

**AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT
FOR H.R. 4435
OFFERED BY MR. ENGEL OF NEW YORK**

At the end of subtitle F of title XII, add the following:

1 SEC. 1266. FINDINGS AND SENSE OF CONGRESS.

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Protecting cultural property abroad is a
4 vital part of United States cultural diplomacy, showing
5 the respect of the United States for other cultures
6 and the common heritage of humanity.

7 (2) Cultural property abroad has been lost,
8 damaged, or destroyed due to political instability,
9 armed conflict, natural disasters, and other threats.

10 (3) In Egypt, political instability has led to the
11 ransacking of its museums, resulting in the destruction
12 of countless ancient artifacts that will forever
13 leave gaps in humanity's knowledge of the ancient
14 Egyptian civilization.

15 (4) In Syria, the ongoing civil war has resulted
16 in the shelling of medieval cities, damage to World
17 Heritage Sites, and the looting of museums and archaeological
18 sites. Archaeological and historic sites

1 and artifacts in Syria date back more than six mil-
2 lennia, and include some of the earliest examples of
3 writing.

4 (5) In Mali, the Al-Qaeda-affiliated terrorist
5 group Ansar Dine destroyed tombs and shrines in
6 the ancient city of Timbuktu, once a major center
7 for Islamic learning and scholarship in the 15th and
8 16th centuries, and threatened collections of ancient
9 manuscripts.

10 (6) In Afghanistan, the Taliban decreed that
11 the Bamiyan Buddhas, ancient statues carved into a
12 cliff side in central Afghanistan, were to be de-
13 stroyed. In 2001 the Taliban carried out their threat
14 and destroyed the statues, leading to worldwide con-
15 demnation.

16 (7) In Iraq, after the fall of Saddam Hussein,
17 thieves looted the Iraq Museum in Bagdad, resulting
18 in the loss of approximately 15,000 items. These in-
19 cluded ancient amulets, sculptures, ivories, and cyl-
20 inder seals. Many of these items remain unrecovered.

21 (8) The destruction of these and other cultural
22 properties represents an irreparable loss to human-
23 ity's common cultural heritage, and therefore to all
24 Americans.

1 (9) The Armed Forces have played important
2 roles in preserving and protecting cultural property.
3 On June 23, 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt
4 established the American Commission for the Pro-
5 tection and Salvage of Artistic and Historic Monu-
6 ments in War Areas to provide expert advice to the
7 military on the protection of cultural property. The
8 Commission formed Monuments, Fine Arts, and Ar-
9 chives (MFAA) teams which became part of the Civil
10 Affairs Division of Military Government Section of
11 the Allied armies. The individuals serving in the
12 MFAA were known as the “Monuments Men” and
13 have been credited with securing, cataloguing, and
14 returning hundreds of thousands works of art stolen
15 by the Nazis during World War II.

16 (10) The U.S. Committee of the Blue Shield
17 was founded in 2006 to support the implementation
18 of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of
19 Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict,
20 and to coordinate with the Armed Forces, other
21 branches of the United States Government, and
22 other cultural heritage nongovernmental organiza-
23 tions in preserving cultural property abroad threat-
24 ened by political instability, armed conflict, or nat-
25 ural or other disasters.

1 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
2 gress that—

3 (1) the Armed Forces play an important role in
4 preserving and protecting cultural property in coun-
5 tries at risk of destruction due to political insta-
6 bility, armed conflict, or natural or other disasters;
7 and

8 (2) the United States must protect cultural
9 property abroad pursuant to its obligations under
10 the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of
11 Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict
12 and customary international law in all conflicts to
13 which the United States is a party.

14 (c) REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
15 DEFENSE IN REGARDS TO PROTECTING CULTURAL PROP-
16 erty ABROAD.—The Secretary of Defense shall submit
17 to the congressional defense committees and the Com-
18 mittee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Com-
19 mittee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives
20 a report on efforts of the Department of Defense to pro-
21 tect cultural property abroad, including activities under-
22 taken pursuant to the 1954 Hague Convention for the
23 Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed
24 Conflict, other cultural protection statutes, and inter-
25 national agreements, including—

1 (1) directives, policies, and regulations the De-
2 partment has instituted to protect cultural property
3 abroad at risk of destruction due to political insta-
4 bility, armed conflict, or natural or other disasters;

5 (2) actions the Armed Forces have taken to
6 protect cultural property abroad, including efforts
7 made to avoid damage, to the extent possible, to cul-
8 tural property through construction activities, train-
9 ing to ensure deploying military personnel are able
10 to identify, avoid, and protect cultural property
11 abroad, and other efforts made to inform military
12 personnel about the protection of cultural property
13 as part of the law of war; and

14 (3) the status and number of specialist per-
15 sonnel in the Armed Forces assigned to secure re-
16 spect for cultural property abroad and to cooperate
17 with civilian authorities responsible for safeguarding
18 cultural property abroad, as required by existing
19 treaty obligations under Article 7 of the 1954 Hague
20 Convention.

