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U N E S C O

PRG

13 C/PRG/15

PARIS, 16 June 1964

Translated from the French

Item 15.3.4 of the Provisional Agenda

REPORT ON MEASURES FOR THE PRESERVATION OF MONUMENTS
OF HISTORICAL OR ARTISTIC VALUE

1. At its twelfth session, in 1962, the General Conference adopted resolution 4.412 authorizing the Director-General inter alia :

.....

"(e) to resume, in the spirit of resolution 6.43 adopted by the General Conference at its third session in 1948, the study of measures for the preservation of monuments of historical or artistic value through the establishment of an international fund or by any other appropriate means, and to prepare and submit to the General Conference, at its thirteenth session in 1964, a report on this subject;"

2. To implement this resolution, the Secretariat resumed its studies concerning an international fund, and also considered other possible ways of encouraging the preservation of monuments.

3. As the outcome of these studies a document (65 EX/9) was drafted and submitted to the Executive Board at its 65th session (April 1963). The Board adopted the following resolution (65 EX/Decisions 4.4.1) :

"The Executive Board,

I

Having examined the proposals of the Director-General concerning the study of measures for the preservation of monuments through the establishment of an international fund or by any other appropriate means (document 65 EX/9), and having expressed its views on these and other proposals, including a world census of monuments worth preserving,

Requests the Director-General :

- (a) to revise the document submitted to the Board in the light of the views expressed in the Board, and to circulate the revised document to Member States, National Commissions, and appropriate international non-governmental organizations, inviting them to express their views on the proposals contained therein ;
- (b) to submit to the General Conference, at its thirteenth session, a report, based on the consultation with Member States, National Commissions and competent non-governmental organizations, on the study of measures for the preservation of monuments of historical or artistic value, in accordance with resolution 4.412 of the twelfth session of the General Conference and in the light of Article I.2(c) of the Constitution. "

4. In pursuance of the Executive Board resolution, the revised text (document UNESCO/CUA/122) was sent out to Member States and to National Commissions and competent international organizations with the circular letter CL/1660 dated 16 July 1963, asking them to send in their comments and remarks to the Secretariat before 31 December 1963. This text is reproduced as Annex I to the present document.

5. By 15 April 1964 replies had been received from the following 19 Member States: Australia, Belgium, Burma, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Finland, Germany (Federal Republic of), India, Iraq, Ireland, Japan, Laos, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Syria, the United States of America and Uruguay.

One Associate Member, Mauritius, also replied to the circular letter mentioned above.

Two replies have been received from international non-governmental organizations: (i) The International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies conveyed the approval of the Chairman of the International Committee for the History of Art and asked that any preservation should cover objects of exceptional artistic or historical interest; (ii) the International Society for Education through Art (INSEA) indicated its support for the project.

6. These replies from Member States are analysed below, classified in two sections referring to the two parts of document UNESCO/CUA/122 respectively. The full text of the replies is given in Annex II to the present report.

PART ONE

International Fund

7. Eight Member States (Australia, Burma, Iraq, Ireland, Pakistan, Poland, Syria and Uruguay) favour the proposal to finance the fund by an international card providing free entry to museums, monuments and archaeological sites. (Australia holds that the support of big Foundations like Ford, Carnegie, Rockefeller, etc., should also be obtained).

8. In Uruguay's opinion such an international card could never be more than a temporary means of financing the fund, and might well prove insufficient. It suggests that Unesco should launch a long-term plan to persuade governments to make a substantial contribution towards the fund out of their own budgets. Belgium is also of the opinion that nothing less than a regular contribution by governments will make for efficient action.

9. Two States (Cuba and Laos) are theoretically in favour of creating the fund, but indicate that they will not be able to take any share in financing it.

10. Eight States (Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Finland, Germany (Federal Republic of), India, Japan, New Zealand and Norway) show interest in any action for the preservation of monuments, but make reservations on the desirability (and even on the possibility) of the international card scheme. India regards this scheme as a compulsory, rather than voluntary, contribution, since the takings of national museums would thereby be decreased.

11. The United States finds the suggestion of an international fund neither convincing nor realistic. The American authorities do not believe that the museums of other countries would welcome an international card providing free entry, since this would inevitably reduce their own resources.

PART TWO

12. Other means

Most of the States approve the group of proposals set out in Part II of UNESCO/CUA/122.

13. India, Syria and the United States, however, express doubts whether an international non-governmental organization for monuments could be effective; in their view each State ought to ensure the preservation of its monuments at the national level, by expanding their competent national organs where this is necessary.

14. The United States also holds that the action of these organs could be stepped up and expanded on the international plane by Unesco, mainly through a wider circulation of information.

15. Syria suggests that Unesco might provide a number of experts to help the national organs in their work.

16. Syria thinks that it would be better to plan for a national documentation centre in each State rather than for an international documentation centre, Unesco co-ordinating the work of such national centres.

CONCLUSION

17. The number of replies received is, of course, too small for drawing firm and final conclusions on the views of most States.

18. Some countries, which have exceptionally rich monumental heritages and are therefore among those most concerned for preserving monuments, have not yet sent in their comments.

19. It might therefore be inferred that the silence of a large number of States reflects, if not an unfavourable attitude, at least a lack of interest in this project.

20. Besides, although the reply from the United States is the only one of those so far sent in which expresses unqualified disapproval, other countries are not wholly in favour of the proposals set out in document UNESCO/CUA/122.

21. Only seven (Australia, Iraq, Ireland, Pakistan, Poland, Syria and Uruguay) have explicitly approved the international fund and, more specifically, the proposal for an international card providing free entry to museums. One other country, Burma, has been content to express general approval of the proposals contained in document UNESCO/CUA/122.

22. In any case, no such proposal could take effect without an international agreement whereby States who wish to take part in the international fund would undertake both to make contributions to it as the need arises, and to take the necessary steps to ensure that those who buy these cards will in fact enjoy the facilities intended.

23. Such an agreement would no doubt take the form of a Convention adopted by the General Conference. Its preparation would be subject to the provisions of the Rule on recommendations to Member States and on international conventions as laid down in Article IV, para. 4, of the Constitution.

24. It is therefore for the General Conference to decide first of all whether this aspect of the question should be examined further. If the General Conference decides that it should be, the Rule mentioned above provides that "a preliminary study of the technical and legal aspects of the problem under consideration" shall be prepared by the Director-General and submitted to the Executive Board, in order that the latter may decide whether or not to include this item in the provisional agenda of the next session of the General Conference. If the question were included in the agenda of the fourteenth session (1966) of the General Conference, the Conference would then have to decide on the advisability of preparing a draft Convention which would be submitted for final approval at its fifteenth session (1968).

25. As regards the "other means", it must be remembered that the programme for 1963-1964 approved by the General Conference at its twelfth session provided inter alia for a study concerning the creation of an international non-governmental organization for historical monuments.

26. With the co-operation of the International Committee on Monuments, Artistic and Historical Sites, and Archaeological Excavations, the Secretariat has executed this mandate and drafted statutes.

27. In the event of this organization being created during 1964, provision is made in the draft programme and budget for 1965-1966 for a subvention, in order that the new organization may enjoy financial help from Unesco.

28. If this organization were set up in 1964, the "other appropriate means" mentioned in Part II of document UNESCO/CUA/122 (viz. setting up an international documentation centre, disseminating information on monuments) could be entrusted to this organization with co-operation from Unesco.

