

ARRANGEMENTS
ON CO-OPERATION AND LIAISON
BETWEEN THE SECRETARIATS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE
AND OF THE UNITED NATIONS
(Exchange of letters of 19 November 1971)

ARRANGEMENTS
DE COOPERATION ET DE LIAISON
ENTRE LES SECRETARIATS DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE
ET DES NATIONS UNIES
(Echange de lettres du 19 novembre 1971)

Sir,

I have the honour to refer, as did an exchange of correspondence of 15 December 1951 between the Secretaries General of the Council of Europe and of the United Nations, to Article 1 of the Statute of the Council of Europe, which provides as follows

"(a) The aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity between its Members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage and facilitating their economic and social progress.

"(b) This aim shall be pursued through the organs of the Council by discussion of questions of common concern and by agreements and common action in economic, social, cultural, scientific, legal and administrative matters and in the maintenance and further realisation of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

"(c) Participation in the Council of Europe shall not affect the collaboration of its Members in the work of the United Nations and of other international organisations, or unions to which they are parties.

"(d) Matters relating to National Defence do not fall within the scope of the Council of Europe."

Generally speaking, there is an increasing need for co-operation between the Secretariats of the Council of Europe, of the United Nations and of the Economic Commission for Europe especially, both in order to give effect to the above provisions of the Statute of the Council of Europe and in order to honour the spirit of the United Nations Charter.

The *de facto* co-operation, which the exchange of correspondence of 15 December 1951 provided with a methodical foundation, should, in my view, now be brought up to date in the light of subsequent developments and of the desire expressed by both our Secretariats to enter into closer relations.

Indeed, since the above-mentioned exchange of correspondence of 15 December 1951 between the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the Secretary General of the United Nations and following the visits by the Secretaries General to the headquarters of the two organisations, there has been undoubted development in relations between the Secretariats of our two institutions.

This development, desired by both sides, marks a new step forward which naturally requires that certain adjustments be made in various directions.

I, therefore, have the honour to propose facilitating our future co-operation still further by adapting the existing arrangements to those set out in the attached memorandum on co-operation and liaison between the Secretariats of the Council of Europe and of the United Nations.

In addition to the points set out in the attached memorandum and in order to satisfy the common concern of our two Secretariats, I very much hope that further efforts will henceforth be made to co-ordinate common activities and to exchange information at working level; this would assist that combination of effort by the Secretariats of our two organisations which seems to me essential for the achievement of the objectives pursued both by the United Nations and by the Council of Europe in the spirit of the Charter.

I am convinced that this formulation of relations between the Secretariats of the two organisations, which essentially takes account of the existing *de facto* situation, also reflects as faithfully as possible your own determination to develop the fruitful co-operation between the Council of Europe and the United Nations, as you described it in general terms before the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe, at Strasbourg in May 1966.

Please accept, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

(signed) Lujo TONCIC-SORINJ

U THANT,
Secretary-General,
United Nations,

New York

**Memorandum on co-operation and liaison between the Secretariats
of the Council of Europe and of the United Nations**

I. Introduction

1. On 15 December 1951 an exchange of correspondence took place between the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on ways and means of establishing working relationships between the Secretariats of the United Nations and of the Council of Europe. The present memorandum is intended to bring up to date, in the light of experience and of subsequent developments, the previous exchange of correspondence.

II. Exchange of Information

2. Subject to any measures which may be necessary to safeguard the confidential or restricted nature of certain documentation, the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe and the Secretariat General of the United Nations will communicate to each other, as promptly as possible, all documentation and publications relating to their activities in fields of common concern.

The organs of the Council of Europe and of the United Nations, the documentation and publications of which will be subject to this exchange, will be enumerated by the competent officials of the two Secretariats.

3. The prompt exchange of documentation and publications envisaged in paragraph 2 above may, as in the past, be supplemented by regular contacts between officials of the two Secretariats for the purpose of consultation on projects or activities of common interest.

III. Mutual Consultation

4. The Secretariat General of the Council of Europe and the Secretariat of the United Nations may consult, whenever appropriate, both when preparing and when implementing programmes instituted by the two organisations in fields of common concern. In addition to such regular consultation, the two Secretariats may agree to further develop the valuable existing practice of holding inter-Secretariat meetings of the Council of Europe, the United Nations, the Economic Commission for Europe and other United Nations' bodies competent in fields of common concern.

IV. Attendance by Representatives of the United Nations' Secretariat at meetings of organs of the Council of Europe and of the Representatives of the Council of Europe Secretariat at meetings of United Nations' organs

5. In accordance with existing practice, and subject as necessary to the consent of the organs concerned, the Secretaries General of the United Nations and of the Council of Europe

or their representatives may continue on the basis of inter-Secretariat invitation to attend sessions of the Assemblies or other bodies of the two organisations convened to discuss matters of common interest.

6. In accordance with and subject to the foregoing, a representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations may be invited, whenever appropriate, to attend meetings of governmental experts convened by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe; similarly, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, or his representative, may be invited to attend meetings of United Nations' organs where this would be in the common interest.

V. Technical Co-operation

7. The Secretariat General of the Council of Europe and the Secretariat of the United Nations will in the future use their best endeavours to afford each other the technical assistance required for the study of matters of common interest or for the implementation of individual or joint projects arising out of them.

New York, 19 November 1971

Sir,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 19 November 1971, transmitting the text of a memorandum on co-operation and liaison between the Secretariats of the United Nations and of the Council of Europe. This memorandum brings up to date the ways and means of establishing working relationships between the Secretariats of the two Organisations which were set out in an exchange of correspondence of 15 December 1951 between the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the Secretary General of the United Nations.

In order to promote the existing harmonious relations between the two Secretariats in matters agreed to be of common interest and concern, I am happy to indicate that the terms of your memorandum are acceptable to me in defining the *de facto* and practical situation of such relations.

Please accept, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

(signed) U THANT

Mr Lujo TONCIC-SORINJ,
Secretary General,
Council of Europe

Strasbourg