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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE
WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

BUREAU OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Eighteenth session

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, Room X (Fontenoy)

Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda : Requests for International Assistance

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE:

OK
Archaeological Park of Tierradentro (Colombia)

Background: The Archaeological Park of Tierradentro is included in the tentative list of Colombia which was presented in 1988 and amended in 1993.

The site is located in Alto Magdalena in the Cordillera de los Andes, Department of Cauca. A culture so far unknown developed in this region from 800 to 1400, having a number of 150 to 200 "hipogeos", funerary chambers carved in the rocks of the mountains which were reached by descending staircases of 2.50 to 7 meters.

The chambers measure from 3 to 8 by 2.50 to 3 meters, and are decorated with carvings and mural paintings of morphological and geometrical design.

The tentative list states that the site is unique in the Americas.

The World Heritage Centre consulted ICOMOS on the universal value of the site. ICOMOS advised that the archaeological area of Tierradentro with its unique subterranean tomb chambers would qualify for inscription on the World Heritage List.

The site was seriously damaged by an earthquake on 6 June 1994 (6.4 on the Richter scale). Rain water now filters into several of the tombs and humidity is increasing. Several tombs also present cracks in the walls and sculptured elements.

Description of the request: Emergency assistance is requested by the Colombian Government to undertake the following actions:

PHASE 1

- 1) Field an expert mission (4 Colombians and 2 international experts) to draw up an action plan for the safeguarding of the site.
- 2) Take measures to evacuate the rain water, particularly in the tombs in the Alto de Segovia area.
- 3) Emergency scaffolding in tombs that are in danger of collapse.
- 4) Consolidation of the mural paintings.

PHASE 2

- 1) Advice from an international expert.
- 2) Preparation of a global conservation plan.
- 3) Structural reinforcement and protection of the tombs; consolidation of mural paintings; construction of a drainage system.

National contribution: National specialists and technicians will be provided by the Colombian National Institute for Culture.

Amount requested from the Bureau: A request is made for an amount of US\$69,500 for the first phase described above:

1. Two international experts	US\$ 14,000
2. Construction of drainage system in Alto de Segovia	10,000
3. Transportation of materials, etc.	5,000
4. Water evacuation equipment	3,500
5. Emergency scaffolding	10,000
6. Supervision	5,000
7. Local labour (10 persons for 3 months)	<u>12,000</u>
TOTAL	US\$ 69,500

Action by the Bureau: The Bureau is requested to approve the request taking into account that according to paragraph 85 of the Operational Guidelines, which states that emergency assistance can be provided for "work in connection with cultural and natural properties included or suitable for inclusion in the World Heritage List and which have suffered severe damage due to sudden, unexpected phenomena."

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

(Japan)

Background: At the sixteenth session of the World Heritage Committee, it was recommended that a meeting of experts on authenticity in relation to the World Heritage Convention should be convened. A preparatory workshop was held in Norway from 31 January to 2 February 1994, to define the scope and programme of the expert meeting. It was agreed that the expert meeting should be hosted by the Agency for Cultural Affairs (Japan), from 1 to 5 November 1994.

Description of the project: The purpose of the Conference would be to propose to the World Heritage Committee a clear definition of the application of the "test of authenticity" for World Heritage nominations, by revising and extending the definition of the various aspects and criteria of authenticity as set out in the revised Operational Guidelines. Participants will include experts from Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The outcome of the Conference will be a draft text on the "test of authenticity" for presentation to the eighteenth session of the World Heritage Committee for inclusion in the Operational Guidelines.

Amount requested from the Fund: US\$30,000 is requested from the Fund towards the cost of air travel of participants from Africa and Latin America.

National contribution: US\$470,000 will be allocated by the national counterpart to cover organizational costs of all participants, and air travel costs for participants from Asia and important invitees.

Action by the Bureau: It is recommended that the Bureau approve this request.