ANNEX I

STUDY OF MEASURES FOR THE PRESERVATION OF MONUMENTS
THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL FUND OR
BY ANY OTHER APPROPRIATE MEANS

Preamble

1. At its twelfth session, in 1962, the General Conference adopted resolution 4.412 authorizing the Director-General, inter alia:
 - "(e) to resume, in the spirit of resolution 6.43 adopted by the General Conference at its third session in 1948, the study of measures for the preservation of monuments of historical or artistic value through the establishment of an international fund or by any other appropriate means, and to prepare and submit to the General Conference, at its thirteenth session in 1964, a report on this subject."
2. This resolution confirmed the decision adopted by the Executive Board at its 60th session, in November 1961, which is worded as follows:

"The Executive Board.....

Pays tribute to the work Unesco has already done for the preservation of monuments and historic and artistic sites through its Secretariat and the International Committee set up for this purpose;

Expresses the hope that this work will be continued and extended to an ever greater variety of regions, since destructive forces are very powerful in all parts of the world;

Recommends that Unesco intensify its activity in this field, study the problem as a whole, define the methods to be adopted and carry out pilot projects;

Considering that the resources available to the Organization are unfortunately inadequate for large-scale operations, which, in many cases, are very urgently required;

Invites the Acting Director-General to revert to resolution 6.4 adopted by the General Conference at its third session concerning the establishment of an international fund for the preservation of artistic and historic monuments, and to explore, in particular, ways and means of financing the fund from special sources."
3. In pursuance of the General Conference resolution, the Secretariat resumed its studies concerning an international fund and also undertook new studies on other possible ways of achieving the desired results by other means.

PART I

INTERNATIONAL FUND

- I. Background information
4. At its early sessions, the General Conference on several occasions examined problems concerning the preservation of monuments in general, and particularly the problems of financing

conservation and restoration work on them. Resolutions 6.43 and 6.42, adopted at the third session in 1948 and the fourth session in 1949 respectively, called for the preparation of reports on the possibility of establishing an international fund. An international committee of experts, convened by the Director-General in October 1949, also expressed keen interest in this project, although it recognized the practical difficulties connected with methods of financing (the Committee's report was published in: Sites and Monuments, in the series "Museums and Monuments", Vol. I).

5. At its fifth session, in 1950, the General Conference was given the opportunity of examining a concrete project, based on a proposal by the Mexican delegation, and adopted the following resolution (5 C/4.45):

"The Director-General is authorized:

To submit to the sixth session of the General Conference a report on the possibility and advisability of adopting an international convention instituting a special tourist tax, the proceeds of which would be reserved in part for the preservation of monuments and museums in the signatory countries and partly for an international fund controlled by Unesco."

6. Pursuant to this resolution, the Secretariat, resuming the preparatory work undertaken in accordance with the decisions of the two previous sessions of the General Conference, sent Member States a detailed note concerning the problem as a whole (CL/452, Annex I, December 1950), accompanied by a questionnaire calling for information and observations on the various aspects of the problem.

7. The replies received from Member States were submitted to the General Conference at its sixth session in 1951 (documents 6 C/PRG/10 and Addendum). The results of the survey may be summarized as follows: only three States favoured both the establishment of an international fund and the institution of a tourist tax. Four States were in general opposed to the suggested Convention. Nine States favoured the establishment of an international fund, but were opposed to the institution of a tourist tax.

8. The idea of a tourist tax was therefore dropped, but this did not mean that the fund project itself was eliminated from Unesco's programme, for the General Conference, at its sixth session, in 1951, adopted the following resolution (6 C/4.23):

"The Director-General is authorized, in collaboration with the Consultative Committee for Monuments.....

To report to the seventh session of the General Conference on the possibility of establishing, by an international convention, or by other appropriate means, an international fund for the maintenance of museums, monuments and collections possessed of universal interest....."

9. However, the General Conference also approved, at the same session, a proposal by the Swiss delegation limiting Unesco's work to the establishment of a research institute. To implement this General Conference decision, Unesco's activities from 1953 onwards included the establishment of this institute, culminating in the creation of the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property, with its headquarters in Rome. The studies concerning an international fund for carrying out preservation and restoration work on monuments were broken off as from that same date.

10. In 1962, the Secretariat resumed the study of the international fund project, in accordance with the Executive Board's decision at its 60th session (see paragraph 2 above).

II. Summary of the basic elements of the problem

11. (a) Purpose. The object of an international fund for monuments, established under the auspices of Unesco and directed by it or by some other administrative body, specially created, should be to provide particular States with the financial assistance needed to carry out essential

work for the preservation, restoration and presentation of monuments of world interest existing in their territory.

12. (b) Scope of assistance. The financial assistance provided by the fund should take the form of sharing in the cost of the work concerned, it being understood that States would remain responsible for initiating and carrying out such work, and, further, that any State receiving assistance from the fund would also be required to make a substantial contribution. The extent of the fund's share might vary according to circumstances, including the type of work, general conditions in the beneficiary country, the interest of the monument or monuments, etc. Something around 50% might be taken as an average figure. It would seem logical, also, that States in order to be entitled to obtain assistance from the fund, should contribute to its financing in accordance with the agreements governing its establishment. As for the coverage of such assistance, it is felt that it could not be used for every monument requiring conservation or restoration work, but would have to be confined to those situated in various countries, which are genuinely of world interest because they form an essential part of the cultural heritage of mankind. In order to ensure the logical and systematic application of this principle, all States which have contributed towards the establishment of the fund and wish to obtain assistance from it should therefore make an inventory of the monuments of world interest situated on their territory.

13. (c) Magnitude of assistance. Monuments of world interest almost always consist of extensive and massive groupings, and the work of preserving them involves large sums of money: recent experience has shown that operations of this kind often call for sums ranging from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 in each case, with payment sometimes spread over periods of from three to ten years. An international fund capable of meeting what is likely to be a flood of requests from States should be large enough to cover a certain number of requests by means of fairly substantial grants-in-aid: to meet 20 requests calling for an average of \$50,000 each, for example, the fund would have to have an income of about \$1,000,000 a year.

14. (d) Allocation of assistance. Examining and dealing with requests for assistance will be a difficult task which the responsible services, whether those of the Unesco Secretariat or a specially created body, would need to carry out under the guidance of an ad hoc consultative organ consisting either of experts appointed by the Director-General or of specialists appointed by the countries contributing to the fund to represent them. One of the duties of this consultative organ would be to examine proposals for monuments to be listed as being of world interest (see paragraph 12 above), as they are submitted by States.

III. Financing of the international fund

15. As a general principle, the fund would be financed from either compulsory or voluntary contributions.

16. (a) Compulsory contributions. As a first possibility, these might take the form of contributions drawn from national budgets according to set regulations; however, such contributions would represent a fixed expense, and governments would probably be unwilling to agree to them for that reason. Another possibility is compulsory contributions borne directly by individuals (such as the tourist tax already proposed in 1950, or an extra charge levied on admission to museums, places of entertainment, and the like); but here, again, such measures would certainly be unpopular, and not at all welcome to the general public.

17. (b) Voluntary contributions. If a prolonged and steady flow of finance for the fund is to be assured, there can be no question of requests for voluntary contributions from States, which in point of fact could only supply such contributions una tantum or would have to commit themselves for a specific period - a procedure equivalent to establishing a system of compulsory contributions. It is to the general public, therefore, that the approach for voluntary contributions must be made, with the provision of counterpart benefits for all those contributing to the international fund.

