

July 16, 1936

Mrs. Lionel Sutro,
115 Central Park West,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mrs Sutro

Miss Grant called on me yesterday and handed to me with what appeared to be real anxiety Mr. Plaut's letter to her of July 14th. With Miss Grant's permission I am sending the letter on to you for your information. I call it Mr. Plaut's letter since it was evidently dictated by him, although it bears the firm's signature of Plaut & Davis.

You will note Mr. Plaut points out that although his firm has received a total of \$2,656 from Professor Roerich's friends since the middle of December yet nearly all of this has had to be applied by them to actual disbursements including reasonable overhead charges, and, as he expresses it, "there is practically nothing left ~~xxx~~ to compensate us for our services for the past seven months."

Mr. Plaut has recently pointed out verbally, that the immediate requirements of the pending referee action, for stenographers' fees (including the typing of a voluminous record), subpoena fees and similar charges, but not including either counsel or referee's fees, will amount to about \$500, and I have promised to provide this at once. Mr. Plaut expects to win the referee case, and to be able to place the court costs of same, including referee's fees, upon the defendant; but until the outcome of the referee's case is determined, there is a contingent liability there of over \$500 for referee's fees and court costs.

In addition he feels that he must ask at least \$500 "within a week or so" as a payment on account of counsel fees and another \$500 to be similarly applied in August.

Thus there appears to be at least \$1500 and possibly \$2000 that will be reasonably required by him before the end of August.

Personally I think Mr. Plaut and his firm have been exceedingly generous in postponing demand for their own compensation; and furthermore, I feel that their present request for moderate payments for their personal services are more than reasonable. As Mr. Plaut points out, the firm has applied itself to these matters (and as I know very arduously) for the past seven months, during which time they have initiated and in part fought no less than nine different suits on behalf of Professor Roerich and his associates. In my view the progress that has been made is far more than encouraging, and I feel that Mr. Plaut and his firm have handled the various matters have been most admirable. The amount of work that has been done is truly amazing. I had a superficial glance of their collected, collated and cross-indexed material the other day. It was exceedingly voluminous and showed a degree of painstaking attention and devotion to complainant's interest that in my view was and is most impressive.

I feel that something radical should be done at this time to provide them with funds to carry on with. I feel sure you will share my view as to this. Since you most kindly acquiesced in the request made of you that you serve as Treasurer for the informal little committee that is endeavoring to protect the Roerich interests in these matters, I am happy to enclose my check in your favor for \$1000 and shall be very grateful if you will forward same, suitably endorsed to Messrs. Plaut and Davis. I must leave the city tomorrow for four weeks. I feel that this \$1000 that I am transmitting will probably cover immediate requirements for the next four weeks but it appears evident that at least \$500 more will be needed in August and possibly twice as much.

We all know your devotion to this cause and the sense of outrage you feel at the course of those who have so betrayed the trust placed in them by Prof. Roerich and others. Do you think it would be at all possible for you to provide the August requirements? Certainly it would be a very great relief to our friends who have been so wronged and whose financial resources are so pitifully limited if you could do so. We all know, of course, that you will do what you can consistently with your many obligations, and with due regard to

needs that confront you,
I believe me,

Very sincerely yours,