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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

Fifteenth Session

Paris, 17-21 June 1991
Salle XIV

**ITEM 13 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA: PREPARATION OF THE 20TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADOPTION OF THE CONVENTION**

During its fourteenth session held in Banff in December 1990, the World Heritage Committee adopted the proposals of the Secretariat for the celebration, in 1992, of the 20th anniversary of the Convention, concerning an evaluation of the implementation of the Convention and the elaboration of a future policy, and on the organization of promotional events, both at UNESCO Headquarters and elsewhere.

This working document provides a brief report on the activities carried out by the Secretariat since the last session of the Committee for the preparation of these events.

**I. EVALUATION OF THE CONVENTION AND PREPARATION OF A FUTURE
POLICY**

The Secretariat has engaged a consultant* who has already begun initial work. To begin with, the consultant concentrated on the monitoring of the state of conservation of cultural and natural sites inscribed on the World Heritage List. To this end, he has started an analysis of the documentation put at his disposal by the Secretariat, and has organized two ad hoc consultations on 22 April 1991 and on 10 June 1991, both at UNESCO Headquarters.

These meetings were attended by persons who have been personally involved in the implementation of the Convention through the Committee or the Secretariat. Their exchange of views has been the basis for the evaluation of past experience

* Mr. Beschaouch has kindly accepted to take up this responsibility

and the identification of responsibilities of both the Committee and the States Parties in the monitoring process.

Consultations with ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM are foreseen as a follow up to these meetings.

One should also recall that the States Parties to the Convention have been invited to evaluate the implementation of the Convention at the national level. These evaluations are essential and should reach the Secretariat before the end of 1991.

Furthermore, the World Park Congress, organized by IUCN at Caracas, Venezuela, in February 1992, will contribute to the evaluation for the natural part of the Convention. The Secretariat is working closely with IUCN in the preparation of this Congress, during which a workshop will be held on the World Heritage Convention.

Finally, contacts have been made with the World Tourism Organization in order to consider jointly the question of tourism and world heritage.

II. PROMOTIONAL EVENTS

Last April the States Parties were sent a circular letter inviting them to inform the Secretariat of their contribution to the activities foreseen, either in the form of loan of objects and material for exhibits, organization of national days or weeks, conferences, film projections, etc.

The first replies are now being received by the Secretariat. For the most part, they are positive, especially as regards the loan of material for exhibits and the organization of national days at UNESCO Headquarters.

Moreover, the Secretariat has started to organize the different events and to seek outside financial support to cover costs. A gala evening is already foreseen at UNESCO Headquarters on 11 July 1992, to launch these events.

As is indicated in the document SC-91/CONF-001/12, the preparation of a computer programme on the Convention and the World Heritage sites is underway, so that a prototype will be available for the exhibition at UNESCO Headquarters.

Contacts have also been made with the United Nations Postal Administration in Geneva to organize at UNESCO Headquarters an exhibition of all the World Heritage stamps issued by the countries. It is to be noted that a special issue of stamps marking the 20th anniversary of the Convention is being prepared by the United Nations Postal Administration.

A more detailed report concerning the preparation of the different events will be submitted to the Committee at its next session.