

WHC Nomination Documentation

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SITE NAME ("TITLE") Historical Complex of Split with the Palace of Diocletian

DATE OF INSCRIPTION ("SUBJECT") 26/10/1979

STATE PARTY ("AUTHOR") CROATIA

CRITERIA ("KEY WORDS") C (ii)(iii)(iv)

DECISION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE:

The Committee made no statement.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

The ruins of Diocletian's Palace, built between the late 3rd century and the early 4th century A.D. can be found throughout the city. The Cathedral was constructed in the Middle Ages out of the ancient mausoleum. Romanesque churches from the 12th and 13th centuries, medieval fortifications, Gothic palaces of the 15th century, and other palaces in Renaissance and Baroque style make up the rest of the protected area.

1.b. State, province or region: Croatia, Adriatic Coast

1.d Exact location: Long. 16°26'42» E ; Lat. 43°30'30» N

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
ORGANIZATION

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Convention concerning the Protection of the
World Cultural and Natural Heritage

WORLD HERITAGE LIST

Nomination submitted by
the
Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

Historical complex of Split with the Palace of Diocletian

1. Specific location
 - (a) Country Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
 - (b) State, Province or Region Socialist Republic of Croatia - Adriatic Coast
 - (c) Name of property Historical complex of Split with the Palace of Diocletian
 - (d) Exact location on map and indication of geographical coordinates Latitude 43° 30' 30" N
Longitude 16° 26' 42" E

2. Juridical data
 - (a) Owner State property; partly belonging to private and juridical persons
 - (b) Legal status The property is protected by means of legislation on the protection of cultural monuments through the following deeds :
 - the resolution of the Institute for the Protection of the cultural monuments of Split, No. 170-3/68
 - the decree of the Communal Council on the adoption of the town development plan of the Commune (Official Gazette of the Commune of Split 8/77)
 - the decree of the Communal Council on the adoption of the general urbanistic Plan of Split (Official Gazette of the Commune of Split 13/78).
 - (c) Responsible administration The Council of the Commune of Split, Skupstina općine Split, 58000 SPLIT, Balkanska 1.

3. Identification
 - (a) Description and inventory The palace of Diocletian is the oldest architectural complex in the town of Split. It covers an area of 30.000 square metres and includes :

(a) Description and inventory

1. The remains of the palace of the Emperor Diocletian, built between the late third century and the early fourth century A.D.; of all the imperial residences dating back to late Antiquity, it is the best preserved specimen. Within the framework of this architectural complex, based on a rectangular ground-plan, the peripheral walls provided with towers and double gates, are very well preserved. In the southern corner, are found the remains of the imperial apartments, the substructure of which is in a very good condition and supports 50 vaulted rooms. To the north of the apartments is situated the Peristyle - an open entrance hall with its prothyron and the Mausoleum of Diocletian - a large octagonal building representative of the peripteral style, almost entirely preserved, the temple of Jupiter and the remains of the Therms. In the central and southern parts are found the former streets, lined with columns of pillared porticoes as well as the remains of large blocks of dwellings for the servants and garrison population. Outside the walls of the Palace, one can still see the remains of Diocletian's aqueduct.

2. The monuments and architectural complexes, dating from the Middle Ages and more recent centuries, progressively built within the boundaries of the ancient Palace, make up nowadays the oldest architectural whole of the town. The most important of these monuments include :

a. The edifices and sculptures of the early Middle Ages, characteristic examples of the paleocroatian art from the 9th to the 11th century;

b. The Romanesque monuments of the 12th and 13th centuries, above all the cathedral of which the architecture and sculptures date from the Romanesque period; the houses and palaces of which a great number are partly or entirely preserved;

(a) Description and Inventory (contd.)

- c. The monuments of late Gothic (the palaces in flamboyant Gothic of the 15th century and the religious sculptures);
- d. The system of medieval fortifications;
- e. The palaces of the Renaissance and Baroque periods, built between the 16th and the 18th century.

