No. 222

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Nicaragua and has the honor to make reference to the Cultural Patrimony Bilateral Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Nicaragua concerning the imposition of import restrictions on archaeological material from the pre-Hispanic cultures of the Republic of Nicaragua (hereinafter referred to as "the Agreement") signed in Managua on June 16, 1999 and entered into force on October 20, 2000, and as amended and extended through an exchange of diplomatic notes dated October 6 and 18, 2005.

The Embassy, on behalf of the Government of the United States of America, proposes that, pursuant to Article IV A of the Agreement, the Agreement be extended for an additional period of five years, ending on October 20, 2015, unless both parties shall agree further to extend and/or modify it.

If the foregoing proposals are acceptable to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Nicaragua, the Embassy of the United States of America proposes that this note, including the attached revised Article II, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' affirmative note in reply, shall constitute an agreement to amend and extend the Agreement, which shall enter into force on the date of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' note in reply and which shall take effect on October 20, 2010.

The Embassy of the United States of America avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the assurances of its highest consideration.

Enclosure: Cultural Patrimony Bilateral agreement, April 16, 1999 – Text of the Amendments to the Cultural Patrimony Bilateral Agreement, October 5, 2005 - Text of the Amendments to the Cultural Patrimony Bilateral Agreement (Article II as is proposed) as mentioned.

Embassy of the United States of America,

Managua, October 4, 2010

Article II

Public Awareness / Outreach

A. The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Nicaragua will publicize this Agreement and its purposes through appropriate means, respectively.

B. The Government of the Republic of Nicaragua and the Government of the United States will annually inform each other of the steps they have taken toward meeting the terms of this Agreement.

Collaboration / Interchange

C. The Government of the Republic of Nicaragua will use its best efforts to permit the exchange and understanding of its archaeological materials according to the procedures established by its national legislation and under circumstances in which such exchange and knowledge does not jeopardize its cultural patrimony.

D. Both Governments will seek to encourage academic institutions, non-governmental institutions, and other organizations to cooperate in the interchange of knowledge and information about the cultural patrimony of Nicaragua, and to collaborate in the preservation and protection of such cultural patrimony.

E. The Government of the Republic of Nicaragua will continue to facilitate the implementation of professional educational and training programs for archaeological and museum staff and administrators responsible for cultural patrimony, and the Government of the United States of America shall provide information on request regarding sources of assistance and expertise available through existing programs.

Protection / Conservation

F. The Government of Nicaragua will, whenever possible, participate in relevant technical training opportunities and cooperate with the United States, other countries, and international institutions that offer training and assistance in the protection of cultural heritage resources and the security of archaeological materials.

G. The Government of the United States of America will work towards facilitating technical assistance to Nicaragua in cultural resource management and security of archaeological materials, under existing programs in the public and/or private sectors in the United States.

Law Enforcement

H. In order to further contribute to the goal of successfully thwarting pillage, the Government of the Republic of Nicaragua will continue its efforts to prevent the illegal sale and export of archaeological objects, especially at ports of transit and shipment; and will continue to strengthen cooperation within Central America, and especially with neighboring states, for the protection of the cultural patrimony of the region.