

To His Excellency Professor Nicholas de Roerich

1
Confidential

CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE ROERICH PACT.-

Held at BRUGES- (Belgium) On September 13-15- 1931-

by GENERAL REPORT
Dr. George J. Chislaver, Secretary General, European Center of Roerich Museum.

The Pact for the protection of Art and Science in time of war, proposed by Professor de ROERICH in 1929, has met with ready response from Governments and Peoples of the World. In 1930, an important result was reached when the International Museums Office of the League of Nations expressed its approval of the Roerich Pact, and transmitted it for study to the International Committee of Intellectual Cooperation of the League of Nations.

During the whole of the year 1930, prominent personalities, in all the walks of life, have expressed their sympathy with the aims pursued by the Roerich Pact. More than 2000 letters and addresses have been received by Professor de Roerich, the Roerich Museum in New-York, and the European Center of the Roerich Museum in Paris. The progress of the "Banner of Peace" idea has been depicted in my general report of the sojourn of Professor de Roerich in Europe (April 11th-October 11th 1930) and also in my regular weekly reports.

In 1931, new important moves have been made. In February 1931, The International Institute of Intellectual Cooperation informed me that M. Camille TULPINCK, Member of the Royal Academy of Archeology of Belgium, was greatly interested in the Roerich Pact, and was willing to help in promoting Professor de Roerich's noble idea.

On February 12th 1931, I wrote to M. Camille Tulpinck a letter explaining the aims of our activity, and requesting M. Tulpinck to submit his plans to the European Center of the Roerich Museum. An extended correspondence followed, and M. Tulpinck, aided by a number of devoted friends, put up a plan for an international conference on the Roerich Pact, to be held at Bruges-(Belgium) in the Fall of 1931.

The Council of the Trustees of the Roerich Museum were pleased to approve the plan, and to extend to M. Tulpinck's Committee their moral and financial support. Henceforth an intensive work began, in order to prepare the Roerich Pact Conference, so as to give to that event a world wide significance, and make it worthy of the Master and of his sublime idea.

The plan developed into the creation of a permanent International Union for the Roerich Pact which would act under the general supervision of the European Center of the Roerich Museum.

The Honorary Presidency of the Conference was naturally offered to our Leader, Professor de Roerich, who has been pleased to address to the Conference a beautiful message.

The Honorary Protectorship of the Conference was assumed by His Excellency M. ADATCI, President of the Permanent Court of International Justice.

The Members of the diplomatic ^{Hon} Corps accredited at Brussels accepted to become Members of the Conference.

In answer to my request, addressed to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of France, the Minister (His Excellency M. Aristide Briand) informed me that he would be personally represented at the Conference by the Honorable

Monsieur Léon GUERMONPREZ, Consul of France. The President of the Municipal Council of the City of Paris also informed me that the City would be represented at the Bruges Conference, by Dr LOBLIGEIS, Member of and Secretary to the Municipal Council.

The French Academy of Moral and Political Sciences decided to become in corpore Honorary Member of the Conference. The French Academies of Fine Arts and of Medicine, voted resolutions approving the Roerich Pact.

More than 100 Cities sent expressions of their sympathy with the aims of the Roerich Pact. A book on the "Banner of Peace", containing 287 letters and addresses received on the subject has been published by the European Center of the Roerich Museum, acting under instructions from the Council of Trustees. The European Center has also published, in view of the conference, two series of postcards representing Professor de Roerich's paintings "Banner of Peace" and "Conflagration", the latter being a reproduction of Professor de Roerich's prophetic painting completed in 1914, and dedicated to Belgium.

On Friday, September 11th, I left for Brussels, where I had to see a number of diplomats and journalists who, in some way or other were to participate in the Bruges conference.

My first visit was to the French Embassy. I had a letter of introduction from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through the kindness of our friend Count FLEURY. I also called on the United-States Embassy, the Italian Embassy, and the Yugo-Slavia Legation. Everywhere I met with lively interest in the progress of the Roerich Pact, and utmost goodwill. The Ambassadors and Ministers, as noted above, consented to become Honorary Members of the Conference, with the exception of the United-States Ambassador who had no instructions on the subject..