To the West, the medieval area of the town was built close to the palace and covers an area of 20.000 square metres, containing numerous monuments erected in the Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque styles.

(b) Maps and/or plans (1)

1. Geographical Map of Yugoslavia with coordinates of the sites
2. Plan of Diocletian's Palace (present condition)
3. Plan of Diocletian's Palace (original state) after Niemann
4. Plan of the historical complex of Split (present condition) scale

(c) Photographic and/or cinematographic documentation (1)

1. Aerial view of the historical complex of Split with Diocletian's Palace
2. Northern wall of Diocletian's Palace
3. Peristyle of Diocletian's Palace
4. A street in the historical complex of Split.

Film : The Palace of Diocletian, produced by the R.T.V. of Zagreb, 1978.

(d) History

The Roman Emperor, Gaius Aurelius Valerius Diocletianus, who was Illyrian by birth, had his palace built at the beginning of the 4th century A.D., in the Bay of Aspalathus, near

(1) See note at the end of the text

(d) History (contd.)

Salona, the capital city of the Dalmatian province and his birthplace, in order to spend there the last years of his life after he had resigned from the throne of Nicomedia. It is not known with precision when the building operations started but it is assumed that a decision regarding the construction of the last imperial residence must have been taken at the same time as Diocletian's political reform on the sharing of the Empire and the reign of four emperors (called tetrarchy). However, the completion of the building operations occurred at the same time as the resignation of Diocletian, therefore in 305, when he settled in its Dalmatian residence and lived there till his death in 316.

There are no data on the builders of the Palace, but both names carved on the foundations : Filothas and Zothicos lead one to believe that they originally came from the eastern regions of the Empire whereas the stone-cutters - judging by the Greek and Roman initials carved into the stones - must have been, partly at least, of local origin. The building itself, the formal characteristics of the design and the details reflect a mixture of various influences derived from different cultural and artistic backgrounds. As far as the urbanistic and architectural design is concerned, the Palace of Diocletian combines the features of an imperial residence with the characteristics of a fortified camp (castrum). Its characteristics as a fortified camp are being given by its rectangular ground-plan, its thick peripheral walls, equipped with towers, as well as by the direction of its communications. Its residential features come to the fore in the southern corner where the Diocletian's apartments were located. The central axis of the residential apartments extends further to the Peristyle, an open reception room on both eastern and western sides of which the religious edifices are found - the Mausoleum and the temples. In the

(d) History (contd.)

southern half, two thermal establishments were located whereas the northern half was assigned to the servants and the army. After Diocletian had died, the Roman Court retained possession of the palace in which persecuted members of the imperial family took refuge on various occasions whereas other areas already were at the time being fitted to other functions (e.g. textile workshop). After the destruction of Salona, at the time of the fierce Avaro-Slav onslaught in 614, the imperial palace affords a shelter for a number of refugees from the local population and is actually being turned into the real town of Split, to which the reorganization of the Church, carried out by the Archbishop Jean de Ravenne, also gives a legal status. The town, secure within the palace, found itself, through the early centuries of the Middle Ages, under Byzantine control but the Croats established their own state, abroad, in the hinterland; during the Xth and the XIth centuries, it is their kings who ruled over Split. A change also occurred at the same period which saw the beginning of the ethnic transformation owing to the gradual penetration of the prevailing Slav ethnic elements. The palatial architecture is being transformed as ancient buildings are converted into dwellings or fitted for religious purposes (Pre-Romanesque churches of St. Martin and St. Theodora above the northern and western gates of the palace) and new edifices being built (Pre-Romanesque houses), whereas, towards the end of this era, the town started expanding beyond the surrounding walls of the palace. As from the beginning of the 12th century till the early 15th century, Split was a free commune within the borders of the Austro-Hungarian State. Its self-governing status was reflected in its economic, cultural and architectural development. The structure of Diocletian's Palace was altered: the ancient palace was converted into a genuine medieval city, in keeping with the antique pattern. Many lay and

(d) History (contd.)

religious buildings were built or transformed. The most important of the religious buildings is the Romanesque bell-tower, which became a symbol representative of the whole city; regarding the lay buildings, noteworthy are many Romanesque and late Gothic houses. The Palace was also endowed with works of art of great value, such as the Cathedral's wooden door (1214), some other stone pieces and other craftsmen's works in the Treasury and other monuments.

