

Law of Antiquities
The Decree-law No. /222/

The president of the National Revolutionary Command Council

According to the military command No. /1/ dated 8/3/1963.

And the decree-law No. /10/ dated 23/3/1963.

And the decree-law No. /68/ dated 9/6/1963.

And the decision of the National Revolutionary Command Council No. /222/ dated 26/10/1963, with all its modifications, especially the modifications by the law No. /1/ dated 28/2/1999.

Prescribes the following:

Article -1- The movable or immovable properties that man built, manufactured, produced, wrote or drew before two hundred calendar years or two hundred and six Muslim calendar years, are considered as antiquities. Antiquity Authorities can consider also, the movable or immovable properties of more recent period, if they see that these properties have historical, artistic or national characteristics, and a ministerial decision is issued for that purpose.

Article -2- The Antiquity Authorities are the parts that preserve antiquities in Syrian Arab Republic, and it is only for them to decide which historical monuments and archaeological sites to be considered as antique and to be registered. Registering an antique monument means that the state agrees on its historical, artistic or national importance and works to restore, preserve, study and utilise it according to the provisions of this law. "Antiquity Authorities", mentioned in this law means the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums.

Article -3- Antiques are two kinds:

A. Immovable antiques: Connected to the ground, like natural caves or man made ones which was designated to the necessities of ancient man, the rocks that have drawings, inscriptions or writings made by the ancient man, and also the ruins of cities and constructions that are buried in accumulated hills (tells) and historical monuments that were constructed for different purposes like mosques, churches, temples, palaces, houses, hospitals, schools, citadels, castles, walls, play grounds, theatres, khans, hammams, graves, constructed tunnels, dams and the ruins of those monuments and whatever connects to them like doors, windows, columns, verandas, stairs, roofs, friezes, crowns, chapiters, altars and tombstones.

B. Moveable antiques: not connected to the ground, nor to the historical monuments and can be moved like sculptures, coins, drawings, inscriptions, manuscripts, textiles and manufactured objects, no matter what their material, purpose or use are.

C. Some movable antiques are considered as immovable ones, in case they are parts of immovable antiques or decorations. It is for antiquities authorities to decide that.

Article -4- All movable and immovable antiques and archaeological sites in Syrian Arab Republic are considered as public properties of state, except the following:

A. The immovable antiques that their owners can prove owning them by official documents.

B. The movable antiques registered by the owners at the Antiquity Authorities.

C. The movable antiques that Antiquity Authorities decide that they do not need to be registered.

Article -5- Antiquity Authorities may evacuate occupied historical monuments or archaeological areas that are possessed by the state from individuals and institutions, with exceptional cases to be decided by the Antiquity Counsel, to compensate people or institutions that occupied them before this law was issued. A special committee formed by presidential decree estimates the compensation.

Article -6- Possessing a land, legally, does not give the right to its owner to deal conclusively with the movable or immovable antiques that may exist on or interior it and does not permit him to excavate in it.

Article -7- It is forbidden to damage, modify, harm or disfigure by writing, carving, deforming or separating a part of the movable and immovable antiques, and to stick advertising signs on registered archaeological sites and historical monuments.

Article -8- In setting cities and villages planning projects, expansion, beautification or what resembles that, preserving the archaeological areas and historical monuments must be considered. These projects must not be ratified without the approval of Antiquity Authorities, and after ratification, no modification must be adopted without getting the approval of these authorities.

Article -9- In organising, improving or beautification and removing coparcenary of cities and villages that contain archaeological areas or historical monuments. The concerned ministries, administrations and committees must consider the easements that Antiquity Authorities set, which are mentioned in articles 13 and 14 of this law and these easements must be included in organising decisions.

Article -10- Municipalities are not allowed to grant building and restoration permissions in areas close to archaeological sites and historical monuments without the approval of Antiquity Authorities to guaranty constructing new building in harmony with the antiquity characteristic.