I also had interviews with officials of the Brussels Municipality to make sure that the City of Brussels would be fittingly represented at the Conference.

I saw, too, a number of newspaper correspondants. Already before my departure from Paris, I had arranged with the head ^{offices.} of the New-York Times, the United Press of America, and the Associated Press of America, that they should instruct their correspondants in Belgium to cover the conference. Miss REID, of the New York Times, and Mr TRAUS of the Associated Press, have been particularly helpful at Brussels and Bruges; Mr McDonald, and Mr Whiteleather have aided me faithfully at their respective head offices in Paris.

After a busy night and morning at Brussels, I left for Bruges, where I arrived on Saturday September 12th. The ancient city was gay with American and French flags. All the Public Buildings were flying flags, and the traders had decorated their shops with flags, ribbons and flowers.

The whole of the population was interested in the Conference and on every occasion manifested its good will towards its guests.

As will be pointed out hereafter, in the paragraph devoted to Press Matters, local newspapers have published information on the Roerich Pact long in advance, preparing public opinion to welcome the conference. At the Saint-Georges Hotel, seat of the Roerich Museum Delegation, I was soon joined by my colleagues, to whom I owe here a few words of gratitude. The Delegation has worked throughout the conference in complete accord, and with the sole desire to serve the advancement of the Master's ideas.

Madame de VAUX- PHALIFAN, who presided the Delegation, conducted the proceedings with utmost dignity and conscientiousness.

His Excellency, Baron de TAUBE, impressed all the members of the Conference with his deep knowledge and great experience of diplomacy and international law.

Monsieur PEYRONNET helped us greatly with his knowledge of business, and his many associations with our hosts, the Belgian People.

Monsieur MARG CHESNEAU distinguished himself greatly in all the proceedings by his magnificent eloquence, and his *lively* devotion to the Master.

On Saturday night, the eve of the opening of the conference, we had a first meeting of the Members of the Delegation in order to establish the program of our action and the tactics to be followed.

The opening of the conference took place in great pomp, on September 13th, at 11 A.M. All the Members of the Conference gathered in the Historic Basilica of the Precious Blood, which stands in the main square of the City. The Banner of Peace was carried in front of our Delegation. The Arch-Priest of the Basilica with his Clergy officiated. After a low mass had been celebrated, our banner was brought near the altar, and the arch-Priest blessed it, spreading holy water upon it. When this ceremony was over, the procession crossed the square, among a great crowd cheering the banner and the Representatives of the Authorities.

At 3 o'clock P.M., the formal opening of the proceedings took place, in the beautiful Gubernatorial Palace, in the big hall of the Provincial Council, decorated with the coats of arms of the cities of Flanders. A great multitude of members filled the hall. Among those present, we may mention:

MM. GRASSENMEYER,
LEJEUNE d'ALLEJERSHECQUE
Melle Oda Van de WOESTYNE
M. Van PUYVELDE (Conservateur des Musées Royaux-Bruzelles)
M. le Baron Jean de BETHUNE
M. LIEBREGS.
M. le Sénateur Victor Van OBSTENBERGHE-Bourgmestre de Bruges
M. Le Commandeur André MOSCHETTI, Professeur, Représentant de la Ville de Padoue (Italie)
M. GASPARD, Archiviste
M. Van de VELDE.
M. le Commandant Major ROER, du 13^e Regt. d'Artillerie-Representing the Bruges garrison.
M. le Bourgmestre de COURTRAI.
M. Camille Van de WALLE.
M. DRUVERT, Representing the Belgian RED-CROSS.
M. HAUMONT, Director to the French Manufacture de Sèvres.
M. DELEN.
M. Van Den BERGHE.
M. STOPPELLE, Representing the town of Heslaye.
M. SALMON.
Her Grace the Duchess of SOMERSET (from England)
Mrs S.T. DUDLEY. (United-States)
H.E. M. Baron JENSSENS DE BISTHOVEN, Governor of the Flandre Occidentale

