

Preliminary document

Recommendations of the Session of Experts on the Preservation  
of the Cultural Heritage of Moving Images

In compliance with Resolution 3.422 of the 18th General Assembly  
of the UNESCO:

based on the "Memorandum" concerning the preservation of the  
cultural heritage of moving images drawn up by the International  
Film and Television Council, on the document "Proposals of the  
FIAF" presented by the Fédération Internationale des Archives du  
Film, together with "Theses on the Preservation and Restoration of  
Audio-visual Material", on the "Draft recommendation of the  
Protection, Preservation and Heritage Retention of Moving Images"  
prepared by experts of the GDR and the results of the general  
debate, the principal participants have reached the following  
conclusions:

1. Currently the most significant and complicated problems in  
regard to the preservation of the cultural heritage of moving  
images, which in their entirety require a solution are:

the fact that in many countries moving images are not regarded  
as an integral part of the national and international cultural  
heritage,

the fact that public opinion in the widest sense has been  
insufficiently informed in respect of the significance,  
necessity and problems in conjunction with the transmission  
of moving images,

the fact that hitherto there has not existed an international  
instrument concerned with regulating the transmission of  
moving images as a part of the cultural heritage of humanity,

the fact that also amongst interested experts there exists  
a deficit in respect of information on the present situation  
and new appreciation in respect of the retention of moving  
images,

the fact that the results of the international Preservation Commission of the FIAF which has undertaken valuable activity in examining the technical conditions for a permanent retention of moving images have been made known insufficiently

the fact that it is necessary to examine newly developed technical procedures in respect of the retention of moving images,

the fact that a number of basic juridicial problems such as the legal position of archives, their field of competence for the retention of films of cultural value, the utilization of the legal depositing of moving images remain unsolved in many countries,

the fact that the causes for the mass destruction of audio-visual material have not been sufficiently investigated in the past, nor is this the case at present,

the fact that scientific examinations concerning the necessary administrative and financial requirements for the establishment of archives for moving images have not ensued,

the fact that the efforts of the various NGO's are not sufficiently coordinated,

the fact that in the developing countries their hardly exist preconditions (speiclists, scientific and technical experiences and installations) for the preservation of moving images and that the various geographical regions evidence a very varied level of development in this field,

the fact tha the great mass of audio-visual material requires a selection for a preservation and that, in this conjunction, recommendations are still missing.

2. For the solution of the outlined problems the principal participants of the Session on the Preservation of Moving Images of Cultural Value of the UNESCO recommend the following:

## 2.1 General problems

1. The creation of an international instrument finds approval. The preparations should be so undertaken that an adoption can ensure during the 20th General Assembly of the UNESCO.
2. The 19th General Assembly of the UNESCO should be utilized in order to draw the attention of the member states ~~to~~ to the existing situation and to request them to render active support in solving the problems. The formation of national groups of experts should be stimulated, such bodies, commissioned by governments, to investigate possibilities for the preservation of moving images.
3. It is to be welcomed that within the UNESCO the competence in respect of problems of the preservation of moving images has been contractually resolved. The complexity and scope of this task should ensure the necessary personnel requirements are met.
4. The UNESCO, by arranging meetings of experts at international level in respect of specialised problems, promoting publications for the dissemination of information on the various aspects of the activity of institutions for the preservation of moving images, extending support to experts' sessions and congresses of the NGO's, backing the training and further training programmes above all for the developing countries, through agreements with NGO's for scientific studies should support the preservation of moving images of cultural value.

The following commensurate recommendations are submitted:

## 2.2 Collection and Dissemination of information concerning the need for the Preservation of Moving Images

1. An experienced international centre in the field of documentations in respect of problems of cultural heritage should be made responsible for documentations on all aspects of the preservation and transmission of moving images.

The formulation of the tasks of such documentations could be the subject of an experts' session.

2. By means of an agreement with non-governmental organization the UNXESCO should support the preparation of a guide concerned with the need to archive moving images.
3. UNESCO is to render financial assistance to the publications "Manual of Film Archives" which is being prepared by the Fédération Internationale des Archives du Film (publication envisaged for 1977/78).
4. UNESCO is to make possible in its publications information on the tasks and problems of preserving moving images.
5. The possibility is to be examined of assistance in producing a film dealing with the archivation of moving images, which then becomes part of the UNESCO's loaning programme.

### 2.3 Solution of Technical Problems

1. The publication of the results of the activities of the International Commission for Film Preservation of the Fédération Internationale des Archives du Film on the technical problems arising from the preservation of moving images is to be financially supported by UNXESCO (publication envisaged for 1978/79).
2. The meetings of experts, proposed by the Fédération Internationale des Archives du Film to take place every

4th year, at which information will be exchanged on technical innovations in the audio-visual field and its consequences for the archives, are to be supported by UNESCO.

3. Special technical studies on non-governmental organizations are to be commissioned, such as on

conditions for the construction of plant for the storing of moving images,

the diverging climatic conditions in different regions and their impact on the preservation of moving images.

#### 2.4 Solution of Legal and Administrative Problems

1. Discussion of legal problems regarding the preservation of moving images is to be the subject of a deliberation of experts.
2. Regarding legal problems, agreements are to be concluded with non-governmental organizations for the drafting of papers on legal deposit,  
the juridical status of archives,  
financing archives, their structure, tasks and equipments.

#### 2.5 Support for Developing Countries

Special attention is to be paid to the support of developing countries for the preservation of moving images. To this intent the following recommendations are made:

1. One of the next expert meetings is to deal with the divergent regional conditions, pre requisites and needs in preserving moving images.
2. UNESCO is to support the sending of specialists for the preservation of moving images in developing countries.

3. The training of personnel from the developing countries in experienced archives is to be assisted and supported by UNESCO.
4. The mediation of know how on the preservation of moving images is to become part of the training programme of the regional centres of ICOM and other non-governmental organizations.
5. UNESCO is to enable interested representatives of developing countries to participate in the training course of the Fédération Internationale des Archives du Film (1976).
6. UNESCO is to support, in its long-term programme, the construction of an archive for the preservation of moving images, in a developing country.

#### 2.6 Training

1. Possibilities are to be examined of holding a special advanced training course for the preservation of moving images in the Rome-centre.
2. UNESCO is to call on member-countries with experienced and advanced institutions for the preservation of moving images to train in their archives personnel from other countries.
3. UNESCO is to grant scholarships for advanced training.

#### 2.7 Specialized Studies

1. The Proposal made by the Fédération Internationale des Archives du Film to make the problem of selection the theme of an experts' meeting, is to be supported by UNESCO, just as the publication of the results of such a meeting (1980/82).

2. Through non-governmental organizations agreements on specialized studies could be concluded, such as
  - the analyzing of causes of the destruction of moving images,
  - the relationship between production archived and archives for permanent preservation,
  - moving images as part of the cultural heritage of man,
  - definition of the termini of the main categories of audio-visual materials,
  - possibilities for the utilization of the holdings of archives,
  - the cultural and historic value of moving images.