Throughout this period, that saw the City of Split expand towards the West and cover almost twice over its surface, ramparts are being built around the new districts of the town. The medieval Split, on the Western side of the palace, also has a typically medieval structure, with a great many edifices, dating back from the Romanesque and late Gothic periods, in a good state of preservation.

A change occurred in Split in 1420, when the City came under the Venetian rule which was to last for 400 years, that is to say till the fall of the Venetian Republic. The most important buildings of defensive architecture dating from this period are : the castle of the town, dating from the 15th century and the 17th century polygonal bastions, erected in the midst of the Turco-Venetian wars. The inner transformation of the Palace and medieval town has begun through the construction of late Gothic edifices, some of which are attributed to Georgius Dalmaticus, the best known architect and sculptor of this period in Dalmatia. He is also the maker of the expressive sculptures, which decorate the altars of St. Anastasius in the cathedral as well as those of St. Arnir in the chapel near the northern wall. Between the 16th and the 18th centuries, several Baroque and Renaissance edifices were built within and outside the Palace of Diocletian; they are still today of considerable value on account of their location although they have lost their

(d) History (contd.)

stylistic characteristics.

After a brief period under French domination (1806 - 1813), Split was incorporated into the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy till the end of the First World War. During the period in between the two world wars (1918-41), the city was attached to the kingdom of Yugoslavia and swiftly developed into the most important Yugoslavian sea-port. It is being occupied by the German army during 4 years and liberated in 1944. From then on, it was to show, within the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, one of the fastest growth rates which has resulted, among other changes, in the great expansion of the town. During this post-war period, the best conditions have prevailed to allow for a systematic study of the Palace of Diocletian and other historical properties which are conserved and preserved according to the modern ideas regarding active protection and revitalization of the architectural heritage.

(e) Bibliography

Adam R.: Ruins of the Palace of the emperor Diocletian at Spalato in Dalmatia, London 1764

Bulic F. - Karaman Lj.: Palaca cara Dioklecijana u Splitu, Zagreb 1927

Cassas F.-Lavallée: Voyage pittoresque et historique de Istrie et de la Dalmatie, Paris 1802

Dyggve E.: Nouvelles recherches au Perystyle du Palais de Diocletian à Split. Acta ad archaeologiam et artium historiam pertinentia I, Cslo 1962

Duval N.: La place de Split dans l'architecture aulique du Bas Empire, URBS, Split 1965

Fiskovic C.: Prilog proucavanju i zastiti Dioklecijanove palace u Splitu, Zagreb 1950

(e) Bibliography (contd.)

Hébrard E. - Zeiller J. :
Spalato, le Palais de Diocletian,
Paris 1912

Kahler H. : Split i Piazza Armerina,
rezidencije dvaju careva tetrarha,
URBS, Split 1965

Marasovic J. - Marasovic T. :
Dioklecijanova palaca, Zagreb 1968

Marasovic J. - Marasovic T. - McNally S. -
Wilkes J. : Diocletian's Palace, Report
on Joint Excavations in Southeast
Quarter, Split, 1972

Niemann G. : Der Falast Diokletians in
Spalato, Wien, 1910.

4. State of preservation/
conservation

(a) Diagnosis

The Palace of Diocletian, constituting a living part of the town of Split, keeps up an intense pace, requiring continuous interventions. And this is why the visible and recorded parts of the Palace are secure from dilapidation while damages may be done to the still unidentified parts of the monument to be found inside private homes. A number of buildings have been built above the substructure of Diocletian's apartments without taking into account the resistance of the vaults, such that in the event of a relatively violent earthquake, some parts of the vaulting system could be endangered.