Article -11- Antiquity Authorities, in agreement with the administration concerned in land surveying, marking out and drawing up, must define out archaeological areas, monuments and tells on cadastral maps and documents.

Article -12- Antiquity Authorities, according to international agreements, convention, recommendations and foundation, must work on recovering antiquities that were smuggled out of Syrian Arab Republic and helping in returning smuggled foreign antiquities, on condition of reciprocity.

Chapter Two

Immovable Antiques

Article -13- Antiquity Authorities may specify and define what to be preserved from archaeological areas, historical monuments and ancient districts to protect and maintain them due to their genuine artistic characteristics and being evidence on a certain historical period or being connected to important historical incidents. These authorities should register them after the approval of Antiquity Council and issuing a ministerial decision in the archaeological areas and historical monuments register. This decision can include a group of districts or monuments or one district and one monument or a part of them. The decision must include the easements for the neighbouring real estate properties. In case they had been already registered without considering this easement right, a ministerial decision will be issued later for this concern, and the owners or alinors of these properties must be informed of this decision, so must the concerned administrations and municipalities and land registration departments to include in the land register.

Article -14- The easements include providing a protection area around the archaeological areas and historical monuments and defining the style of new and renewed buildings, their heights, materials and colours, to be in harmony with the ancient building. This includes preventing to open windows, verandas without permission from Antiquity Authorities.

Article -15- Antiquity Authorities may give written permission to deal with the archaeological areas and historical monuments that do not need to be registered.

Article -16- The archaeological areas and historical monuments, which were registered before this law became effective, the registration will remain valid.

Article -17- The Minister of Culture, according to a suggestion from the Antiquity Council, may cancel the registration of a certain archaeological area or a historical monument, by a decision that will be published in the official gazette and registered in the antique register.

Article -18- The registered historical monuments that are privately possessed remain in possession of their owners and alinors, provided that they utilise them in the same original purpose, they were constricted for. Antiquity Authorities may permit to utilise them for human or cultural purposes.

Article -19- Municipalities, Ministry of Religious Endowments, other ministries, denominations, associations and natural and artificial persons can transfer their possession of archaeological and historical real estates to Antiquity Authorities as a donation or by selling or exchanging in return to symbolic amount or by depositing them for long time.

Article -20- Antiquity Authorities have the right to take possession of any historical monument or archaeological area according to the provisions of Possession Law. Compensation amount will be decided, regardless of the archaeological, artistic or historical value of the possessed areas. These authorities can, also, take possession of the neighbouring monuments, areas or added areas to the registered immovable antiques for the aim of releasing these antiques and showing their features.

Article -21- Registered archaeological areas and historical monuments, possessed by the state (government) are under the Antiquity Authorities, and they cannot be sold or gifted. Antiquity Authorities have the right to invest them.

Article -22- Antiquity Authorities are the only parts that make the maintenance and restoration works of the registered immovable antiques to preserve and keep their features and decorations, and the owner or alinor of these antiques do not have the right to demonstrate that.

The owner or alinor of an antique must make the works of reparation and restoration on his own, if the restoration need is raised due to occupation and investment. These works must be done with the permission of Antiquity Authorities and under their supervision. Antiquity Authorities spend from their budget on the works of restoration and reparation on registered archaeological areas and historical monuments, provided that Ministry of Religious Endowments or religious institutions pay half of the cost of the restoration and reparation works on the registered monuments that belong to them. Antiquity Authorities may share with a part of costs of reparation works for historical monuments that are owned by individuals who will bear the rest of the costs⁰. In case the registered historical monuments are endangered of distraction or damage and the owners refuse to maintain them, Antiquity Authorities have the right to rescue and restore them on their own expense and the cost amount will be considered as a dept for the state to be collected from the owners according to the Law of Collecting General Funds and to be put as a mortgage sign in the cadastre of the building for the benefit of Antiquity Authorities temporary until the dept is paid back. The owners may be dispensed from the debt, partially or totally, by a decision issued by Minister of Finance, according to a suggestion of Minister of Culture.

