

<p>RESOLUTION No. AGN/40/RES/6</p> <p>SUBJECT:</p> <p><i>THEFT OF CULTURAL PROPERTY.</i></p>	<p>To be classified as follows:</p> <p>1 copy in the Chronological Series: year 1971</p> <p>1 copy in the Subject Series</p> <p>heading: Theft and receiving</p> <p>sub-heading: Theft and receiving of cultural property</p> <p>1 copy in the Subject Series</p> <p>heading: Traffic, illicit (excluding traffic in firearms, human beings, drugs, and counterfeit currency, for which see individual headings).</p>
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TEXT OF RESOLUTION

HAVING TAKEN NOTE of Report No.14, presented by the Indian Delegation on the subject of the theft of cultural property;

BEARING IN MIND:

- firstly, the alarming increase, in a certain number of countries, in the theft of cultural property - i.e. particularly works of art or antiques of artistic, historical or archaeological importance - and in the resulting international traffic in such cultural property;

- secondly, the depletion of the national cultural heritage of the countries concerned caused by the increase in this form of crime;

The ICPO-INTERPOL General Assembly, meeting in Ottawa from 6th to 11th September 1971 at its 40th session:

URGES member countries to step up international police-co-operation in this field, in order to identify and trace missing works of art with a view to returning them to their countries of origin. This co-operation will mainly take the form of exchanges of information which should be as complete and detailed as possible and take place as frequently as possible;

RECOMMENDS that ICPO-INTERPOL affiliated countries should:

1) As far as possible, facilitate the return to their country of origin of any works of art found in fraudulent circumstances in another country;

2) When requested, do everything in their power to make the property in question available to the judicial authorities of the requesting country of origin, in order to facilitate its identification and the prosecution of the offenders responsible;

3) Urge all national departments and institutions responsible for conserving cultural property (museums, etc.) not to buy such property without first making certain of its origin;

ASKS the General Secretariat:

1) To draw up - in addition to the stolen property notices published by the General Secretariat and which remain valid - a limited list of the most important stolen works of art, to be sent to all INTERPOL NCBs for purposes of investigation and circulation;

2) To periodically group together descriptions of about a dozen stolen works of art of great value and/or importance in a special issue designed to underline INTERPOL's activities and to alert world public opinion;

3) To request each NCB:

- a) to then give the widest possible publicity to these issues, mainly through the mass media;

- b) to get in touch with art reviews with international circulation, requesting them to reproduce this information;

4) To set up - as should also the NCBs - index files on art dealers and collectors suspected of trafficking in, receiving or smuggling works of art;

SUGGESTS that Heads of National Central Bureaus should:

1) Collect and send to the General Secretariat any information which might help draw up an overall picture of this particular form of crime (including details of networks, routes, country of destination, etc.);

2) Make every effort, where appropriate, to persuade their governments to adopt more suitable legislation on this matter.

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