The condition of preservation of the buildings and interiors dating from the Middle Ages and more recent periods, varies; some of them are threatened with decay, others have entirely been restored and revitalized.

(b) Agent responsible for
preservation/conservation

The agent responsible for the protection of the historical complex of the city is the Municipality and its technical services: the Institute for the Protection of the Cultural Heritage of Split, the Institute of Urbanism of Dalmatia in Split and the Town Planning Institute of the city.

(c) History of preservation/
conservation

Measures for the protection of the Palace of Diocletian have continuously been taken since the middle of the XIXth century, at which date the foundation of a Preservation Service took place in Split. From then on, conservation followed all the development stages of the theory and practice of conservation, starting from the classical cleaning operations, the Romantic restoration "biological" methods of conservation, and finally the revitalization. A systematic on-going programme for the protection and further development of the historical area started in 1955. On the other hand, a detailed documentation has been furnished permitting the implementation of the Urbanistic Plan. The systematic programme, which has continuously been carried out since 1955, brought about the restoration of a very great number of buildings and historical sites.

(d) Means for preservation/
conservation

The Municipality, which is responsible for the systematic programmes carried out in the historical complex, has had 196 habitations built for replacement purposes and has thereby ensured the vitality of the programme. Since 1955, some operations have partly been financed by municipal funds and partly by the users' private investments. In 1978, the Municipality promulgated the decree on leasing lands allocated for commercial purposes in the old city in order to provide financial self-sufficiency for the restoration and protection operations.

The Municipality coordinates the operations of the technical services through the Committee of Coordination, in which the primary representatives are the Institute for the Protection of Monuments, the Institute of Urbanism and the Town Planning Institute. Qualified staff is recruited among the students of the Department of Post-Graduate Studies on Architectural Heritage, which has its headquarters in Split.

(e) Management Plans and/or/

The overall Urbanistic Plan for Split gives the historical complex a specific function as the centre of a lively part of the town, specially stressing the quality of the environment.

The Plan of Development of the historical complex specifies the possibilities and methods allowing the municipal function to be carried out in this area; whereas the architectural and urbanistic projects make it possible to define individually each building according to its location.

The application of this plan is carried out within the framework provided by the medium-term plan. The on-going short-term plan has been envisaged up to 1980 while the plan for the 1981-85 period is in the course of being elaborated.

5. Justification for inclusion on the World Heritage List

The historical complex of the city of Split, with the Palace of Diocletian, has a multiple significance not only on the national scale of Yugoslavia but also in a universal sense. Considering that the Palace of Diocletian is, in a broad sense, the best preserved of all existing ancient imperial residences, it represents, for the international disciplines of archeology and art history, a key monument for any research and study on the buildings of this type as a whole (the Urbanistic Plan and the lay-out of the buildings) or as separate units, which also are unique monuments of their particular type (Diocletian's apartments with substructure, the Mausoleum, the Temple of Jupiter, the ramparts and gates). The Palace has exerted considerable influence on subsequent developments in urbanism and architecture since early Christian times up to the new era not only in the Dalmatian region but also on a European scale (as revealed by the lay and religious architecture since late Antiquity in various places around the Mediterranean up to the classical period of British architecture). The Palace is therefore the most outstanding archeological architectonic complex existing in Yugoslavia.

5. Justification for inclusion
on the World Heritage List
(contd.)

The greatest value of Diocletian's Palace derives from its continued existence throughout the late Antiquity; and then it was converted into a live medieval city in the Early Middle Ages whereas it now assumes the present function of a large urban centre. Owing to its continuous identity, the Palace has become a first-class medieval urbanistic monument and one of the most significant examples of the architectural transformation of an original antique pattern into a medieval city whose principal elements have been preserved up to present times. Many buildings dating from the Middle Ages and more recent periods, a great number of which have been acknowledged as ranking among the most valuable properties of the national historical and artistic heritage, (the Paleocroat churches, the Romanesque houses, the portals by André Buvina, the architectural achievements and sculptures by Georgius Dalmaticus) take on a special significance in view of this continuity.

