

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC  
ON PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF  
CERTAIN CULTURAL SITES AND MONUMENTS**

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Slovak Republic (hereafter referred to as Parties),

Desirous of successful mutual cooperation in the fields of culture and cultural heritage of either state,

Convinced that such an agreement will contribute to strengthening contacts between the two states,

Bearing in mind the respect due to fundamental human rights, and seeking to promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial and religious groups,

Recognizing that each culture has a dignity and a value which must be respected and preserved, and that all cultures form part of the common heritage belonging to all humanity,

Desiring to enhance the protection of cultural heritage and provide access to the treasures of national and world culture without discrimination,

Considering that deterioration or disappearance of sites and/or monuments of cultural heritage constitute a harmful impoverishment of the heritage of all peoples of the world,

Considering that the protection of cultural sites and monuments can be effective only if organized both on national and international levels,

Considering the principles of the Helsinki Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe,

Have agreed as follows:

Each Party will take appropriate steps, within its ability, to protect and preserve cultural sites and monuments of all national, religious, or ethnic groups (hereafter referred to as "groups") that reside or resided in its territory and were victims of genocides.

The terms "cultural sites and monuments" for the purposes of this Agreement mean places of worship, sites of historical significance, monuments, cemeteries, and memorials to the dead, as well as archival and other authentic and documentary materials relating thereto.

## ARTICLE 2

The Parties shall cooperate in identifying lists of sites and monuments, particularly those which are in danger of deterioration or destruction. Either Party may publish such lists.

## ARTICLE 3

Each Party will ensure that there is no discrimination, in form or in fact, against the cultural heritage of any group referred to in Article 1 or against the nationals of the other Party in the scope and application of its laws and regulations concerning:

- (a) the protection and preservation of their cultural sites and monuments;
- (b) the right to contribute to the protection and preservation of their cultural sites and monuments; and
- (c) public access thereto.

## ARTICLE 4

In cases where the group concerned is unable, on its own, to ensure adequate protection and preservation of its cultural sites and monuments on Article 2 lists, each Party shall take special steps to ensure such protection and preservation within its territory and shall invite the cooperation of the other Party and its nationals where assistance is desirable for this purpose.

Cultural sites and monuments of special significance shall be designated in the lists. Such lists shall be publicly announced and communicated to competent state and local authorities.

All cultural sites and monuments so designated shall be protected, preserved, and marked by internal laws and regulations of either Party. Public access thereto shall be ensured.

Such lists shall be designated by the Commission referred to in Article 6 hereof. The Commission may also agree to designate sites and monuments for inclusion in the lists at any time.

## ARTICLE 6

A Joint Cultural Heritage Commission, hereafter referred to as "Commission" is hereby established to oversee the operations of the lists referred to in Articles 2 and 5, and to perform such other functions as are delegated to it by the Parties. Each Party shall appoint 3 members of the Commission, who may be assisted by alternates and advisers. Decisions of the Commission shall require the assent of all participating members. The Parties shall cooperate in supplying the Commission with access to cultural sites and monuments and information necessary for the execution of its responsibilities.

Each Party through its representatives on the Commission referred to in the first paragraph hereof may request that special arrangements be worked out to protect and preserve the cultural sites and monuments in the territory of the other Party of groups not covered under Article 1, in cases where such cultural heritage is associated with the cultural heritage abroad of citizens of the requesting Party and is in need for any reason of protection and preservation. The other Party will consider steps, within the scope of its laws and regulations, to respond to the request.

The Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad shall be the Executive Agent for implementing this Agreement on the American side. The Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic, shall be the Executive Agent for implementing this Agreement on the Slovak side. Either Party may, by diplomatic note to the other, change its Executive Agent.

## ARTICLE 7

Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to relieve either Party of its obligations under any Agreement for the protection of cultural heritage.

## ARTICLE 8

The Commission shall implement this Agreement in accordance with the laws and regulations of both countries and the availability of funds.

## ARTICLE 9

Disputes concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement shall be submitted to the Agents referred to in the third paragraph of Article 6.

## ARTICLE 10

This Agreement shall enter into force upon signature.

This Agreement shall remain in force indefinitely. However, either Party may at any time give written notice through diplomatic channels of its intention to terminate this Agreement. Such termination shall be effective six months from the date of delivery.

DONE this 14th day of March 2001, in duplicate, in the English and Slovak languages, each text being equally authentic.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

*Michael Lerman*

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC:

*14-2*