Article -23- The owner of a registered immovable antique according to the provisions of this law, do not have the right to destroy or move it, partially or totally, and can not restore, renew or change it without a permission from Antiquity Authorities.

The permitted works must be carried out under the supervision of the authorities. In case of violation, the Antiquity Authorities return the historical monument to its original shape and the owner must pay the costs, in addition to the penalty mentioned in this law.

Article -24- It is not allowed to put new easements on the registered immovable archaeological and historical properties after registration, or to add a new building to these properties, in that case the violator obliged to remove what have been constructed and return the place to its original status as it was before, on his own, and under the supervision of the Antiquity Authorities, otherwise these authorities may

remove it and the owner will bear the costs in addition to the penalty mentioned in this law.

Article -25- A registered archaeological lands not allowed to be a store for debris or wastes and constructing any building, graveyard, irrigation or digging, planting, cutting off trees or changing the shape of the land without the permission or supervision of Antiquity Authorities. It is forbidden to use the debris of the destroyed historical monuments, soil or stones of archaeological areas without the official permission of these authorities.

Article -26- It is forbidden to establish heavy, dangerous industry and military constructions within a border of 500 m. from registered immovable archaeological and historical properties.

Article -27- Every one who discovered an immovable antique or heard about it, have to inform the nearest governmental authority within twenty four hours from discovery, and this in turn must inform Antiquity Authorities immediately.

In case the Antiquity Authorities decide to keep the discovered immovable antique, they must register it or move what should be moved to their museums and give back the land to its owner. In both cases, the discoverer deserves a reward estimated by Antiquity Authorities according to Antiquity Sales Committee. If the reward amount is more than 1000 s.p. the approval of Antiquity Council must be obtained.

Article -28- Every natural or artificial person occupying a historical monument or archaeological area must allow the staff of the antiquities to enter for search, study, draw and photographing it.

Article -29- If the owner of one of the immovable registered antiques wants to sell or mortgage it, he must mention in the contract that his real estate is registered and must inform Antiquity Authorities about it within three days from signing the final contract. The violator will be punished according to the provisions of this law.

Chapter Three

Movable Antiques

Article -30- ⁰ It is not permitted to sell or gift the movable antiques that the state owns and keeps in its museums. It is allowed to sell the dispensable movable antiques because of the existence of similar items, according to republican decree and after the approval of Antiquity Council.

Article -31- A. It is allowed to exchange some movable or related to immovable antiques that have similar ones and are a dispensable, with museums and scientific institutes. And it is allowed to loan these antiques to the mentioned museums and institutes for a limited period if there is a benefit in this exchange or loan.

B. The exchange or loan must be carried out according to a decree and after the approval of Antiquity Council. The loaning must be for a limited

period, defined in the loaning decree.

Article -32- Institutions and individuals have the right to own movable antiques, but Antiquity Authorities must be informed to register the important ones. The owner of the registered antique will be responsible for preserving it and not to make any change on it. In case of losing or damaging it, the owner is obliged to inform the Antiquity Authorities immediately. If the antique is not important, the owner is free to deal with it according to a special permission given by the Antiquity Authorities, the rules of registering or not must be organised by a ministerial decree.

Article -33- The Custom Administration must show the imported antiquity to Antiquity Authorities to register the important ones to become movable antiques that must be subjected to this law.

Article -34- ⁰ The ownership of registered movable antiques can be transferred according to prior Antiquity Authorities approval.

Article -35- Any one who accidentally finds a movable antique have to inform the nearest administrative authority about it within 24 hours; and he must preserve the antique until the Antiquity Authorities receive it. The administrative authority should inform immediately the Antiquity Authorities about finding the antique. These authorities have the right to decide within three months, beginning from the informing date, if the antique must be added to the antiquity collections in their museums or be left at the possession of the one who found it.

