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# WORLD MONUMENTS FUND

August 2, 2001

Nemrud Project  
Minsitry of Culture  
International Nemrud Foundation  
Turkish Democracy Foundation  
World Monuments Fund

*Restoration and Conservation of the Sculptures on Nemrud Dag*  
Roundtable/Workshop  
August 16,17,18/2001  
Nemrud Dag

The World Heritage Site of Nemrut Dag near Adiyaman in South Eastern Turkey is in need of stone conservation and improved site display measures.

The artificial tumulus of Nemrut built atop the highest mountain peak in the region stands as a one of the most unusual creations of man, and is a symbol of the archaeological riches of Turkey. A considerable amount is known about the purposes of this site built by Antiochus I in the 1st century BC. Less is known about how to effectively arrest the deterioration of the monumental limestone sculptures and sandstone stele at the foot of the tumulus which are suffering from weathering and the effects of tourism. Nearly all of the sculptures and inscribed stele at Nemrut have been toppled and thereby pose challenges to site interpretation. There have been divided opinions in the past as to how to go about conserving and presenting Nemrut Dag.

Through a special concession from the Ministry of Culture of Turkey, the International Nemrut Foundation, Inc. has recently embarked on a new initiative to research, conserve and present Nemrut Dag. This development is coincidental with generous financial assistance that is being made available toward conservation actions by the American Express Philanthropic Foundation and Akbank of Turkey. The present AMEX/Akbank grant is meant to support an international collaborative effort involving the best of Turkish and international experts in order to solve the problems at hand. The World Monuments Fund has placed Nemrut Dag on its *World Monuments Watch List of 100 Most Endangered Sites*. Through this mechanism it has raised the available funding for forging consensus on conservation actions from the AMEX/Akbank collaborative funding partnership. For purposes of the aforementioned workshop (1 of 2) WMF has been appointed by the INF to coordinate and document the event.

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## Objectives

- to finalize consensus on methods of stone repair and conservation
- to determine if the replication of certain stone sculptures, and the *anastylosis* (re-erection) of selected sculptures is a viable option
- to commence an *in-situ* stone conservation testing program
- to design measures for improved presentation of Nemrut including a system of wayside markers
- to make recommendations for improvements to the visitor reception and parking area located approximately 200 meters below.

## Project Approach

Given that the project development team will consist of several experts who must be oriented to the site and its problems, it is proposed that the Nemrut Conservation Consensus Project consist of two missions as follows:

### **Mission I: On Site Workshop at Nemrut Dag August 16,17,18, 2001**

**August 15-** Pre-mission gathering in Gaziantep (WMF team).

1. Lv. Istanbul 07.45 flt. TK 682, Arrv. Gaz. 09:35.
2. *Tour of Gaziantep's* Tepebasi district and local Museum
3. Lunch at the Cagdas
4. 13:00 Departure on bus for Hotel Kervansaray, Nemrut region.
5. 16:00 Brief visit with Governor of Adiyaman en route to hotel.
6. 17:00 Arrival at Hotel Kervansaray (8 km from Mt. Nemrut)

### **Day One, August 16**

08:30 Departure to Nemrut. Thorough tour of Nemrut Dag, the issues at hand, followed by an overview tour of the other highlights of the ancient Commagene Kingdom.

9:30 First visit to Nemrud Workshop on site

11:30 Departure for Kahta

13:00 Arrival in Kahta, lunch at Zeus Hotel

14:30 Roundtable at Zeus Hotel. Discussions with Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Tourism officials and with representatives of the International Nemrut Foundation as to their past efforts and ambitions for the site.

16:00 Coffee break

16:20 Roundtable continues

18:00 Departure for Hotel Kervansaray

21:00 Dinner and overnight

# WORLD MONUMENTS FUND

## **Day Two, August 17**

08:00 Breakfast at Hotel Kervansaray

09:00 Transfer to Zeus Hotel, Kahta

10:00 Workshop aimed at defining the parameters, objectives, and procedures for conserving and presenting Nemrut Dag. Viewing of the progress to date on the INF's Geographic Information System (GIS) for the site. Synthesis of workshop results.

