

**BRITISH MUSEUM  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
26 MARCH 2004**

AT  
3.00 PM

**PRESENT**

SIR JOHN BOYD (CHAIRMAN)  
MR CHARLES ALLEN-JONES  
MR HASAN ASKARI  
PROFESSOR BARRY CUNLIFFE  
MISS VAL GOODING  
SIR JOSEPH HOTUNG  
MR PHILIP LADER  
MR RICHARD LAMBERT  
MRS EDMÉE LEVENTIS  
MR DAVID LINDSELL  
MR TOM PHILLIPS  
LORD POWELL OF BAYSWATER  
DR ANNA RITCHIE  
MR ERIC SALAMA  
MR VIKRAM SETH  
SIR KEITH THOMAS  
PROFESSOR JEAN THOMAS  
SIR JOHN TUSA

The Director (Neil MacGregor), the Deputy Director (Dawn Austwick), the Director of Finance (Chris Herring), the Secretary (Tony Doubleday) and the Deputy Secretary (Stephen Corri) were also present.

*The minutes referred to in paragraphs 7.1 – 8.3 and the reports referred to in 4.1, 6.1 & 6.2 contain exempt information within the meaning of paragraphs 1,2 & 7 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information 1997.*

**PRELIMINARY**

1.1 The Chairman welcomed Mr Seth to his first meeting of the Board. Mr Seth had been appointed by the Prime Minister to serve as a Trustee for a term of four years commencing on 9 February 2004.

1.2 The Trustees noted that it was Professor Thomas' last meeting as a Trustee and they joined with the Chairman in thanking her for her services to the Museum.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

2.1 The Trustees noted that the points raised by Mr McCall had now been addressed in full.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS AND MATTERS ARISING**

3.1 The Trustees agreed that the minutes of the Board meeting of 28 November 2003 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record of their proceedings.

3.2 The Trustees agreed that the minutes of the joint meeting of the Board and the American Friends of the Museum on 11 December 2003 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record of their proceedings.

### **MUSEUM PLAN**

4.1 The Trustees received a series of documents relating to the Museum's planning process. It was noted that much of the Plan remained as work in progress and individual strategies would be subject to formal approval later in the year though the principles and values which would underpin the Museum's future programme of work were now clear.

Work would be undertaken to ensure risk registers were aligned and priorities fully recognised. Consideration would be given to the development of a mechanism to focus the involvement of trustees on specific projects. Progress against the 2004/05 Plan would be reviewed in September 2004 and thereafter.

The Trustees approved the specific recommendations outlined in the Plan and the budget for 2004/05.

### **POLICIES**

5.1 The Trustees approved the Acquisition and De-accession Policies and anticipated reviewing them in advance of the 2009 date proposed.

### **MANAGEMENT REPORTS**

6.1 IRAQ.- The Trustees agreed that the matter be delegated to the Standing Committee with the proviso that the decision on how to proceed be informed through a full and detailed assessment of the level of risk and after due consultation with the Foreign Office.

6.2 ETHIOPIA.- The Trustees agreed that further consideration of the options outlined in the paper be delegated to the Director. A proposal would be put to the Standing Committee for decision in due course.

### **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE COMMITTEES**

7.1 The Trustees agreed that those actions recommended by the Committees listed at item 7.1 be approved with the exception that Mr Salama had declined the invitation to join the Standing Committee.

7.2 The Trustees endorsed the minutes of the 27 February Audit Committee and agreed the proposals therein. Lord Powell's comments in relation to the Audit Committee were noted and it was agreed that a proposal for enhancements to the administrative process relating to Trustees' business would be put to the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

7.3 The Trustees approved the proposals from the 26 March Nomination and Governance Committee.

### **MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEES**

8.1 The minutes of the 4 March 2004 Standing Committee were noted.

8.2 The minutes of the 27 February Audit Committee were noted.

8.3 The minutes of the 15 January Nomination and Governance Committee were noted.

#### **SCHEDULE OF TRUSTEES' BUSINESS 2004**

9.1 The Trustees noted the revised schedule of Trustee Business for 2004.

#### **LIST OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

10.1 The Trustees noted the revised schedule of forthcoming events at which their attendance was encouraged, especially the advocacy and fundraising dinner on 28 June.

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

11.1 The Trustees met in closed session to undertake the annual appraisal of the Director and the Chairman.