

Resolutie

To
The Minister of C.R.M.
THE HAGUE
Netherlands

Maastricht, May 1975

Sir,

During the Second International Flint Symposium held at Maastricht on May 8-11th 1975, a resolution was passed concerning the present state of preservation of the Rijckholt flint mines near Maastricht, one of the principal prehistoric monuments in the Netherlands. This resolution we are requested to submit to you for consideration. The Flint Symposium is the recognised International Organisation for the study of flint, bringing together archaeologists, geologists and scientists from many countries. It represents all the universities and is organised with the assistance of a Committee of Recommendation of the following individuals, representing many of the most important Netherlands organisations in this field:

Mr. Dr. C.J.M.A. van Rooy	Queen's Commissioner for Limburg
Mr. Dr. R. Hotke	Director General Department for the arts of the Ministry of Education

Dr. J. Verhoeve

Prof. Dr. W.A. van Es

Dr. A. Thiadens

Ir. A. Hellemans

Ir. J. Verkoren

Prof. Dr. H.T. Waterbolk

Director General of the Department for Education and Recreation of the Ministry of Education
Head of the National Bureau of Archaeology
Head of the National Bureau of Geology
Former Member of the Board of Staatsmijnen/DSM
Head of the Forestry Commission
Head of the Biological & Archaeological Institute Groningen.

The Symposium was held in the presence of the Town Mayor of Maastricht and the Queen's Commissioner for Limburg, and attended by more than 150 people including Professor Waterbolk, Director of the Groningen

Biological & Archaeological Institute, and Professor Modderman of the Archaeological Institute of the Leiden University, and representatives of Foreign Organisations including the British Museum, Imperial College and British Universities, Universities in Germany, France, Poland and National Antiquities Departments of Great Britain, Belgium, Poland and Hungary. The Congress of Pre- and protohistoric Science, the Unesco Organisation, active in this field, was also represented by one of the Committee members. A list of those attending the Symposium is appended to this letter.

At the Symposium one of the principal subjects of discussion were the Rijckholt flint mines near Maastricht, excavated during ten years by a workgroup of the Netherlands Geological Association and explored with the assistance of mining engineers and geologists formerly employed in the Dutch State Mines.

The Symposium was greatly impressed with the scientific importance of the discoveries made during the excavations at Rijckholt, many of which are unknown in flint mines from other countries. It was agreed that the Rijckholt flint mines was a monument of the greatest importance for international scientific studies and as a Netherlands National Historical monument.

In consideration of its scientific importance it was unanimously resolved that the International Flint Symposium would petition the Minister of C.R.M. that the Rijckholt flint mines should be taken into Guardianship by the Netherlands Government and be properly restored and if

possible looked after by a resident Guardian, so as to prevent it being spoiled by idle visitors.

The Symposium would like to emphasise that the mines should be preserved for two reasons, both as a unique and extremely important Historical and Industrial relic and equally important as a Monument of Natural History, representing human ecological activities in the Netherlands Nature Reserve of Rijckholt. As an Industrial Monument it is of European importance for the study of Mining History and is of particular cultural importance to the History of the Province of Limburg. As a Natural Historical monument the flint mines include the surface workings and traces of mining and industrial activity in the Nature Reserve 'Savelsbos' and in the hill top above, as well as the tunnels and shafts of the underground mines and their interesting and unusual zoological and geological relics.

Since the research undertaken at Rijckholt, the flint mines have shown signs of deterioration and the preservation of the relics must take place very soon if further damage is to be avoided.

For this reason we would appreciate it if your Department could give this matter their urgent consideration.

Signed on behalf of all participants in the Symposium,

G. de G. Sieveking,
Assistant Keeper of the
British Museum

F. C. Kraaijenhagen,
Symposium Chairman