UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

World Heritage Committee Fifteenth Session

Carthage, Tunisia, 9-13 December 1991

Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda - <u>GLOBAL STUDY ON CULTURAL PROPERTIES</u>

- 1. At its fourteenth session in Banff, Alberta, Canada 7-12 December 1990, the Committee noted progress on the global study of cultural sites, in particular the work of two Greek experts who had provided a pilot study on 3 geo-cultural areas, and the Bulgarian member of the Committee who had also contributed a study. The delegate of Canada offered to make available to the Secretariat the framework and account of the methodology developed in his country for the elaboration of the National Historic Parks Systems Plan.
- 2. Since that session the German authorities have volunteered the assistance of an expert to work on Gothic architecture and the Turkish delegate has offered to have a study of Hittite sites prepared by experts from his country. Discussions are under way with a view to receiving similar help on Romanesque architecture and Baroque architecture.
- 3. Within the Secretariat a preliminary study has been prepared on rock art. This will need to be completed by a further study of other prehistoric sites, before being considered by an expert group.
- 4. A study has been made within the Secretariat of the framework and methodology provided by the Canadian authorities. Unfortunately it was found that this would for the most part not constitute a suitable model for the global study, since the declared aim of the Canadian study was to illustrate the history of Canada and was therefore designed primarily to illustrate themes, whereas the Committee had decided that the global study should have a mixed temporal, cultural and thematic approach. In addition, the study of a national cultural heritage has an evident coherence enabling a choice of themes which is much more difficult for a global study.

Finally, the resources devoted to the development of the Canadian scheme were far beyond those available to the Secretariat, which had, in addition, to cover a much greater field. The Secretariat will keep the themes of the Canadian study in mind so that those which are relevant can be included in the global study.

- 5. The two Greek experts who elaborated the pilot study had once again been seconded to the Secretariat for one month by the Greek Ministry of Culture. On this occasion they had worked on the general framework: files have been prepared relating to a number of civilizations or cultural periods from the Palaeolithic period up until the Modern Age. Each file includes basic documentation for the necessary further study of the relevant culture, i.e. chronological tables showing its evolution, in time and space, maps giving its geographical extension in particular periods, general introductions to the subject and finally a list of monuments and sites already inscribed in the World Heritage List. The files are available for consultation by members of the Committee.
- 6. Since the Bureau meeting, two consultants have prepared, first a study of Slav sites of the post-Byzantine period and second, a complementary study concerning Eastern Europe from Antiquity to the Modern Age. An expert group on Art Nouveau architecture has agreed to contribute to the Global Study. The Secretariat is looking for an author or group of authors who could be entrusted with the study on the World of Islam, for which substantial documentation has been assembled by the Secretariat. A contract is about to be signed for a study on Buddhist sites. Discussions are being pursued with ICOMOS in order to determine its contribution to the drafting of the general framework (as recommended by the Bureau at its June meeting) and ICOMOS will directly report to the Committee in this respect.