

1992

Letters: Outgoing (1990-1994) Memorandum 01

Steve Polansky

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RETURN TO STEVE POLANSKY

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

GERYLD B. CHRISTIANSON, STAFF DIRECTOR
JAMES W. NANCE, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

March 25, 1992

MEMORANDUM

To: Senator Pell

Through: Jerry Christianson

From: Steve Polansky / *APC*

Subject: Letter on the Hague Convention on Protection of Cultural Property

As you may recall, you recently met with Marilyn Perry, Chairman of the World Monuments Fund. During the meeting you agreed to request the Department of State's views on the desirability of ratifying the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

Attached is a proposed letter to the Secretary of State requesting those views.

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

March 26, 1992

The Honorable James A. Baker, III
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to request the Administration's views on the desirability of initiating ratification proceedings for the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. The United States signed, but did not ratify the Convention.

It is my understanding that the United States decided not to ratify the Convention on the basis of Department of Defense concerns that the U.S. could not meet its obligations in the event of nuclear war. Whatever the merits of this argument may have been in the mid-1950s when the Convention was signed, the threat of U.S.-Soviet nuclear conflict has now receded significantly.

As we cast off the tendrils of cold war policies, I urge the Department to reconsider whether the United States could ratify the the Hague Convention. This would send a strong signal of U.S. support for the protection of the world's cultural heritage.

I would appreciate knowing of your views.

With every good wish.

Ever sincerely,


Claiborne Pell