- Madame de VAUX-PHALIPAU, President of the European Center of the Roerich Museum.
- M. Georges CHKLAVER, Docteur en Droit, General Secretary of the European Center of the Roerich Museum.
- M. Camille TULPINCK, President of the International Union for the Roerich Pact.
- M. Le Baron Albert van CALVEN DE BAVEYLEN.
- M. Missotin
- Mme MISSOTIN.
- M. RENDERS
- H.E. Baron de TAUBE-Former Minister of Public Instruction of the Russian Empire, Vice-President of the Russian Section of the Friends of Roerich Museum Association.
- M. Professor ERCULLIS, Representing the Gaz Commission-Brussels.
- M. BURGGRAVE, President of the Rotary Club-Bruges.
- M. MARC CHESNEAU-Homme de Lettres-Membre du Comité de l'Association Française des Amis du Roerich Museum.
- M. de VRIENDT.
- M. AOMS, Burgomaster of Tessengerlov.
- M. BENISOVITCH-Member of the French Association of Friends of Roerich M.
- Mme Van PUYVELDE
- M. SCHEPPEN
- H. LABISSE
- M. Le Chanoine GILLS, representing H.E. Bishop of Namur.
- H.E. M. SALTAFERAS-Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoyé extraordinary of Greece.
- M. Professor BONNEVIE.
- M. J. PEYRONNET-Vice-President of the French Ass. of Friends of R.M.
- M. CLOSSON, Directeur of the Royal Museums of Brussels.
- M. VAN OVERBECKE, Professor of Droit International at the University of Gand
- Me ANCOOT-Avocat, Bruges.
- Melle BARBET DE VAUX, Member of the French Ass. Of Roerich Museum
- M. REY DE VILLETTE, Architect, representing the Société des Gens de Lettres of France, the Société Française de Protection des Paysages, Sites et Monuments, the Société Française de Statistiques, the Société d'Economie de Paris, the Association des Techniciens Municipaux de France, Belgique, Suisse, Luxembourg.
- M. CRICK, Conservateur des Musées du Cinquantenaire.
- M. le Chanoine de SCHEVEL, Representing H.E. The Bishop of Bruges.
- M. le Chanoine EECKHOUT of the Royal Flenish Academy of Belgium.
- M. le Chanoine DESSAIN, Representing H.E. Cardinal Van ROBY, Arch-Bishop of Malines, M.
- M. l'Aumônier Militaire DUMON, representing the garrison of Bruges.
- Mg. NIVE, Abbé de St ANIRE. (Lophem)
- M. VOGELSANG; Delegate of the International Committee of Histoire de l'Art
- Miss REID, Correspondant of the New-York Times.
- M. TRAYES DE VVERBECKE.
- M. le Dr LOBLIGEON.-Member of the Paris Municipal Council-Representing the City of Paris.

M. le Dr VAN GELDER, Conservateurs des Musées de LA HAYE.
M. RENEYNGHE DE VOXVRIE, Avocat-Bruxelles.
M. BESSUET, Archiviste de Bruges.
M. LE BARON ZUYLEN VAN NUYVELT, archiviste à Bruges.
M. GEORGES VAN HONTERIJDE.
Mme la Comtesse d'URSEL.
M. Paul MEURISSE.

M. Camille TULPINCK declared the Conference opened. He read the message of welcome which His Majesty ALBERT I^{er}, King of the Belgians had been pleased to address to the Conference. The Royal message was received with loud cheers. Then, M. Tulpinck read a message of good-will from His Holiness the POPE, transmitted through the Cardinal PACELLI, Secretary of State. The Pope's message was also received with cheers. Then, M. Tulpinck delivered a most eloquent speech, the text of which will be found among the annexes to the present report.

After Mr Tulpinck's speech, I was called upon to explain the inception and purpose of the Roerich Pact. In my speech, I first mentioned our gratitude to H.M. King Albert, who is already holder of the Roerich Museum insignia, first class, and Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth whose ^{to} great interest in Art and Culture is well known throughout the world. (The Governor of Flanders, as Representative of Their Majesties, thanked me afterwards especially, for having mentioned the Queen in my speech) Then, I outlined the leading part played by Professor de ROERICH in the development of modern Art and Thought. I said how the idea of the Pact was conceived by Professor de Roerich as far back as 1904, how it was brought to light again in Professor de Roerich's writings in 1914, and, finally, how the plan was put before the League of Nations in 1929.

