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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
Sixteenth Session

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris 6-10 July 1992
Room XVI

Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda: Requests for International Assistance

1. Since the fifteenth session of the World Heritage Committee, the additional information sought on the request submitted by the Maltese authorities for the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum has been made available to the Secretariat. Moreover, the Bolivian authorities had submitted in 1991 a request for the City of Potosi whose evaluation required a mission to the site which could not be undertaken until 1992 due to unavailability of the consultant.

2. Since the fifteenth session of the Committee, a new request has been received from Turkey for the conservation of a cultural monument.

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

Technical co-operation

3. Hal Saflieni Hypogeum (Malta)

Background : The Hal Saflieni Hypogeum was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1980. Until now, Malta has received US\$53,375 from the World Heritage Fund distributed as follows: US\$31,100 for training, US\$8,169 for preparatory assistance and US\$14,306 for technical assistance, of which US\$11,713 was for the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum.

Description of Project: In order to resolve problems linked to internal humidity, the Maltese authorities have envisaged

the installation of an air-conditioning system in the Hypogeum at an estimated cost of US\$180,000

National Contribution: Within the framework of a programme to restore the monument, work to rebuild the entrance and renovate the lighting system is foreseen at a cost of US\$450,000.

Amount requested from the Fund: A sum of US\$180,000 is requested for installing an air-conditioning system.

Recommended action of Bureau: The amount requested is too high to consider financing under the World Heritage Fund. On the other hand, if the Maltese authorities were able to assure the Committee of complementary financing, the Bureau could decide to contribute to the project US\$30,000, which could be put at the disposal of the authorities as soon as assurances considering the main funding of the project have been received.

4. Conservation of the Kari-Kari Lagoons (Bolivia)

Background: The City of Potosi was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1987. Until now the Fund has provided Bolivia US\$28,294 of which US\$15,794 was for training, US\$7,500 for preparatory assistance and US\$5,000 for technical assistance for the organization, by the Regional Co-ordinator and Technical Advisor for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage in Latin America based in Lima, of a mission to define, with the Bolivian authorities, the terms of the present request.

Description of Project: The project presented in February 1991 by the Bolivian authorities was related to the restoration and development of lagoon systems of the zone Kari-Kari. In fact this project aimed to develop all lakes situated east and south-east of the City of Potosi to augment their capacities to provide drinking water. It did not really appear to be a project aiming at a simple restoration of those elements included in the site inscribed on the World Heritage List. Its cost would have been about US\$20 million, of which US\$3-4 millions would have been spent on the rehabilitation of the state of a part of the lagoons. Hence, this project is an investment project linked to the development of the City. It had been noted by ICOMOS, during its evaluation of the nomination dossier of this site, that its boundary of protection had only included "5 of the nearest lakes". The mission undertaken in January 1992, had permitted the precise identification of these lakes (to the south: the lagoons of San Ildefonso and San Pablo which have further been united by works undertaken in 1973 and constitute a single lake after removal of the barrage of San Pablo, and the two lagoons of San Sebastian; to the north, the lagoon of San Antonio).

Recommended action of Bureau: Taking into account the elements mentioned above, the details of which figure in the documentation made available to the members of the Bureau, the Bureau is requested to decide on the receivability of this request.

5. Restoration of the mosaics of St. Sophia (Turkey)

Background: The historic zones of Istanbul were inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1985. Until now, Turkey has received US\$113,653 from the World Heritage Fund; US\$25,297 for training, US\$6,907 for preparatory assistance and US\$81,149 for technical assistance, of which US\$20,000 was approved in 1991 for the restoration of the dome of St. Sophia.

Description of Project: Carrying out analytical studies on materials and structures constituting the dome of St. Sophia and photogrammetric surveys necessary for its conservation. For this purpose, materials have been requested, a detailed list of which has not been provided.

National contribution: The Turkish authorities have indicated to the Secretariat that they have contributed to the works undertaken for the restoration of St. Sophia for an amount of US\$265,195, between 1985 and 1990. They foresee setting aside US\$300,000 during 1992 and 1993.

Amount requested from the Fund: A sum of US\$30,000 is requested for the year 1992; the Turkish authorities foresee requesting an additional amount of US\$50,000 in 1993.

Recommended action of Bureau: The Bureau is called upon to decide on allocating US\$30,000 and on the principle of the receivability of part of the request for 1993. It has to be noted that in 1991 a request for US\$20,000 was approved under technical assistance for restoration works on the mosaics of the dome. A contract had been concluded with the Ministry of Culture, Turkey, for recruiting three experts whose task was to proceed with a certain number of preliminary studies and restoration works. The date of expiry of the contract was fixed at 31 December 1992. The Bureau may wish to defer all decisions until such time when it could examine the report which must be presented at the end of the contract. The framework of the request used for the proposals of 1992 and 1993 is, furthermore, identical to that which was approved in 1991 and perhaps might have to be revised in the light of the final report on the actions currently underway.