INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF THE PRESERVATION AND THE RESTORATION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY

AG/5
Rome, February 1971

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
6th Session
Rome, 26, 27, 28 and 29 April 1971

BRITISH PROPOSITION OF AMENDMENTS TO STATUTES
The Director
International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and the Restoration of Cultural Property
256 Via Cavour
Rome 00184, Italy.

Sir


1. Following the discussion that took place on the election of Members of the Council at the last General Assembly, and with a view to reflecting more faithfully the present character and membership of the Rome Centre, the British Government wishes to propose certain amendments to the Statutes of the Centre, as described below.

2. Article 14. Revision. The requirement that amendments to the Statutes should be adopted by unanimous vote of the General Assembly appears to have been desirable and necessary at the time when the present Statutes came into force, when only five states had become members of the Centre. Now that there are 52 member states unanimity on this question is no longer essential and might, indeed, be difficult to achieve on any particular proposal for amendment even though it might be the wish of a large majority. It is therefore proposed that the requirement should be changed to a two-thirds majority of members present and voting, as is required for amendments to the Constitution of UNESCO under Article XIII of that Constitution.

3. Article 7. The Council. The composition of the Council in Article 7 is still based mainly upon the transitional provisions in Article 12 and it includes six special or permanent members. When the Centre had only five or six members it was considered desirable to have an Interim Council including representatives of leading institutions who could contribute their knowledge towards the establishment of a programme. However, the Centre now has 52 members and will soon be celebrating its twelfth Anniversary. In these changed circumstances it would be more fitting to have a democratically chosen
Council in which the majority of members would be not only professionally competent to guide the activities of the Centre but freely elected. The British Government considers that there need be only two ex-officio members of the Council, one of whom would be the representative of the Director-General of UNESCO, without a right of vote, and the other a representative of the host government. To effect this an amendment of Article 7c) would be needed. The remainder of the present special members could, of course, still participate in Council meetings without a right of vote, in accordance with Article 7b).

Rotation of elected members would be desirable also, in order to bring in fresh expertise as the scope of the Centre's work broadens, and it is therefore proposed that Article 7f) should be amended so as to limit the maximum period of elected membership to four years, ie two years on first election plus a further two years on re-election.

4. In accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 above I attach draft amendments which the United Kingdom submits for consideration by the General Assembly at its next session commencing on 26 April 1971.

5. Copies of this letter have been sent to representatives of the Director-General of UNESCO and to the representatives of all member states of the Rome Centre. In cases where it has not been possible to send copies direct to national representatives, because their names and addresses are not known, it is hoped that National Commissions for UNESCO will be good enough to pass them on.

With the assurances, Sir, of my highest consideration

Signed
K. D. Law

Encs.
AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY UNITED KINGDOM

**Article 14**

Revision

Proposals for amendments to the Statutes shall become effective upon receiving the approval of the General Assembly by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.

**Article 7**

c) Special members shall be:

a representative of the Director-General of UNESCO, without right to vote;

a representative of the Italian Government, with right to vote.

(Remainder of paragraph c) to be deleted)

f) The members elected by the General Assembly shall be elected for a term of two years, and shall be eligible for re-election for one further term of two years.