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Agenda item 65

**The situation in the temporarily occupied territories
of Ukraine****Security Council
Seventy-fifth year****Letter dated 23 October 2020 from the Permanent Representative
of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General**

I have the honour to draw your attention to the ongoing archaeological excavations carried out by the Russian Federation in the Almina Valley and in the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, within the so-called project “Crimean War”, with gross violations of international law and legislation of Ukraine.

According to the provisions of the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of 14 May 1954, the Russian Federation, as an occupying Power, must respect cultural property located in the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine and take all necessary measures to preserve it.

The recommendations of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of 5 December 1956 defining principles of international regulation of archaeological excavations stipulate that in the event of an armed conflict an occupying State must refrain from conducting archaeological excavations in the occupied territories.

The Ukrainian side demands that the Russian side stop all illegal archaeological excavations in the Almina Valley and in the city of Sevastopol and ensure proper treatment of all Ukrainian historical and cultural heritage in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, in accordance with international law.

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 65, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sergiy Kyslytsya
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

