

## SPEECH OF MR. DAIFUKU

On behalf of the Director-General of Unesco, I have the honour to express to you his appreciation of the initiative taken by the Russian and Yugoslav ICOMOS committees to sponsor a meeting of international experts on the theme of the "Social Role of Monuments in Society", and his best wishes for its success.

The manifold implications found in this theme include many of the most important challenges faced by contemporary society. During a period of burgeoning populations, in which peoples receive the mixed blessings of industrialization, every country is faced with problems of satisfying the expectations of its people. Adequate supplies of food and housing, of transport, communications, educational requirements, all impose their priorities. What are the roles of historically or artistically important monuments, can their preservation be justified from the viewpoint of economic development and of the needs of society? These questions are, for this group, rhetorical. Nevertheless they constitute problems of importance for administrations, whether governmental, provincial or urban.

In partial answer, it might be noted that Unesco is very much concerned with these problems and as our programmes reflect the concern and the interests of our Member States, this can be taken as an indication that the conservation and the development of sites and monuments are a matter of universal concern.

At its last session the General Conference of Unesco unanimously adopted an international "Recommendation on the Preservation of Cultural Property Endangered by Public and Private Works" which takes into account one of the major threats to our material cultural heritage, and measures which Member States should foresee in ensuring that adequate programmes be established for their preservation.

During the course of the past few years it is becoming evident that their preservation must be considered on a holistic, multi-disciplinary basis. When the General Conference (1968) also passed a resolution in the programme of the Department of Natural Sciences calling for ecological

studies leading to the "conservation and rational management of terrestrial and non-oceanic environments", the Resolution was continued by adding that "specialists in the social and human sciences, culture and the biomedical and agricultural sciences be associated". We are considering the preservation of historic quarters, sites and monuments in terms of social and psychological factors leading towards a satisfactory urban environment. Naturally too, programmes to be carried out controlling the pollution of the atmosphere, of streams and rivers, and of the coasts also have implications for the conservation of old structures, which are extremely sensitive to pollutants.

This programme, on a satisfactory environment for man, will be one of the cultural themes for Unesco in the years to come and one in which we shall welcome and continue to count upon the cooperation of ICOMOS.

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Head of the section for the development  
of the cultural heritage - Unesco.