. They also distort and twist facts, specializing in lies and half-truths.”

Little inconvenient facts, such as the fact that no signature was required on the original forms, the fact that mentions of "America" in the *Awake!* declined dramatically... all these and many more are concealed or ignored because they don't suit his argument. He distorts and twists facts, applying ECOSOC rules to DPI NGOs, plus other things.

“Your emotions, not your logical thinking abilities, are their target.”

He often implies that those who disagree with him are “small minded”, or “unreasonable”, and how if you agree with him you will be a “thinking person”. Obviously no one wants to be a fool, but wants to be seen as intelligent. Kings essays are often full of these loaded words and expressions, designed to make you feel clever if you agree with him and stupid if you don't. The way King hits the emotions instead of the intellect is demonstrated by the number of his followers who eventually decide they are “anointed”. They believe themselves to be oh-so enlightened and special to God that their supposed anointing is a natural progression of their “spiritual progress”, a yet further part of their deserved “enlightenment” for their spiritual superiority.

“The propagandist makes sure that his message appears to be the right and moral one and that it gives you a sense of importance and belonging if you follow it. You are one of the smart ones, you are not alone, you are comfortable and secure—so they say.”

“The cunning propagandist loves such shortcuts—especially those that short-circuit rational thought. Propaganda encourages this by agitating the emotions, by exploiting insecurities, by capitalizing on the ambiguity of language, and by bending rules of logic. As history bears out, such tactics can prove all too effective.”

Yes, King's message is certainly portrayed as the **“right and moral one”**. He condemns the Society for allegedly being morally impure and supposedly sinning against God. Former Witnesses on his sect's discussion board do the rest of the work, providing criticisms from apostate websites to back-up his claims of the Watchtower's supposed fall from God's favor. He also exploits insecurities — particularly those who are spiritually weak (perhaps from reading apostate sites) and who wish to improve their spirituality. *However, you, dear reader, you can be far more clever and pleasing to God than the sinful Watchtower. If your relationship with Jehovah could be better, then why not rise above the Watchtower's failures, become more enlightened than they are, be more righteous and spiritually pure, and be considered far more precious to Jehovah — this can all be yours, but only if you will believe what I am telling you about the Watchtower's sins!*

One former associate of Robert King (e-Watchman) who returned to the truth had this to say about this very tactic. “I had been inactive for years before I got involved with the Watchman stuff. [By him] I had been made to feel my weaknesses were in fact *strengths*.... and that what I had lacked the maturity and strength to accomplish were instead keen insights of a superior spirituality. That is what is so sad about it, people that have had problems, real ones, that want to come back [to the truth] can be vulnerable to these types of apostate teachings. Everyone wants to feel like they have something about them that Jehovah approves of. In fact if you've been away and not lost faith you *crave* it.”

The brother also notes how King's teachings distorted his view of the congregation. “I am also very fortunate to have made the wise decision to start attending meetings [again] when I did. It was difficult to get myself to do it, and when I did I didn't see what some were portraying and what I had built it up in my mind to be. And I began to realize that most (elders included) were very loving, albeit imperfect people, doing the best they could — a far cry from the hypocritical pole-worshipping idolaters due for impending judgment ... [that] watchman and his crony hardcore followers were portraying most to be. But in my mind I had way blown out of proportion that and also how difficult the road back would be”.

In describing his first-hand experience with what he calls Robert King's tactic of appealing “to the ego”, he gives some examples, saying “your lack of meeting attendance and years of being irregular, is not due to some 'failing' or 'weakness' on your part, no — on the contrary, it's an indication of your 'in-

sightfulness', and 'sensitivity'. It was more pleasant to view myself in that light than the reality of personal failing; but no matter how hard I tried, there was no way one could reconcile scripturally what was being done and taught at that site.”

The *Awake!* article on propaganda continues, saying:

“First, examine whether there is bias. What is the motive for the message? If the message is rife with name-calling and loaded words, why is that?”

