

RECOMMENDATIONS

Those attending the ICOMOS symposium on "Monuments and Society", held in Leningrad from 2nd to 8th September 1969, and organized by the Soviet and Yugoslav Committees of the Council,

wish to thank these Committees for their very warm and generous welcome, and, following the visits they paid during the Symposium to the historical monuments — so badly damaged by war between 1941 and 1945 —, in Leningrad itself, in its surroundings and in Novgorod, as well as to the group of buildings at Kiji, express their admiration both for the scale of the restoration work carried out and for the results achieved, many of which are truly remarkable.

They consider that they should draw particular attention to the enormous interest aroused by such work in all sections of the Soviet population, a factor which clearly reveals the part played by historical monuments in present-day society.

After a series of discussions on the above subject, those attending the Symposium declare themselves to be in agreement on the following points :

1. The greater care modern society takes of the heritage of the past, the richer will be its culture and the wider its possibilities of development on the humanist level;
2. The cultural heritage of mankind is both one of the essential factors enabling men to communicate with one another and one of the foremost means of arousing and developing mutual respect between nations;
3. The increased interest in historical and cultural monuments shown to-day by ever wider sections of the population and the progress of human civilisation together call for institutions responsible for the protection of ancient monuments and their use as instruments of knowledge and cultural development.

They therefore unanimously express the hope that :

a) The bodies responsible for the protection of monuments extend their sphere of activity so as to coordinate the work of all bodies and public services concerned in the field, including scientific and cultural organizations, educational establishments, youth organizations, information services, and so on.

b) These same bodies in charge of the protection of monuments strive to establish close cooperation with the town and area planning departments, to ensure that provision is made within the framework of the development of contemporary living, for the protection of historical centres and monuments of cultural value.

c) The greatest attention will be paid to the problem of the efficient utilization of monuments in the service of culture.

Adopted by the Executive Committee, Brussels, 2nd December 1969.