A. If the Antiquity Authorities decided to keep the antique, they should pay the one who found it a suitable monetary reward no less than the substance of the antique if it was a precious ore or gems regardless of its ancientness, workmanship and archaeological value. The Antiquity Authorities estimate this reward according to the suggestion of the Antiquity Sales Committee and the approval of the Inspection Department. If the reward exceeds one thousand Syrian Pounds, an approval of the Antiquity Council must be obtained.

B. If the Antiquity Authorities decided to leave the antique in the possession of the one who found it, they should register it and return it to him with a written notice containing the registration number.

Article -36- every one who knew a discovery of a movable antique or an antique that is not registered by his owner must inform the Antiquity Authorities; and these authorities preserve the right to give the informer a suitable reward.

Article -37- The Antiquity Authorities have the right to buy any registered movable antique possessed by individuals as well as what they consider it a movable antiques taken from parts of immovable antiques, which doesn't belong any more to a historical monument or archaeological site. On condition that the one who possesses it proves that, it is not taken away from any registered historical monument or archaeological site. The Antiquity Authorities have the right to take possession of these antiques, if the state have an interest in possessing them, according to a decree from the Minister of Culture based on the suggestion of the Antiquity Authorities.

These authorities have the right to propose a compensation amount, which would be given to the owner of the antique after the Antiquity Council takes the decision to submit this amount. The decree will be final if the owner does not protest against it within thirty days beginning from the date of informing him by a registered letter. He must raise his objection to the specialized court of first instance that would quickly look into his case and their judgment is considered decisive.

Article -38- The Antiquity Authorities have the right to request from whom they possess a registered antiques, whatever antique may be, in a purpose of studying, drawing, photographing, taking a mold or presenting it in an exhibition for a temporary period, provided that they return it to the owner, safe and sound, as soon as finishing what it was taken for.

Article -39- It is forbidden to repair or restore the registered movable antiques possessed by institutions or individuals without permission from the Antiquity Authorities and under their supervision. These authorities are allowed to make repairing and restoration works for a fee. The Antiquity Council has the right to dispense the antique's owner from the entire fee or some of it.

Article -39 **()(bis)-** It is forbidden to copy or imitate the ancient antiques, and any one who wants to make molds and patterns for some ancient antiques, must do so after taking the permission of the Antiquity Authorities. These authorities will determine, in their permission, the conditions needed for every work separately.

Article -40- ⁰ It is forbidden to transport the antiques from one place to another without an authorization from the Antiquity Authorities that must offer their experience to transport these antiques in a technical method. To possess and transport the antiques in the customs zone that is originally specified, custom documents that is prescribed by the effective clauses must be organized. Transporting the antiques across Syrian Arab Republic is subject to a prior approval from the Antiquity Authorities.

Chapter Four

Antiquity Excavation

Article -41- It is meant by "Antiquity Excavation" all the digging, probing and investigating works that aim at finding a movable or immovable antiques interior the earth or on its surface, or in watercourses, lakes or territorial waters.

Article -42- The Antiquity Authorities is the only parts that have the right to do digging, exploration and detection works in Syrian Arab Republic. It is up to these authorities to allow other institutions, scientific associations and archaeological missions to excavate for antiquities by a special permission according to the provisions of this law. It is forbidden for any one to excavate for antiquities in any place even if he owns it.

Article -43- The Antiquity Authorities, institution, association or mission that are permitted of excavation have the right to excavate in the state properties and individuals or institutions properties, on condition that the properties that do not

belong to the state must be returned to its original status as it was before, if the Antiquity Authorities do not want to possess them. The one who excavates must compensate the property's owner for the damages. This compensation is determined, after the excavation season is finished, by a decree from the minister of Culture based on the suggestion of a committee formed by him for this purpose.

Article -44- The digging permissions will not be given to institutions, associations and missions unless it is confirmed of their ability and competence from the scientific and financial aspects provided that all will be treated the same treatment.

Article -45- The excavating permission must include the following data:

A. The description of the institution, scientific association or mission its their previous experience and the number of its individuals and their qualifications.

B. The archaeological site in which the excavation will take place accompanied by a map showing the border of the excavation area.

