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7 March 1975

AUSTRALIAN GIFT TO UNESCO FUND

The Prime Minister and Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr E.G. Whitlam, today announced that Australia would contribute \$A50,000 to the UNESCO Trust Fund for the Restoration and Preservation of Moenjodaro.

The remains of the city of Moenjodaro, dating back some 5000 years, form one of the most important archaeological sites of Pakistan and in the world.

The site is now threatened with destruction by movements in the nearby Indus River and by atmospheric weathering. In view of its importance, Pakistan and UNESCO are collaborating in the preservation and restoration of the remains.

An international appeal has been launched and the Australian Government will contribute \$50,000 to the fund.

The contribution is evidence of Australia's desire to take part in efforts to conserve and protect the world's cultural heritage.