

16 November 1971

Richard R. Baxter
Counselor on International Law
Room 6419
Department of State
2726 P St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20007

Dear Dick,

Thank you very much for your letter with more information about the establishment of treaty relations. You won't be surprised that Louis Sohn could think of no precedent for ~~the~~ rejection of treaty relations with a state that has ratified without reservations. May I try your patience with one more question? In saying that, "nothing other than what is communicated to the depositary may be the basis for rejecting treaty relations," do you mean to exclude ~~the~~ actions of a state as well as internal communications within its own government? If, in the eyes of other parties, a state is violating a treaty at the time of its ratification, may such actions properly be the basis for rejecting treaty relations? If so, has it ever happened?

It was good of you to take so much time with me last week and, as always, it was a great pleasure to see you.

With warm regards,

as ever,

Matthew Meselson

MM:mm