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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE  
WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

BUREAU OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twentieth extraordinary session  
Merida, Yucatan, Mexico

29 -30 November 1996

Item 3 of the Provisional Agenda: Reports on the state of  
conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List

SUMMARY

In accordance with paragraphs 48-50 and 83-85 of the Operational Guidelines, the Secretariat submits herewith reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. If appropriate, the Secretariat or the advisory bodies will provide additional information during the session of the Bureau.

**Decision required:** The Bureau is requested to examine the attached state of conservation reports and consider to take its decisions under the following three categories:

- (a) The Bureau recommends the Committee to inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
- (b) The Bureau transmits the state of conservation report to the Committee for action;
- (c) The Bureau transmits the state of conservation report together with its own observation/recommendation to the Committee for noting.

## INTRODUCTION

1. This document deals with **reactive monitoring** as it is defined in the Operational Guidelines: "The reporting by the Centre, other sectors of UNESCO and the advisory bodies to the Bureau and the Committee on the state of conservation of specific World Heritage sites that are under threat". Reactive monitoring is foreseen in the procedures for the eventual deletion of properties from the World Heritage List (paragraphs 48-56 of the Operational Guidelines) and for the inclusion of properties in the List of World Heritage in Danger (paragraphs 82-89 of the Operational Guidelines).

2. It is recalled that the World Heritage Committee at its nineteenth session discussed its working methods. At that occasion, the Committee adopted the following text regarding the examination of the state of conservation reports (Report of the nineteenth session of the World Heritage Committee, paragraph XVI.6. point 6):

*"The aspect of the Committee's work which is expanding most rapidly and can be expected to continue to increase is the consideration of state of conservation reports. One approach to streamlining how these reports are dealt with could be for the Committee to consider only those reports which deal with properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger or proposed to be added to that List, with written reports on other sites being provided for the Committee for noting."*

3. In accordance with the above, reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger are directly submitted to the Committee for consideration (working document WHC-96/CONF.201/7A).

4. The Bureau is requested to examine the state of conservation reports on properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and to consider taking its decisions under the following three categories:

- (a) The Bureau recommends the Committee to inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
- (b) The Bureau transmits the state of conservation report to the Committee for action;

- (c) The Bureau transmits the state of conservation report together with its own observation/recommendation to the Committee for noting.

5. The present document is also made available to the members of the Committee for consideration as working document WHC-96/CONF.201/7B. The observations/recommendations of the Bureau will be reflected in the report of the Bureau session and will be transmitted to the Committee as working document WHC-96/CONF.201/7B.add.

## **NATURAL HERITAGE**

### **Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks (Canada)**

The World Heritage Committee discussed at its nineteenth session a report presented by IUCN, which underlined the infrastructural developments in the "Bow Corridor" and their impact on the integrity of the site. The Canadian authorities had set up the Bow Valley Task Force, in order to prepare a study on these issues. The Committee requested IUCN and the Centre to co-operate with the Canadian authorities and asked to be kept informed of the findings of the Task Force. In this context, IUCN advised the Centre that it had requested the Task Force to integrate World Heritage values in their deliberations.

The Bureau at its session in June 1996 recommended that the Bureau at its twentieth extraordinary session in November 1996 examines the report of the Task Force due in September 1996.

#### **Decision required:**

The Bureau may wish to examine the information that will be provided during the Bureau's session and take the appropriate action thereupon.

### **Mount Huangshan (People's Republic of China)**

The Bureau may recall the fact that UNESCO, in co-operation with UNEP's Bureau for Industry and Environment, located in Paris, and the Chinese Ministry of Environment, convened an international seminar in this World Heritage Site, in 1991. The outcome of the seminar alerted the Chinese authorities to the growing negative

impacts of unregulated tourism development in the site. Following this international seminar, a training workshop for Chinese protected area managers, was held in Huangshan, in October-November 1993, with financial assistance from the World Heritage Fund. The workshop made several recommendations, including the construction of a visitor centre, improving the disposal of the large amount of waste generated by tourists, and introducing ecological safeguards and criteria in identification of sites for constructing visitor facilities.

During a visit to the site in August-September 1996, the Director of the World Heritage Centre was pleased to note that the Chinese authorities have given serious consideration to the recommendations of the training workshop held in 1993, with the support of the World Heritage Committee. The management of waste disposal has improved and the site's natural and aesthetic values are maintained in an exemplary way. Site management authorities are also considering plans for establishing a visitor centre and limiting further construction of visitor facilities within the site.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following text and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

"The Bureau commends the Chinese authorities for the positive steps they have taken in improving tourism management in the site and encourages them to proceed with additional measures, such as the construction of a visitor centre, to manage the large numbers of visitors annually entering the site."

#### **Galapagos National Park (Ecuador)**

At its nineteenth session, the World Heritage Committee discussed extensively the issues and threats facing the site. It recommended that the Director of the World Heritage Centre accept the invitation from the State Party to visit the Galapagos Islands, with the Chairperson of the Committee and appropriate technical advisors, in order to discuss the pressures on and present condition of the site and to identify measures to overcome the problems. It further invited the State Party and the Director to report on the outcome of the visit for further consideration by the Bureau at its twentieth session, including the question of whether or not the property should be recommended for inclusion on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The Bureau at its twentieth session considered the report of the mission led by the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee (1-11 June 1996) to examine the situation of the Galapagos Islands. The Bureau concluded that serious problems exist, such that immediate remedial actions are essential to safeguard the values of the World Heritage site and the surrounding marine areas, while recognizing the considerable efforts made. The full report is contained in information document WHC-96/CONF.201/INF.13. As a follow-up to the Bureau's recommendations, letters were written by the Director-General of UNESCO to the President of Ecuador and by the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee to the President of the Environmental Commission concerning the protection of the Galapagos and more specifically on the proposed "special legislation" for the Galapagos. The State Party advised the Centre that, despite an initial optimism with proposed legislation and due to amendments to the special legislation which weakened this constructive effort, the legislation was not adopted and will require further action. In the interim, it has been reported by the State Party that an outbreak of disease organisms has caused increased tortoise mortality; the Centre has been in touch with the authorities and investigative veterinarian searchers on this most recent issue and is advised that the necessary pathological studies are underway and these efforts require no short term assistance.

**Decision required:** Following the findings and conclusions of the mission to the Galapagos Islands, the Bureau may wish to examine the state of conservation report which the authorities are requested to submit by 1 November 1996. The Bureau may wish to furthermore recommend to the Committee to examine this information and in light of this report and the findings of the mission, and in lieu of corrective legislation, to decide whether the site should now be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

#### **Simien National Park (Ethiopia)**

The Centre and IUCN have received a report on a field study on the flora and fauna of the Simien Mountains prepared by the University of Berne (Switzerland). The report indicates a deterioration of the Walia ibex population and that other large mammals (such as bushbuck and bushpig) have become extremely rare. At the twentieth session of the Bureau, additional

information on the state of conservation of the site was provided by IUCN (loss of biodiversity, encroachment at the borders of the site, impacts of the road construction) and a report by the University of Berne was made available to the Bureau members. The recommendations of this report were endorsed by the Bureau, including a planning and coordination meeting at the regional level, a technical mission to the site and possible submission of a technical assistance request for both the meeting and the finalization of the Simen Mountains Baseline Studies.

