

September 8, 2005

Dear Colleagues,

FIAF would like to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the UNESCO *Recommendation for the Safeguarding and Preservation of Moving Images*.

One of the possibilities is – and that was discussed during the FIAF congress in Ljubljana – to dedicate the screening which you have scheduled in your cinema to the *Recommendation*. That would not involve the scheduling of a certain film – only a text in your programme in which you inform about the *Recommendation*. You may use the following text, or cite directly from the *Recommendation*:

The *Recommendation* emphasised that moving images are an expression of the cultural identity of peoples, and because of their educational, cultural, artistic, and historical value, form an integral part of a nation's cultural heritage; that moving images constitute new forms of expression, particularly characteristic of present-day society, whereby an ever-increasing part of contemporary culture is manifested; that moving images also provide a fundamental means of recording the unfolding events and, as such, constitute important and often unique testimonies, of a new dimension, to the history, way of life and culture of peoples and to the evolution of the universe; that moving images have an increasingly important role to play as a means of communication and mutual understanding among all the peoples of the world and that, by disseminating knowledge and culture throughout the world, moving images contribute extensively to the education and to the enrichment of each human being.

The *Recommendation* called upon each State to take the appropriate complementary measures to ensure the safeguarding and preservation for posterity of moving images as a particularly fragile part of its cultural heritage, just as other forms of cultural property are safeguarded and preserved as a source of enrichment for present and future generations, to take the appropriate measures with due regard for freedom of opinion, expression and information, recognized as an essential part of human rights and fundamental freedoms inherent in the dignity of the human being, for the need to strengthen peace and international understanding and for the legitimate position of copyright holders and of all the holders of other rights in moving images and to promote closer international co-operation to safeguard and preserve these irreplaceable records of human activity.

It is also recommended that you contact your national UNESCO Commission. It is my experience that they are willing to help in the commemoration, for

example by organizing a discussion, announcing your programme on their web-site, allow you to use the UNESCO log, or give some financial support.

We are hoping that you will be able to support this project – it would be delighted if FIAF could – through it's membership – celebrate this important document worldwide.

Kind regards,  
Eva Orbanz  
President FIAF