Yes, just why is Robert King's writings rife with name-calling and loaded words, such as when he calls the Bethel “outright liars”? Surely it is because he's a propagandist, not an honest and balanced researcher.

“If “authorities” are used, who or what are they? Why should you regard this person—or organization or publication—as having expert knowledge or trustworthy information on the subject in question?”

King has never been in a position to know the facts, and he got his ideas from others who also aren't in a position to know the facts. Most of the authorities he uses seems to be his own inductions, *The Guardian* newspaper article, and a letter from the UN which didn't even get the name of the Watchtower representative correct. The only other authorities he uses are scans of forms from the UN itself — yet he uses the wrong versions, and quotes he uses from the UN also refer to the wrong things (see chapter 2).

Summary

In every single way we look at the NGO views of Robert King (e-Watchman), it has all the hallmarks of discredited conspiracy theorist logic, his attitude and that of his followers are typical of arrogant conspiracy theorists, and his writings have all the features of propaganda which tries to manipulate the emotions and by-pass evidence. Using these tried-and-tested techniques, King has managed to spin together a whole conspiracy theory about the Watchtower's DPI NGO status. Thanks to this so-called “watchman” of God and his tactics, many people have been thoroughly misled, stumbled, and some have even left the truth to return to Babylon the Great. Will you be a victim?

“By clever and persevering use of propaganda even heaven can be represented as hell to the people, and conversely the most wretched life as paradise.” —MEIN KAMPF, Adolf Hitler 1925.

Appendix B: More on the Awake! articles

Another statement by the same accuser, Robert King:

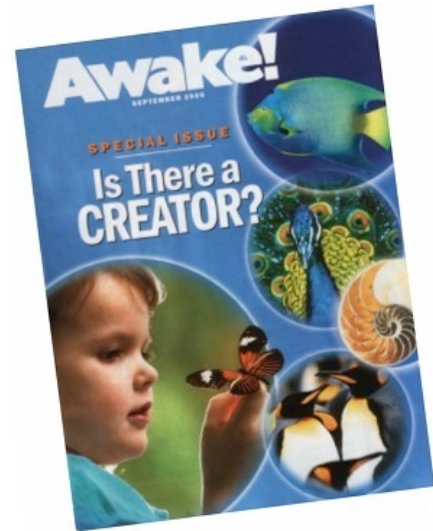
“So, in keeping with its obligation to inform the public of a broad range of UN-related issues, the July 22nd, 1999, Awake, featured a series of articles on aging.”

Final paragraphs of July 22nd 1999 Awake!:

*“This, however, does not mean that there is no hope for life without a finish line—life without aging and death. First, it is reasonable to believe that **the all-wise Creator of human life and other forms of life in all their awesome varieties can heal any genetic irregularities and supply the energy needed to continue man’s life forever. Second, this is exactly what the Creator has promised to do.** After he imposed the death sentence on the first humans, God revealed several times that his purpose for humans to live forever on earth had not changed. For instance, he gives the assurance: “The righteous themselves will possess the earth, and they will reside forever upon it.” (Psalm 37:29) What do you need to do to experience the fulfillment of this promise?*

***The first step toward attaining everlasting life in the future is also education—Bible education.** Jesus Christ stated: “This means everlasting life, their taking in knowledge of you, the only true God, and of the one whom you sent forth, Jesus Christ.” (John 17:3) Taking in knowledge about Jehovah God, the Creator, about Jesus Christ, and about the ransom arrangement that God has provided is the only form of education that will prepare a person to take the first step on the road to everlasting life.—Matthew 20:28; John 3:16.*

***Jehovah’s Witnesses conduct a program of Bible education that can assist you to acquire this life-giving Bible knowledge. Visit one of their Kingdom Halls to learn more about this free program, or ask them to visit you at a convenient time.** You will see that the Bible contains solid evidence that the time is near when life will no longer be hindered by hurdles and limited by a finish line. True, death has ruled for millenniums, but it will soon be defeated forever. What a thrilling prospect for old and young alike!”*



And still another accusation by the same:

“For example, the UN declared that 1979 was the “International Year of the Child.” More than likely the December 8th, 2000, issue of the Awake magazine was also one that Bethel sent to the DPI reviewers as proof of their ongoing support for United Nations global agenda. That particular issue of the Awake is devoted to praising UNICEF and publicizing the “International Year of the Child.””