As a follow-up to the recommendations by the Bureau, a technical mission to the site is scheduled from 13 to 19 October 1996. The mission objectives include identification of the current status of the management and administration of Simien National Park, review of current development activities, evaluation and report on the nature and extent of current threats to Simien National Park and assistance to Ethiopian institutions responsible for the Park and its surrounding rural area in the formulation of a technical assistance request.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to examine the report that will be provided at its twentieth extraordinary session and take the appropriate action thereupon.

### **Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras)**

At its nineteenth session, the Committee took note of a monitoring report prepared by IUCN. This report noted the threats to the site, including agricultural intrusion and the implementation of land reform programmes. A number of follow-up actions, including the inscription of the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger, were recommended. Further to the decision of the Committee, the Centre requested the Honduran authorities to inform the Committee about the actions taken to protect the site. The Centre received a state of conservation report dated 30 April 1996 from the Honduran Minister for the Environment, which indicated the actions taken by the Government and various NGOs, as well as two projects submitted for technical assistance. On the basis of additional information provided by IUCN's regional office, the Bureau at its twentieth session recommended the Committee to inscribe this property on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Bureau furthermore recalled that IUCN's report provides eleven points of corrective actions and that the Minister of Environment has endorsed this report,

including the recommendation that the site be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to transmit the state of conservation report to the Committee and recommend the Committee to adopt the following:

"The Committee decides to inscribe the Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve on the List of World Heritage in Danger and encourages the State Party to continue to implement the eleven points of corrective actions recommended by IUCN. The Committee requests the authorities of Honduras to keep it informed on a regular basis of actions taken to safeguard this property."

#### **Whale Sanctuary of El Viscaíno (Mexico)**

At its nineteenth session, the Bureau discussed a report about a project for industrial salt production at the site and its potential threats to the whale population. A letter, noting the concerns of the Bureau about this project, was addressed to the Mexican authorities, but no response was received. At its last session, the Bureau was informed by the Delegate of Mexico that the National Institute of Ecology (INE) created a Committee comprising national and foreign experts, which held a first meeting in March 1996, participated in a public conference attended by nearly 300 persons and presented 42 documents to define aspects to be included in the new environmental impact study. The Minister of the Environment, Natural Resources and Fish indicated, through the INE, that the proposal could only be authorized on the understanding that it respects the legislation and the ecological standards in force.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following text and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

"The Bureau urges the State Party to keep the Committee informed about the industrial salt production project and the status of the environmental impact study and to ensure the integrity of the site."

#### **Arabian Oryx Sanctuary (Oman)**

The Centre received a progress report, dated March 1996, on the

ongoing planning activities for the site and a schedule of activities. IUCN noted several recent developments in the Sanctuary that are of concern: (1) poaching of thirteen Oryx, and (2) the construction of a reverse osmosis plant which has resulted in significant damage to the desert habitat. The Bureau requested the Centre to contact the Omani authorities encouraging them to provide the definition of the final boundaries of the site and expressing concern over the poaching and construction activities. No response has been received at the time of the preparation of this report.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following text and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

"The Bureau asks (a) the State Party to keep the Committee informed about the state of conservation of the site and progress on the planning and boundary definition project, (b) reiterates the clarification requested about the definition of the final boundaries of the site, and (c) requests clarification of the situation with respect to reported oryx poaching and the reverse osmosis plant."

#### **Huascarán National Park (Peru)**

The Committee, at its nineteenth session recommended to the Peruvian authorities that a cultural resources inventory of the site be carried out and asked for clarification on the road developments which may threaten the integrity of the site. The Bureau at its twentieth session reiterated this request. To date no reply has been received to a letter addressed to the State Party by the World Heritage Centre.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following text and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

"The Bureau reiterates the request by the World Heritage Committee that a cultural resources inventory of the site be carried out and clarifications be provided on the road developments which may threaten the integrity of the site."

#### **Skocjan Caves (Slovenia)**

The World Heritage Committee, at its nineteenth session, had requested the Centre to contact the Slovenian authorities to



provide a map of the revised boundaries of the site and to encourage the State Party to finalize new legislation and to prepare a management plan. The Bureau at its twentieth session reiterated this request. In its letter of 8 August 1996, the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning informed the Centre about preparations of the adoption of the "Law on the Protection of Skocjan Caves Regional Park", which is in the last phase of parliamentary procedure. It is expected to be adopted in October 1996. In addition, the authorities provided a map indicating the buffer zone of the site, which was transmitted to IUCN for review.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following text and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

"The Bureau thanks the authorities of Slovenia for their efforts and encourages them to continue their efforts for the adoption of the management plan."

#### **Ichkeul National Park (Tunisia)**

The site was included on the World Heritage List in 1980. IUCN informed the Bureau that it will present a report at the extraordinary session of the Bureau on threats to the site which was prepared in cooperation with the Ramsar Convention Secretariat.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to examine the report that IUCN will present during its session and take the appropriate action thereupon.

#### **Ha Long Bay (Vietnam)**

The Committee, at its nineteenth session noted the potential threats to the integrity of this site, due to the proposed development of a new port, and the proposal to issue a license for the establishment of a large floating hotel at the site. Furthermore, the Committee learnt that Japanese aid agencies were considering supporting the project up to an amount of US\$ 100 million. The Committee, while noting that Japan was still studying the project, and intended to undertake an evaluation of its ecological impacts, recalled Article 6.3 of the Convention which commits States Parties to the Convention "not to undertake any deliberate measures which might damage directly or indirectly

the cultural and natural heritage ... situated on the territory of other States Parties to the Convention."

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), by their fax of 27 September 1996, informed the Centre that on the basis of a request submitted by Vietnam, JICA is planning to draft an environmental management programme for Ha Long Bay and a study team is expected to be sent to Vietnam, between 16 October and 15 November 1996.

The Centre, in cooperation with IUCN's field office in Hanoi, will contact JICA to learn the findings of its study, expected to be concluded by 15 November 1996, and present up-to-date information on the state of conservation of Ha Long Bay at the time of the Committee session, in Merida, Mexico.

**Decision required:** The Bureau is invited to make recommendations for the conservation of Ha Long Bay for implementation in 1997, on the basis of new information expected to be submitted by the Centre and IUCN at the time of its session, in Merida, Mexico.

#### **Durmitor National Park (Yugoslavia)**

At the invitation of the Yugoslav authorities, the World Heritage Centre carried out a mission to the site, inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1980. The mission reviewed the state of conservation of the site and damage at the Park Headquarters building in Zabljak caused by a fire in 1995, which destroyed library and reference collections. The building has since been reconstructed and is almost wholly refurbished and is now operational.

