

Resolution on the protection of monuments of folk architecture and thier complexes

The participants of the Symposium on the protection of folk architecture, the International Council for the protection of monuments and landscape, organised by the Czechoslovak National Committee ICOMOS, held in the High Tatra Mountains and in Brno from August 30. to September 7, 1971,

wish to thank the Czechoslovak government as well as the Organising Committee for the friendly and generous reception accorded to them,

wish to express their sincere admiration for the extent of research and excellent scientific results achieved in the sphere of restoring historical relics,

have noted with great satisfaction the enormous interest Czech and Slovak citizens show in the work directed towards the preservation and appreciation of their cultural heritage.

Having approved of the high standard of the reports presented, the participants of the Symposium — museologists taking care of historical relics, attached to ICOMOS, and museologists attached to ICOM, — fully aware of the danger which constantly threatens relics of folk architecture in view of the rapid development of technological and industrial civilisation, unanimously decided to adopt the following resolutions:

1. All monuments of folk architecture, including their collections and historical villages, represent important significant components of cultural heritage, important evidence of social life, living proof of the creative talents of folk artists and artisans and are a source for research. For this reason, each country carries international responsibility and the moral duty to take good care of preserving these monuments and of fitting them organically into modern life. A harmonious combination of historical and modern values contributes towards an increase in the cultural standard of our environment and towards the preservation of the continuity of national feelings and pride.

2. Monuments of folk architecture represent the main expression of the national culture of the country that created them and are therefore an inalienable property of this country. That is why the participants of the

Symposium appeal to the representatives of all member-countries of UNESCO and all other countries, especially in the developing regions of the world, to prevent the liquidation of these so valuable expressions of character of each respective nation when pursuing technical and economic progress.

3. Monuments of folk architecture also represent extraordinary material values. Through tourism they contribute towards a better understanding of nations and can also become a source of financial profit. Tourism, however, should be organised in such a way that cultural monuments and nature parks are not threatened nor robbed of their cultural impact.

4. The preservation and protection of monuments of folk architecture is no simple question to be left to museologists and monumentalists. The complexity of the problem which also includes the protection of the natural and human environment in general demands an interdisciplinary cooperation of all sections and institutions (urban planning, construction, industry, agriculture, finances, economics etc.).

5. The preservation of monuments of folk architecture must be carried out on a multi-branch basis — on the scientific, technical and professional collaboration of experts from all branches. These specialists must be trained at university level as well as at all other levels and the school curriculum should consider and include the sum of problems in this sphere.

6. Monuments of folk architecture are closely linked with the countryside and the development of social and natural sciences, — this is why they should, if that is at all possible, be preserved "in situ" by creating reservations and by fencing in protected areas. Nevertheless, if it is impossible to preserve the monuments on the spot, the method of removal of the relic can be accepted on principal, if the new location is in the same geographical region and — this is one of the main conditions — in a similar environment to the one the relic has originally stood in.

As far as historical villages are concerned, which exist as important components of the picture of the rural countryside, these are to be, in theory and in practice, subject of thorough care, in agreement with the care given to urban historical collections. These villages have to be judged in relation to the environment, in relation to their new functional use and purpose in modern society. Collaboration between museologists concerned with the care for historical values and those concerned with preserving monuments of folk architecture is highly desirable.

7. Efforts directed at preserving monuments of folk architecture and their collections should not merely be restricted to their physical preservation but also to bringing them back to life.

For this reason, museologists and monumentalists ought to seek new possibilities for the use of these relics and support their new purpose with methodical assistance and special control, directed at preserving their value and character.

8. A successful campaign to win the understanding of state, regional and local political and administrative officials and to get the necessary support from citizens, especially youth, is one of the prerequisites for the preservation of relics of folk architecture.

9. To achieve the realisation of these principles, the participants of the Symposium

r e c o m m e n d :

A — TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF ICOMOS:

1. to appeal to UNESCO to include in its activities, directed at the protection of cultural values, a normal and extracurricular education and environment that created them. This fact ought to be considered of preservation of relics of folk architecture and its collections;

2. to make an effort to persuade UNESCO to work out, in collaboration with ICOMOS, an international recommendation to member-countries concerning the protection of monuments of folk architecture and their collections;

3. to appoint from its membership an international working committee charged with extensive study and integral solutions of the problems of protecting monuments of folk architecture, and also contributing towards a coordinated international collaboration and an exchange of knowledge and experience in this field;

4. to propose to the national committees of ICOMOS to appoint similar working committees;

5. to open, as soon as possible, a Documentary Center of UNESCO-ICOMOS, founded in Paris, and to work out, within the framework of its activities, at an early date, methods for research and inventory-taking of relics of folk architecture with respect to the former results and recommendations of the International Symposium of measuring relics, held in Brno, Czechoslovakia, from June 28. to July 2, 1971;

6. to start as soon as possible on a draft of the above mentioned international recommendation of UNESCO (A-2);

7. to organise in four years (in 1975) the next International Symposium on the protection of monuments of folk architecture and its collections;

8. to intensify mutual collaboration with the Executive Committee of ICOM.

B — TO ALL MEMBER STATES OF UNESCO AND COUNTRIES:

1. to carry out, within the organised care for historical relics and monuments and in collaboration with scientific institutions systematic research on monuments of folk architecture;

2. to ensure all necessary legislative and legal provisions directed

at the protection of relics of folk architecture and their collections and to create, at the same time, favourable conditions from the cultural, political, economic and organisational point of view;

3. to develop effectively the practical realisation of preventive care and general maintenance as protection and restoration of relics of folk architecture and their revaluation for society.

September 7, 1971.