

1

MEMORANDUM ON ACTIVITIES OF THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE
FOR THE ROERICH PACT AND THE BANNER OF PEACE

The Chairman wishes herewith to advise that the following communications have been issued from his office in behalf of the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace:

1. November 24, 1933

Immediately following the Third International Convention for the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace held in Washington, D.C. November 17-18, 1933, the Chairman issued letters transmitting the printed statement of Resolutions, together with the Draft of the Roerich Pact to 52 embassies and legations in Washington, D.C., as well as six further letters of transmittal addressed directly to the Governments of France, Finland, Hungary, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, which were sent in care of Dr. Chklaver in Paris.

In addition, a similar letter was sent also by the Chairman to the Secretary General, The Seventh International Conference of American States, Montevideo, Uruguay.

Altogether 38 acknowledgements were received.

2. January 2, 1934

On receipt of the official announcement concerning the unanimous Resolution of the Seventh International Conference of American States, recommending the adoption of the Roerich Pact and The Banner of Peace to the American Governments, a letter embodying the history of this Resolution was sent by the Chairman to the embassies and legations of 33 European and Eastern Governments. 19 acknowledgements were received.

3. February 26, 1934

In accordance with the recommendation of the Chairman, duly proposed, seconded and passed at a meeting of the Permanent Committee on February 1, replicas of the Banner of Peace were presented to the 35 governments participating in the Third International Convention, together with 35 letters of transmittal to the embassies in Washington, enclosing 35 further letters of presentation directed to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs. These letters were written over the signature of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary-General.

Gracious acknowledgements were received from all embassies, confirming transmittal of the Banner together with letter of presentation to their respective governments.

4. March 24, 1934

Over 300 letters were sent out by the Chairman, proposing the observance of a "Day of Culture" annually on November 17th, as well as the display of the Banner of Peace. These letters were addressed to the Honorary Members, as well as institutions and individuals who had given their endorsement to the Third International Convention for the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace.

Courteous acknowledgements were received from 43 institutions and individuals, and the Chairman is gratified to report that 11 Banners

were purchased outright, 2 further Banners requested as gifts, and a loan of 1 Banner made to two colleges for display during special Peace Conferences (Mt. Holyoke College and Dartmouth College). The following are among those displaying the Banner of Peace:

The Hon. Y. Ishimaru, over the Museum of the
Department of Education, Tokyo
Dudley Crafts Watson, Extension Lecturer,
Art Institute of Chicago
Crawley Museum of Art and Archaeology,
North Carolina
National Highways Association Museum,
Cape Cod, Massachusetts
Community Church, New York City
Dr. George B. Lake,
Offices of "Clinical Medicine
and Surgery," Chicago
Municipal Art Commission, City of Los Angeles,
California
A.M.O.R.C. Buildings, San Jose, California
New York Historical Society, N.Y.C.
School of Art and Applied Design, New York, N.Y.
Dallas Art Association, Dallas, Texas
Lehigh University
University of Florida
Buffalo Museum of Science
Hall of Nations,
City of Asbury, New Jersey

5. June 1, 1934

On May 28th came the announcement that the Government of Panama would adhere to the Roerich Pact, embodied in an official letter to the Chairman from His Excellency, Ricardo J. Alfaro, Minister of Panama.

Letters transmitting this announcement were sent to the 20 European and Eastern Governments which had been represented at the Convention. Altogether 11 acknowledgements were received.

6. September 17, 1934

Letters announcing that President Roosevelt had officially empowered the Honorable Henry A. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture, to sign the Roerich Pact on behalf of the Government of the United States, listing also the names of the South American governments which had thus far signified their adherence to the Roerich Pact, were sent to 48 embassies and legations in Washington, D.C. 36 acknowledgements were received, confirming the transmittal of this information to the respective governments.

In addition, 58 letters were sent to Speakers at the Convention, as well as Senators, Governors of States, officials and others in the Honorary Members list of the Convention, informing them of this advance. 16 acknowledgements were received from this group.

Similar letters of announcement were sent also to His Excellency, Katsuji Debuchi, the Hon. Kensuke Horinouchi, and the Hon. Y. Ishimaru.

7. December 17, 1934

With the approach of April 14th, 1935, the date set for the official signing of the Roerich Pact by the American Governments, letters have been sent to the embassies of the 13 South American Governments who have not yet signified their adherence to the Roerich Pact, announcing the Governments who have already done so and urging them likewise to vote their adherence.

Acknowledgements were received from 6 of the embassies confirming that they would again call the matter to the attention of their respective governments.

Further acknowledgement was received from the embassy of El Salvador, stating that their government had already empowered His Excellency, the Minister to sign the Roerich Pact on the 14th of April, 1935, and mentioning that the Pan American Union had been notified of this previously.

Costa Rica likewise confirmed their notification to the Pan American Union last May, stating that their Minister was empowered to sign the Roerich Pact "provided that all the other Republics of this Continent sign it."

8. December 24, 1934

Letters were sent to the 33 embassies of the European and Eastern Governments, announcing that the international depositary for the plenary powers on the Roerich Pact may be with the Permanent Committee, 310 Riverside Drive New York, and recalling the Resolutions of the Third International Convention authorizing this procedure. The splendid progress of the Roerich Pact among the American nations was again referred to, and the hope expressed that their Governments would likewise accede to the ratification of this Pact.

To-date, acknowledgements have been received from 11 embassies, confirming their communication of the announcement to their respective governments.

9. In addition to the above form letters, the Chairman has issued also the following special correspondence: Letter to the Secretary General of the League of Nations with reference to the action taken by the Museums Committee in Paris; Letter to His Excellency, Nicholas Khalil Bey, Charge d'Affaires of the Royal Egyptian Legation (Dec. 30, 1933); Letter to His Excellency, Edgar L.G. Prochnik, Minister of Austria (Jan. 10, 1934); individual correspondence with embassies in response to inquiries on the status of the Roerich Pact or in connection with the formal announcements (including Siam, Poland, Hungary, Nicaragua and Brazil); correspondence in regard to the copyright on the Banner of Peace.

Further, there have been sent out altogether 39 individual letters in response to special inquiries regarding the Banner of Peace and the Day of Culture.

Meetings of the Permanent Committee for the Roerich Pact were called by the Chairman on the following dates:

- December 7, 1933
- December 27, 1933
- February 1, 1934
- March 8, 1934
- March 26, 1934
- October 25, 1934

The Chairman wishes to state also, that drafts of all form letters and of letters of special import, were submitted by him first to the following members of the Permanent Committee, for approval or comment: Professor Ralph V.D. Magoffin; Dr. Charles Fleischer; Mr. Henry James Forman; Miss Frances R. Grant; Mrs. Sina G. Lichtmann; Mr. M. M. Lichtmann.

It has been the pleasure of the Chairman also, to place releases concerning the Roerich Pact with the World Telegram, through the courtesy of Miss Emily Genauer; and with the New York American, through Mr. Malcolm Vaughan.