The rapid unplanned and uncontrolled expansion of the village of Zabljak and adjacent development including a large sport facility within the current World Heritage boundaries was identified by the local Park authorities as being a serious threat to the area; local authorities indicated that they had recommended a World Heritage boundary adjustment under the circumstances. International assistance had been received to mitigate the mine tailing threat to the Tara River Canyon portion of the World Heritage site by earthen containment structures within the earthquake prone flood plain.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following text and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

The Bureau (a) commends the State Party for its efforts to restore the Park Headquarters facility to operational level and to contain the Tara River Canyon mine tailings, (b) however, expresses its concerns over the rapid town development within the site and lack of investment in the Park infrastructure, (c) requests clarification of possible boundary adjustments under consideration, (d) considers a possible engineering evaluation of the mine tailing containment efforts, and (e) invites the State Party to encourage the Director of the Park to participate in network and training efforts with other World Heritage site managers in the region."

#### **Garamba National Park (Zaire)**

Due to the success of the safeguarding action of the northern white rhino population by the World Heritage Committee, IUCN, WWF, the Frankfurt Zoological Society and the Zaire authorities, the site was removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1992. In April 1996, the Centre and IUCN received information on the poaching of two white rhinos (one female, one male adult). A joint WWF-IUCN mission to the site is being planned. The Centre requested the authorities to provide details of this event as well as any information on measures taken to prevent any further loss of the white rhino.

Given the gravity of the situation, the Bureau recommended to the Committee inscription of this site on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Bureau requested the Centre to obtain the commitment of the Zaire authorities for such listing and for a submission of a plan for corrective measures in conformity with the Operational Guidelines. At the time of the preparation of this document, no further information from the authorities of Zaire has been received.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to transmit the state of conservation report to the Committee for examination and recommend the Committee to adopt the following:

"The Committee decides to inscribe the Garamba National Park on the List of World Heritage in Danger and encourages

international partners to collaborate to safeguard the white rhino population."

#### **MIXED (NATURAL AND CULTURAL) HERITAGE**

##### **Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru)**

At its twentieth session in June 1996, the Bureau was informed of the decision of the National Institute for Culture to suspend the plans to construct two suspended cable car systems to facilitate access to the ruins of Machu Picchu. The Bureau suggested that the alternative means of access to Machu Picchu be studied in the context of integral planning for the whole of the area of the Sanctuary and that an assessment of its impact be undertaken. The Bureau requested the authorities of Peru to inform the Committee on the progress made in the development of an integral management mechanism as well as on the plans for the access to the ruins of Machu Picchu.

To date, no reply has been received from the Peruvian authorities to the Bureau's suggestion and request. However, the Secretariat was informed by the UNESCO Representative in Peru that tenders had been invited for the cable car system.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to transmit the report on the state of conservation of Machu Picchu to the Committee for examination and to recommend the Committee to adopt the following:

"The Committee urges the Peruvian authorities to develop integral management mechanisms for the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu and suggested that the alternative means of access to Machu Picchu be studied in the context of integral planning for the whole of the area of the Sanctuary and that an assessment of its impact be undertaken."

**CULTURAL HERITAGE****Africa****Aksum (Ethiopia)**

At scientific level, since 1993, a five-year archaeological programme mobilises annually a team of more than one hundred persons under the leadership of Dr. David W. Phillipson (University of Cambridge).

The persons responsible for this site are to be congratulated on its presentation, management and conservation. In addition, a master plan for the development of the city is being prepared in order to protect the surroundings of the major sites, prevent new constructions, and supervise certain areas of the city where important discoveries are expected in the near future. It is necessary to strengthen the role of the site manager:

- by providing him with documentation on the site and its restoration;
- by giving him the means to publish brochures presenting the site and its different monuments; and
- by upgrading the equipment available (cameras and measuring equipment, transportation) and provide him with the means to intervene rapidly in the event of new discoveries in the city and to make a more systematic survey of the numerous sites in Axum and its surroundings.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following recommendation and request the Committee to take note:

"The Bureau warmly thanks the Ethiopian authorities for all their efforts and the measures already taken to ensure the preservation and enhancement of this site. It asks the Centre for Research and Conservation of the Cultural Heritage (CRCCH) to continue its efforts and to ensure that the scientific documentation at the site be made available to the site manager. It reiterates that the compilation of this documentation is a prerequisite for the preparation of the management and conservation plans, and that UNESCO is always ready to provide, where necessary, assistance in obtaining documents that are not available in Ethiopia."

### **Lower Valley of the Awash (Ethiopia)**

The Lower Valley of the Awash is inscribed on the World Heritage List for its archaeological excavations which modified our understanding concerning the origin of humankind: the skeleton of Lucy, dated approximately 3.5 million to 4 million years BC, introduced the definition of a new species of hominid. In spite of its location in the Afar depression and its difficult access, it appears that the site is subject to the uncontrolled visits of individual tourists seeking souvenir fossils. To provide better protection and in order to further enhance this site, several measures could be taken:

- the **designation of a guide by the CRCCH**, in consultation with the local authorities;
- the **construction of a museum**, a long-standing request of the local authorities to archaeological missions which have been active in the Hadar, would be a significant action towards the enhancement and protection of the site. A somewhat simple structure could serve as an information post for the visitors and inhabitants and would also help to protect and enhance the site and to make it better understood by the non-specialist;
- in the long run, it will be necessary to envisage the **extension of the zone inscribed** on the World Heritage List and to include also the Middle Valley of the Awash, the focus of intensive research since 1981. It is in fact the entire valley which constitutes one of the most important paleontological and prehistorical sites in the world.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following recommendation and request the Committee to take note:

"The Bureau encouraged the Centre for Research and Conservation of the Cultural Heritage (CRCCH) to implement the above-mentioned proposals, and to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of all progress accomplished."

### **Lower Valley of the Omo (Ethiopia)**

The prehistoric site of the Lower Valley of the Omo, was the object of intensive research by international teams between 1967

and 1976. Scholars of paleontology and prehistory discovered human and animal fossils and stone tools and brought to light a prehistoric camping ground, amongst the oldest known to date. At present, erosion endangers the site by erasing the markers which had been planted during the last prospecting campaigns of 1974 and 1976 on the major sites, especially those that had revealed hominid fossils.

Due to the suspension of the missions since 1976, a survey should be carried out on the present state of the deposits to record the changes brought about by erosion, to seek out the markers still in place and position each locality by means of a GPS (Ground Positioning System), which would allow future researchers to find all the areas already identified and numbered by the previous paleontological missions.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following recommendation and request the Committee to take note:

"The Bureau encouraged the Centre for Research and Conservation of the Cultural Heritage (CRCCH) to undertake a survey and implement the above-mentioned proposals, and requested the Ethiopian authorities to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of the progress achieved."