Final paragraphs of December 8th 2000 Awake! promoting God’s Kingdom:

“A Divine Government to Provide the Complete Solution

The writer John Ruskin, mentioned in the preceding article, strongly believed that “the first duty of a State is to see that every child born therein shall be well housed, clothed, fed, and educated, till it attain years of discretion.” Ruskin admitted, however, that “in order to [effect] this the Government must have an authority over the people of which we now do not so much as dream.”

Only a government with divine backing could have the benign authority about which Ruskin spoke. And just such a government has been promised—***the one that Jesus*** mentioned at Matthew 6:9, 10. Once this government of God’s making has taken total control of earth’s affairs, it will exercise its authority over all peoples—housing, clothing, feeding, and educating all its subjects, including children. (Isaiah 65:17-25) But this perfect government will do even more.

Under God’s Kingdom humans will be enabled to rear children in a balanced way. (Job 33:24-26) Young folks will be raised in the spirit of peace and universal brotherhood, the ideal set forth in the UN Declaration of the Rights of the Child. (Psalm 46:8, 9) ***Never again will there be the need for an International Year of the Child or for a Convention on the Rights of the Child.***

*Restoring perfect health to parents and to disabled children will be a simple task for **Christ Jesus, the King of this heavenly government.** The miracles of healing that he performed while he was on the earth are a guarantee. (Luke 6:17-19; John 5:3-9; 9:1-7) Even resurrecting dead children and dead parents will not be beyond his power to accomplish!—Matthew 9:18-25.*

What a joy to know that the time for God to act in behalf of earth’s children is near!”

Once again another accusation by the writer of all the above accusations:

“Many articles appear to be written primarily for the purpose of informing the public about the United Nations proposed solutions. For instance, a series of articles in the August 22nd, 1997, Awake, on the water crises, took the opportunity to tout the UN s plans and achievements,”

Final paragraphs of August 22nd, 1997 Awake! article:

“Basis for Optimism

*The future, however, is not as gloomy as many predict. Why? Because **the solution to the world s water crisis does not rest with humans; it rests with God.** He alone has both the ability and the will to solve all water problems.*

***God will not allow the water crisis to continue forever.** The Bible foretells that the time is coming when he will act in behalf of all those worldwide who wish to live under the **loving rulership of his heavenly government, which will soon take control of the earth.**—Matthew 6:10.*

***That government, or Kingdom, will bring an end to waterborne diseases, along with all other illnesses.** The Bible assures God s loyal ones: “[God] will certainly bless your bread and your water; and [he will] indeed turn malady away from your midst.” (Exodus 23:25) Moreover, the polluters of the earth s waters will be done away with as he brings to ruin those ruining the earth. — Revelation 11:18.*

***All the earth will flourish under God s loving care.** Never again will people endlessly struggle to find fresh, clean water. Almighty God, who always speaks the truth, inspired his prophet to write concerning the future: “For in the wilderness waters will have burst out, and torrents in the desert plain. And the heat-parched ground will have become as a reedy pool, and the thirsty ground as springs of water.”—Isaiah 35:6, 7; Hebrews 6:18.”*

Same writers claim:

“As another example, the August 8th, 1997, Awake, discussing the problem of food shortages, is really just a disguised advertisement for the United Nations World Food Summit held the previous year”

Final paragraphs of the August 8th 1997 Awake! article again points to God’s Kingdom:

“Who Will Feed the Hungry?”