18. It would seem logical to seek these counterpart benefits within the general range of activities relating to the artistic and historic heritage of each country, i.e. within the general framework to which monuments belong. Since the public concerned with these activities consists mainly of visitors to museums and monuments, special entrance facilities to such institutions

might be a very acceptable counterpart; and the creation of an international card providing free entry to museums, monuments and archaeological sites might be considered in that connexion, the card to be issued by Unesco at a modest price and the proceeds paid into the international fund. The price of the card might vary according to the period for which it is issued.

19. The idea of a card of this kind is not a new one, having already featured in the plan suggested by the Mexican delegation at the fifth session of the General Conference, in 1950, as a counterpart to the tourist tax, although the latter would still have been compulsory. A similar arrangement already operating is that of the Cultural Identity Card issued by the Council of Europe and provided free of charge through the governments of member countries. It is valid for European countries only, and is restricted to limited categories of users, its object being "to encourage the free movement of men of letters, scientists, technicians, research workers, artists, teachers and students in our European countries and by means of this cultural intercourse to create greater mutual understanding in the furtherance of a European way of life".

20. The suggested international card, on the other hand, could be issued to all persons wishing to acquire it, and would be valid in all countries belonging to the fund. The card:

- (1) would ensure its purchasers certain facilities, including, first and foremost, the right of free access to excavation sites and monuments open to the public, to museums and, particularly in countries where admission to museums, monuments and archaeological sites is free, to other similar cultural institutions;
- (2) would be obtainable through National Commissions for Unesco or any other body delegated for that purpose by Unesco, such as certain recognized tourist or banking associations operating on a world-wide scale.

21. For the States concerned, of course, the introduction of the card would mean a decrease in receipts from their museums, monuments and archaeological sites, to an extent difficult to foresee at the present time, since it would depend on the number of card-holders. It should be noted, in this connexion, that such a decrease in receipts has not been a deterrent to the introduction of similar measures on a national scale, such as the "Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings Official Season Ticket", which is already obtainable in the United Kingdom; it entitles card-holders to visit a considerable number of monuments of very great importance without charge except for the cost of the card (10/-). In any case, judging from the ever-increasing number of persons engaging in "cultural tourism" (i.e. tourists interested in museums and monuments), which must be reckoned in tens of millions, it does not seem over-venturesome to estimate that an annual total of about \$1,000,000 could be obtained through the sale of cards alone (with 500,000 persons acquiring a card at an average price of \$2.)

22. The introduction of an international card providing free entry to museums and monuments thus seems to be worth recommending as an effective means of financing the international fund through a system of voluntary contributions from the public based on payments and counterpart benefits.

23. A convention whereby States would undertake to grant card-holders the corresponding facilities would be necessary to that end, and could be drawn up by Unesco in accordance with the procedure provided for in the relevant Rules of Procedure.

PART II

OTHER APPROPRIATE MEANS FOR THE PRESERVATION OF MONUMENTS OF HISTORICAL AND ARTISTIC VALUE

24. Under this heading might be included international activities of a general nature designed to facilitate the dissemination of information and international collaboration between specialists.

25. (a) Dissemination of information

(i) Technical and general publications: Unesco has included, in its programme for 1963-1964, the publication of a Manual on the preservation and restoration of monuments (to appear in

1964). Suitable measures might be taken to arrange for similar works on various aspects of preservation to be published in future years. It should be stressed, however, that a realistic plan for producing such publications presupposes that questions of financing have been solved (either on the basis of direct action taken by Unesco, or through collaboration with a private publisher interested in the matter).

26. (ii) Documentation centre: Consideration might be given to the possibility of setting up a centre which would collect an extensive body of documentation concerning all aspects of the preservation of monuments (historical, technical and scientific), and which would give valuable assistance to specialists in all countries through the dissemination of information. This documentation should deal especially with monuments of world interest, thus constituting an additional source of information for use in drawing up the lists mentioned in paragraph 12. The problems involved in establishing a centre of this kind are mainly economic, since fairly considerable resources would be required for its operation (premises, equipment, staff, etc.). It is still too early to decide what body would be responsible for financing the centre. Should the fund envisaged in Part I of this document amass very large sums, one possible course would be to allocate part of them for the running of the centre, as coming within the framework of the aims to be achieved. It would also be possible to consider placing the centre under the authority of a new international organization dealing specifically with monuments (see below), on the pattern of the International Council of Museums, which is responsible for running the International Centre of Museographic Documentation.

27. (b) International Organization for Monuments: For a long time the desire has been felt for the creation of an international organization for monuments which would provide a focal point for relations between persons and institutes concerned with monuments; and it was along those lines that the recommendation of the International Committee on Monuments, Artistic and Historical Sites, and Archaeological Excavations at its 8th session, in October 1961, was couched. This organization could perform valuable work at the national and international level: it could (a) promote more systematic collaboration between specialists and services responsible for the study and preservation of monuments in the different countries; (b) take part in the execution of certain legal, scientific and technical projects designed to preserve monuments and also to make their importance, and more particularly their rôle in contemporary society, better known; and (c) promote exchanges of opinion and information, scientific research and the dissemination of its findings, and the establishment of national bodies to work in this field. Here, again, there are financial problems, for the creation and operation of such an organization would require an annual subvention which Unesco might be asked to provide. A study of the various problems connected with this project is included in Unesco's programme for 1963-1964, in accordance with the wishes of the International Committee on Monuments, Artistic and Historical Sites, and Archaeological Excavations.

ANNEX II

TEXT OF LETTERS SENT IN BY MEMBER STATES
IN REPLY TO THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S CIRCULAR LETTER CL/1660

AUSTRALIA

National Advisory
Committee for Unesco

63/920(15)
Sydney, 9 January 1964

Sir,

I refer to your letter CL/1660 of 16th July, 1963, concerning a study of measures for the preservation of monuments.

The following comments on the draft document have been received :

Definition of monuments

"I am sure you will appreciate that Australia is unique amongst the continents in respect to the kind of "monuments" which I think is under discussion. There is very little that Aboriginal man left, and what little has been located or excavated would simply not qualify for consideration. In fact, most of it is too precious to encourage tourists. Some exception might be made in the case of rock carvings or paintings, but too few of these are in properly reserved areas. There are also, of course, some outstanding sites of palaeontological interest, but, again, these are not so preserved that we would wish to encourage visitors to them. It is a matter for each individual State to improve its facilities in this regard." (Chairman, National Parks Committee of the Australian Academy of Science).

"This country has some groupings of Aboriginal cave paintings and rock engravings which are of outstanding interest and, in some cases, of world interest, but there are no groupings of monuments of the kind apparently visualised in the Unesco document. The preservation of Australian relics does not involve the expenditure of large sums of money but requires, rather, adequate laws with severe penalties for damaging relics, the provision of rangers, the erection of protective devices and similar inexpensive action." (Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies).

So far as more recent structures are concerned, these are mostly under the control of the National Trusts in the various States, private bodies acting in many cases with the co-operation of government authorities. The National Trusts are in the process of establishing an Australian Council of National Trusts.

Financing of the International Fund

Sale of International Cards

"It would appear that the proposal to establish an international card of entry to museums, monuments and archaeological sites in return for subscriptions to the proposed fund is quite ingenious and likely to be successful on the European scale; though it would be hard to see its value here in Australia where most museums and monuments already enjoy free entry. Some form of international card would, no doubt, be very advantageous for Australian tourists and others travelling overseas." (Chairman, Australian Unesco Committee for Letters).

"In view of the large numbers of Australians who travel overseas, there might well be a sale for the "international cards" - if this scheme were to come to fruition." (Chairman, National Parks Committee of the Australian Academy of Science).