#### **Rock-Hewn Churches, Lalibela (Ethiopia)**

The following remarks can be made on the state of conservation of the site concerning:

##### **A. The restoration of the site: a lengthy process**

- The site of Lalibela has been the object of several restoration campaigns; the main problem having been and still is the deterioration of the monolithic stone roofs of certain churches during the rainy season, as well as cracks in the exposed facades of several monuments. Three successive campaigns were carried out: in 1920, in 1954 and in 1966-68 under the direction of Sandro Angelini. It is highly probable that the first restorations of 1920 and 1954, which were undertaken in haste, without scientific precautions and with recourse to the excessive use of cement, aggravated the situation; Sandro Angelini was

obliged to correct the most negative aspects of these first campaigns.

- At the present time, several churches are protected by zinc roofing mounted on wooden scaffolding (the most recent is the one covering Beta Madhane Alam, constructed in the framework of the FINNIDA project). Although they fulfil their purpose, these roofs and scaffolding considerably disfigure the monuments and must be considered as temporary stopgap measures whilst awaiting a veritable restoration which is stressed by all concerned as a matter of urgency.
- Another challenge is the drainage problem, in an area of deep excavations where water rushes in and stagnates. The traditional drainage system often becomes obstructed and should be cleaned and improved.

**B. The management of the site and the harmonization of current projects**

The CRCCH has a representative at the site, but there are other partners as well:

- the Ethiopian Church, in its different components, in particular the clergy of the churches of Lalibela, about 500 strong, who have formed a committee placed under the authority of the patriarchy of Addis Ababa and Dessie;
- two projects with international financing are underway today in Lalibela: the project entitled "Restoration and Preservation of the Churches of Lalibela", financed by the European Union (2 million Ecus) began in 1994; a second project, financed by the FINNIDA, is responsible for the rehabilitation of the site, in particular its urban environment (2.2 million dollars over a four-year period): improvement of the living conditions of the religious community.

Presently, the main difficulty encountered by the CRCCH seems to be the harmonization of the different projects and coordination between the partners, and, to date, the restoration still has not begun. The situation in Lalibela is extremely delicate. Several measures could be taken, on two different levels:



● from the **scientific research** point of view, which is perhaps not sufficiently taken into consideration in the current international projects, we can recommend:

- a sociological study on the religious function of the city today, which would allow a better understanding of the organization of the clergy, the role of the site for the faithful and its frequentation as a sacred place, for the framework of a project for developing the site;
- documentary and archivistic research on the evolution of the site over a century, compiling all the available documentation on the different restoration campaigns. This documentation, together with all the data on Lalibela, should be deposited at the CRCCH in Addis Ababa and at the site itself;

● It would also be advisable that the role of the CRCCH, as **coordinator of the restoration projects** currently underway, be strengthened and that it ensure, in accordance with the principles of the Global Strategy, that the activities on the site are not limited to interventions on the monuments. The CRCCH and the World Heritage Centre could participate in the creation of a structure for reflection and management of the restoration and development projects of the site of Lalibela, calling upon the local partners to assist in defining a common strategy.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to transmit the report to the Committee and recommend that it adopt the following text:

"The Committee feels that it is especially important to ensure coordination of the work between all the national and international partners engaged in the activities of conservation and preservation of this World Heritage site. It considers that the Centre for Research and Conservation of the Cultural Heritage (CRCCH) should assume this coordination and ensure that, in accordance with the principles of the Global Strategy, the activities on the site are not limited to interventions on the monuments. It therefore appears indispensable to take into consideration the aspects of the living culture by associating the entire ecclesiastic hierarchy in the efforts made to preserve and enhance this site. It requests the Ethiopian authorities to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of the actions

that will be taken to this effect before the 21st session of the Committee in December 1997."

**Fasil Ghebbi (Gondar, Ethiopia)**

Gondar was the political capital of Christian Ethiopia from 1632 to the middle of the 19th century. At present, the restoration of the Castle of Fasilidas is directed by the local representatives of the CRCCH, with the aim to transform it into a museum of Gondarian Civilisation. This restoration project, to be carried out over a three-year period, began in 1996 with the restoration of the floors, balconies and stairs, according to plans produced by an architect of the region. With a team of 156 workers using local materials and techniques, it would appear to be a veritable model of integrated restoration.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following recommendation and request the Committee to take note:

"The Bureau warmly thanks the directorate of the Centre for Research and Conservation of the Ethiopian Cultural Heritage (CRCCH) for the financial and human efforts made towards the preservation of this World Heritage Site, as well as the site manager for his commitment and the quality of his work. It considers the conservation project underway to be highly satisfactory and exemplary, and hopes that other World Heritage Sites will benefit from the competence and expertise of the team in charge of the work. It would also be advisable that the documentation concerning the history of the site and its restoration be collected and deposited at Gondar and thus made easily accessible to those working at the site."

**Tiya (Ethiopia)**

The city of Tiya is representative of the numerous archaeological sites of the Megalithic period which bear witness to extinct cultures.

The preservation of the site is effective, but it could be further improved by:

- developing the surrounding area,

- installing a signposting system,
- numbering the stelae, and
- improving the maintenance of the grassy surface of the site and the drainage system to avoid flooding during the rainy season.

However, for it to be truly enhanced, the site should be linked to its cultural environment, i.e., with all the Megalithic sites of the Soddo region. It would therefore be advisable to **extend the site inscribed** to a significant regional cultural ensemble.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following recommendation and request the Committee to take note:

"The Bureau encouraged the Centre for Research and Conservation of the Cultural Heritage (CRCCH) to implement the above-mentioned proposals which aim to improve the presentation of the site, and to envisage its extension. It requests the Ethiopian authorities to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of the progress achieved."

#### **Great Zimbabwe (Zimbabwe)**

The site covers an area of 720 hectares and a buffer zone of 30 square kilometers. A photogrammetric survey was completed in 1993 by M.T. Survey of Finland. Monitoring methods have been devised to assess potential threats to the monuments, thanks to a special project funded by the British O.D.A. Subsequently, the rate of wall collapses declined substantially. The monitoring of the site is carried out by a team headed by a qualified surveyor. Key indicators have been devised to measure the state of conservation. A site management plan was then produced in 1994, by the full time conservation team, comprising a surveyor, a photogrammetrist, a monuments inspector, an architectural conservator and an in situ archaeologist which is,

The site is managed by National Museums and Monuments of Zimbabwe (NMMZ), a parastatal entity which depends upon the Minister of Home Affairs.

The site has benefitted from emergency assistance from the World Heritage Fund which provided for the installation of a fire prevention system. As a result of a special Donors Conference held in 1992, the site has also secured surveying equipment

(Japanese Government): total survey (Government of Finland) and technical expertise (UNESCO and British O.D.A.).

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following text and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

"The Bureau commends the Zimbabwe authorities for their efforts of conservation and the professional expertise which is available in situ. It recommends that the World Heritage Centre be kept informed of on-going activities."

#### **Khami (Zimbabwe)**

The Khami National Monument is Zimbabwe's second largest stone-built settlement. Since its inscription in November 1986 not much data has been collected on the site. Four custodians ensure the maintenance work of Khami; they monitor the wall movements, police the site against vandalism, check and maintain the fence, man the visitor centre and provide guide services to visitors. Their number is inadequate. A strategic Action Plan for the conservation and management of Khami is being formulated.

