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## Regional National Historic Peace Park of Troy and Urban Development\*

South of the Dardanelles the Turkish government is planning to establish the Regional National Historic Peace Park of Troy in order to protect this historic area from destruction and urban development. This plan, initiated in 1971, has not yet been realized. On 18 June 1996 the Archaeological Association of Turkey wrote an open letter to President Demirel which, as of 29 July 1996, has gained support from more than 10,000 individuals who have signed the letter.

The English translation furnished by the Association reads as follows:

To:  
President S. Demirel  
Ankara

Ankara, 18 June 1996

Re: The Regional National Historic Peace Park of Troia

Dear President Demirel,

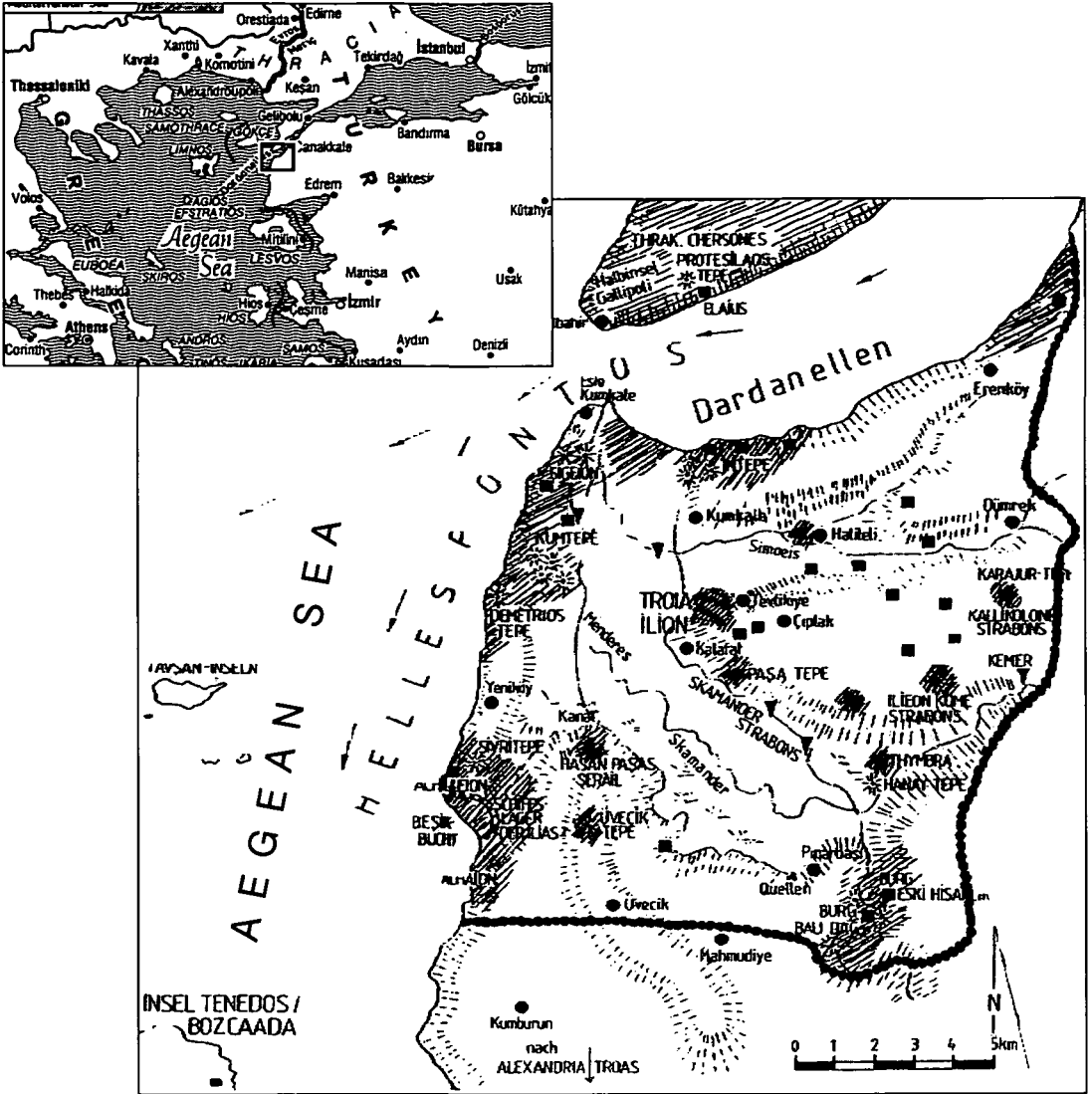
For many years both sides of the Dardanelles have escaped development. Recently, however, the strait has been threatened by escalating real estate speculation, especially on the Asian side.

The enclosed plan shows a twelve square kilometer area at the Aegean mouth of the Dardanelles. Within this small area are not only beauties of nature, but also important cultural and historic monuments.





Unique in the world, this landscape reflects thousands of years of geographical, archaeological and historic events up to today. We strongly plead for greater attention given to the effective preservation of this region.

Geographically, the region contains not only the best-known and written-about site (Troia/Truva) but also 60 other monuments.

\* The letter has been kindly provided by Prof. Dr. Manfred Korfmann, Institute of Prehistoric and Early History, University of Tübingen, Project Troy, at Çanakkale (Turkey). In the meantime the Peace Park has been established (Neue Zürcher Zeitung 7 November 1996 p. 20).



Regional National  
Historic Peace Park  
of Troy

-  Archaeological sites
-  Bridges
-  Modern places
-  Urban development as of 1995



Monuments of the Troad in extreme danger: One of the holiday villages which are becoming ubiquitous in Turkey in front of the "Tomb of Achilles". The Beşik Bay, supposed landing place and camp of the Greeks during the Trojan war, and site of a prehistoric settlement, can be seen in the background.

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Ecologically, unique flora and fauna are found there, and the whole region is an important flyway for migratory birds.

Our greatest aim is to ensure that this heritage is preserved intact for future generations. The development of civilization, in both Asia and Europe, is intricately entwined with this region; to allow its destruction speaks against all of us. Therefore we beg for your support in the establishment of the Regional National Historic Peace Park of Troia, which is as yet unrealized, although initiated in 1971.

The Archaeological Association of Turkey  
Board of Directors