



U.S. AGENCY FOR  
INTERNATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT

Jane C. Waldbaum  
President, Archaeological Institute of America  
656 Beacon Street  
Boston, MA 02215

Dear Ms. Waldbaum,

Thank you for your letter of Jan. 8 urging the inclusion of cultural heritage resource management in the construction contracts and subcontracts that will be issued in the development and reconstruction of Iraq.

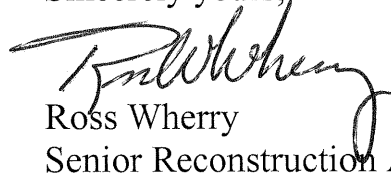
USAID recognizes the potential harm construction poses to archaeological sites and our goal is to avoid harm to any sites. The vast amount of our construction is focused on the rehabilitation of existing facilities such as power plants, electricity transmission lines, water and wastewater treatment plants, schools, health clinics, bridges, the port of Um Qasr and the Baghdad and Basra airports. As such very little new ground is broken. That being said, our contracts with Bechtel have specific clauses dealing with the preservation of historical, archaeological and cultural resources. These clauses require contractors and subcontractors to immediately stop work in any area where cultural resources or artifacts with archaeological or historic value are discovered and not to disturb or take any artifacts, items, or materials from the site. The contract also specifically states that neither the contractor nor any of its subcontractors shall have property rights to such artifacts, items or materials and must secure and guard them. Bechtel itself has unanticipated discoveries procedures which cover historical artifacts. Before work was restarted, Bechtel and USAID would consult with Iraqi officials. We will forward your contract guidelines for cultural heritage to our Mission staff in Baghdad to see if our procedures can be improved.

USAID is actively involved in other aspects of Iraq's archeological heritage. As you may know, USAID recently awarded a grant to Stony Brook

University to develop and modernize archeological research and to strengthen the capacity of Iraqi Universities in this area. This activity is being led by Dr. Elizabeth Stone who has been working on expeditions to Iraq since the 1970s. Dr. Stone will lead workshops to train Iraqi faculty and develop new teaching and research facilities in archaeology at the Universities of Baghdad and Mosul and will draw on scholars from Columbia University, Boston University and Oxford.

If you would like any more information please feel free to contact us at the Office of Iraq Reconstruction. Jim Guy (202-712-0605) and Fred Guymont (202-712-1808) are most familiar with our reconstruction activities.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ross Wherry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning and a loop at the end.

Ross Wherry

Senior Reconstruction Advisor



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

FEB 11 2004

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

Directorate of Military Programs

Ms. Jane C. Waldbaum  
President, Archaeological Institute of America  
Boston University  
656 Beacon Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02215

Dear Ms. Waldbaum:

Thank you for your letter of January 8, 2004, expressing the Archaeological Institute of America's (AIA) concern for the heritage resources of Iraq. I know that you have already received a response to your letter from Mr. Paul Rubenstein, our Deputy Federal Preservation Officer.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is keenly aware of the environmental and archaeological impacts of construction projects anywhere in the world. Those factors that need special attention are normally identified and planned for during the project's design phase. For the construction program in Iraq, projects are going to be identified and defined by people "on the ground" there. The Iraq program management office's structure will be such that many positions will be filled by Iraqis, who are vitally concerned with insuring the preservation of the physical aspects of their long history.

Your letter has been circulated to the appropriate offices in the Corps of Engineers and to the Coalition Provisional Authority for consideration. Please be assured that we, and all those who will be involved in the reconstruction efforts in Iraq, will strive to maintain the integrity of any archaeological sites that are encountered.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James A. Cheatham".

James A. Cheatham  
Major General, U.S. Army  
Acting Director of Military Programs



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

14 JAN 2004

*Rec'd  
1-16-04*

Ms. Jane C. Waldbaum  
President, Archaeological Institute of America  
Boston University  
656 Beacon Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02215

Dear Ms. Waldbaum:

Thank you for your letter of January 8, 2004, expressing the Archaeological Institute of America's (AIA) concern for the heritage resources of Iraq. In addition to the much appreciated review of the culture history of that country, you also noted the AIA's interest in ensuring the "inclusion of cultural heritage resource management in the various contracts and subcontracts that have been and will be issued . . . in the development and reconstruction of Iraq."

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is deeply concerned and very actively engaged in the stewardship of the cultural environment here in the United States. When the Corps is involved in programs and initiatives in foreign nations, it demonstrates the same stewardship ethic, consistent with the laws and policies that apply to their people and properties.

While my office is not currently providing input for contracting needs in foreign nations, your letter presents facts and information that are vitally important to understanding the cultural setting and development of ancient Mesopotamia. I will ensure that your letter receives wide distribution and consideration within the Corps. I know that the AIA has, and will continue in the future, to make significant contributions to the preservation and interpretation of the past, both here and abroad.

Sincerely,

Paul D. Rubenstein  
Deputy Federal Preservation Officer