The conservation treatment projects will involve mostly structural stabilization, and repair of collapsed sections of walls. It is hoped that when properly implemented, these projects will enhance and maintain the architectural, cultural and historical values as well as the authenticity and integrity of Khami. The sources of finance are very inadequate, hence conservation problems.

The site is threatened by development projects taking place in Bulawayo and which are leading to increased negative pressures on the site. Ten year from now Bulawayo's built-up area and infrastructural developments will inevitably engulf Khami.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following text and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

"The Bureau takes note of the information provided by the National Museums and Monuments and encourages the Zimbabwe authorities to pursue their efforts for a better conservation of this site by allocating adequate resources, and transferring the expertise acquired at the site of Great Zimbabwe."

## **Arab States**

### **Kasbah of Algiers (Algeria)**

The Permanent Delegation of Algeria informed the Centre that the national authorities continued to devote all their efforts to the preservation of World Heritage values at the site of the Kasbah of Algiers, to which they accord special interest. In July, the Permanent Delegation transmitted a progress report for the project entitled "Safeguarding Plan for the Kasbah of Algiers", and informed the Centre that the training in Paris, financed by the World Heritage Fund, of three architects in charge of drawing up the plan had been satisfactory.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following text and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

"The Bureau warmly thanked the Algerian authorities for having informed it of their strong interest in the preservation of the Kasbah of Algiers and the continuing measures taken for its safeguard, and requested them to continue to devote their efforts to the conservation of this World Heritage Site."

### **Archaeological sites of Bat, Al-Khutun and Al-Ayn (Oman)**

On the occasion of a mission sent to Oman from 14 to 21 September 1996, UNESCO experts noted that several structures of the site of Bat are now protected by wire fence enclosures, but that several repairs or preventive measures should be taken, in agreement with the wishes of the Omani authorities.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following text and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

"Having noted the Secretariat report on the state of conservation of the archaeological site of Bat, the Bureau thanked the Omani authorities for preserving the structures of the site and encouraged them to implement as quickly as possible the additional measures already foreseen:

- repair of the fenced enclosures;
- diversion of the course of the neighbouring Wadi which threatens the protection of the site;

- discreet marking in-situ, by appropriate methods, of the position of the stones still in place in the walls.
- reinforcement of the security guards to avoid the theft of the blocks of stone."

### **Ancient City of Damascus (Syrian Arab Republic)**

The World Heritage Bureau, at its twentieth session, was informed that the authorities of the Syrian Arab Republic had asked UNESCO to send an expert mission to Damascus to advise them on the restoration of the Mosque of the Omeyyades where work was already underway.

This mission, composed of five experts of international renown, was carried out from 29 November to 5 December 1995. Their reports stressed the total commitment of the Syrian authorities to the conservation of the monument, but also noted that the work carried out by the restoration committee had been undertaken without sufficient studies and without taking into consideration the internationally recognized principles concerning the restoration of historic monuments, and that the consequences on the preservation of this world famous monument are very alarming (immoderate use of concrete, cement, marble and other material, destructions, reconstructions and replacement of materials...).

The reports of the experts and a summary document was sent to the General Direction of Antiquities and Museums, and by letter of 19 January, the Centre and the Division of Cultural Heritage requested the Minister of Culture and the Minister of National Education, President of the National Commission, to take the necessary steps to suspend this work and to recommence it only following in-depth studies and in accordance with international standards for the respect of authenticity.

The Centre also received a report from the former President of the Restoration Committee of the Mosque justifying the work carried out. This report was sent for comments to one of the experts of the mission, an ICOMOS member, who supported his opinion.

By letter of 10 July, the Centre transmitted to the Syrian authorities the grave concerns of the Bureau, its request to suspend the work, and its proposal to provide expert advice if necessary.

This proposal was reiterated during a working meeting held on 16 July at the Permanent Delegation of Syria, when it was confirmed that the work had indeed been suspended.

**Decision required:** In view of the importance of this issue, the Bureau may wish to transmit the report to the Committee and recommend that it adopt the following text:

"After being informed of the conclusions of UNESCO's expert mission fielded at the request of the Syrian authorities in November-December 1995 to the Mosque of the Omeyyades of Damascus, as well as the Report of the President of the Restoration Committee, the World Heritage Committee thanked the authorities of the Syrian Arab Republic for interrupting the work which it felt did not conform to the international standards for restoration and conservation.

It strongly advised that one or two international experts, proposed by the World Heritage Centre, be invited for a consultation to help evaluate the situation, decide on measures to be taken, and, should the need arise, determine the most appropriate manner in which to pursue further work which might be necessary.

In this case, the Committee would of course be willing to contribute to financing the participation of these experts."

#### **Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen)**

The World Heritage Bureau during its twentieth session was informed that renovations which were seriously threatening the authenticity and integrity of the Great Mosque of Zabid had been undertaken by the local authorities.

By letter of 16 February, the Centre shared its concern with the Minister of Culture and Tourism, reminding him of the terms of the Convention and the Guidelines for the work, the principles of restoration and the respect of authenticity, whilst proposing the assistance of an international expert. By letter of 5 March, the Permanent Delegation informed the Centre that the Minister had indicated that this work was financed by local donors and was being carried out "without deformation", and the offer of an expert was accepted.

On 10 July, the Centre transmitted to the Yemenite authorities the Bureau's anxiety concerning this work. Since then, the Centre has received the report of its expert stressing that the work is presently being carried out in a manner more in keeping with the traditional techniques; however, a water conveyance project planned by the National Water and Sewerage Authority of Yemen and the German Ministry for Cooperation (BMZ), and financed by a German agency (KfW), could be a major hazard for the preservation of the monuments of the city. If, as it would seem, this project does not include a system for the evacuation of waste water, by considerably increasing the permanent humidity of the ground, it would pose the serious threat of erosion to the brick walls of the historic monuments.

Following a working meeting held on 16 July, the Permanent Delegate of Yemen to UNESCO informed his Government of the situation, and by letters of 16 and 17 July, the Centre wrote to the BMZ and to one of the German Delegates to the World Heritage Committee to stress the necessity for an in-depth evaluation of the possible negative impacts of this work.

**Decision required:** In view of the importance of this issue, the Bureau may wish to transmit the report to the Committee and recommend that it adopt the following text:

"After being informed of the situation of the monuments of the Historic Town of Zabid, the Committee thanked the Yemenite authorities for having adopted traditional methods more in conformity with the respect of authenticity for the work of the Great Mosque of Zabid and recommended that they consult as often as necessary the expert designated by UNESCO. It also called their attention to the potential dangers to the preservation of the monuments by the water conveyance project planned by the National Water and Sewerage Authority of Yemen, the German Ministry of Cooperation (BMZ) and the KfW which, if no plan for a waste water evacuation system is foreseen, will considerably increase the ground humidity and accentuate the erosion of the brick walls of this World Heritage Site."

A copy of this correspondence could also be sent to the Permanent Delegation of Germany to UNESCO.