*History has amply demonstrated that despite all mankind's good intentions, “to earthling man his way does not belong. It does not belong to man who is walking even to direct his step.” (Jeremiah 10:23) So **it is unlikely that on their own humans will ever provide food for all.** Greed, mismanagement, and egoism have led mankind to the precipice. FAO Director-General Diouf commented: “What is required in the final analysis is the transformation of hearts, minds and wills.”*

***That is something only God's Kingdom can do.** Centuries ago, in fact, Jehovah prophesied with regard to his people: “I will put my law within them, and in their heart I shall write it. And I will become their God, and they themselves will become my people.”—Jeremiah 31:33.*

When Jehovah God prepared mankind's original garden home, he provided man with “all vegetation bearing seed which is on the surface of the whole earth and every tree on which there is the fruit of a tree bearing seed” as food. (Genesis 1:29) That provision was abundant, nutritious, and accessible. It was what all mankind needed to satisfy their food needs.

*God's purpose has not changed. (Isaiah 55:10, 11) Long ago he gave assurance that he alone will satisfy mankind's every need **through his Kingdom by Christ, providing food for all, eradicating poverty, controlling natural disasters, and eliminating conflicts.** (Psalm 46:8, 9; Isaiah 11:9; compare Mark 4:37-41; 6:37-44.) At that time “the earth itself will certainly give its produce; God, our God, will bless us.” “There will come to be plenty of grain on the earth; on the top of the mountains there will be an overflow.”—Psalm 67:6; 72:16.”*

Appendix C: Association or Registration?

The evidence in this work has been rather damaging to those who stubbornly refuse to admit even the possibility that their conspiracy theory may be wrong. To keep the faith, they have begun to grab at straws – any straws – that they can find.

One of these straws is the argument some have made that the Watchtower Society uses the word ‘registration’ when referring to their association with the DPI as an NGO. They point to these phrases written in letters by Bethel:



*“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.”*

However, they argue that it was not a mere registration that took place, but rather that Bethel applied for *association* with the UN DPI. Thus, their claim is that the Society is attempting to play-down their relationship with the UN and mischaracterize it as a *registration*, rather than an *association*. One conspiracy theorist stated:

*“They did not register, there is **no such thing** as a registrant/registrar relationship between NGOs and the UN DPI ... The Society outrightly lies when they **mischaracterize** the nature of the relationship as one of registrant to registrar.”*

Is this a fair point? Is there “no such thing” as a register of DPI NGOs? Has the Society tried to down-play the situation and mislead us by mischaracterizing the nature of the relationship? Or are the accusers simply splitting hairs over the meaning of words?

Please take note of these two quotes from the Watchtower Society in letters written to explain the NGO association.

*“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 ”.*

If the Watchtower Society was really trying to claim that they were never *associated* but merely *registered*, then we wonder why they quote directly the UN talking of “**association** of NGOs with the

DPI” and then apply this to their very own situation. So here the Society clearly refers to their NGO status as “association”, it’s in black and white. Now consider the next quote:

*“After learning of the situation, our **membership** as an NGO was withdrawn and the ID card of the writer was returned.”*

Here the Society talks of, not registration, but membership. There is no “mischaracterization” here at all. What if the Society had instead said something like “our registration as an NGO was withdrawn”? Would that have been correct use of terminology? Let’s see what the UN says.

In their document *UN System and Civil Society – An Inventory and Analysis of Practices* (available from the UN website at <http://www.un.org/reform/pdfs/hlp9.htm>) they say this under the heading “Accreditation with ECOSOC” comes this quote about NGO association:

*“It does, however, provide a number of practical benefits, such as obtaining passes to enter UN grounds, attend meetings, and interact with governments or secretariat staff (**as does being on DPI Register**).”*

Again, under the heading “Accreditation with the Department of Public Information” comes this quote:

*“Currently about 1,400 NGOs, mostly Northern, are accredited with DPI ... The DPI NGO Section has recently been weeding out the inactive ones **from its register**...”*

So there we have it. The UN itself refers to DPI NGOs being on a register. It is no mischaracterization by the Watchtower Society, but correct terminology used by the United Nations itself.