I mentioned the support which the Roerich Pact had received from the Governing Body of the International Museums' Office of the League of Nations. I explained how we intend to pursue our action in view of the final adoption of the Pact by all the nations of the world. I said also how the sublime Figure of our Master stands out among the Leaders of Modern Thought, and how greatly the whole of Humanity was indebted to him for all the Beauty and Knowledge which he had brought to the World.

After this introduction, Madame de Vaux Phalipau read Professor de Roerich's address to the Conference. The address was received with enthusiastic cheering and applause.

Then, were read the messages received from the Trustees of the Roerich Museum, from Dr Georges de Roerich, and Mr Svatoslav de Roerich. M. Beyaert, Secretary General of the Conference, read a number of messages received from outstanding personalities of Europe, America and Asia.

H.E. Baron de TAUBE, former Minister of Public Education of the Russian Empire, made a speech in the quality of special Delegate of the Council of Trustees of the Roerich Museum. Baron TAUBE made some illuminating remarks on the juridical aspects of the Roerich Pact and showed the significance of this new departure, in International Law.

The Roerich Pact, said Baron TAUBE, is a new important feature in the long chain of endeavours to mitigate the evils of war, which chain extends from the founding of the Red-Cross at Geneva in 1864 to the Brussels

Conference

of 1874 to the HAGUE Peace Conferences of 1899 and 1907 and to the Covenant of the League of Nations and the BRIAND-KELLOG Pact of 1927.

The speech of Baron TAUBE, in which he recalled his memories of the Peace Conferences of 1899 and 1907, and of the London Naval Conference of 1909 was received with much applause. Baron TAUBE said he considered Professor de ROERICH as one of the greatest personalities of our time.

Dr LOBLIGEIS, Member of the Paris Municipal Council, Delegate of the City of Paris read a magnificent address in which he recalled the message of the City of Paris to the Roerich Museum on the 17th of October 1929, when the new building of the Museum was inaugurated in New-York. He mentioned also the visit of Professor de Roerich to Paris in 1930, and how happy the Municipality of the Capital City of France had been to welcome our Leader as its Honoured Guest. Dr Lobligeis said that the authorities and the population of Paris are aware of the importance of the Roerich Pact, and that he can pledge the moral support of the City of Paris for Professor de Roerich's admirable proposal.

The eloquent address of Dr Lobligeis, speaking in the name of one of the greatest centers of culture, of the great and glorious City of Paris, produced a deep impression on those present, and was a new proof of the progress of Professor de Roerich's ideals throughout the world.

The next speaker was M. Auguste VIERSET, Chief of the Cabinet of the Burgomaster of Brussels. M. Vierset tendered the cordial greetings of the City of Brussels and of its heroic Burgomaster, M. Adolphe MAX, Minister of State. He said how the cities of Belgium, which have so grievously suffered on account of the war, are grateful to Professor de Roerich for his proposal to preserve the abodes of Art and Science from the havoc of hostilities. The Capital City of Belgium, said M. Vierset, salutes Professor de Roerich, and hopes that the Roerich Pact will be

adopted by all the nations.

Professor Andrea Moschetti, voiced the greetings of the ancient city of Padua, and of its Podestat, who has mandated him to support the Roerich Pact. Professor Moschetti said that the cities of Italy, which possess innumerable treasures of Art, will be happy to see the Banner, designed by Professor de Roerich hoisted over all the Churches, Museums and Universities.

M. Abbé Georges Eeckhout, spoke in Flemish, in the name of the Royal Academy of Flanders. He brought us the greetings of that Learned Body and declared that they enthusiastically support the Roerich Pact.

The Conference approved the text of a cable to be sent to His Majesty King Albert I, in appreciation of His Message. Amidst cheering and applause, the Conference voted the approval of the text of a cable to be sent to Professor de Roerich.