## **Asia**

### **Peking Man Site at Zhoukoudian (People's Republic of China)**

A UNESCO mission, undertaken in September 1996, revealed a number of major problems, including complete halt of site excavations, since a number of years due to lack of research funds and lack of adequate maintenance of the site. The site museum needs to be refurbished, including better presentation of the findings. From the point of view of continuity of excavations in the future, the lack of a new generation of researchers constitutes another serious problem.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following text and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

"The Bureau takes note of the report provided by the Secretariat and requests the authorities of China to inform the Committee of the management and research programme for this site."

### **The Mountain Resort and its Outlying Temples, Chengde (People's Republic of China)**

A UNESCO mission, undertaken in September 1996, noted that two ten-year plans of conservation were carried out after the Cultural Revolution, with remarkable achievements in the restoration of numerous buildings of the Mountain Resort surroundings and of the denuded mountain landscape. Due to the sheer size (6000 ha), diversity and complexity of this World Heritage site, major additional investments are needed to restore the site. Many buildings remain in a bad state of conservation and visitor management could be further upgraded.

Some of the religious properties which belong to minorities from Mongolia and Tibet are included in the World Heritage site. Some of them were restored recently at considerable cost. Fifty-five Buddhist monks from the autonomous region of Mongolia were allowed to return to the Puning Temple Complex in 1986.

A major issue for the future is to bring development plans for the town of Chengde in line with World Heritage conservation needs, particularly to improve buffer zone protection. Considerable efforts are still required to improve the visual qualities of the site and to reduce air pollution.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following text and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

"The Bureau takes note of the report provided by the Secretariat and requests the authorities of China to inform the Committee of the management and conservation and restoration programme for this site, particularly regarding the development of the town of Chengde."

#### **Potala Palace in Lhasa (People's Republic of China)**

When Potala Palace was inscribed on the World Heritage List in December 1994, the Committee requested the Chinese authorities to consider the future extension of the World Heritage protected area to cover Jokhang Temple and the historic sector of Barkor which are already part of the core preservation zone of the city of Lhasa, one of China's historic cities under State protection.

Pressures of urban development and growth in tourism-related activities are resulting in many construction activities in this historic sector of Lhasa. While the building regulations of the Municipality of Lhasa, endorsed by the State, prohibit the demolition of historic buildings, much of the reconstruction work being carried out have entailed the demolition of the historic structures and rebuilding with new material and design features undermining the authenticity of the buildings.

Similarly, in Shol, the former administrative area of Potala Palace, which is part of the World Heritage protected area, the rehabilitation work being carried out involves the demolition of post-1959 adjunctions to the traditional houses, their reconstruction and the widening of the streets. These activities, while well-intended, are risking irreversible changes to the historic character of this area.

Moreover, the mural painting of Potala Palace in general, is marked by deterioration caused by humidity and the application of lacquer varnish in the 1960s - 70s, which have resulted in flaking of the surface and decoloration of the painting. The authenticity of the mural paintings are further threatened by alteration of the original appearance due to excessive "retouching" and in some cases, total repainting over the original. Damage is also caused by smoke from yak-butter lamps used for religious offerings. While the age-long use of yak-

butter should not be stopped, preventive measures can be introduced to lessen the impact on the paintings.

Under the China-Norway-UNESCO cooperative project for the preservation of Tibetan cultural properties, a training course on mural painting restoration techniques has been proposed and now pending approval by the Chinese authorities. Using the mural painting in Lukhang Temple which is part of the World Heritage Potala Palace complex, as a pilot project, the proposed training course envisages the rehabilitation of the temple roof to stop rainwater infiltration and to experiment on the removal of the lacquer varnish on the mural painting followed by the conservation of the painting with use of traditional non-chemical paint.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following text and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

"The Bureau taking note of the report on the state of conservation of the Potala Palace in Lhasa,

- (a) encourages the Chinese authorities to strengthen the cooperation with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre's Programme for the Safeguarding and Development of Historic Cities of Asia, notably in the re-evaluation of the Lhasa Urban Master Plan to integrate the preservation of the historic urban fabric as part of the overall urban development plan, and to develop technical guidelines on conservation practice of historic buildings;
- (b) urges the Chinese authorities to expedite authorization for the proposed training course on mural painting conservation techniques under the China-Norway-UNESCO project for the preservation of Tibetan cultural properties;
- (c) encourages the Chinese authorities to consider the extension of the World Heritage protected area to cover Jokhang Temple and the historic centre of Barkor, as recommended by the Committee at its eighteenth session in December 1994."

### **The Town of Luang Prabang (Laos)**

The Town of Luang Prabang was inscribed on the World Heritage List in December 1994. After years of political and economic isolation of Laos, the policy of economic liberalization adopted by the Government is now resulting in a surge of overseas public and private investments, especially in physical infrastructural development and tourism. The recently completed expansion of the airport of Luang Prabang, has led to the establishment of direct flights from a number of major cities of Southeast Asia, making Luang Prabang into one of the most sought after new tourism destination of the region.

Building renovations and new constructions are now taking place throughout the town, including the rehabilitation of many temples financed by religious contributions. Due to the weakness in building regulations and lack of qualified personnel in the issuance and subsequent control on building permits, numerous violations are occurring.

To strengthen the national capacity to face this situation, a Heritage House (Maison du patrimoine) was established and temporarily located within the Office of the Department of Culture of the Provincial Government staffed by one expatriate expert and three national architects to prepare recommendations on building design and conservation methods for all building permit requests in the World Heritage protected area and the buffer/support zones for consideration by the Department of Construction. Being one of the activities under the Luang Prabang-Chinon-UNESCO World Heritage Centre project financed by the Government of France, the European Union, the City of Chinon and the Electricite de France (EDF), among other donors, the Heritage House's advisory work is being complemented by the preparation of a Safeguarding and Development Plan of the town. The first phase in preparing this plan has been the reassessment of the existing legal and regulatory framework governing landuse and building permits which is now on-going. Additional financial and technical support is however required to prepare a detailed survey of the buildings and streetscape of the core area of the protected zone as well as guidelines on conservation practice to support the enforcement of the building regulations.

While an inter-departmental provincial committee for the protection and development of Luang Prabang was established in September 1996 under the chairmanship of the Vice-Governor with representation from the Departments of Construction, Culture,

Tourism, Education and Mass Organizations, without adequate regulations and administrative capacity for enforcement, the incidents of building violations cannot be curtailed in the face of massive investment pressures.

The enactment by the National Assembly of a Cultural Properties Protection Law to provide the legal basis for the series of ministerial decrees and administrative ordinances related to the protection of movable and immovable cultural properties, including archaeological sites and historic cultural settlements, is urgently required.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to transmit the report to the Committee and recommend the Committee to adopt the following:

"The Committee commends the Provincial Government of Luang Prabang for the establishment of the Heritage House and the Provincial Committee for the Protection and Development of Luang Prabang and thanks the Government of France, the European Union, the City of Chinon, Electricity of France and other donors for their generous financial and technical support.

