

HOLY SEE

Apostolic Nunciature

Paris, 8 May 1961
N.162/61

Sir,

I duly transmitted to His Eminence, Cardinal Domenico Tardini, Secretary of State to His Holiness, your letter (MUS/BJ/11/20/R1) dated 14 April last and the annex thereto.

His Eminence has instructed me to communicate to you the following:

As indicated in the letter from your services (ODG/SJ/855.512), dated 7 August 1959, the Italian Government has promised Unesco to take certain precautionary measures in the territory surrounding the Vatican City in order to safeguard it in the event of armed conflict.

It must also be borne in mind that, as the entire Vatican State is entered in the International Register of Cultural Property under Special Protection, any system of identification adopted would have to cover the whole State, which, in the present case, seems unnecessary and perhaps inopportune.

Furthermore, owing to its particular character and essentially peaceful aims, the Holy See does not need to take any steps to prevent its cultural property from being used for military purposes.

Lastly, it must be noted that, during the last world war, the frontiers of the Vatican State were not violated by any of the belligerents.

I trust that these observations will provide an adequate reply to your letter.

Angelo Pedroni
Permanent observer of the Holy See
at Unesco

(Translated from the French)