



LETTERS

AN INSPIRATION TO ALL

Sir,

I am a regular reader of the magazine Soviet Land and I like in particular those articles which relate to the

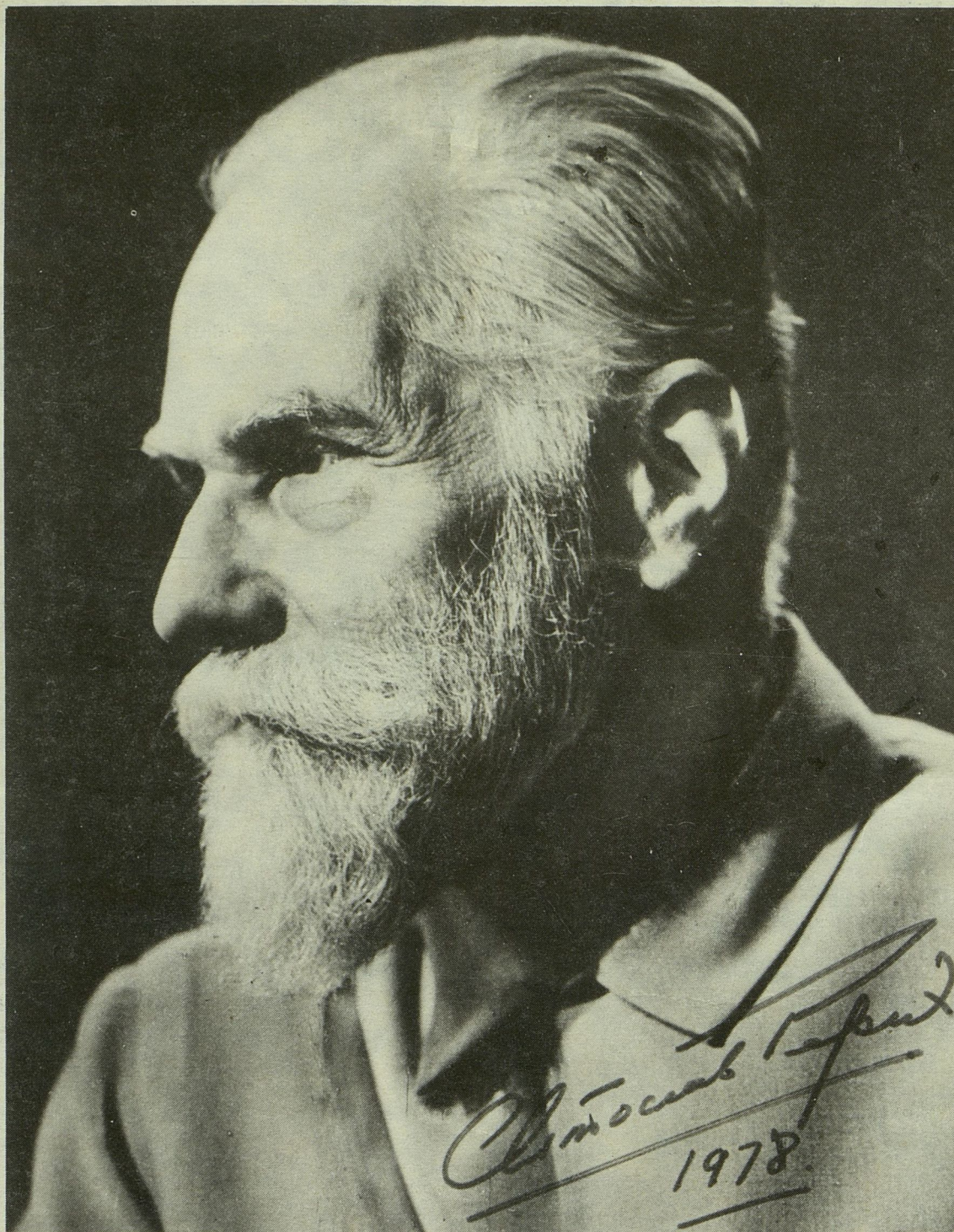
EDITOR'S COLUMN

Dear Reader,

On October 29 this year, the Young Communist League of the Soviet Union (YCL) will mark its 66th anniversary. With a membership of 42 million, 68 per cent of the entire

Soviet Land

OCTOBER 1984 NO. 20



Greetings to Svetoslav Roerich on 80th Birthday

ON OCTOBER 23, 1984, THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF THE OUTSTANDING RUSSIAN ARTIST, SVETOSLAV ROERICH, WILL BE CELEBRATED. ON THIS OCCASION THE SOVIET LAND MAGAZINE EXTENDS TO HIM WARM GREETINGS AND WISHES HIM HEALTH, HAPPINESS, AND A LONG AND FRUITFUL LIFE.

Svetoslav Roerich was born in St. Petersburg (now Leningrad) on October 23, 1904. Like his father Nikolai Roerich, the great painter, philosopher, writer and archaeologist, Svetoslav's aesthetic quest and creative urge linked him inextricably with Indian culture. This celebrated artist has been living in India for the last 50 years. His name has now become the symbol of the close relationship between the Russian and Indian cultures. His works show with striking clarity that this relationship is neither

mechanical nor artificial but natural and organic. His fine aesthetic endeavour not only expresses but also enriches the spiritual relationship between the two countries.

The Soviet people take great interest in the works of both Nikolai Roerich and Svetoslav Roerich. Regular exhibitions of their paintings are held in different parts of the Soviet Union and they invariably attract a great number of visitors. Practically all the picture galleries in the country have their canvases.

Svetoslav is a keen observer of our time, and his philosophy is analytical rather than visionary. Fundamentally, in both father and son, there is the same comprehensive vision of life.

Svetoslav Roerich has worked in many genres. His style and art are entirely original. He has painted portraits, landscapes, compositions like his fascinating series "My Neighbours".

"Nikolai Roerich," Svetoslav noted, "was never interested in portraits, but I took to them right away. In my

paintings, I have always placed man in the foreground." This statement is evidence of Svetoslav's profound faith in Man.

For his outstanding contribution to the promotion of peace and strengthening of the bonds of friendship between the peoples of the Soviet Union and India, Svetoslav Roerich was awarded the Soviet Land Nehru Award in 1976. He is also the proud recipient of the Diploma of the USSR Academy of Arts and is an Honorary Member of the Academy. **

