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SPEECH MADE BY SHRI S.A.MASUD

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the President of the Calcutta Art Society, it is a great pleasure for me to extend a cordial welcome to you all. We have met here this evening to honour and offer felicitations to Smt. Devika Rani, a historic figure in the cultural life of Bengal in the recent years. She has been the inspiration to the cinema participation by members of respectable families as Sisir K. Bhadhri was to the stage. It is impossible to forget her dynamic, sweet, charming personality in her memorable role in the film "Achut Kanya". Her presence in Calcutta after many many years has taken us to the good old days when the son "My Bonki Chiriya, Bob Bob Me Boloo Re" was hummed by people of undivided Bengal in every house and street of Calcutta.

We have also in the midst of us this evening her beloved husband, Dr. Roerich, a famous Painter in the true sense of the term. I beg to be excused if I remind the audience of a Bengali proverb, "Jon Jamai Bhagna, Keo Noy Apna" (which means a stranger son-in-law and a nephew (by sister's side) can never belong to you. It is well-known that son-in-laws have got to be kept in good humour in India to appease their vanity. I am telling all these for the reason that Devika is a daughter of Bengal ( ) and, Svet. Dr. Roerich is our son-in-law would he as proverbial son-in-law continue to be "angry" with us and would not he make us happy by condescending to have more frequent visits to West Bengal?

It is needless to mention that we are proud of Dr. Roerich and we do hope that one day the people of Calcutta will have the pleasure of seeing his magnificent paintings. We pray for their long life, health and happiness.

Mr. Justice S.A. Masud  
President of Calcutta Art Society.



Herewith the speeches by  
Mr. Justice S. A. Masud,  
President of Calcutta Art-  
Society, made on the 10<sup>th</sup>  
and the 11<sup>th</sup> February  
1971

Asif Ali Khan  
29/4/71



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