The historical complex of Split is a monument of outstanding value because it allows us to take a view of this continued persistence through history as well as examine each separate period, since the time of the reign of Diocletian, one of the most eminent emperors of Roman Antiquity, up to our present times which saw so many major events that shaped the history of Yugoslavia.

Documentation supporting the nomination of the
Historical Complex of Split with the Palace of Diocletian

The documents and other material listed below which have been received from the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in support of the above-mentioned nomination can be examined in the Division of Cultural Heritage at UNESCC and will be available for consultation at the meetings of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee and of the Committee itself :

1. Maps and plans as listed on p. 3.
2. 4 black and white photographs as listed on p. 3.
3. Film : The Palace of Diocletian produced by the R.T.V. of Zagreb (1978).

NOYAUX HISTORIQUES DE SPLIT AVEC LE PALAIS DE DIOCLETIEN

Données complémentaires sur la base de la demande d'ICOMOS

4. (b) Agent responsable de la préservation ou de la conservation:

A côté de la commune de Split que représente le président de l'Assemblée, l'institution compétente pour la préservation est L'INSTITUT POUR LA PRÉSERVATION DES MONUMENTS CULTURELS - SPLIT, Iza Vestibula 2, que représente son directeur Bartul BARIŠIĆ, ing.dipl.arch.

5. Justification:

A côté des caractéristiques générales exposées au dossier, on cite les explications montrant que le noyau historique de Split remplit à peu près tous les critères indiqués dans les explications de l'UNESCO.

1. Le noyau historique de Split avec le palais de Dioclétien remplit le critère de la haute réalisation artistique en tant qu'un des ensembles de la plus haute qualité de l'architecture de cour antique (Péristyle, Mausolée, Temple de Jupiter, etc.) et comme domaine de créations artistiques importantes de la période médiévale (Périodes préromane, romane, Gothique flamboyant).
2. Le palais de Dioclétien à Split a une grande influence sur le développement des formes architecturales et artistiques des périodes de l'antiquité avancée et de la vieille chrétienté, sur le territoire restreint et même plus large, à l'architecture classiciste, créée par l'architecte britannique Robert Adam, inspiré par ce palais.
3. La rareté du palais de Dioclétien se reflète dans le fait que c'est l'unique résidence impériale antique qui jusqu'à nos jours est restée dans sa fonction d'habitation et, comme complexe le mieux conservé de sa catégorie, elle est un ouvrage clef et l'exemple le plus caractéristique pour l'étude de son type.

La rareté du noyau historique de Split se voit aussi dans le grand nombre des monuments conservés de l'architecture romane profane.