Other means

"Foundations like Carnegie, Rockefeller, Ford, etc. , might be approached for contributions toward such a fund. Compulsory contributions from museums and voluntary contributions from firms and organisations operating internationally should be a decided possibility." (Chairman, Australian Unesco Committee for Museums).

Documentation centre

"There is no doubt that the overall idea is good - both the preservation and dissemination of information schemes. A documentation centre itself could be of enormous value, as also could advice on the preservation and restoration of monuments." (Chairman, Australian Unesco Committee for Museums).

(H. J. Russell)
Secretary

(Original English)

BELGIUM

Ministère de l'éducation
nationale et de la culture

Secrétariat général

Direction des relations
culturelles et Unesco

UNESCO-H. 64/504

Brussels 4 : 18 March 1964

Sir,

I beg to refer to your letter, reference CL/1660, on the study of measures for the preservation of monuments, dated 16 July 1963, and have the honour to forward to you herewith the comments of the relevant services of the Ministry of National Education and Culture on the study of measures for the preservation of monuments.

"... It emerges from this study that the proposal to establish an international fund for the protection of monuments, which was dropped at the 1950 session, was resumed in 1962.

After having looked at various ways of financing such a fund, Unesco advocates the sale of an international card providing free entry to museums, monuments and archaeological sites, the proceeds of which would be earmarked for the restoration of monuments of world interest.

Without enlarging upon the criteria for determining what monuments are of world interest, it may be asked whether such a method of financing the fund is likely to be really effective; the figure of \$500,000, mentioned in the note, does not appear to rest on very firm data, and it is to be feared that it will meet with small approval by the public, especially in Belgium. In any event, it has the drawback of not ensuring any stability in the annual income from sales, though this is very important in forming budget estimates.

We ourselves believe that nothing less than regular contributions by governments to a common fund will make effective action possible. It must be remembered, however, that in Belgium credits earmarked for the preservation of our own national monuments are not very big and that any supplement to these resources could be very usefully employed in our country.

The second point with which the note deals is the creation of an international organ for monuments, an agency which would link the persons and institutions concerned with monuments together in a common centre. This would undoubtedly be an excellent move, and would make it possible to determine the main lines of a theory (and more especially of legislation) for the preservation, restoration and utilization of our inherited monuments, adapted to the needs of our time.

This agency would, of course, be of a similar sort to the International Committee on Museums, with very different terms of reference from those of the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property in Rome."

Yours truly,

(signed) F. Vandendorre
Secretary-General of the
Belgian National Commission
for Unesco

(Translated from the French)

BURMA

Union of Burma
Foreign Office

No. INT 391 /UN(63)/22/038

Dated the 2nd December 1963

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to your letter No. CL/1660, dated the 16th July 1963, on the subject mentioned above, addressed to the Minister of Education of the Union of Burma, Rangoon, and to say that the proposals in question are worthy of being pursued as they are of interest and likely to prove to be of benefit to all concerned.

for Executive Secretary,
(Saw Burgess, Chief of Division)

(Original English)

CUBA

UNESCO
Delegación Permanente

Paris, 8 January 1964

U.1

Sir,

I beg to refer to your circular letter CL/1660 dated 16 July 1963 and to the accompanying document UNESCO/CUA/122, on the "study of measures for the preservation of monuments through the establishment of an international fund or by any other appropriate means".

In accordance with instructions received from the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Relations, I wish to inform you that the Government of Cuba regards this project with keen sympathy; for the moment, however, our country is not able to undertake any commitment to contribute to the establishment of an international monetary fund.

Yours truly,

(signed) Martha Frayde
Minister Counsellor
Delegate to Unesco

(Translated from the Spanish)

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Embassy of the Czechoslovak
Socialist Republic

Paris, 25 February 1964
8189/64 - 0

Sir,

Acting under instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you of the Czechoslovak point of view on your letter CL/1660 dated 16 July 1963 on measures for the preservation of monuments through the establishment of an international monetary fund or other means.

The relevant Czechoslovak authorities consider that the time is not yet ripe for decisions on compulsory contributions of Member States towards the financing of an international fund.

They recognize the advantage, however, of an exchange at the international level of the most valuable or significant experiences from practical work in preserving monuments and of publishing various measures (including legislation) in this domain.

The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is prepared to take part in a programme of international activities, should this be agreed, through its specialized agencies and institutions.

Yours truly,

(signed) F. Pazur,
Permanent Delegate of the Czechoslovak
Socialist Republic to Unesco

(Translated from the French)

FINLAND

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

No. 510.740

Helsinki, December 31, 1963

With reference to your letter no. CL/1660 of July 16, 1963, I have the honour to send you herewith a Memorandum, which contains the views of the competent Finnish authorities on the proposals discussed in your letter.

Accept, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

For the Minister:
Asko Ivalo
Acting Secretary-General

Memorandum

The documents from Unesco constitute a summary of the projects now in preparation for the protection of historical monuments, mainly through the establishment of an international fund. In recent times, great financial difficulties have been encountered, e.g. in the safeguard of the monuments of Nubia, leading to a fresh scrutiny of plans for such a fund, which were originally debated a long time ago. This question has come to the fore again by reason of the fact that among the most important monuments (from the point of view of the history of civilization) a large number are in countries which could hardly command the means for safeguarding them, if they were threatened by public works or private development, or if they were attacked by climatic or other natural conditions which made their protection or restoration indispensable.

In the opinion of the Finnish Commission for Unesco, the establishment of a fund to finance the safeguarding of monuments in countries, which do not themselves have sufficient means to

secure this, is an initiative which deserves the full support of everyone concerned and which surely falls within the province of Unesco under the terms of its Constitution. The Commission considers that the figure proposed for this fund may also be approved, and that the best means of raising the amount required would be the introduction of the international card providing free entry to museums and monuments, as is suggested.

Both the National Commission for Archaeology and the Association of Finnish Museums endorse the views set out above. The Association of Museums, however, points out that in Finland museum budgets are unfortunately not large enough to be wholly indifferent to income from gate-money. If the price of the international card were too low, this might result in a considerable increase of non-paying visitors and a corresponding decrease in income from gate-money; this would mean that monuments of international importance would be protected at the expense of those of national value, and the Association of Museums does not believe that this would be in line with Unesco's intentions. The Association wishes more especially to point out that in Finland only a small number of museums are State-owned; the majority of them are administered by local authorities or various organizations. If the decisions taken by Unesco are held to apply only to State-owned museums, visitors to Finland would derive relatively little advantage from their international card of entry. The extension of free entry rights into museums not owned by the State must depend upon the decision of each particular establishment, and this decision would no doubt be governed very largely by the estimated number of visitors holding this free entry card. The Association of Museums will not be able to influence any decisions taken in this respect beyond recommendation, and this could not be made until the details of the proposed fund have been fixed.

(Translated from the French)

GERMANY (FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF)

Deutsche Unesco Kommission

RS/KB/64

5 Köln, 7 March 1964

Sir,

I have the honour to send you enclosed the reply of the German Commission for Unesco to CL/1660.

As the gathering of comments has taken more time than anticipated, we have unfortunately not been able to keep the dead-line.

