The Department of State refers the Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus to the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus Concerning the Imposition of Import Restrictions on Pre-Classical and Classical Archaeological Objects and Byzantine Period Ecclesiastical and Ritual Ethnological Materials, done at Washington July 16, 2002, as amended and extended (hereinafter referred to as "the MOU").

The Department, on behalf of the Government of the United States of America, proposes that, pursuant to Article IV.A of the MOU, the MOU be extended for an additional five-year period.

The Department further proposes that, pursuant to Article IV.B of the MOU, the MOU be amended as follows:

1) The title of the MOU would be amended to read, "Memorandum of Understanding Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus Concerning the Imposition of Import Restrictions on Pre-Classical and Classical Archaeological Objects and Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Period Ecclesiastical and Ritual Ethnological Materials" to reflect the broader scope of ethnological materials to be protected under the MOU as hereby amended and extended.

2) The third paragraph of the Preamble to the MOU would be amended to read, "Desiring to reduce the incentive for pillage of irreplaceable archaeological objects and ethnological materials representing the Pre-Classical, Classical, Byzantine, and Post-Byzantine periods of Cypriot history."

3) Article I.A of the MOU would be amended to read, "The Government of the United States of America, in accordance with its legislation entitled the Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act ("the Act"), will restrict the importation into the United States of certain categories of Pre-classical and Classical archaeological objects and Byzantine and Post-Byzantine period ecclesiastical and ritual ethnological materials to be listed on a Designated List as provided by the Act..."

4) Article II would be replaced with the attached amended Article II.

If the foregoing proposal is acceptable to the Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus, the Department proposes that this note, including the enclosed revised Article II, and the Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus' note in reply, shall constitute an agreement to extend and amend the MOU, which shall enter into force on the date of the Embassy's note in reply and shall take effect July 16, 2012.

Attachment:

As stated.

Department of State,

Washington, D.C., July 10, 2012.

United States of America – Republic of Cyprus Memorandum of Understanding

2012 Amended Article II

A. The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus should seek to publicize this Memorandum of Understanding and the reasons for it, through various means available.

B. The Government of the Republic of Cyprus will expand its efforts to discourage pillage of cultural resources, and the unauthorized export of such material, through tourist education programs, including posting appropriate warnings at museums, archaeological sites, hotels, airports, ports, and cruise ship terminals that draw attention to this Memorandum of Understanding and to the cultural heritage protection laws of Cyprus.

C. The Government of the Republic of Cyprus will expand its initiatives to the general public in support of the importance of protecting and preserving cultural heritage and discouraging looting.

D. Both Governments agree that, in order for United States import restrictions to be successful in deterring pillage, the Government of the Republic of Cyprus will continue to seek similar cooperation from countries having a significant import trade in the Cypriot archaeological artifacts and ethnological materials covered by this Memorandum of Understanding and will strengthen enforcement of its own cultural heritage protection laws.

E. The Government of the Republic of Cyprus will seek to continue its inventory of cultural resources in museums, ecclesiastical buildings, private collections, and archaeological sites. Every effort should be made also to engage non-governmental organizations in this effort.

F. The Government of the Republic of Cyprus will expedite the development and implementation of management plans for the effective protection of those archaeological sites that are open to the public.

G. The Government of the Republic of Cyprus will use its best efforts to enforce applicable laws and regulations regarding the use of metal detectors.

H. Recognizing that rapid land development can give rise to pillage, the Government of the Republic of Cyprus will continue to use existing techniques such as Geographic Information Systems and non-intrusive surveys in planning infrastructure and development to avoid destruction of, and continue to enforce vigorously laws concerning damage to, cultural heritage during construction and development activities.

I. The Government of the Republic of Cyprus will work with international organizations to prevent illegal exports from anywhere on the island.

J. The Government of the United States of America recognizes that the Government of the Republic of Cyprus permits the interchange of archaeological materials for cultural, exhibition, educational and scientific purposes to enable widespread public appreciation of and legal access to Cyprus' rich cultural heritage. The Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the United States of America agree to encourage further interchange by:

1. promoting ongoing discussions about loans of objects of archaeological or artistic interest for research and educational purposes by United States and Cypriot museums or similar institutions, recognizing the spirit of goodwill that exists between cultural institutions in both countries;

2. promoting through established institutions, such as United States museums and universities, opportunities for participation in joint archaeological projects authorized by the Cyprus Department of Antiquities; and

3. promoting agreements for academic exchanges and specific study programs agreed upon by Cypriot and United States museums and universities.

K. The Government of the United States of America will use its best efforts to expand professional exchanges in conservation, preservation, and museum administration with Cyprus.

L. Both parties to this Memorandum of Understanding will continue to support bi-communal activity regarding cultural preservation on the island.

M. Both Governments agree to strengthen and develop the cooperation between their respective competent authorities, including law enforcement agencies, for the prevention and combating of the destruction, looting, theft and illicit trafficking of objects and materials covered in this Memorandum of Understanding, through the exchange of all relevant information and experiences, organization of joint training, exchange of experts, and the interchange of knowledge regarding best practices in the field.

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
Washington, D.C.

NV:25/12
Ref: 14.1.5, 3.13.12.1

The Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus presents its compliments to the United States Department of State and has the honor to refer to the Latter's Diplomatic Note, dated July 10, 2012 concerning the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus Concerning the Imposition of Import Restrictions on Pre-Classical and Classical Archaeological Objects and Byzantine Period Ecclesiastical and Ritual Ethnological Material done at Washington July 16, 2002, as amended and extended (hereinafter referred to as "the MOU").

The Embassy, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, accepts the proposal by the Government of the United States of America that, pursuant to Article IV.A of the MOU, the MOU be extended for an additional five-year period.

The Embassy also accepts that, pursuant to Article IV.B of the MoU, and as proposed by the Government of the United States, the MoU be amended as follows:

1) The title of the MOU be amended to read: "Memorandum of Understanding Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus Concerning the Imposition of Import Restrictions on Pre-Classical and Classical Archaeological Objects and Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Period Ecclesiastical and Ritual Ethnological Materials" to reflect the broader scope of ethnological materials to be protected under the MOU as hereby amended and extended.

2) The third paragraph of the Preamble to the MOU be amended to read: "Desiring to reduce the incentive for pillage of irreplaceable archaeological objects and ethnological materials representing the Pre-Classical, Classical, Byzantine, and Post-Byzantine periods of Cypriot history."

3) Article I.A of the MOU be amended to read: "The Government of the United States of America, in accordance with its legislation entitled the Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act ("the Act"), will restrict the importation into the United States of

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certain categories of Pre-classical and Classical archaeological objects and Byzantine and Post-Byzantine period ecclesiastical and ritual ethnological materials to be listed on a Designated List as provided by the Act..."

4) Article II be replaced with the attached revised Article II.

The Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus accepts that the Department's Note, including the attached revised Article II, and the Embassy's Note in reply, shall constitute an agreement to extend and amend the MOU, which shall enter into force on the date of this reply and shall take effect July 16, 2012.

The Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United States Department of State the assurances of its highest consideration.

Attachment:
As stated

Washington, D.C. - July 10, 2012

To: United States Department of State
Washington, D.C.

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS * IN WASHINGTON *