

ICOMOS

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES
CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE MONUMENTOS Y SITIOS
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ СОВЕТ ПО ВОПРОСАМ ПАМЯТНИКОВ И ДОСТОПРИМЕЧАТЕЛЬНЫХ МЕСТ

WORLD HERITAGE LIST

N° 545

A) IDENTIFICATION

Nomination : The Kremlin and Red Square

Location : Moscow

State Party : U.S.S.R.

Date : 24 October, 1989

B) ICOMOS RECOMMENDATION

That this cultural property be included on the World Heritage List on the basis of Criteria I, II, III, IV and VI.

C) JUSTIFICATION

The procedures laid down in 1972 for the inclusion of mankind's most significant treasures on a single list, the World Heritage List, did not permit the inclusion of a property until the sovereign state on whose territory it is located had ratified the Convention and submitted an official application. It was therefore necessary to wait until groups of monuments as famous as Vatican City (1984), the Acropolis in Athens (1987) or Sanchi (1989) could be included on a list on which all of them could, legitimately, have been the very first entries.

The proposal to include the Kremlin and Red Square, submitted on 24 October 1989 by the Soviet ambassador to UNESCO, allows us to fill in one of the most notable gaps. Indeed, the World Heritage List will lack full credibility as long as it does not include cultural properties whose aesthetic quality and historic importance are so obvious.

Within its 28-hectare triangular enceinte, the kreml of Moscow, which according to chronicles dates from 1156, contains an ensemble of monuments of outstanding quality. The oldest are clustered in the southwest sector. Ever since the establishment of the principality of Moscow in 1263 and the transfer to Moscow of the seat of Vladimir's Metropolitan in 1328, this was the centre of both temporal and spiritual power. Some of these original buildings border Cathedral Square, others, e.g. the Nativity of the Virgin (1393), were incorporated into the Great Palace when it was rebuilt. The nucleus expanded northward with the palace of the Patriarchs and the Church of the Twelve Apostles, erected in the 17th century, and especially with the Arsenal (1701) of Peter the Great which fills the northwest angle of the enceinte. The triangular palace of the Senate (today the seat of the Council of Ministers) was built between

1771 and 1785 by Kazakov for the Empress Catherine II in the vacant area in the northeast sector between the Arsenal and the monasteries of the Miracle and of the Ascension, two splendid structures that were razed in 1932.

In the southeast sector Kazakov built another, smaller palace for the Empress. Known as the Nicholas palace, it was also destroyed in 1932.

Red Square, which covers 74,831 m², is closely associated with the Kremlin, lying beneath its east wall. At its south end is the famous Cathedral of Saint Basil the Blessed, one of the most beautiful monuments of Orthodox art. It was originally one of a pair of churches, the other being the Cathedral of Kazan, erected in 1633 in the vast open area bordering the "Goum" by Prince Pozarsky to commemorate the victory over the Poles. It disappeared in the early 1930s along with several convents in the neighboring area (the Savior-behind-the-Images, Saint Nicholas, Epiphany).

Decree 1101 of 24 November 1987 promulgated by the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. laid down regulations for urban projects in the historic centre of Moscow until the year 2000 and placed the Kremlin and Red Square in a zone of absolute protection. Despite the destructions of the 1930s and certain architecturally disputable buildings (such as the Rossia hotel and Intourist) in the immediate vicinity, the indissociable ensemble formed by these two cultural properties unquestionably merits in its present form inclusion on the World Heritage List. ICOMOS recommends its inclusion on the basis of Criteria I, II, III, IV and VI.

- **Criterion I.** The Kremlin contains within its walls a unique series of masterpieces of architecture and the plastic arts. There are religious monuments of exceptional beauty such as the Church of the Annunciation, the Cathedral of the Dormition, the Church of the Archangel and the bell tower of Ivan Veliki; there are palaces such as the Great Palace of the Kremlin which comprises within its walls the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin and the Teremnoi Palace. On Red Square is Saint Basil the Blessed, still a major edifice of Orthodox art.

- **Criterion II.** Russian architecture was clearly affected many times in its history by influences emanating from the Kremlin. A particular example is the Italian Renaissance. The influence of the style was felt when Ridolfo Fioravanti built the Cathedral of the Dormition (1475-79), and grew stronger with the Granovitaya Palata (Hall of Facets, 1487-91) by Marco Ruffo and Pietro Antonio Solario as well as in the towers of the fortified enceinte, built during the same period by Solario using principles established by Milanese engineers (the Nikolskaya and the Spasskaya both date from 1491). The Renaissance expression was even clearer in the classic capitals and shells of the Church of the Archangel reconstructed from 1505-09 by Alevisio Novi. This was a time when, according to Philoktee, a monk, Moscow had aspirations of becoming "the third Rome".

- **Criterion III.** The Kremlin bears unique testimony to the civilization of Czarist Russia by the organization of its space, its monuments, and its collections (like those of the Armory Palace, indissociable from the history of the site).

- **Criterion IV.** With its triangular enceinte pierced by five gates and reinforced with 29 towers, the Kremlin preserves the memory of the wooden fortifications erected by Yuri Dolgoruki c. 1156 on the hill at the confluence of the Moskova and the Nieglinnaya rivers (the Alexander Garden now covers the latter). By its layout and its history of transformations (in the 14th century Dimitri Donskoi had an enceinte of logs built, then the first stone wall), it is the prototype of the kreml, the citadel at the centre of old Russian towns, such as Pskov, Toula, Kazan or Smolensk.