C. The excavation program and its timing.

It may include other terms and the Minister of Culture and the General Director of Antiquities and Museums sign the excavation permission.

Article -46- The institutions, associations and missions permitted to excavate should:

A. Tend to photographing and drawing the archaeological site and all discovered antiques according to the usual standards. Also, preparing a collection of photographic slides about the important excavation works and the discovered antiques on the expense of the Antiquity Authorities. These authorities have the right to request, on their expense too, a copy of what had been made of cinematic films.

B. Tend to registration the discovered antiques day by day in a special register book presented by the Antiquity Authorities. The register book must be returned to the Antiquity Authorities by the end of the season.

C. Not remove any part of the archaeological buildings except after the approval of the Antiquity Authorities.

D. Do what is necessary for initial preserving and tending to the discovered antiques.

E. Provide the Antiquity Authorities with the news of the excavation works in close periods not exceeding fifteen days. These authorities have the right to publish this news and it is forbidden for the permitted institution, association, or mission to announce anything of the excavation news before informing the Antiquity Authorities.

F. Submit a brief report at the end of each season accompanied by a folder of pictures with two copies that include all what have been

discovered of antiques with a brief explanation of each picture.

G. Submit a scientific detailed report suitable for publishing about the excavation results in a period not exceeding a year from the end of each season.

H. Accept a representative of the Antiquity Authorities and enable him to cooperate and fully supervise the excavation works and what has been discovered of antiques as well as showing him the antique's register book. Moreover, the representative should be paid what he deserves of additional compensations according to the applied laws.

I. Pay wages for sentries assigned by the Antiquity Authorities to guard the excavation area through all the permission period. In some cases, missions can be exempted from this expense depending on the evaluation of the Antiquity Authorities.

J. Deliver, by the end of each season, all movable antiques that have been discovered to the Antiquity Authorities. And bear the expenses of wrapping and transporting them to the place specified by the Antiquity Authorities, provided that they do not move them from the excavation area unless an approval of the Antiquity Authorities is being obtained.

Article -47- The institutions, scientific associations and missions that are permitted of excavation must allow the representatives of the Antiquity Authorities to visit them whenever they want as well as allowing the visit of the archaeologists on condition that they maintain the scientific property rights of the excavators.

Article -48- If the institution, association or mission permitted to excavate violates any term stated in the Article (46), then the Antiquity Authorities have the right to stop the excavation works immediately until the violation is removed. If these Authorities deemed that this violation is very considerable, they have the right to cancel the permission according to a ministerial decree.

Article -49- If the institution, association or mission ceased excavating for two successive years without an acceptable excuse by the Antiquity Authorities, the Minister of Culture has the right to cancel the permission. And in this case, he has the right to give an excavating permission in the same area to any other institution, association or mission.

Article -50- The Antiquity Authorities have the right to stop excavation works if they deemed what entails the safety of the mission after a related ministerial decree is issued.

Article -51- The excavating institution, association or mission must publish their excavating scientific results within five years beginning from the date of finishing their works, otherwise the Antiquity Authorities is permitted to do so by themselves or allow all or some of it to any other individual or institution. In this case, the excavating party has no right to protest against the Antiquity Authorities who authorized the publishing.

Article -52- All the discovered antiques found by the excavating institution, association or mission belongs to the state. It is forbidden to give them up to the excavating institution, association or mission especially of what can compose complete collections representing the civilizations, history, arts and the manufacture of countries. However, the Antiquity Authorities is allowed to give the excavating institution, association or mission some of the movable antiques which have a similarity to what has been discovered in the same excavating area for publicity abroad about the civilizations that prospered in the Syrian Arab Republic lands, also to encourage and facilitate foreign researchers to make archaeological studies, after submitting a scientific detailed report referred to in clause (G) of the Article (46). The excavating institution, association or mission must exhibit the antiques given to them for one year at most in one of the public museums or appending to the scientific institutes.