The only reasonable conclusion is that some apostates have been trying to make something out of absolutely nothing: the trivial use of a single word – registration. Their failure to provide hard evidence for their conspiracy theory has driven them to these sorts of hollow arguments. However, according to the UN itself, use of such a word is no big deal at all, and is in fact correct terminology. We can, quite correctly, say that the Watchtower Society “registered” as an NGO “associated” with the DPI. Then, as the Watchtower Society itself states, they later withdrew their “membership” or their “registration”.

It seems the only lies and mischaracterization of the facts are coming from the apostates.

Letters and Scans Section

Letter from the Chairman's Committee

WORLD HEADQUARTERS OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483 • Tel. 718 560-5000

██████ November 1, 2001 No. ██████

Via CompuServe

Branch Committee
████████████████████

Dear Brothers:

Because of published allegations by opposers that we have secret links with the United Nations, a number of branches have inquired about the matter and we have replied. This circular letter replaces any replies we have given earlier and is sent to all branches. To anyone inquiring within your branch territory you might respond according to what is stated below:

Our purpose for registering with the Department of Public Information as a nongovernmental organization (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 language that we cannot subscribe to. When we realized this, we immediately withdrew our registration. We are grateful that this matter was brought to our attention.

We trust that the above is helpful in counteracting the attempts of opposers to discredit us.

Please be assured of our warm Christian love and best wishes.

Your brothers,

Chairman's Committee

c: Administration Offices Desks
Legal Department
Office of Public Information

The 1991 DPI NGO application form



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS SECTION**
Room S-1070L
New York, New York, 10017, USA

Phone: (212) 963-6842

Fax: (212) 963-6914

Please note that the association of your Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) with the Department of Public Information (DPI) requires that you provide us with proof of your organization's **non-profit status** and with an annual report on its activities related to United Nations issues.

APPLICATION FORM FOR NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

(Please read each question carefully and mark the appropriate box or fill out the blank spaces in either English or French.)

RESPONSES MUST BE TYPED

Completed by: _____ **Date:** _____

1. a) Name of organization: _____		b) Month/Year of foundation: _____	
c) Country or countries where it is registered as a non-profit organization: _____		d) Year(s) of registration: _____	
2. a) Headquarters= mailing address: _____			
b) Telephone: () Country + Area code Number		d) Telefax: () Country + Area code Number	
e) E-Mail: _____		e) Web site: _____	
3. Will your organization have a representative at the United Nations? ~ No ~ Yes (Please note: Although it is not a requirement, it would be preferable that one of your representatives reside in the New York area in order to make full use of our NGO Resource Center.)			
Main representative:			
First name _____		Surname/family name _____	
Address: _____		Telephone: () Telefax: ()	
Alternate representative:			
First name _____		Surname/family name _____	
Address: _____		Telephone: () Telefax: ()	