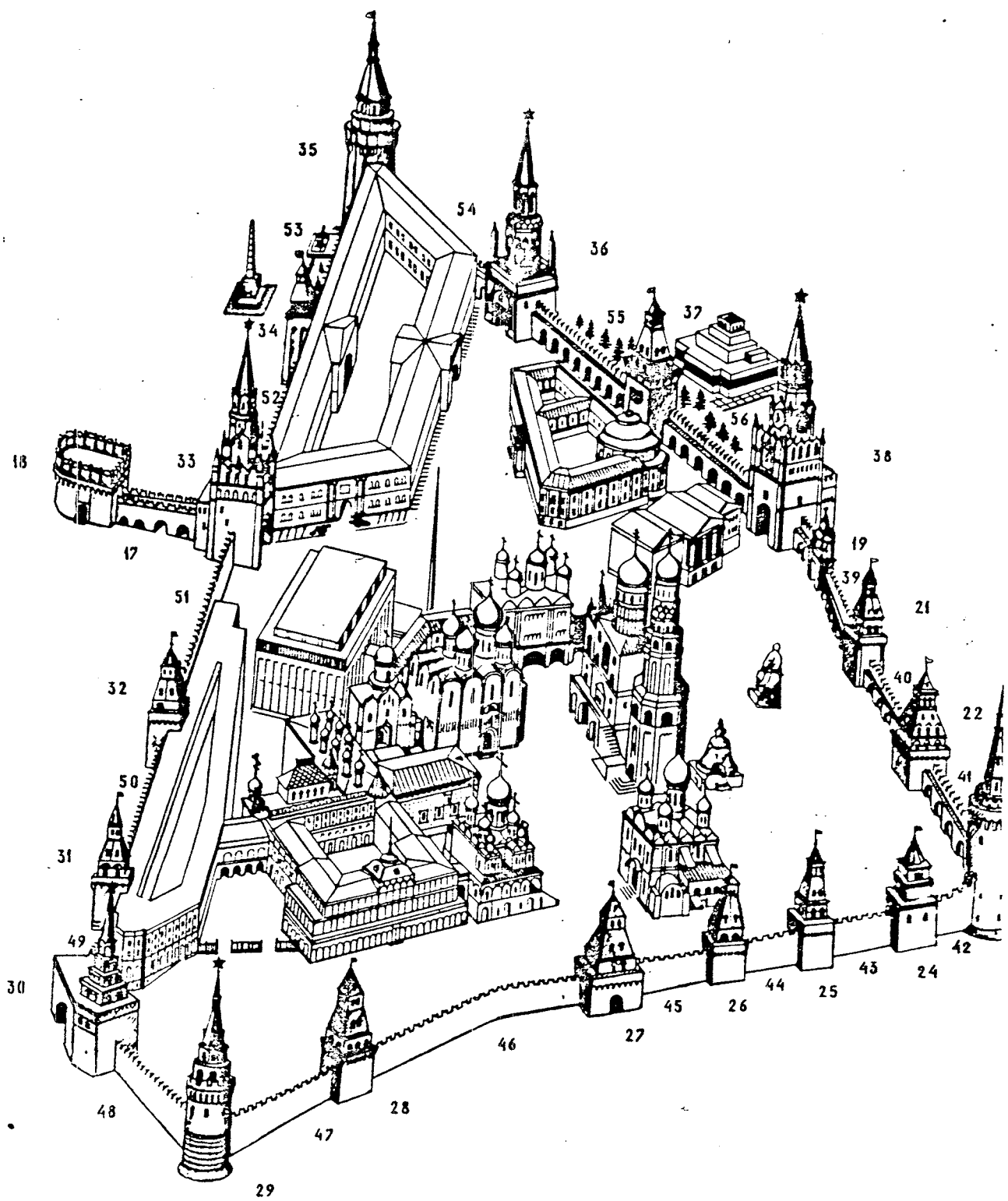
- **Criterion VI.** From the 13th century to the founding of St. Petersburg, the Kremlin was directly and tangibly associated with every major event in Russian history. A 200-year period of obscurity ended in 1918 when it again became the seat of government; today it houses the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R., the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Palace of Congress. The Mausoleum of Lenin on Red Square is the Soviet Union's prime example of symbolic monumental architecture. To proclaim the universal significance of the Russian revolution, the funerary urns of heroes of the revolution were incorporated into the Kremlin's walls between the Nikolskaya and Spasskaya towers. The site thus combines in an exceptional manner the preserved vestiges of bygone days with present-day signs of one of the greatest events in modern history.

ICOMOS observations

- ICOMOS, sensitive to the wealth of moveable treasures in the Kremlin, would like further details on interior arrangements, either executed or planned, in the palaces not open to the public.

- Moreover, ICOMOS is surprised that no mention is made in the dossier of a reconstruction project for the Cathedral of Kaza. It has strong reservations concerning the feasibility of this project, which was approved by the Culture Minister on 29 May 1988 (cf. E. Ovsjannikova, "Staraja Moskva", Arkhitektura i stroitel'stvo goroda Moskvyy, n° 9, 1988).

ICOMOS, April 1990



Moscou : Plan du Kremlin
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