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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION
OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

BUREAU OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Nineteenth session

Berlin, Germany

1-2 December 1995

Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda: Monitoring: reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List

City of Potosi (Bolivia)

The City of Potosi was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1987. The World Heritage site includes the historical centre of the city, the remains of Colonial industrial complexes (Los Ingenios) and part of the mountain from which the Spaniards extracted enormous quantities of silver (El Cerro Rico).

Since mid-1994 the Secretariat has received numerous letters from individuals, associations and non-governmental organizations regarding the increasing mining activities at the Cerro Rico mountain. These reports suggest that the mining operations could seriously affect the visual appearance of the mountain and also have a serious impact on the ecological balance in the area.

The Secretariat has not succeeded in obtaining information from the Bolivian authorities on the mining activities and the preservation and management policies regarding the Cerro Rico.

A UNESCO expert visited Potosi in May 1995. The expert confirmed that a certain degradation of the Cerro Rico occurs and that the continued mining activities, and the techniques applied, cause serious air and water pollution. The expert recommended that the mining activities and techniques be reviewed with the view to permitting the exploitation of the valuable resources still present in the Cerro Rico, while at the same time providing the guarantees that the Cerro Rico be preserved and stabilized. The expert also recommended the preparation of a protection and management plan for the Cerro Rico and its surroundings.

Action by the Bureau: The Bureau may wish to recommend the Committee to adopt the following:

"The Committee took note of information provided by the Secretariat on the potential degradation of the Cerro Rico by continued mining operations. Considering that the Cerro Rico forms an integral part of the World Heritage site, the Committee requested the Bolivian authorities to inform the Secretariat of the measures it has taken for its preservation and management."

Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin (Germany)

The Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin were inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1990. The site was extended to include the Saviour Church and the Sacrow Castle in 1992. A mission to the site was carried out by ICOMOS, the World Heritage Centre and German experts in 1993 and a seminar was held on the "Development of the Potsdam Manmade Landscape" with support from the World Heritage Fund in 1994. The full report of the Seminar was presented by the German Council for Land Stewardship (Deutscher Rat für Landschaftspflege) to the World Heritage Centre. The report reveals the landscape history of the site, which is an exceptionally designed landscape and includes not only the Park itself, but also the Potsdam cultural landscape which is threatened by urban pressure. The Seminar recommended the following:

- to enlarge the site to include the "Neuer Garten", the Babelsberger Park, the Russian Colony/Kapellenberg/Pfingstberg and the Bornimer Feldflur;
- to acknowledge the ensemble character of the Park and its surrounding cultural landscape as a buffer zone;
- to review development projects of the city planners of Potsdam which may threaten the values of the site by current traffic planning (including international waterways) and construction projects. Characteristic sight connections would be affected;
- to review the legal protection situation of the site.

Action by the Bureau: The Bureau may wish to recommend to the Committee that the German authorities be asked to provide a full state of conservation report of the site, including statements concerning, legal protection, current planning and development of Potsdam, review of possible extension of the site and the future development of guiding principles to protect the Potsdam World Heritage site and its surrounding cultural landscape.