4. Pour le noyau historique de Split est caractéristique l'exemple

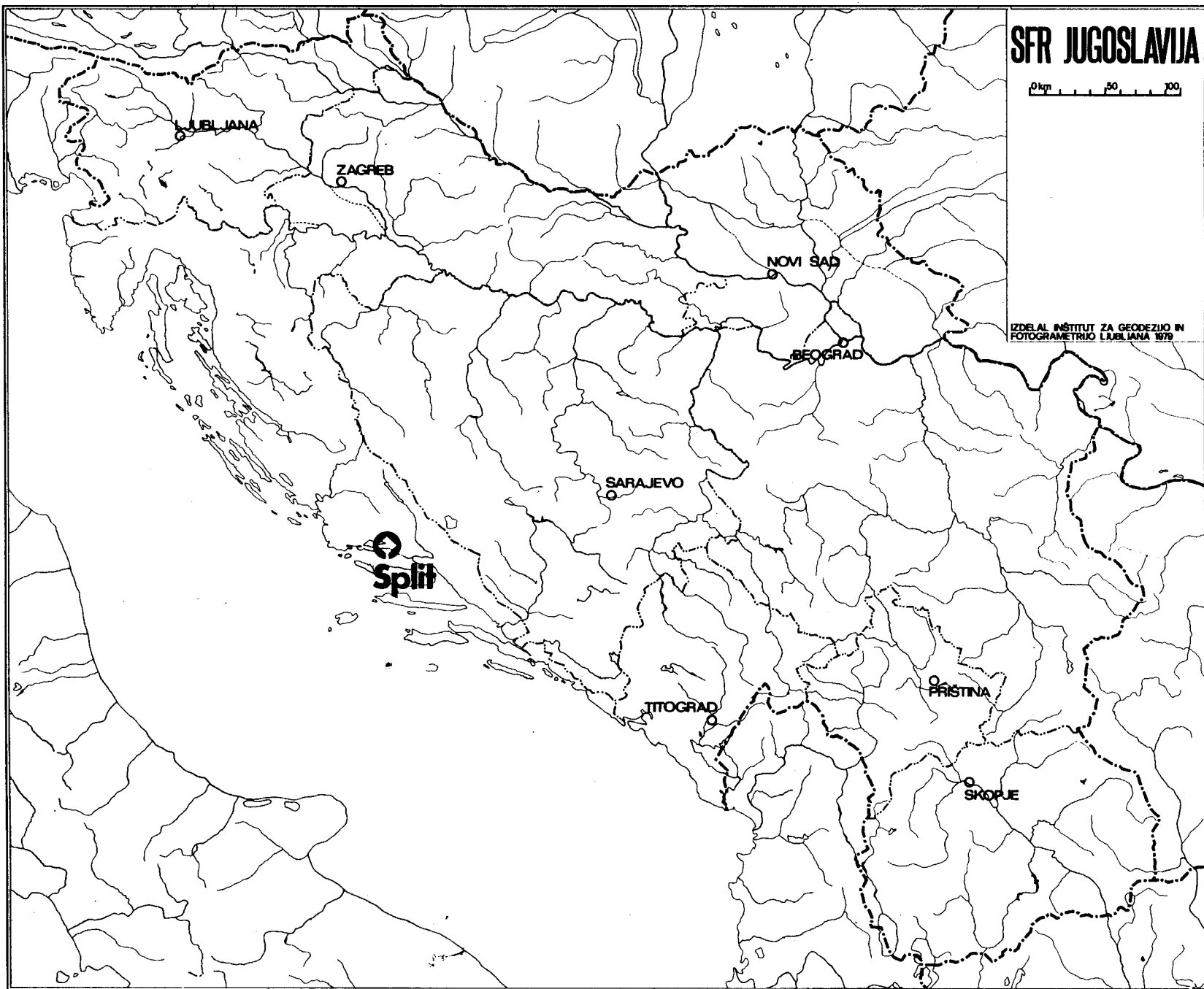
du développement de l'agglomération humaine qui se transforme du palais antique en centre urbain contemporain.

