

Archaeologists broker Arab-Israeli deal

by UPI

LOS ANGELES -- Two Los Angeles archaeologists said they have drafted a settlement between Israelis and Palestinians regarding the fate of ancient artifacts. Ran Boytner with the University of California, Los Angeles, and Lynn Swartz Dodd with the University of Southern California led a team of mediators to arrive at the first-ever agreement on the status of archaeological finds should there be an eventual independent Palestinian state, USC said in a press release Wednesday. Several international statesmen and archaeologists worked on a 39-point Israeli-Palestinian Archaeology Working Group Agreement outlining the protection of artifacts regardless of their origin. The agreement borrows from past regional treaties and international law regarding repatriation of artifacts to recommend repatriation of artifacts uncovered in Palestine since 1967 and the tripling of the area in Jerusalem designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. "These are the principles that we need to govern how we address and preserve archaeological heritage that's of interest to both sides, irrespective of what border it falls within," Dodd said.

Copyright © 2008, by United Press International. All Rights Reserved.

Archaeologists broker Arab-Israeli deal by UPI