

ICOMOS

Paris, 7 June 1978

Mr. Firouz Bagerzadeh
 Chairman, World Heritage Committee
 UNESCO
 Place Fontenoy
 75007 Paris

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Having reviewed the nominations of cultural properties, duly submitted by States party to the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, for consideration by the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee, meeting in its first session, for the purpose of inclusion in the World Heritage List, the following have been found (in the opinion of ICOMOS) to meet minimum standards of documentation and therefore (in the opinion of ICOMOS) to be eligible for consideration at this time. They are listed in the order given in documents CC-78/CONF.009/3 and CC-78/CONF.009/3 Add.1.

Canada	°	l'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Park	(4)
Ecuador	°	City of Quito	(2)
Ethiopia	°	Rock Hewn Churches of Lalibela	(18)
		Fasil Ghebbi, Gandar region	(19)
Poland	°	Historic Urban and Architectural Center of Cracow	(29)
		Historic Center of Warsaw	(30)
	°	Auschwitz, concentration camp	(31)
	°	Wieliczka, salt mine	(33)
United States	°	Mesa Verde	

Of the nominations listed above, those marked (°) have been found (in the opinion of ICOMOS) to satisfy the criteria for cultural properties. It is believed that the Fasil Ghebbi, Gondar region, Ethiopia, while plainly of national significance, needs further expert opinion regarding its world importance. There is a question as to whether the Historic Center of Warsaw meets the general rule of authenticity, and it is accordingly believed that further expert opinion is required on this nomination.


Additionally, the following two nominations (in the opinion of ICOMOS) have been found to meet the criteria for cultural properties although they lack the required photographic and cartographic documentation:

Federal Germany	Aachen Cathedral	(3)
Senegal	Island of Gorée	(26)

It is suggested that the two preceding nominations be provisionally recommended, subject to receipt of adequate additional documentation.

The remaining eight nominations of cultural properties, all from Ethiopia, are deficient in terms of documentation.

A separate report on the technical aspects of nominations is being prepared for your consideration. ICOMOS remains ready to assist the World Heritage Committee in every way possible.

Sincerely yours,

 Ernest Allen Connally
 Secretary General

ICOMOS

LISTE DU PATRIMOINE MONDIAL

WORLD HERITAGE LIST N° 31

<p>A) IDENTIFICATION</p>	<p>A) IDENTIFICATION</p>
<p><u>Bien proposé</u>: Musée National d'Auschwitz-Birkenau Panstwowe Muzeum Oswiecim-Brzezinka</p> <p><u>Lieu</u>: Partie méridionale de la Voï- -vodie de Bielsko-Biala</p> <p><u>Etat partie</u>: République Populaire de Pologne</p> <p><u>Date</u>: 6 juin 1978</p>	<p><u>Nomination</u>: The National Museum of Auschwitz-Birkenau Panstwowe Muzeum Oswiecim-Brzezinka</p> <p><u>Location</u>: The southern part of the Voïvodie of Bielsko-Biala</p> <p><u>State party</u>: The Peoples Republic of Poland</p> <p><u>Date</u>: June 6, 1978</p>
<p>B) RECOMMANDATION DE L'ICOMOS</p>	<p>B) ICOMOS RECOMMENDATION</p>
<p>Que le bien culturel proposé soit inclus sur la liste du Patrimoine Mondial, au titre du critère VI</p>	<p>That the nominated property be in- -cluded on the World Heritage List, on the basis of criterion VI</p>
<p>C) JUSTIFICATION</p>	<p>C) JUSTIFICATION</p>
<p>Les enceintes, les barbelés, les miradors, les baraquements, les po- -tences, les chambres à gaz, les fours crématoires, conservés dans l'état où ils se trouvaient en 1947, au moment de la fondation du musée, attestent les conditions dans les- -quelles fonctionnait le génocide hitlérien dans l'ancien camp de con- -centration et d'extermination d' Auschwitz-Birkenau, le plus vaste du IIIe Reich. C'est le plus grand cimetière du monde: quatre millions de personnes de toutes nationalités (il en fut envoyé de vingt-quatre pays différents et, parmi elles, tant de Juifs) y ont été systémat- -quement affamées, torturées et as- -sassinées. Des archives, des photos</p>	<p>Preserved in the condition in which they existed in 1947 at the time of the founding of the Museum, the for- -tified walls, the barbed wire, the platforms, the barracks, the gallows, the gas chambers and the cremation ovens, all bear witness to the condi- -tions within which the Hitlerian genocide took place within the former concentration and extermination camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the most ex- -tensive of the Third Reich. This is the largest cemetery in the world; 4 million persons of all nationali- -ties (sent from 24 different coun- -tries, and among these, so many Jews), were systematically starved, tortured and assassinated. Archives, photographs and expositions collected</p>

des expositions collectées et mises en oeuvre par un institut de recherche renseignent abondamment sur les méthodes utilisées par les SS et sur leur efficacité.

L'Icomos recommande l'inscription au titre du critère VI.

VI. Monument du martyr et de la résistance de millions d'hommes, de femmes et d'enfants, Auschwitz-Birkenau n'est pas un musée historique ordinaire: c'est le témoin matériel, irréfutable, d'un des plus grands crimes qui aient été commis contre l'humanité, l'exemple privilégié qui éclaire, sans contestation possible, un aspect essentiel de ce phénomène historique: l'hitlérisme. Par ses activités nombreuses (projections de films, conférences, publications, expositions etc...), le Musée d'Auschwitz-Birkenau fait connaître au monde les processus politiques, historiques, psychologiques, de constitution et d'utilisation des camps d'extermination du IIIe Reich. Et les organisateurs souhaitent que cette action, étayée sur tant d'horribles preuves, contribue à maintenir la paix dans le monde.

and displayed by a research institute amply illustrate the methods used by the SS, as well as their efficiency.

Icomos recommends the inclusion of this property on the World Heritage List on the basis of criterion VI.

VI. Auschwitz-Birkenau, monument to the martyrdom and resistance of millions of men, women and children, is not a historical museum in the usual sense of the word; it bears irrefutable and concrete witness to one of the greatest crimes which has been perpetrated against humanity; the example, by excellence, which undoubtedly elucidated an essential aspect of that historical phenomenon which is Hitlerism. The Museum of Auschwitz-Birkenau, through its numerous activities (films, lectures, publications, expositions, etc...) has brought to the public the political, historical and psychological processes of the establishment and utilisation of the extermination camps of the Third Reich. Moreover, its organizers are in hope that this project, supported by such terrible proof, will contribute to the maintenance of world peace.