Article -53- It is allowed for Antiquity Authorities to cooperate with scientific institutions and the excavating missions in doing some of the antiquity excavating provided that the terms of this cooperation is determined from the scientific, technical, and financial aspects in the excavating permissions or in a special agreements.

Article -54- It is allowed for Antiquity Authorities to excavate according to the request of some individuals in unregistered archaeological areas which they choose, provided that it would be on their own cost without intervening in the excavating works. These authorities should award them a suitable monetary reward if the excavating led to the discovery of important antiques.

Article -55- It is allowed for the Antiquity Authorities themselves or by the participation with a scientific institution to do archaeological excavation in some Arab and foreign countries.

Chapter Five

Penalties

Article -56- ⁰ Every one who smuggles or sets outs smuggling antiques is punished by arrest from fifteen to twenty five years, and with a fine from five hundred thousands to one million Syrian Pounds.

Article -57- It is punished by arrest from ten to fifteen years, and with a fine from one hundred thousand to five hundred thousands Syrian Pounds every one who:

- A. Stole an immovable or movable antique.
- B. Made antiques excavating contrary to the regulations of this law, and he is punished to the maximum penalty limits if the excavation led to considerable damage to the antique.
- C. Traded with antiques.

Article -58- It is punished by arrest from five to ten years, and with a fine from twenty five thousands to five hundred thousands Syrian Pounds every one who:

A. Ruined, impaired, subverted or effaced an immovable or movable antique, and it is punished to the maximum penalty limits if the action happened on the state properties.

B. Made a piece or pieces that disfigured the historical facts or gave them an archaeological characteristic, and the one who sold them as antiques is punished by trading antiquities penalty. The fabricated or sold pieces, tools and machines used in fabrication process are expropriated and delivered to the Antiquity Authorities.

Article -59- It is punished by jail from one year to three years, and with a fine from one thousand to ten thousand Syrian pounds every one who:

A. Violates the regulations of the Articles (24-25-26).

B. Modified an antique real estate monuments or built on a registered archaeological site, without a permission from the Antiquity Authorities

C. Violates the terms and easements imposed upon the neighboring real estates and lands to the historical monuments and archaeological areas.

Article -60- In accordance with the regulations of the Article (58) of this law, every one who damaged, modified or restored an immovable or movable antique without permission is punished by jail from three months to three years, and with a fine from one thousand to ten thousands Syrian Pounds.

Article -61- Every one who violated the regulations of the Articles (27-29-35) is punished by jail from one month to two years and with a fine from five hundred to five thousands Syrian Pounds.

Article -62- It is punished by jail from one month to six months, and with a fine from one thousand to five thousands every one who:

A. Disfigured an antique by carving, writing, painting or any other means.

B. Violated the regulations of the Articles (28-34-38).

C. Owned unregistered antiques that should be registered.

D. Transported antiques from a place to another without permission.

E. Took debris, stones or soils from an archaeological place without permission.

F. Used the registered historical monuments in another purpose, other than the one they were established for, without permission.

G. Violated any other regulation of the provisions of this law.

Article -63- It is punished, by the perpetrator penalty, every one who falls under his legal specialty to protect antiquities or seize the crimes mentioned in this law, if they were acquainted or informed by one of these crimes and they did not take the necessary procedures to seize it.

Article -64- The previous provisions are not absolved by any stronger penalty stated by Penalty Law or any other law added to it from the fines stated in this law.

Article -65- The court judges the violator in any circumstances to eliminate the violation reasons and return the object as it was before within a period specified by the court. If he did not do it, the Antiquity Authorities will do it on their own cost.

Article -66- The owner of a movable antique who violated the regulations of the Articles (32-35-40-42), will be expropriated.

Article -67- Each antique is expropriated or held according to this law is delivered to the Antiquity Authorities.

Article -68- When it is impossible to expropriate the smuggled or stolen antiques, or even the ones which are found as a result of unauthorized excavation, or when they are impaired, the perpetrator is amerced by the value of these antiques in terms of the estimation of Antiquity Authorities. In addition to the penalties stated here in this law.