(Holger Reimers)
Secretary-General

Memorandum

The legislative bodies of the Federal Republic of Germany are fully aware of the importance of the preservation of monuments. They hold, however, the view that all actions in this specific field are first of all to be considered as national obligations the fulfilment of which depends on the sense of culture and tradition of the individual nations. Without denying the fact that in the case of natural disasters or military conflicts the preservation of monuments calls for international aid and solidarity, the competent authorities of the Federal Republic of Germany assume a sceptical attitude towards the project of establishing a permanent international fund for the safeguarding and preservation of important artistic and historic monuments.

No matter whether the fund would be financed from either compulsory contributions according to set regulations or from voluntary contributions from Member States, the authorities feel that such contributions would in any case represent a fixed expense from national budgets. As budgetary allocations can only to a limited extent be made available, also for cultural activities, the competent authorities fear that these relatively small allocations would be considerably reduced in favour of the international funds. Such a reduction could, however, only be approved if the objectives of the fund were of major importance for the whole of humanity and if these objectives

could by no means be achieved at national level. As in the instance of Abu Simbel, such a situation might, however, arise very seldom, so that the establishment of a permanent international fund cannot be considered an imperative need. Moreover, it is most unlikely that a project of this kind would receive the necessary majority of parliamentary votes.

A further objection to the establishment of an international fund for the preservation of monuments is the fact that there does not exist a standardized international classification scheme for artistic and historic monuments and sites. A classification system such as it is being used in France, is for instance not being applied in the Federal Republic of Germany. The preservation of monuments in this country is based on the idea that cultural values comprise not only monuments which are representative of the cultural heritage of the Occident, but also works of popular arts and of artistic handicrafts, as well as monuments which are of a more historic than artistic importance. In consequence, the limited allocations of assistance drawn from the budgets of the German Länder are to a considerable extent being used for the restoration and preservation of monuments also of minor value.

Other proposals made in connexion with the establishment of the international fund do equally not find the approval of the German authorities. A tourist tax would certainly be unpopular, whereas extra charges levied on admission to museums would run contrary to the recommendations adopted by ICOM and would certainly not find the approval of museum authorities.

On the other hand, the creation of an international card providing free entry to museums, monuments and archaeological sites, on the model of the Cultural Identity Card issued by the Council of Europe, would find the approval of the competent authorities of the Federal Republic of Germany. It is, however, questionable whether the proceeds drawn from the cards will represent an effective means of financing the international fund.

As regards the proposals made in Part II of the document UNESCO/CUA/122, the competent authorities of the Federal Republic hold the view that an intensification of the exchange of experiences on scientific and technical questions related to the preservation and restoration of monuments would be highly desirable. The proposal of setting up an international documentation centre was welcome. Consideration should, however, be given to the possibility of associating the centre with an international institution already in existence, as for instance the International Centre for the Restoration of Cultural Property in Rome.

(Original English)

INDIA

Ministry of Education

F 21-16/63.UU

New Delhi, the 21st March 1964

Sir,

I am directed to refer to your letter No. CL/1660 dated 16.7.1963, regarding the document prepared by Unesco in respect of measures for the preservation of monuments of historical or artistic value through the establishment of an international fund or by any other appropriate means (UNESCO/CUA/122 dt. 28.6.63). The Government of India have to make the following observation in this connexion:

PART I

Summary of the basic elements of the problem

(a) The purpose of setting up an international fund, however well conceived it might be otherwise, is liable to be vitiated by controversies about the relative merits on corresponding need for assistance in respect of a particular monument. India is already spending out of her own revenues for preservation of monuments and has a competent Department of Archaeology. Considering the fact that the archaeological monuments of this country are fairly well looked after - although

we are not spending as much on them as we should - the monuments of this country are not likely to be benefited by the scheme proposed. This country is also not now in a position to make contributions to the fund.

(b) Although the conditions laid down for grant of financial assistance may be perfectly logical, sound and fair, they are liable to prove cumbersome, involved and costly in their practical application. Considering that a revolving fund of only \$ one million is proposed to enable some twenty requests involving grant-in-aid of \$50,000 each to be met, the practical utility of the fund becomes doubtful for the following reasons :

(i) The administrative expenses on equipment, staff, premises, fee or honoraria for experts, is liable to be disproportionately high considering the magnitude of the assistance envisaged. The scrutiny of the anticipated "flood" of requests for assistance in terms of the intrinsic historical or artistic value of each monument, the conditions of the beneficiary country, etc. , will involve expert studies of a diverse character entailing expenditure perhaps out of proportion to the financial benefit accruing to the recipient.

(ii) The setting up of complex and costly machinery to finance repairs to and restoration of 20 monuments a year at an average cost of \$50,000 each, which can hardly be considered as being beyond the unaided capacity of individual countries, does not appear to be fully justified. Actually, countries like Italy, the United Kingdom, France and others spend considerable sums on the preservation of national monuments not only to preserve their national heritage but for the more mundane reasons of making them attractive to tourists. Countries possessing monuments of outstanding historical value or interest are likely to find that it is a sound investment to keep these in good repair quite apart from any reasons of historical association or national sentiment.

2. Financing of the international fund

(a) Compulsory contributions. The report is frankly pessimistic about the possibility of raising contributions compulsorily which in our view is based on a realistic appreciation of the facts of the situation.

(b) Voluntary contributions. Voluntary contributions from the general public rather than from States appears to be a practical, effective and promising method of raising necessary funds. The provision of some kind of counterpart benefits for all those contributing to the international fund is, of course, an indispensable condition of success.

Assuming that the creation of an international fund to preserve historic monuments is a desirable objective then we may proceed to examine the proposal for the creation of an international card providing free entry to museums, monuments and archaeological sites. The card is to be issued by Unesco at a modest price to all persons wishing to acquire it and the proceeds paid into the international fund. This proposal is open to the following objections :

(1) Although the funds are nominally to be contributed by the general public, its incidence will ultimately fall upon the states concerned who will suffer a decrease in receipts from their museums, monuments and archaeological sites. The argument that such a decrease in receipts has not been a deterrent to the introduction of similar measures on a national scale (cf. Ancient Monuments and Historical Buildings Official Season Ticket, obtainable in the United Kingdom) is not necessarily applicable in the present case, because :

(i) Loss involved is not only in local currency but in foreign exchange which is of special concern to countries like India which are facing serious balance of payments difficulties.

(ii) A Season Ticket may not necessarily mean a loss of receipts because it might well encourage people to see more museums than they might have done otherwise because of the concession available.

(2) As the ultimate cost will be borne by States rather than the general public, the contributions can hardly be described as voluntary.

(3) As this proposal links revenue with tourist traffic the share of countries with high tourist influx is liable to be disproportionately large. This is hardly an equitable or sound basis for sharing costs. It is not understood how the criteria of para. 12(b) (assistance received being related to contribution made) by any State can be applied in a proposal of this nature which does not specify contributions of individual States. In countries like India which have all but banned foreign travel for tourism or sight-seeing because of foreign exchange shortage use can hardly be made of the proposed international card.

PART III

Dissemination of information through technical and general publications is a desirable objective and the Government of India will encourage and support it to the extent practicable. However the recommendations are too vague for detailed comments at the present stage. Thus: (i) Unesco's publications are priced ones, so that they should normally pay their own cost of production, obviating the necessity of a special fund; (ii) India is likely to get little advantage out of the proposed documentation centre; and (iii) the antiquarian laws of India can be and are, made available to any person/organization interested in them either gratis or at a negligible cost, so that the necessity of this country joining an international centre for the purpose does not arise.

(C.S. Nayar)
Under Secretary

(Original English)

IRAQ

Republic of Iraq
Ministry of Education
Directorate General of Cultural Relations
Department of Cultural Exchange

No. 66521

Baghdad, Date: 1.12.63

Sir,

Reference to your letter CL/1660 of July 16, 1963.