Then, the Conference adjourned. The Delegates gathered on the stairs of the Governor's Palace, from where they viewed a Parade of the local Societies and Guilds which passed by with their standards and banners. A Guard of Police in full dress was mounted, and a great multitude of citizens, who had gathered on the main square of the City, cheered the Roerich Pact Banner, which was carried in front of all the others. Then, the Roerich Banner was brought forth, and Madame de Vaux-Thalipau, President of the French Roerich Society, decorated it with the silk ribbons presented by the City of Bruges; then, headed by the Governor of West Flanders, and by the authorities, the Delegates crossed the square, and proceeded to the Town Hall, between a double row of standards and banners and amidst a cheering crowd.

At the Town Hall, the Delegates were received by the Burgomaster Senator Victor Van POESTENBERGHE and the Council of Aldermen. The Burgomaster made a very nice speech in Flemish, which he repeated in French and in English, expressing the feelings of the citizens of Bruges, their gratitude to Professor de Roerich, and their pride at the thought that their city had been chosen for the seat of the first Roerich Pact Conference. As a token of the City's devotion to the Master's Ideal, Senator Van Oostenberghe handed over to us a medal especially coined in honour of Professor de Roerich, bearing the City's Coat of Arms on one side, and Professor de Roerich's name on the other side. We handed over to the Burgomaster the insignia of the Roerich Museum, First Class and Diploma, in recognition of the City of Bruges merits in the service of Culture.

Tea was served to the guests of the City. In the evening, a reception was offered to the delegates by H.E. Baron Janssens de Bisthoven Governor of West Flanders.

During the night, I cabled a first report on the opening of the Conference to the Trustees of the Roerich Museum and wrote a letter to Mr Louis L. Horch, President of the Council of Trustees, depicting briefly the proceedings of the day.

The Conference met again on Monday morning, Sept. 14th at 10 A.M. in the Gothic Hall of the Governor's Palace.

Professor Van Overbeck, of the University of GHEENT, spoke on behalf of the Juridical Committee of the Conference.

Then, I gave a detailed report on the significance of the Roerich Pact from the stand point of International Law. I mentioned the various

objections which had been advanced against the Pact, and developed the arguments through which these objections can be refuted. My speech met with the general approval of the Conference. Then, in compliance with instructions I proposed that all the institutions which had adhered to the Roerich Pact should fly, already now, the Roerich Banner of Peace, so as to accustom the public to respect the Banner. A draft of resolution is transmitted to the 6th Committee.

Mademoiselle Van de Casteyne, and Dr Van Renynghe de Voxvrie pointed out the difficulties which may arise from abuses, if institutions not entitled to, special protection, were to fly the Banner. A strict control appears to be necessary. Perhaps that control could be organized by the Roerich Museum authorities, as long as the States have not yet ratified the agreement.

H.E. Baron de TAUBE makes some remarks on the difference between the juridical situation in America and in Europe : whereas in the United States all Universities, Museums, etc... are private corporations, in Europe, they depend entirely upon their respective Governments.

M. Van Renynghe de Voxvrie, Barrister at the Court of Appeals (Brussels) said that the Roerich Pact, and the American spirit which underlines it are a useful corrective to the *bureaucratic* usages of Europe.

Professor Moschetti, speaking in the name of the cities of Italy, depicted the admirable effort made by the cities of northern Italy during the war for the safeguard of their treasures. Professor Moschetti insisted on the necessity of establishing a catalogue, of all the monuments and works of Art to be protected. He also pointed out how important it would be to establish in the General Staff of every Army, a special section, dealing

with the protection of Art, as had been done in the Italian Army during the Great War.

M. Marc Chesneau; Delegate of the French Roerich Society, made a beautiful speech on the best means to spread Professor Roerich's ideals among the general public. M. Marc Chesneau showed how the great masses in all countries can be brought up to cherish Beauty and Knowledge. "The People, said M. Chesneau, should be made to love what they are called on to defend." All strivings of individuals towards the ideal should be unified under the sign of Beauty.

M. Beyaert, Secretary General of the Conference, read a paper by M. DeGraeve, concluding that a draft resolution, similar to the one proposed by Professor Moschetti, i. e., the creation of special sections in Army Staffs for the safeguard of Works of Art (after the pattern of the Italian Army) The draft resolution is transmitted to the juridical Committee.

