INDIA

Ministry of Education

New Delhi - 1, 16 September 1961
No. F.175-1/61-U.U.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to your letter No. MUS/BC/10/27RI dated 14 April 1961 on the above subject and to forward a note giving the latest information concerning the application of the convention.

Yours faithfully,

(H.H. Pawar)
for Secretary.
OUTLINE FOR REPORTS ON THE APPLICATION OF THE CONVENTION
FOR THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY
IN THE EVENT OF ARMED CONFLICT

CONVENTION

Chapter I. General provisions regarding protection

An Advisory Committee for preparing a scheme for giving affect to the provisions of the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the event of Armed Conflict was set up for the purpose of:

(i) Preparing an advance handbook showing action to be taken in the event of armed conflict;

(ii) Deciding places which are to be marked with special emblem and places which are to be put on the special protection list;

(iii) Drawing up identity cards.

The Committee consisted of the following members:

(i) A representative of the Department of Archaeology – Secretary;

(ii) Director of Archives;

(iii) Deputy Secretary Ministry of Defence;

(iv) A representative of the Army Headquarters;

(v) A representative of the Naval Headquarters;

(vi) A representative of the Air Headquarters.

The first meeting of the Committee took place on 23 September 1959, when it was decided that the Committee should be enlarged to include competent experts from museums and should also include representatives of the Ministries of Home Affairs, External Affairs and Finance. Accordingly, the Government of India appointed a broad-based committee consisting of the following ten members.

(i) A representative of the Department of Archaeology – Secretary;

(ii) The Director of National Museums – Member;

(iii) The Director of Archives – Member;

(iv) A representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs – Member;

(v) A representative of the Ministry of Finance – Member;
(vi) A representative of the Ministry of External Affairs - Member.

(vii) Four representatives of the Ministry of Defence - Members.

The Advisory Committee consisting of the above members met on 17 May 1960 and again on 13 September 1960. During these two meetings the question of protection of movable and immovable cultural property was discussed with a view to implementing the provisions of the convention for the protection of cultural property. Preliminary steps required to be taken in this connection are being taken by the respective Departments and the present position is as under:

Immovable cultural property

The question of finalization of the list of monuments following under different categories viz. "A", "B" and "C" is in hand. Information so far received from different subordinate offices of the Department of Archaeology and the State Governments has been scrutinized. Similar information is still awaited from certain State Governments, who are being requested to expedite the details. After finalization of the list in respect of monuments including other immovable property worthy of protection in the event of armed conflict the question of putting up the special emblem will be taken up for examination.

Museums

The Director National Museum has collected data from 50 out of 110 State Museums. The principal museums of India shall be visited by the Assistant Director National Museum and Deputy Director-General of Archaeology with a view to examining the antiquities and advising the State Governments on steps to be taken for the safety of such antiquities which are of considerable archaeological and historical importance. It is also proposed to select suitable localities where movable antiquities would be transported in the event of armed conflict.

Records

The Director of Archives has already taken in hand the microfilming of the manuscript records. The work is in progress. The pre-1860 records are available in duplicate and in the event of armed conflict it can be conveniently shifted to a safer place. A duplicate set of records ranging from 1860 to 1922 has been sorted out and kept separate to facilitate their shifting.

(Original English)