We would like to inform you that the competent authorities in my country have greatly assured their acceptance to establish the proposed international special fund for the preservation of historical monuments.

We also confirm our acceptance of the proposal No. 18 (Page 3-4), and it will be a great pleasure to be a member of the above-mentioned fund.

A. M. Abdul Rahman
for Minister of Education

(Original English)

IRELAND

Dublin, 10th February 1964

U. N. 8

Sir,

I refer to your letter reference CL/1660 of 16 July 1963 regarding the above, and I am to append the following observations and comments on document UNESCO/CUA/122 which accompanied your minute.

PART I. International funds

It is considered that the introduction of an international card providing free entry to museums and monuments is worth recommending as an effective means of financing the international fund through a system of voluntary contributions from the public based on payments and counterpart benefits.

By way of general comment it might be said that provision of financial aid to a Member State from this fund ought also to be backed up by the provision of the services of suitably qualified technical and/or administrative personnel to carry out the work and to train local people to continue it, should such personnel be lacking in the recipient country.

PART II. Other appropriate means

An international centre for co-ordinating research and training would appear to be worthy of consideration. The financial problems involved would require further study.

D. O. Laoghaire

(Original English)

JAPAN

Permanent Delegation to Unesco
63/4035/MO/GB

Paris, 26 December 1963

Sir,

With reference to your letter to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, N° CL/1660, dated 16 July 1963, I have the honour to submit, under instructions from Tokyo, the views of the Japanese Government to the proposals concerning the study of measures for the preservation of monuments.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Masami Ota,
Permanent Delegate
of Japan to Unesco

Memorandum

1. Part I (International Fund)

(1) It is believed appropriate that the sources of International Fund derive from voluntary contributions or Unesco subsidy.

(2) The issuance of International Cultural Identity Card is a noticeable venture. However, the difficulties foreseen in Japan in the proposition are :

(a) Since the monuments and museums in Japan are under the administration of various entities, State, regional government, or private society, it is difficult to force the individual administrating bodies, especially the private society, to grant free entrance or reduction of entrance fee to all the owners of International Cultural Identity Card, though this would largely depend on the number of the owners of the Card.

(b) Although the monuments and museums are scattered, all over the country, those most celebrated are, generally speaking, centered in a few limited districts, and, of these again, items having worldwide fame are concentrated in a few temples and museums. Therefore, it would be difficult, taking into consideration the fact that the availability of the Card varies in locality, to ask for co-operation of the organizations who have to sacrifice its interest.

2. Part II (Other appropriate means for the preservation of monuments of historical and artistic value).

No objection to the purport of the proposition.

(Original English)

LAOS

Royaume du Laos
Ministère de l'éducation nationale
des Beaux-Arts et des Sports-Jeunesse
Commission nationale du Laos pour l'Unesco

N° 2636/ED

Vientiane, 14 November 1963

Sir,

In reply to your letter N° CL/1660 dated 16 July 1963 regarding the study of measures for the preservation of monuments, I have the honour to inform you that we are on the threshold of a very critical financial period. We agree in principle to the establishment of the international fund; but we have no means of making any contribution to it, whether compulsory or voluntary, in the immediate future.

Yours truly,

(signed) Khamkhing Souvanlasy
Secretary-General for the
National Commission of Laos for Unesco

(Translated from the French)

NEW ZEALAND

National Commission for Unesco
Department of Education

Wellington, 30 September 1963

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to your letter CL/1660 and document CUA/122. At its meeting on 30 August the New Zealand National Commission considered carefully the above correspondence and also a report on this subject prepared by its Sub-Commission on Cultural Activities.

Whilst the National Commission realizes the great importance of the preservation of monuments and supports the principle of some form of International Fund for this purpose, it has certain reservations as to the proposals for financing the fund made in document CUA/122 and in particular the practicability of the scheme for an International Card providing free entry to museums, monuments and archaeological sites as put forward in document CUA/122.

The reservations held by the National Commission about the scheme are as follows:

(1) There seems to be no guarantee that the money raised by the introduction of an International Card would benefit the museums most in need of financial help.

(2) Many museums, monuments and archaeological sites are owned or operated on a private or municipal basis and not nationally. It was felt that there might be administrative difficulties in giving these an adequate share of the money.

(3) Many museums, monuments and archaeological sites do not, at present, charge any admission price at all.

(4) The administrative costs of such a system would certainly consume a considerable part of the revenue received.

(5) There would probably be difficulty in deciding which monuments were of international significance.

I should like to reiterate our support for the principles motivating the establishment of such a fund, but the methods of financing the fund seem to present difficulties that would require a great deal of further study. In view of the already heavy load that the Secretariat is bearing, the National Commission would not accord the study any degree of priority.

Signed: D.G. Shouler
Secretary
(Original English)

NORWAY

National Commission for Unesco
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Office of Cultural Relations
143/64 PG/ah

Oslo, 26 February 1964

Sir,

I refer to your letter of 16 July 1963 with enclosures which has been dealt with by the Ministry of Church and Education. The Ministry is unable to support the proposal to establish an international fund for the preservation of historical monuments financed by the creation of an international card providing free entry to museums, monuments and archaeological sites. Note should be made of the fact that the majority of museums in this country belong to organizations independent from the State without any liability to relinquish any part of their income, and it is assumed that the interest of the museums would be greatly reduced in the event an international card providing free entry as proposed is realized. Otherwise the Ministry makes no comments to the various other measures proposed.

Per Gisvold,
Secretary,
Norwegian National Commission
for Unesco
(Original English)

PAKISTAN

Government of Pakistan
Ministry of Education and Information
(Education Division)

Karachi, November 25, 1963

N° F. 1-17/63-Unesco II

Sir,

I am directed to refer to your letter N° CL/1660 dated the 16th July, 1963, on the above subject, and to state that the Government of Pakistan are in favour of the introduction of an "International Card" providing free entry to museums and monuments as an effective means of financing the Fund for the preservation of archaeological monuments and sites.

(M. Aslam)
Section Officer
(Original English)

POLAND

Embassy of the Polish People's Republic
Paris
N° 40-1-64

Paris, 2 January 1964
Paris VII, 1 rue de Talleyrand

Sir,

With reference to the communication from Unesco, CL/1660, dated 16 July 1963, I have the honour to convey to you the following observations from the Polish Ministry of Culture and Art in regard to the proposed international fund for the protection of monuments :

1. Poland voted in favour of this at the sixth General Conference held in 1951, and is still in favour of it.
2. We consider that the proposal to base this fund on the issue of an international cultural identity card deserves close attention. This card would grant free entry to museums and monuments in every country belonging to the fund. This would evidently involve the countries concerned in some sacrifice, through loss of a part of their income from gate-money ; but in practice this sacrifice would be negligible except for countries with a large number of museums or monuments and a large income from gate-money.
3. It seems to us only right that the first drafts upon this fund should be allocated to developing countries which do not yet enjoy sufficient means to meet the costs of preserving and exploiting their cultural heritage. Latin America, Central Africa, Asia, possess cultural treasures which could be preserved only through international efforts. We cannot think it just, therefore, to fix a rule whereby 50% of the cost of preserving these monuments must be found by the country concerned. We are in favour of a more flexible rule to meet each particular situation.
4. To ensure the stability of this fund and its future expansion, we think it would be better to provide, not for outright donations for the safeguard of monuments, but rather for long-term interest-free loans. Repayment of such loans by the country concerned should begin only after the work of preservation or restoration has been completed (e.g. at the end of five years) and should be spread over 20 to 25 years.
5. All work of preservation or restoration should be entitled to enjoy the help of outstanding international experts, working with such national experts as there may be in the country concerned.
6. It is important to avoid unnecessary expense through engaging special staff to administer this fund, which might well be administered either by a special service at Unesco or by the documentation centre mentioned in Unesco document CUA/122, Part II, paragraph 26.

