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NAGGAR, Kulu, Punjab, Br. India

20-MAY-1937

Dear Friends,

I am writing to you not only as to our dear beloved friends, but as to American citizens also. The R. Museum in New York is the property of the Nation. Already since 1929 this our firm & definite decision has been published and made widely known. If now, after eight years, one of the signatories of this declaration breaks his word of honour, this of course cannot have any effect upon the entire body of other signatories, for whom this declaration is sacred. I am writing you, excluding all my personal feelings with regard to the Museum. A public institution has nothing in common with personal matters. When some hostile intention tries to harm a public institution then only public opinion can defend the integrity of it. I speak about a public institution, the activities of which have already been recorded in the life of America. This fact no one can deny. As an old worker in the field of education, I know how the psychology of the youth should be safeguarded. Every destructive attempt upon a public educational institution harmfully reacts upon the thought of the young generation. We all have worked a great deal for the protection of the Nation's artistic and scientific property. And now there stands up before us a threat against that, for what we have always so uni-

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tedly laboured. I am not an American citizen and this problem can only be solved by citizens of the United States, for it is their National property that is endangered.

Dear Friends, you know of many precedents in the history of your country. You know best, what steps can protect property of this kind. I call upon you to unite in order to consider seriously and undeferrably, what definite and efficient steps can be taken to avert the danger. I wish to emphasize that in this case I am not moved by personal feelings and that only you, American citizens, can take all appropriate measures to safeguard this American Institution.

In heart and thoughts with you

Nicholas Roerich .