The Committee furthermore

- (a) urges the Government of Laos to give top priority to the enactment by the National Assembly of the Cultural Properties Protection Law;
- (b) urges the Government to establish an inter-ministerial committee on the protection of national cultural properties;
- (c) requests the UNESCO World Heritage Centre to assist the Government of Laos to organize an information meeting in Luang Prabang to present the Safeguarding and Development Plan of Luang Prabang and the landuse and building regulations for bilateral and multilateral donors and financial institutions to ensure that the numerous infrastructural development projects do not undermine the World Heritage value of the town;

- (d) requests the international donor community to provide financial and technical support for the safeguarding of Luang Prabang in coordination with UNESCO."

#### **Kathmandu Valley (Nepal)**

The World Heritage Committee at its seventeenth session (1993), expressed deep concern over the state of conservation of the Kathmandu Valley. The Committee considered the possibility of placing this site on the List of World Heritage in Danger following discussions on the findings of the November 1993 Joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Review Mission to the Kathmandu Valley. Upon the request of the Director General of Archaeology of Nepal, the Committee decided to defer its decision on the placement of the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger. His Majesty's Government subsequently accepted to give priority attention to the sixteen points of concern raised by the UNESCO/ICOMOS mission to improve the state of conservation of this site.

In 1994, the eighteenth session of the World Heritage Committee received a Monitoring Report prepared by the Department of Archaeology on the progress made towards the fulfillment of the commitments made by His Majesty's Government and the Committee approved funds to enable the deployment of a UNESCO International Technical Adviser for six months during 1995-6 to assist the Nepalese authorities to implement their new policies and in particular to support the training of professional staff of a Development Control Unit established within the Department of Archaeology. The training has resulted in enhancing the Department's capacities in documenting, monitoring and advising on the control of demolition, conservation and in the design of new buildings in the World Heritage site, and will serve to enforce the 5th Amendment to the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, enacted in February this year by Parliament. The continued employment of the trained personnel of the Development Control Unit after the exhaustion of international funds remains a matter of concern, in view of the uncertainty of whether the Department will be provided with additional staff posts.

The Department of Archaeology has also been actively implementing other measures to improve the management of the World Heritage Site. Amongst these, inconsistencies in the boundaries of the Site's seven constituent Monument Zones are in the process of being rectified and the boundaries themselves will be defined by stone markers. New norms for conservation practice are being

defined, particularly the importance of repair *in situ* rather than by demolition and rebuilding and the revival of traditional building techniques, coupled with restrictions on the use of incompatible new materials, particularly cement.

To emphasize the increased importance being placed on the preservation of the World Heritage Site as a whole, rather than on individual monuments, the Department of Archaeology and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre are jointly hosting an information meeting on safeguarding and development needs of the Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site on 9 October 1996. Some nineteen project proposals focused on community participation, sustainable reuse of historic buildings and the economic revival of historic city centres will be presented for national and international donor support at this meeting.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to transmit the state of conservation report to the Committee and recommend the Committee to adopt the following:

"The Committee congratulates His Majesty's Government of Nepal for the tangible proof of its commitment to the World Heritage Convention and express its hope that efforts will be continued to strengthen the institutional capacities of the Department of Archaeology and the concerned municipal authorities to protect and develop the Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site by officially adopting and publicizing regulations on building control and conservation practice. The Committee appeals to the national and international donor communities to finance the projects developed by the local authorities for the safeguarding of the site which are contained in the compendium of project proposals prepared with the support of the UNESCO Cultural Heritage Division and the World Heritage Centre."

### **The Monuments of Hue (Vietnam)**

Since the launch of the first international safeguarding campaign in 1981, the Vietnamese authorities have come to realize the cultural and economic interest in preserving the urban and landscape heritage of the Imperial City of Hue. The creation of a Centre for the Conservation of Historic Monuments and the approval of the Government, in July 1991, of an initial protection perimeter accompanied the inscription in December 1993 of the site on the World Heritage List.

This inscription encouraged donations and international patronage, in particular from Japan and France, in addition to the Vietnamese financial effort. At present this support contributes to the restoration of the monuments, the treatment of the wood against termites, and to setting up a geographical data system. The procedure is therefore well under way, in spite of some weaknesses in the preservation techniques used.

The site of Hue is also a university and tourist city spreading over a territory of more than one million inhabitants. The Master Plan of 1993 organised its development by decentralising the economic activity outside the perimeter of protection and by maintaining a demographic balance between city and countryside. However, for want of solid regulations, this planning remains at the mercy of the hazards of private, industrial and tourist industry investment projects. Moreover, the Vietnamese proposal currently under study for the deviation of Hue's route No. 1, would have it cross the listed sector. It is necessary to study the inscription of the bypass within the site, its landscaping treatment and the landuse regulations on both sides of the future axis.

UNESCO appreciates the initiative for bilateral cooperation between the Institute for Development and Strategy of Hanoi (DSI) and the Delegation for Territorial and Regional Development (DATAR) of France in developing the pilot-project for the development of the metropolitan area of Hue - Da Nang. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), is analysing the territorial interests of the region of Central Viet Nam.

The most urgent intervention concerns the city itself with priority given to the quarters which are in proximity to the listed monuments (prohibited building zone 1). The building regulations of zones 2 and 3 should be defined: everything remains to be stipulated concerning the height and the size of the building, the width and the development of the streets, as well as the commercial and residential use of the ground. The reference to common law is one of the conditions for the application of the regulations.

A harmonization of the urban development and the procedure for heritage preservation would be, for the inhabitants, the next step towards assuming the rehabilitation of their identity.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following text and transmit it to the Committee for noting:



"The Bureau requests UNESCO to support the Vietnamese authorities to re-evaluate the landuse and building regulations concerning the World Heritage protected area and the buffer zones (Zones 2 and 3) as well as to participate in the reflection on the various road construction/upgrading projects currently under consideration. The Bureau also urges the Vietnamese Government to strengthen its inter-ministerial coordination to ensure that the much-needed infrastructural development projects do not undermine the World Heritage value of the site, and to continue their on-going collaboration with the Governments of France and Japan to reflect on the safeguarding needs of the World Heritage Site of Hue within the context of the regional development scheme."

### **North and South America and the Caribbean**

#### **City of Potosi (Bolivia)**

The Bureau at its twentieth session in June 1996, requested the Bolivian Secretary for Culture to keep the Committee informed on the progress made in the preparation of an ordinance for the use of the Cerro Rico mountain which forms an integral part of the World Heritage site.

The Secretariat received, through the UNESCO Representative in Bolivia, the terms of reference for the future exploitation of the Cerro Rico that were prepared by the Bolivian Mining Corporation. One of the stated objectives for future actions is to 'conserve the form and topography as well as the natural environment of the Cerro Rico'.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following text and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

The Bureau notes with satisfaction that the Bolivian Mining Corporation has included the preservation of the form, the topography and the natural environment of the Cerro Rico as one of the objectives for future exploitation of the Cerro Rico mountain. The Bureau commends the Bolivian authorities for this action and requests them to keep the Committee informed on further developments in this respect.