Yours truly,
(signed) Wojciech Ketrzynski
Permanent Delegate of Poland to Unesco
(Translated from the French)

SYRIA

Syrian Arab Republic
Ministry of Education and Instruction
Damascus 5848
 5

25 - 11 - 1963

Sir,

I beg to acknowledge with thanks your letter CL/1660, dated 16 July 1963, regarding the study of measures for the preservation of monuments.

I am glad to tell you that I forwarded this letter to the official organization concerned with monuments in Syria, which studied it very closely; I now beg to submit to you herewith our opinion of the various proposals contained in the Unesco document CUA/122.

Yours truly,
(signed) Dr. Moustapha Haddade
Minister of Education and Instruction
of the Syrian Arab Republic

(Translated from the French)

Opinion of the General Department of Antiquities and Museums on document CUA/122 (Paris, 28 June 1963): "Study of measures for the preservation of monuments through the establishment of an international fund or by any other appropriate means"

PART I. International Fund

1. International fund for monuments

We firmly believe that responsibility for preserving monuments and for raising the money required for their restoration and use lies first and foremost with the country that owns them, and that it is the business of the competent authorities to try out every legal means of drawing the attention of the Government and the people to the need for making some sacrifices to save these monuments. But we also believe in the undoubted advantage of establishing an international fund for monuments, by which the individual States may be reminded of the need to do something for their inherited monuments and which might perhaps raise money to help them do so. The figure of 50% of the costs seems to us very reasonable, as an average to be granted to countries who appeal to the international fund for help.

II. 12 (b) Scope of assistance

It is not reasonable, however, to confine such international assistance merely to those monuments which can be regarded as an essential part of the cultural heritage of mankind, and which are genuinely of world interest. There has never been a time when the attention of every country was not directed towards preserving monuments of this sort. The real danger threatening mankind with impoverishment of its legacy of monuments is the general tendency to make do with a few fine specimens of a country's architectural history, and to neglect the others. The General Department of Antiquities and Museums in Syria is continually fighting against this tendency, and struggling against heavy odds to vindicate the thesis that the value of any particular monumental masterpiece depends upon a whole series of monuments whether of earlier date, or contemporary, or even of a later period. The cultural heritage of any one country is a complete whole, and it is very dangerous to break this up by putting forward international standards which give preference exclusively to safeguarding masterpieces. If a country is driven to ask for assistance from the international fund to save the brightest treasures amongst its monuments, this is because it finds it impossible to finance their restoration out of its own resources and therefore *a fortiori* cannot think of its other monuments which will consequently have to be left to crumble away and disappear completely.

The essential task of the international fund, in our opinion, is to preach the cause of saving the cultural heritage of every country in the world, to guard against particular nations failing in this matter, and to come to the rescue of countries with a large number of monuments, which are doing all they can in proportion to their resources but which fail to keep up all their heritage because the effort required is beyond their means.

13 (c) Magnitude of assistance

We consider that the estimated sum of about one million dollars a year is below the figure actually needed for the monuments which require preservation. Syria, a small country, allocates more than £1,500,000 sterling in its annual budget for restorations (including the cost of the technicians engaged), and even so manages to accomplish only a fraction of the work that ought to be done in this field.

14 (d) Allocation of assistance

We should prefer the requests for assistance to be studied (and the consequent grants to be decided) by the Unesco Secretariat, which should also examine proposals for monuments to be listed as needing restoration with the help of a consultative organ consisting of experts appointed by the Director-General.

III. 15. Financing of the international fund

16 (a) Compulsory contributions

We are not in favour of fixing compulsory contributions from national budgets. Our own national expenditure, owing to the existence of a very large number of monuments in Syria, requires all sorts of expedients for raising money within our own borders and prevents us from looking beyond them. Similarly, the proposed tourist tax is unpopular, and there is little likelihood of its being generally accepted.

17 (b) Voluntary contributions

It is more reasonable to think of voluntary contributions coming from the public which is interested in museums and monuments. The international card providing free entry to museums and archaeological sites is a good thing. But the price suggested for this card is rather low, especially as the card would be valid for quite a long period. Validity should be reckoned on the basis of two dollars a month.

Appeals for voluntary contributions might also be made to agencies concerned with travel or tourism, such as the big shipping or air companies, agencies arranging group tours, the big international oil companies, the well-known Foundations concerned with the economic development of underdeveloped countries, etc.

PART II. Other appropriate means for the preservation of monuments of historical and artistic value

25 (a) Dissemination of information

i. We are eagerly awaiting the publication of a manual on preservation and restoration by Unesco in 1964. This manual has an assured intrinsic value; but what matters is that it should be liberally distributed throughout every country, and that some sixty copies should be sent free to every Member State of Unesco.

26. ii. The value of an international documentation centre is less certain. It is more logical to think of setting up a national centre in every country which has monuments of world interest. The ideal course would be for Unesco's Division of Monuments and Museums to command the services of travelling experts, who would visit any country that needed their services in order to bring the national personnel concerned with monuments up to date on the best methods of securing the documentation required.

(b) This brings us to the problem of an international organization for monuments. Attention needs to be called to the current trend to distribute Unesco's services concerned with monuments and museums among several organizations, associations and international committees. Each of these bodies quite often consists only of a director, with one or two secretaries: its activity is simply to put out a few ideas, to hold one or two meetings every year, and to deal with correspondence. There are numerous possibilities, however, in every country for stirring people up to form a museum, to enlarge it or get it working, and to save thousands of monuments now threatened with disappearance.

Our own preference would be for a Division of Monuments and Museums at Unesco enlarged and given effective means and credits, with some ten or more competent experts available for any country requesting their services and able to benefit from their expertise.

(Translated from the French)

URUGUAY

UNESCO
Comisión Nacional
Ministerio de Instrucción Pública
y Previsión Social
Montevideo - Uruguay

Montevideo : 24 December 1963

CE/3360/63

Sir,

My Executive Board has carefully and duly studied the letter dated 16 July 1963 from the Director-General of Unesco, regarding the document CUA/122 and the revised text of document 65 EX/9 on the study of measures for the preservation of monuments through the establishment of an international fund or by any other appropriate means. In view of the importance of this note, which deals with a problem of worldwide concern transcending national frontiers, and of the fact that Unesco has already had on several occasions to cope with resolutions or recommendations of its General Conference or Executive Board on this matter, without ever reaching a firm conclusion, my Board has the honour to reply to your request for its opinion, fully conscious of the responsibility that this involves, in the light of those earlier moves recalled in the present note. It now desires to put on record its conviction that the problem now urgently requires provision to be firmly and definitively made for taking steps, whenever necessary or whenever it can be done fairly simply, to preserve these monuments whose high artistic or historical value invests them with an importance which lifts them out of the category of any one country's possession and makes them part of the cultural heritage of all mankind.