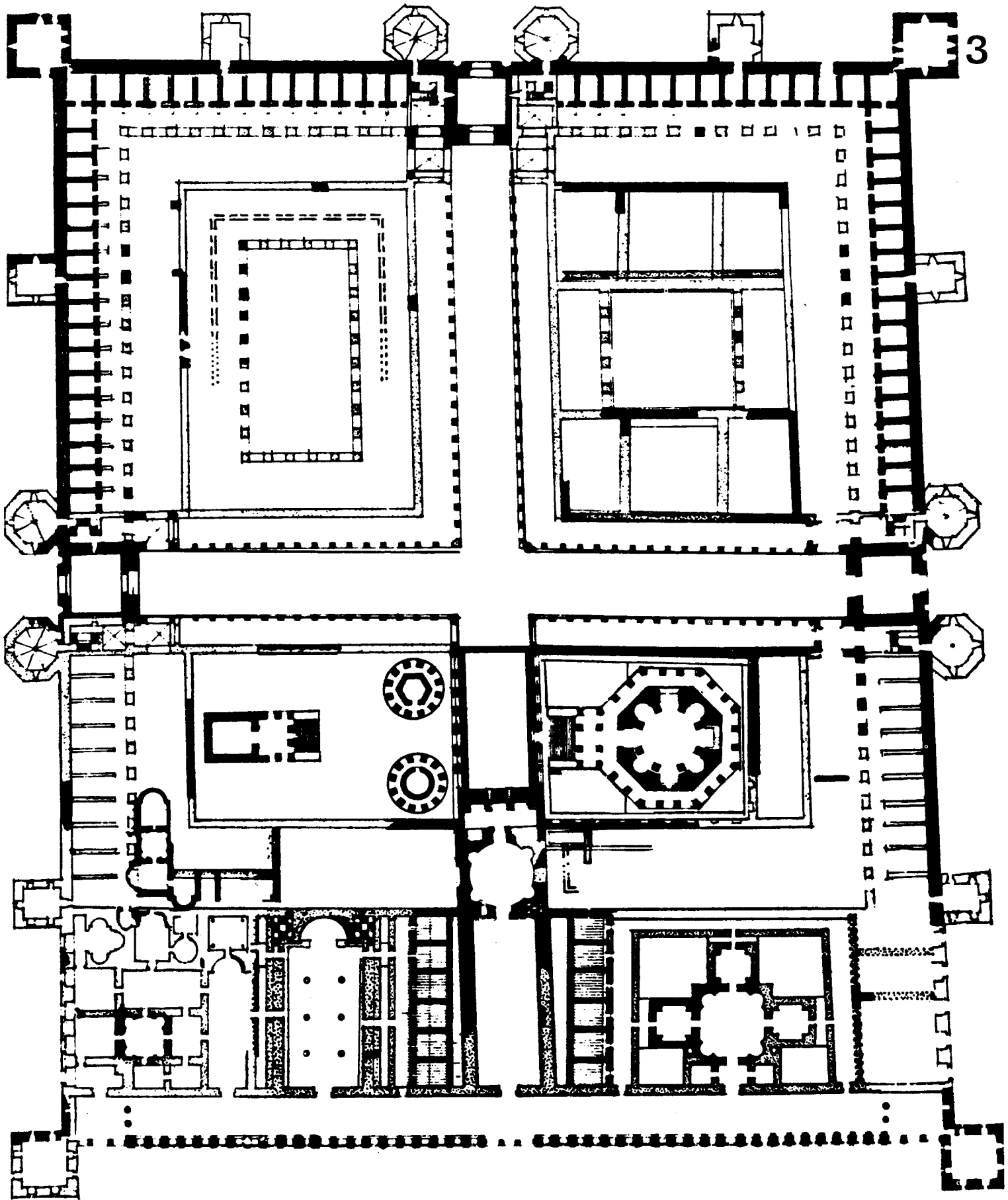
5. Le noyau historique est lié aux personnalités historiques importantes, en premier lieu à son fondateur, l'empereur Dioclétien.