4. Please list the principal officers of your organization:		
First name	Surname/family name	Title/function
5. Listed below are some of the most common areas of NGO activity. Please indicate, <u>in order of importance</u> , the three main areas of your organization's work (with A1" being the most important):		
<input type="checkbox"/> Ageing <input type="checkbox"/> AIDS <input type="checkbox"/> Children/Youth <input type="checkbox"/> Disabled <input type="checkbox"/> Disarmament <input type="checkbox"/> Discrimination/Prejudice <input type="checkbox"/> Economic/Social Development	<input type="checkbox"/> Food problems <input type="checkbox"/> Health care <input type="checkbox"/> Housing/Shelter <input type="checkbox"/> Human/Civil rights <input type="checkbox"/> Humanitarian relief/Refugees <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous people <input type="checkbox"/> Labour/Union rights	<input type="checkbox"/> Law/Criminal justice <input type="checkbox"/> Literacy/Education <input type="checkbox"/> Narcotics/Drug abuse <input type="checkbox"/> Peacekeeping/Peacemaking <input type="checkbox"/> Population <input type="checkbox"/> Sust. Dev./Environment <input type="checkbox"/> Women
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____		
6. Following is a list of some of the most common categories used to group NGOs according to their <u>main</u> purpose/objectives and constituency. Please indicate which of them <u>best</u> describe your organization (you may check <u>up to three</u>):		
<input type="checkbox"/> Academic/research <input type="checkbox"/> Business/industry <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural <input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/> Political <input type="checkbox"/> Professional <input type="checkbox"/> Religious	<input type="checkbox"/> Service <input type="checkbox"/> Union/labour <input type="checkbox"/> Women <input type="checkbox"/> Youth
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____		
7. What is the scope of your organization (check one)?		
<input type="checkbox"/> Local	<input type="checkbox"/> National	<input type="checkbox"/> International
8. How many people or organizations are members of your organization?		
a) Individuals: _____ b) Organizations: _____		
9. Are you already accredited with an <u>intergovernmental organization</u> within or external to the UN system?		
<input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES (please specify and indicate year of accreditation): _____		
10. Are you affiliated with other NGOs?		
<input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES (please specify and indicate year of affiliation): _____		
11. What is your most recent annual budget? US\$ _____		

12. Which of the following are the main funding sources for your organization=s activities?

- ~ Fund-raising activities
- ~ Government subsidies
- ~ Other (please specify) _____
- ~ Membership fees
- ~ Non-governmental donations
- ~ Voluntary contributions
- ~ Sales of publications, reports, other promotional materials

13. Over the last year, have you organized any activities related to the United Nations?

- ~ No
- ~ Yes (Please describe them below and attach additional pertinent documentation)

Activities	Subject(s)	Date(s)	No. of Participants
Conferences			
Editors= roundtables			
Fund-raising events			
Journalists= encounters			
Lectures/meetings			
Seminars/Workshops			
Other (please specify)			

14. Over the last year, which of your organization=s activities/representatives have received media coverage or attention? (Please enclose clippings or tapes)

Activity/Representative	Name of print, radio or TV organization and date(s)

15. Please provide details below about any UN-related newsletter, magazine and/or newspaper, or website, issued regularly by your organization and attach sample copies. (For electronic information, such as Web sites, please also include a hard copy.)

Title	Frequency	Circulation / print run

16. Has your organization produced/sponsored any radio or television programmes/public service announcements over the last year?

- ~ No
- ~ Yes

17. Would your organization be interested in undertaking joint information projects with the DPI on United Nations issues and activities?

~ Very Likely

~ Maybe

~ Not likely

Please specify: _____

18. Over the last year, has your organization been in contact with the UN Information Centre or any other UN office in your country or region? (If no, we strongly recommend that you do so).

~ No (Continue with question 20)

~ Yes (Continue with question 19)

19. If your organization has engaged, over the last year, in joint information projects with the UN Information Centre in your region, or any UN office/agency/programme, please provide details below (you may attach additional documentation):

UN office/agency/programme	Project subject or title

20. Is your organization on the mailing list of any UN office in your country or region?

~ No

~ Yes (Please specify): _____

21. References: List four organizations (UN or others) who are familiar with your organization and its work:

Name

Contact information (full address, telephone, fax, e-mail)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Year 2000 DPI NGO accreditation form

UNITED NATIONS  NATIONS UNIES

YEAR 2000 ACCREDITATION FORM FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

Please fill out (please type) and return **NO LATER THAN 31 DECEMBER 1999** to:

DPI/NGO Resource Center
Room L-1B-31
United Nations, New York, NY 10017, U.S.A.
Fax: (212) 963-2819
Tel: (212) 963-7233/7234/7078

Name of Organization (Full Name): _____
Headquarters Address: _____
President or Chief Admin. Officer (Name): _____
(Title): _____
Address: _____
Telephone: _____ Fax Number: _____
E-Mail: _____ Website Address: _____

Representation at United Nations Headquarters in New York (Please list one main representative and one alternate representative)

Main Representative:

Name: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____

Alternate Representative:

Name: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____

Please indicate who in your organization should receive the monthly mailing sent by the DPI/NGO Resource Center. (Check only one):

☐ Editor of your publication ☐ President
☐ Main representative ☐ Alternate representative

(continued on back)

Address (if editor): _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Please indicate your organization's main area (s) of interest (e.g. development, disarmament, religion, environment, human rights, conflict resolution, women, etc.)