A careful study of the theoretical part of your communication reveals that this is in effect a collation of resolution 6.43 approved by the General Conference at its third session in 1948, with decision 11.1, paragraph 5, taken by the Executive Board at its 60th session in November 1961 and confirmed by resolution 4.412 of the General Conference at its twelfth session in 1962, both as regards the presentation of the problem as set out in the preamble of your note, and as regards the two following parts which deal with the establishment of appropriate means. This at first sight leads to a series of proposals and recommendations of such precision and logical force as to prompt the question why they have not been put into action before now. This can be explained only by the numerous difficulties which have been encountered (as recorded in Part I of document UNESCO/CUA/122) in inducing the signatory governments to approve the financial means proposed for establishing the international fund. We shall next set out a few brief arguments, suggested to us by certain paragraphs to which we attribute particular importance. At the outset we should like to affirm our wholehearted agreement with the general tenor of sub-section II of Part I (International Fund) under the heading "Summary of the basic elements of the problem", and more particularly with paragraphs 11(a) and 12(b). We consider that the "allocation of assistance" (para. 14(d)) should be the responsibility of a specially created body consisting of specialists appointed by the countries contributing to the fund.

The "financing of the international fund" (Part I, section III) is by general consent the toughest problem. In view of the vast sums of money required for this undertaking, we hold that the only effective way of raising this would be through compulsory or voluntary contributions from the national budgets of the various Member States of Unesco; but we suggest that further study should be made of the form which each State's contribution to the fund should take, and that each State should be given an equitable quota, with this stipulation (which seems to us fundamental) that not less than half the cost of repairs or restoration of monuments should be found by the country which owns them.

In advising this form of financing the international fund, we are fully aware that it may well prove unpopular; experience has already shown that only a very few countries have shown themselves ready to adopt it. But as we have said above, given the immense sums required, this is the only really appropriate way of financing the international fund. (Experience has also shown that all the other methods suggested are totally inadequate; nor have they won any more approval from the signatory countries).

The only constructive suggestion that we can make in regard to this problem is that Unesco should try out this plan, on a large scale (for not less than 10 to 15 years), but that before doing

so it should spend quite a long time on an intensive campaign to convince the governments and peoples of the signatory countries of the existence of this problem in all its dimensions and of the high cultural and humanistic values involved. During this period Unesco should also by every means in its power address direct recommendations to governments to make the younger generation aware of this problem through its relevant teaching agencies and other cultural organizations. This would make it possible for future generations of governments to be seized of the importance of the problem, and thus to be ready to accept, along with other nations, the solutions recommended by the international organization and herein chiefly the financial obligations assigned to them. Without such a prior campaign of instruction and persuasion it will be very difficult to obtain the desired results.

We regard the suggestion in paragraph 18 of Section III (financing of the international fund) of an international card providing free entry to museums and monuments as an interesting method, to be kept in mind for raising a considerable part of the above-mentioned fund; but we cannot regard it as more than a temporary expedient, since we do not believe that it could ever by itself supply all the financial requirements of the scheme under consideration. We suggest that this international card be used to raise the initial sums required, while Unesco is conducting the wider campaign to raise the larger sums which alone would be commensurate with the overall problem.

Yours truly,

(signed) Juan E. Pivel Devoto
Minister of Public Instruction
and Social Insurance

Chairman of the National Commission to Unesco

(Translated from the Spanish)

UNITED STATES

Department of State
Bureau of Educational
and Cultural Affairs

December 17, 1963

Sir,

This is in reply to your letter of July 16, 1963, requesting the views of my Government on the question of measures for the preservation of monuments.

The United States is indeed interested in the efforts being made by Unesco to encourage and assist with the preservation of monuments. Through the attention now being directed to this important problem, the world will undoubtedly suffer fewer losses of its significant achievements than have occurred in the past.

The Secretariat is especially to be commended for its work in making important information on preservation available through such publications as the Museums and Monuments Series. It is in this area that we believe Unesco can continue to make an important contribution, through encouraging or, where necessary, subsidizing the preparation of studies with wide usefulness.

Clearing house services in the field of preservation are also important and can appropriately be carried out by Unesco or with Unesco assistance. Some of the functions of the documentation center proposed in the present "Study of Measures for the Preservation of Monuments" are actually already being performed by the International Center for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property and by the joint Unesco/ICOM Documentation Center. Rather than establish a new center, it would appear preferable to define clearly the services already provided by the existing centers, to publicize these services in Member States and, where possible, to expand the services within the existent facilities.

The United States does not believe that the need for an international organization for monuments has been demonstrated. Most of the functions listed for the proposed organization are being performed or could be performed by other organizations or institutions. Though Unesco, through

its publications, its documentation services, and an occasional conference, can keep the problem of preservation before Member States, the basic work in stimulating interest in monuments should be undertaken by the States themselves or by private organizations in Member States.

Although we appreciate the desire of many States to receive outside assistance with preservation of their treasured monuments, the suggestion of an International Fund for Monuments seems to us to be neither sound nor realistic. We question the possibility of raising a substantial sum through the sale of an admission card to museums, and we are confident that few museums which depend upon admissions for revenue would support the plan.

As indicated by the foregoing, our position reflects an interest and desire in seeing that the work of Unesco in this important field be effective and productive. To this end, we recommend that the Organization devote its resources to increasing the flow of information on preservation and that it leave to Member States and institutions the tasks of arousing interest in problems of preservation and of raising, or allocating funds for this purpose.

Robert H. B. Wade
Director
Multilateral and Special Activities
(Original English)

MAURITIUS

Ministry of Education
and Cultural Affairs

Port Louis, 11 November 1963

M. E. /106/063

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to your letter of the 16th July, on the above subject, and to inform you that this Ministry has no observations to make on the proposals contained in the document CUA/122. This country has no historical monuments of world interest.

signed: for Permanent Secretary

(Original English)

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF HISTORY OF ART

The Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

September 10, 1963

Sir,

Thank you very much for sending me a copy of the Unesco proposal of June 28, 1963, to undertake measures for the preservation of historic and artistic monuments. The decision of Unesco to move resolutely in this area will, I am certain, be welcomed by the CIHA with the greatest satisfaction and enthusiasm. I hope you will be good enough to transmit this endorsement to the officers of Unesco. I might add that, since the Congress of New York in 1961, the CIHA has become concerned with conservation and is attempting in various ways to stimulate broad interest in the problems that it presents. I send you herewith a copy of a resolution that was passed at the meeting of the Council of the CIHA in Barcelona last June.

At the moment, after a first reading of the proposal, I would make only two comments. I hope that paragraph 13(c) might be slightly modified so as to admit the objects of exceptional historic or artistic significance that are neither "extensive" nor "massive". I would hope also that the specialists eventually involved in this enterprise will not be limited to conservators and officers

of museums, but will include also historians of art and archaeologists, who view the problems of conservation somewhat differently and have, it seems to CIHA, a specific and not inconsiderable contribution to make.

Millard Meiss
President
(Original English)

SOCIETE INTERNATIONALE POUR L'EDUCATION ARTISTIQUE

February 12th, 1964

Sir,

Thank you for acquainting us with the Unesco document CUA/122. After studying this document we think it has many merits. Dr. Soika, the new INSEA president has asked me to assure you of his support for this project.

The financial aspect of it will probably be a matter concerning the various national governments. Since the money resources of INSEA are somewhat strained, a financial involment cannot be considered at the present time.

Regarding the issue of "International Cultural Identity Cards" detailed negotiations will be necessary between INSEA and Unesco on the one hand and between INSEA and the affiliated national art education associations in order to avoid duplication of international identity cards.

Please keep us informed of the further developments in this project.

Signed: Kläger
(Original English)