SFR JUGOSLAVIJA

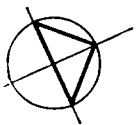
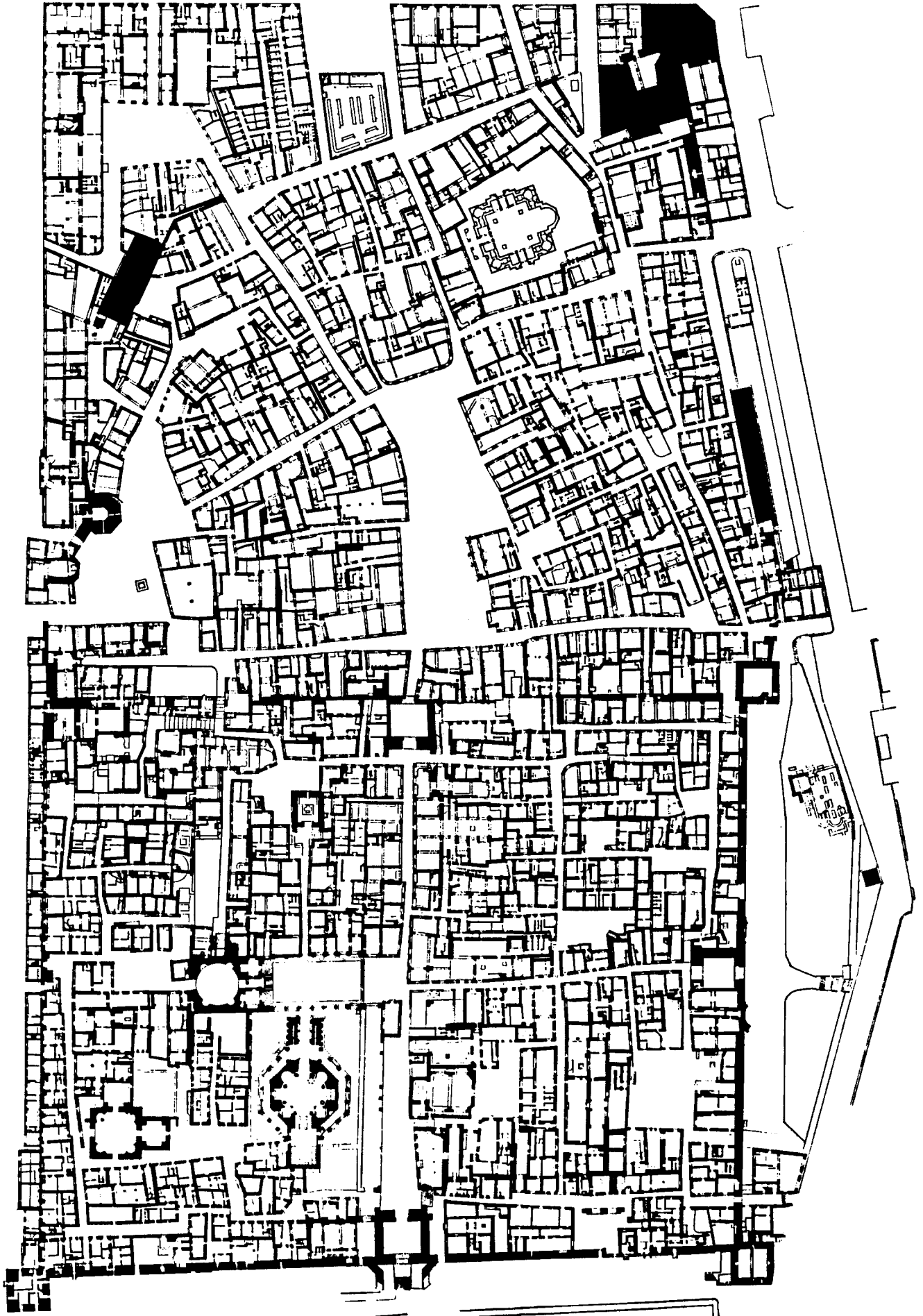
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IZDELAL INŠTITUT ZA GEODEZIJO IN
FOTOGRAFIKO Ljubljana 1979





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ICOMOS

10 Avril 1979

Propositions d'inscription à la liste du patrimoine mondial

FICHE CRITIQUE

L'ensemble historique de Split avec le Palais de Dioclétien

-Yougoslavie - n°97

Bien à soumettre à la recommandation du Bureau de l'ICOMOS

L'importance de l'ensemble monumental du Palais de Dioclétien sous le double aspect archéologique et urbanistique est clairement rappelé. L'accord avec les critères UNESCO paraît évident. Une délimitation plus précise serait souhaitable.

Panel :

M. André Chastel

Mr. Henry Millon

M. Jean Taralon

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES

ICOMOS

April 10 1979

Nominations on the World Heritage List

REVIEW SHEET

The Historical Site of SPLIT with Diocletien Palace - Yugoslavia - °97

Proposed for ICOMOS Bureau recommendation

The importance of the monumental ensemble of Diocletien Palace from the archeological and urbanistic points of view is clearly supported and obviously meets the criteria of Unesco. A more precise delimitation of the area would appear to be appropriate.

Panel:

M. André Chastel

Mr. Henry Millon

M. Jean Taralon