Please provide a *brief* description (no more than 1-2 sentences) of your organization's main area(s) of work:

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____ Date: _____

This form should be used to confirm your currently accredited representatives and/or to authorize newly appointed representatives. Please note that designations must be signed by the Chief Administrative or Executive Officer of the Organization. Representatives should telephone (212) 963-7233/7234/7078 to arrange for grounds passes, which must be obtained in person.

Please return this form as soon as possible. We require this information in a timely manner in order to update our database and Directory.

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT: 31 DECEMBER 1999



"A new relationship between the United Nations and NGOs is now being created. We have seen this new relationship begin to mature. NGOs are taking on important new responsibilities. They are working actively with the United Nations in international conferences, in promoting development, and in the field."

Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali,
Secretary-General of the United Nations,
on 8 September 1993.

• • • • **W**ho is eligible for association with DPI?

Non-profit organizations which:

- share the ideals of the UN Charter;
- have the means and make a commitment to spread information about the United Nations through an effective and continuing information programme;
- have a broadly based membership and substantial public outreach;

Letter/Email to The Guardian

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

October 22, 2001

Letters Editor
The Guardian
e-mail: letters@guardian.co.uk

Dear Sir,

Stephen Bates' articles in *The Guardian* of October 8 and 15 substantially misrepresents the background to Jehovah's Witnesses registration with the United Nations and contains a number of factual errors.

In 1991 one of our legal corporations registered with the United Nations as a NGO (non-governmental organization) for the sole purpose of getting access to the extensive library of the United Nations. This enabled a writer who received an identification card, to enter their library for research purposes and to obtain information that has been used in writing articles in our journals about the United Nations. There was nothing secret about it.

At the time of the initial application no signature was required on the form. Years later, unknown to the Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses, the United Nations published "Criteria for Association", stipulating that affiliated NGO's are required to support the goals of the United Nations.

After learning of the situation, our membership as NGO was withdrawn and the ID card of the writer was returned.

Sincerely,

Paul Gillies
Press Officer for Jehovah's Witnesses in Britain

P.S. Please do not publish my e-mail address.

Watch Tower Society, The Ridgeway, London NW7 1RN
Contact: Paul Gillies, telephone 020 8906 2211;
Fax: 020 8371 0051

Letter to Enquiry

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



2821 Route 22, Patterson, NY 12563-2237 Phone: (845) 306-1100

ECH:ECL February 5, 2004

[REDACTED]

Dear Sister [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).

So that you will be aware of what actually occurred, note that our purpose for registering with the Department of Public Information as an NGO in 1991 was to have access to the internationally respected research material available on health, ecological, and social problems at the United Nations library facilities for use in our publications. We had been using the library for many years prior to 1991, but in that year UN personnel on duty at the time told our representative that it would be necessary to register as an NGO to have continued access. The 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' 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."

Still, the Criteria for Association of NGOs contain some language that we cannot subscribe to. When we realized this, we immediately withdrew our registration. We are grateful that this matter was brought to our attention. Likely, 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.

