

CONSEIL DE L'ATLANTIQUE-NORD  
NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL

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M.F.  
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COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND CULTURAL RELATIONS  
CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY  
IN THE EVENT OF ARMED CONFLICT

Note by the German Delegation

The German Federal Government invites the attention of the governments of the NATO countries to the fact that the list of countries having ratified the Convention, concluded on 14th May, 1954, in The Hague, on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (which entered into force on 7th August, 1956), or having acceded to it, contains all the countries of the communist bloc, while the only NATO country mentioned in the list is France (see Annex).

2. The German government considers that the early accession of all countries of the free world is urgently desirable, if only for the reason of voting at the meetings provided for under the Convention (of Article 27 of the Convention, according to which the majority of the contracting parties may revise the Convention, or the Regulations for its execution).

3. For this reason the Federal Government, which has also signed the Convention, is endeavouring in co-operation with the governments of the German Lander to create as quickly as possible the conditions for the ratification of the Convention and the Protocol. However, in doing so it is faced with a number of problems which, apparently, also exist for other governments of the free world.

4. According to Article 34, those states which deposit their instruments of ratification or accession after the date of the entry into force of the Convention are obliged to take all necessary measures to ensure its effective application within a period of six months after such entry into force. For states with a federal structure, like the Federal Republic of Germany, it would, without doubt, facilitate the ratification procedure if the above provision could be interpreted to mean that not all the measures have to be taken within six months but that it would be sufficient that in certain cases the measures have been initiated.

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5. In the opinion of the German government this latter interpretation would appear to be justified in certain cases. During the negotiations that led to the conclusion of the Convention a Swiss motion for an extension of the six-month period was rejected on the grounds that - according to an entry in the records of the proceedings - the chairman stated that the measures required to protect cultural property need not be completely carried out within the period of six months. On the other hand, it would certainly appear necessary that prior to ratification there should at least be an indication of the cultural property covered by the Convention, whereas the question of the cultural property requiring special protection (Article 8 of the Convention) could be left open for the time being. Moreover, the measures provided for in Articles 7 and 28 are those which should be taken within the period of six months.

6. Although it would be desirable in the interest of the effective application of the Convention that the provisions of Articles 6 and 15 be applied within the time limit specified, the measures provided for do not appear to be an indispensable pre-requisite for ratification.

7. The German government is of the opinion that an exchange of views on this question would be of general value, and would appreciate it if it could have the comments of the NATO governments interested in this question on the following points:

- (a) What measures, if any, have been taken by member governments for the application of the Convention?
- (b) What measures must, in the opinion of member governments, have been taken within six months after ratification?

Palais de Chaillot,  
Paris, XVIIe.

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ANNEX to  
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SITUATION  
OF THE CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL  
PROPERTY IN THE EVENT OF ARMED CONFLICT

State	Ratification (or accession)	Convention (Entry into force)	Protocol
EGYPT	17th August, 1955	7th August, 1956	7th Aug., 1956
SAN MARINO	9th February, 1956		
BURMA	10th February, 1956		
YUGOSLAVIA	13th February, 1956		
MEXICO	7th May, 1956		
	Convention 17th May, 1956	17th August, 1956	16th Nov., 1956
HUNGARY	Protocol 16th August, 1956		
POLAND	6th August, 1956	6th November, 1956	6th Nov., 1956
BULGARIA	7th August, 1956	7th November, 1956	-
ECUADOR	2nd October, 1956	2nd January, 1957	-
U.S.S.R.	4th January, 1957	4th April, 1957	4th April, 1957
UKRAINE	6th February, 1957	6th May, 1957	6th May, 1957
BIELORUSSIA	7th May, 1957	7th August, 1957	7th Aug., 1957
FRANCE	7th June, 1957	7th September, 1957	7th Sep., 1957
K. of JORDAN	2nd October, 1957	2nd January, 1958	2nd Jan., 1958
	Convention 3rd October, 1957		
ISRAEL	Protocol 1st April, 1957	3rd January, 1958	-
LIBYA	19th November, 1957	19th February, 1958	19th Feb., 1958
CUBA	26th November, 1957	26th February, 1958	26th Feb., 1958
CZECHOSLO- VAKIA	6th December, 1957	6th March, 1958	6th Mar., 1958
MONACO	10th December, 1957	10th March, 1958	10th Mar., 1958
HOLY SEE	24th February, 1958	24th May, 1958	24th May, 1958
SYRIA	6th March, 1958	6th June, 1958	6th June, 1958
RUMANIA	21st March, 1958	21st June, 1958	21st June, 1958

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