

## **International Theatre Institute ITI**

### **World Organization for the Performing Arts**

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### **Kirill Lavrov 1990**

President of the ITI Soviet Centre

Dear Friends,

Fellow-practitioners of this unique profession of ours, I am addressing you above all in my capacity as performer, as an actor who for nearly forty years now has gone on stage hoping on each occasion for a warm encounter with the audience. Nothing is more exciting, more dramatic or more important than these moments. I am truly happy to have the people and their audiences. I believe that we are living through a period in time in which the hopes of many are beginning to become a reality. Humanity is a new and spectacular breakthrough in the domain of freedom and value of the individual. In Europe and America, terrible dictatorships are reaching a dead end in their evolution and degrade humanity and set individuals against each other are faking into the past, giving way to the supremacy of imprescriptibly human rights. History is quickening its pace. Each day brings change, which would once have taken decades. People no longer see notional boundaries as a cause of division. Quite the contrary, today they are becoming crossroads for friendly contact. The whole world is rediscovering dialogue, a word, which is in fact, a theatre term. People themselves, as well as their political leaders, are speaking to each other.

I am happy to note that the theatre is staying true to its mission. East-West and North-South exchange in the field of theatre is increasing. Our art manifests a distinctive feature for which there is no substitute. While it expresses better than any other the national characteristics of a people, at the same time it can survive only by keeping in permanent touch with all theatre traditions throughout the world.

Dear friends, the idea of constructing the European House is one of the most fruitful of contemporary conceptions. By building the World Theatre House we will be helping to put this idea into practice. After so many years of suffering, humanity will, I am convinced, greatly benefit from this expression of brotherhood. I call on you to use all your talents to do away with what is vulgar and obsolete and to remain faithful to the ideal of humanism. It is in this way that we will contribute to the triumph of freedom, human rights and the full growth of the individual.

Greetings to you all, theatre people and your audiences.