

BULGARIA

The public authorities in Bulgaria entrusted with the protection of movable and immovable cultural property have taken, in accordance with the provisions of Article 3, Chapter I of the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, the necessary measures for the prevention of damage or possible destruction, in the case of armed conflict, of immovable cultural property to the first importance, as well as of movable cultural property.

The measures adopted to that end are of a varying character: projects for the making of protective shields, study of the possibilities of the total or partial dismantling of certain monuments, construction and equipment of special shelters, etc.

In accordance with the provisions of Article 4, the competent bodies have published special Regulations on the use and conservation of immovable cultural monuments, historical sites and the status of their surroundings. In application of this Regulation, the individual status of the most representative cultural monuments, or of groups of such monuments, is being studied. The individual status of monuments is the same in time of peace and in the event of armed conflict.

Bulgarian legislative provisions concerning the protection of immovable and movable cultural property extend also to the activity of the national armed forces. The armed forces are trained to respect the cultural property of all peoples.

The provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 7 of the Convention were taken into consideration at the

time of the peace time training of specialized staff directing, where necessary, the activity of the national armed forces entrusted with the protection of cultural property.

The competent bodies entrusted with the protection of cultural property are not, for various reasons, in a position to put into effect the provisions of Articles 8 and 9 of Chapter II of the Convention.

Bulgaria has only recently undertaken preparatory operations making it possible to propose to the Director-General of Unesco the entry of specimens of Bulgarian national art treasures in the International Register of cultural property.

The recommendations contained in Article 17, pp. 1 and 2 of Chapter V have been taken into account in connexion with the identification of immovable cultural property.

In view of the fact that in the People's Republic of Bulgaria action started for the scientific study and proclamation of cultural property has not yet been completed, it will be a task requiring many years for them to be marked with the emblem prescribed in Article 16.

The recommendations contained in Article 10 of the Convention are, to a large degree, identical with those of Articles 3, 4, 7, 8 and 9. Therefore no more specialized preparations are contemplated to meet the case of armed conflict of a non-international character.