Chapter Six

Divided Judgment

Article -69- ⁰ The Antiquity Authorities ought to give an export license for the following things:

A. The antiques that the Antiquity Authorities decide to exchange with museums and scientific institutions abroad Syrian Arab Republic.

B. The antiques that are assigned to an institution, association or scientific mission following their official excavation.

The antiques mentioned in the previous clauses are exempted from export fees.

Article -70- The General Director of Antiquities and Museums, directors of the departments, inspectors and their assistants, museums supervisors and their assistants, and antiquities watchers are considered from the employees of the Judicial Police to implement the provisions of this law and the issued decrees to execute it. The antiquity sentries and their chiefs have the same authority that the police individuals regarding have their duties.

Article -71- In the cases of the violations mentioned in the Articles (4-18-23-24-25-26) of this law against the archaeological areas and historical monuments, the Antiquity Authorities have the right to remove these violations, in an administrative ways, on the violator's expense. And this is done once confirming it in official reports made by the antiquity employees and administrators. In addition to the other penalties stated herein.

Article -72- It is for the Antiquity Authorities to award the one who expropriates or helps to the police, custom and antiquity employees to expropriate an antique a reward not exceeding 20% of its price.

Article -73- The fines resulting from the judicial adjudication is divided as follows:

- A. 50% for treasury.
- B. 20% for informers.
- C. 20% for expropriators.
- D. 10% for employees who participated in implementing expropriation regulations.

And in case the informers do not exist, their shares go to the treasury.

Article -74- Every one who had a movable antiques that are not registered at the Antiquity Authorities is given a period of time of six months to register it starting from the effective date of this law.

Article -75- The decree-law No. /89/ dated 30/6/1947, concerning the ancient antiquities, is canceled and all the provisions inconsistent with this decree-law.

Article -76- This decree-law is published in the official gazette.

Damascus at 9/6/1383 corresponding to 26/10/1963

Ameen Al-Hafiz
The president of the National
Revolutionary Command Council
The Decree-law No. /295/

The president of the state

According to the provisions of the temporary constitution.

And the Prime Ministry decree No. /295/ dated 1/12/1969.

Prescribes the following:

Article-1- In contrary to the regulations of the Article /52/ of the decree-law No. /222/ dated 26/10/1963. It is allowed to give the foreign excavating missions that are going to be permitted on the archaeological sites, which will be drowned by the water of the Al-Foraat dam, half of the discovered movable antiques beginning from the

effective date of this decree.

Article-2- The missions mentioned above must adhere to the terms and provisions stated in the Law of Antiquities (the decree-law No. /222/ mentioned above).

Article-3- This grant does not include the unique antique pieces. Also it does not include the pieces that is necessary to complete the important collections which represent the civilization of Al-Foraat valley or the civilization of the Syrian Arab Country that must be put in the museums of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Article-4- The mission's share of antiquities must be put in a period of a year from the date of transporting it abroad the Syrian country in museums or scientific centers opened to the public in the country in which the mission belongs to. This would be according to a written commitment submitted by the mission.

Article-5- The provisions of this decree-law do not take effect for the other archaeological sites that the mission wants to excavate in it to complete the research and study.

Article-6- The Minister of Culture issues a decision to organize the procedures of granting the antiquities mentioned in the first article of this decree-law.

Article-7- This decree-law is published and considered effective from its issuing date.

Damascus at 13/9/1389 and 2/12/1969

The president of the state
Doctor Nour Al-Deen Al-Atasee

(1) This was added by the decree-law No. /296/ dated 2/12/1969

(1) Modified by the law No. /1/ dated 1/1/1974

(2) Modified by the law No. /1/ dated 28/2/1999

(1) Modified by the decree-law No. /52/ dated. 10/8/1977.

(2) Modified by the decree-law No. /52/ dated. 10/8/1977.

(1) Law No. /1/ dated. 28/2/1999, from Article /56/ to Article /68/.

(1) Law No. /1/ dated. 28/8/1999.