13:00 Lunch at Zeus Hotel

14:00 Departure for 2<sup>nd</sup> trip to Nemrut for site work and sunset. Also visit Karakus Tumulus, Roman Bridge, Eski Kahta, and Arsemia.

17:00 Workshop press briefing and sunset.

21:00 Dinner at Hotel Kervansaray

## **Day Three, August 18**

08:00 Breakfast

09:00 Finalization of Workshop at Hotel Kervansaray and farewell Lunch.

Afternoon: Departure for Gaziantep. *Optional Additional Tour:* Visits to relevant sites in the region (tourism catchment area) including Zeugma on the Euphrates (the principal toll collecting location of the Commagene Kingdom). Mission conclusion at Gaziantep regional museum. Overnight at Gaziantep and next day departure.

## **Mission II: Final Consensus Session (Amsterdam) (mid-November, 2001)- Framework Agenda**

### *Day One*

*Morning:* Welcome, introductions and orientation at the Allard Pierson History Museum in Amsterdam. Demonstration of the completed GIS database system and presentation on progress in historical research.

*Afternoon:* Presentations on: Stone Conservation Methods and Recommendations; the Role of Stone Replicas at Nemrut; Proposal of a Stone Conservation Program; Discussion.

### *Day Two*

*Morning:* Issues and recommendations regarding site circulation and interpretation; recommendations for improvements to the visitor reception and parking areas.

*Afternoon:* Presentation and discussion on Nemrut Dag and the Commagene Kingdom in the context of other cultural heritage attractions in Southeastern Turkey. Final Session: Summarization of the Conservation Plan, statement on next steps.

## Participants:

*Ir Maurice Crijns* – Project Coordinator of the Nemrud Project, President of International Nemrut Foundation; Co-Chairman of the Workshop.

*Dr. Eric M. Moormann*- Acting Project Manager of the Nemrud Project, Assistant Professor at the University of Amsterdam.

*Prof. Dr. Herman A.G. Brijder*- Project Manager of the Nemrud Project, Director of the Allard Pierson Museum and Amsterdam Archeological Center of the University of Amsterdam.

*Ir. Jaap Groot*- Engineering Manager of the Nemrud Project, Treasurer, International Nemrud Foundation.

*Mr. John H. Stubbs* - Vice President, Programs WMF, Conservation architect, Co-Chair of Workshop

*Mr. Mark A. Weber* - Technical Director, WMF, building conservator

*Mr. Andrea Baldioli*- Director WMF Paris, conservation architect and workshop rapporteur

*Mr. Paolo Pagnin*, stone conservator and restorer

*Dr. A. Elena Charola*, University of Pennsylvania, chemist and stone expert

*Mr. Alpay Pasinli*, General Director Monuments and Museums, Ministry of Culture

*Mr. Alpay Ozet*, Vice Director of Monuments and Museums, Ministry of Culture

*Mr. Ilhan Kaymaz*, Archaeologist

*Ms. Muge Bahceci*, restoration specialist

*Ms. Asli Aliveren*, Manager of Culture and Art Department Akbank

*Gurol Sozen*, Consultant of Art and Culture Department Akbank

*Mrs. Firdevs Sayilan* Former Vice Manager of Advertising Department Akbank

*Hayri Culhaci* Executive Vice President responsible for Strategic Planning, Advertising and Promotion, Culture and Art Akbank

*Mrs. Nurten Ozkoray* Director of Bogazici Iletisim Grubu, Public Relations group

*Ms. Pelin Cengiz* Press Communications Director of Bogazici Iletisim Grubu, Public Relations group

*Oguz Aydemir* Counsellor General Director Monuments & Museums

*Levent Vardar* Representative Monuments & Museums of the Ministry of Culture

*Bülent Akarcali* MP / President TDV / Vice President Anap

*Dengir Fırat* MP

*Ms. Serap Üzer* Archaeologist GAP

*Halil Isık* Governor of Adiyaman

\* Plus members of the press for the afternoon visit to the site on 17 Aug.