**City of Cusco (Peru)**

At its twentieth session in June 1996, the Bureau took note of information provided by the Secretariat regarding projects in the historical city of Cusco that could have a negative impact on the World Heritage values of the site. It invited the authorities to establish appropriate planning mechanisms for the historical city of Cusco and to inform the Committee through its Secretariat, in conformity with Paragraph 56 of the Operational Guidelines, of major restorations or new constructions which may affect the World Heritage value of the property.

To date, no reply has been received from the Peruvian authorities.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following text and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

The Bureau reiterates its invitation to the authorities to establish appropriate planning mechanisms for the historical city of Cusco and to inform the Committee through its Secretariat, in conformity with Paragraph 56 of the Operational Guidelines, of major restorations or new constructions which may affect the World Heritage value of the property.

**Taos Pueblo (United States of America)**

The Bureau at its twentieth session in June 1996, recalled that the situation regarding the proposed airport extension in the vicinity of the Taos Pueblo site had been discussed by the Committee and the Bureau over the last several years.

The Bureau was informed that a preliminary monitoring report from the United States National Park Service indicated that no agreement had been reached as of yet between the Federal Aviation Administration, the Taos Pueblo and the National Park Service on the definition of the geographic area of potential impacts and on the contents of the Environmental Impact Statement. As to the recommendations made by the Committee at its nineteenth session regarding the involvement of ICOMOS and IUCN in the definition of the Impact Statement area, as well as a possible extension of the site, the report indicated that these will have to move forward in full consultation with the Pueblo, which is self-governing.

The Bureau took note of the information provided by the United States National Park Service in response to the World Heritage Committee's recommendation regarding the Environmental Impact Statement that is to be undertaken in relation to the proposed extension of the Taos airport. It requested that the authorities keep the Committee informed of any progress made in these matters.

To date, no further information has been received from the Government of the United States of America.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following text and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

"The Bureau notes that no further information has been received from the Government of the United States regarding the Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed airport extension and the possible extension of the World Heritage site. The Bureau reiterates its request that the Committee be kept informed of any progress made in these matters."

## **Europe**

### **Butrinti (Albania)**

Studies and minor restoration works have been carried out at Butrinti. These activities were funded by UNESCO (PROCEED) and the British Butrinti Foundation. In addition, the World Bank is continuing its studies related to the economic development (tourism) of the Albanian Ionic Coast around the World Heritage site, that is across the strait from Corfu. Albania's request for technical assistance was approved by the Chairperson, but the activity was not enacted because Albania has not paid its due to the World Heritage Fund. Notwithstanding the current financial situation of Albania with regard to the World Heritage Fund, there is an urgent need to have the situation at Butrinti monitored by World Heritage experts; this is the opinion expressed by the Albanian authorities in their request for technical assistance.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following text and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

"The Bureau commends the Albanian authorities for their efforts at Butrinti, and recommends that the Director of

the World Heritage Centre explore with the Albanian authorities a way of solving the current difficulties so that a monitoring mission may be enacted in the near future. The Bureau requests that the Committee be kept informed about the on-going activities."

#### **Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin (Germany)**

It is recalled that the Committee during its nineteenth session invited the German authorities to provide a full state of conservation report on the site, including statements concerning legal protection, current planning and development of Potsdam, as well as information on possible extensions of the site and/or buffer zones adjacent to the site.

Furthermore, during its twentieth session in June 1996, the Bureau expressed its serious concern about urban development plans in Potsdam, particularly the "Potsdam Centre" project, that could directly or indirectly affect the values of the World Heritage site.

The Secretariat was informed that a detailed report will be made available before the session of the Bureau.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to examine the information that will be presented during its session and take the appropriate action thereupon.

#### **Roman Monuments in Trier (Germany)**

It is recalled that the Secretariat presented to the Bureau at its twentieth session a report on a joint UNESCO-ICOMOS mission to Trier in reference to the construction of urban villas and a proposed urban development scheme in the immediate vicinity of the Roman theatre. The Bureau requested that a full report of the mission, as well as on the progress made in undertaking the architectural competition for the area north of the theatre, be presented to its next session in November 1996.

Following the mission, ICOMOS has been involved in drawing up the terms of reference for the architectural competition and will participate in the evaluation of the designs which is scheduled for November 1996. ICOMOS will present an oral progress report during the Bureau session.

**Decision required:** The Bureau is requested to examine the report that will be presented by ICOMOS and consider the appropriate action thereupon.

#### **Vilnius Old Town (Lithuania)**

The rehabilitation programme of Vilnius Old Town is progressing well. In September 1996, the Danish/Scottish/Lithuanian consultant team submitted their final report on the Revitalization Strategy to the full satisfaction of the Lithuanian and City of Vilnius authorities. Steps are taking place in order to implement the consultants' recommendations, notably the establishment of a management structure for the rehabilitation programme. The World Bank has funded this planning exercise. Moreover, Denmark is also providing a substantial technical assistance to Vilnius Old Town in order to set up a computer-assisted information system for the rehabilitation of the historic centre. The President of the Republic of Lithuania and the Director General of UNESCO have signed an agreement pledging to organize jointly, in the first half of 1997, an International Donors and Investors Conference for financing the rehabilitation programme. The World Bank maintains its collaboration with the World Heritage Centre in this endeavour.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following text and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

"The Bureau thanks the Danish Government and the World Bank for their continuing support, endorses the agreement between Lithuania and UNESCO to organize the International Donors and Investors Conference in 1997, pledges its own support to this endeavour, commends the Lithuanian authorities for their efforts, and encourages them to pursue this promising rehabilitation programme of Vilnius Old Town."

#### **Auschwitz Concentration Camp (Poland)**

At its twentieth session, Paris, June 1996, the Bureau "commended the Government of Poland on halting the construction works in the immediate vicinity of the Auschwitz Concentration Camp, [and] urged the authorities to devise a plan for the preservation of the site and its immediate surroundings, and keep the Committee informed on this matter".

Since, and although additional assurance has been given by the Polish authorities that construction works have stopped, the Secretariat was informed that Philip Morris Company has announced its intention to go ahead with the construction of a cigarette factory adjacent to the Camp.

The Secretariat immediately informed the Polish Permanent Delegation of this event, and asked the Polish authorities "to take all the necessary action in order to ensure that the integrity of Auschwitz-Birkenau is respected".

At the time of the preparation of this report, no response has been received from the Polish authorities.

**Decision required:** The Bureau may wish to adopt the following text and transmit it to the Committee for noting:

"The Bureau requests the Government of Poland to ensure that construction works in the immediate vicinity of the Auschwitz Concentration Camp have stopped, and urges it to start immediately the elaboration of the management/preservation plan for the site and its surrounding area. In this planning process, the Bureau also urges the Polish authorities to discuss the various problems and eventual solutions with ICOMOS, and consult with the various international organizations concerned with this issue. The Bureau recommend that the Committee be kept informed about this activity."