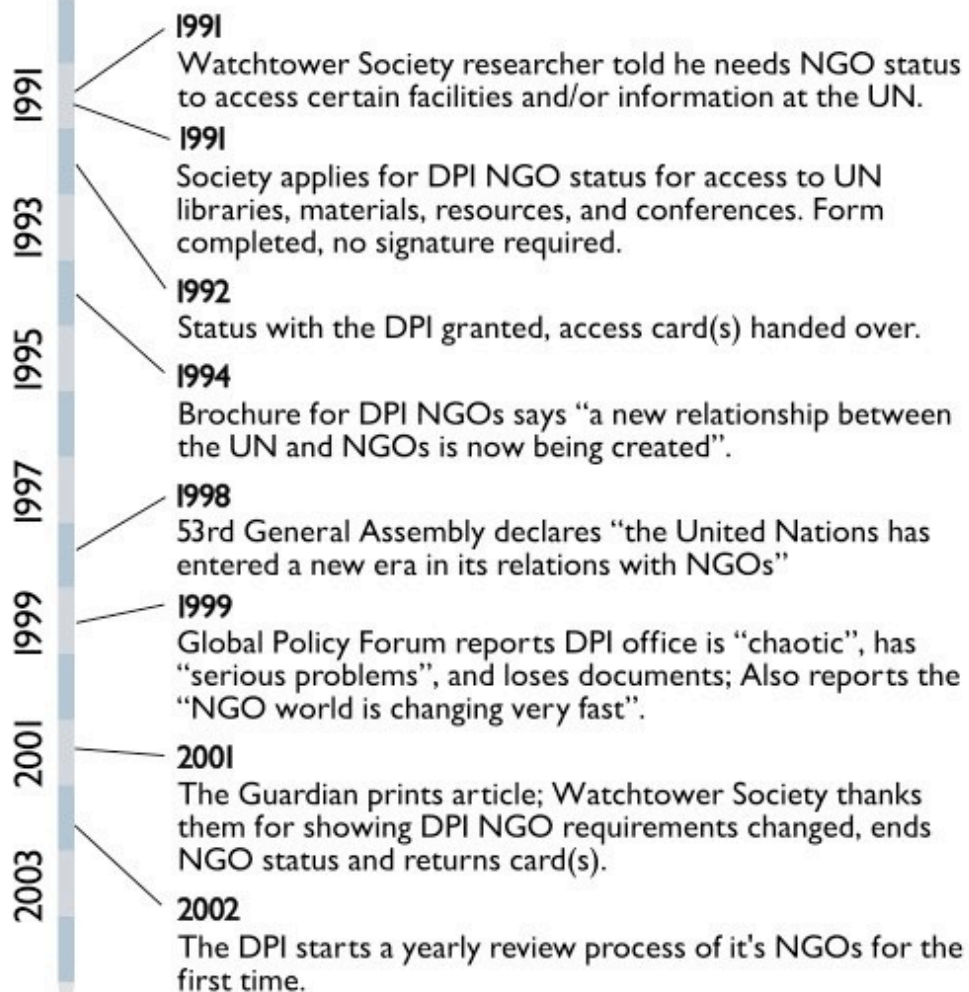
Your brothers in Jehovah's service,

*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

Enclosure

Timeline Chart

TIMELINE OF THE CHANGING UN NGO SITUATION

- 
- 1991**
Watchtower Society researcher told he needs NGO status to access certain facilities and/or information at the UN.
 - 1991**
Society applies for DPI NGO status for access to UN libraries, materials, resources, and conferences. Form completed, no signature required.
 - 1992**
Status with the DPI granted, access card(s) handed over.
 - 1994**
Brochure for DPI NGOs says "a new relationship between the UN and NGOs is now being created".
 - 1998**
53rd General Assembly declares "the United Nations has entered a new era in its relations with NGOs"
 - 1999**
Global Policy Forum reports DPI office is "chaotic", has "serious problems", and loses documents; Also reports the "NGO world is changing very fast".
 - 2001**
The Guardian prints article; Watchtower Society thanks them for showing DPI NGO requirements changed, ends NGO status and returns card(s).
 - 2002**
The DPI starts a yearly review process of it's NGOs for the first time.

www.jehovahsjudgment.co.uk/watchtower-un-ngo/