The afternoon meeting opened with a speech of M. Meurice, dealing with technical aspects of the application of the Roerich Pact. M. Meurice pointed out that the monuments which are to enjoy the special protection provided for by the Roerich Pact, should be marked on military maps. International Committees should be appointed by appropriate authorities to supervise the cataloguing of protected monuments, and to control the application of the Pact in case of military operations.

M. Rey de Villette, speaking on behalf of the "Société des Gens de Lettres" and other French Artistic and Learned Bodies, read a paper on the destruction of religious Monuments during the last 15 years. He mentioned that 3800 churches had been destroyed during the Great War. In Soviet Russia, some 25000 religious Buildings had been destroyed, among them, the famous Cathedral of Our Saviour in Moscow. M. Rey de Villette proposed that the

15

Conference should adopt a resolution requesting the Governments to protect the Monuments dedicated to religious worship. The draft resolution is transmitted to the juridical Committee.

Professor Van Overbeek, of the University of Ghent, delivered a speech in which he insisted on the double purpose of the Roerich Pact: Protection in time of War- and Protection in time of Peace. The Governments should be requested to perfect their internal ~~legislations~~ legislations pertaining to the protection of Art. Unfortunately, war can never be completely eliminated. In consequence of the terrible means of destruction which will be used in future wars, the juridical laboratory of the Roerich Pact Conference should propose to the world detailed regulations for the protection of the cultural treasures of Humanity.

M. OTTELET (Belgium) said that in 1914, he had been commissioned to find means for protecting the artistic treasures of Belgium during the invasion and occupation of the country by the enemy. A special emblem was then lacking; it is now provided for by the Roerich Pact. Works of Art are really the property of Humanity. Just as the City of the Vatican is, since the treaties of Latran a neutralized territory, serving as a refuge for the highest authorities of the Catholic Church, special neutralized places should be provided for the preservation of Works of Art.

Baron Van Zuylen Van Nijvelte spoke of the preservation of historic archives. He showed how many treasures, documents and historic records had been lost or destroyed during the Great War. The Roerich Pact should be applied also to the preservation of the archives of States, Cities, and public Institutions.

Professor Erculisse (Brussels) read a paper in the name of the Scientific Committee of the Conference. Professor Erculisse who is at the

head of the Gas Committee in Belgium declared that the protective measures against the deadly effects of gas attacks were not hopeless . Experts had devised means of protecting the civilian population from such attacks. They could find also means for protecting Works of Art and Monuments against attacks by poisonous gas and from attacks from the air. Professor Erculisse said, that appropriate installations should be established in time of peace and special courses of instruction given to the personnel.

M. Van Puyvelde , Director-General of the Royal Museums of Belgium said he believed in the possibility of humanizing the rules of war. He had faith in the Roerich Pact , and in the future efficiency of its provisions. A special Committee should be appointed to devise the technical means of protection.

M. Tulpinck, President, thanked the various committees of the Conference for the results they had achieved.

In the evening a concert of the famous bells of Bruges was given in honour of the Delegates. This was a beautiful performance, the bells playing Beethoven's and Shumann's music with utmost refinement .

In the night, I cabled to New-York a short surmise of the events of the day, and wrote a letter to Mr Lewis L. HORCH, President of the Council of Trustees of the Roerich Museum.

The meeting of Tuesday, September 15th was opened at the Governor's Palace at 10 A.M. MR TULPINCK, President, informed the Conference that a number of Belgian Cities had sent in their adhesion to the Roerich Pact, thus manifesting a deep understanding of the significance of Professor de Roerich's proposal.

I read a cable from the Trustees of the Roerich Museum, expressing their appreciation of the first results of the Conference. I read also a number of messages addressed to the Conference by various Institutions.

Professor MOSCHETTI said that the Conference ^{should} had arrived at practical conclusions, such as can be accepted by the Governments

M. VAN FUYVELDE, Director of the Royal Museums of Belgium, speaking in his quality of "Observer" of the International Committee of "History of Art" seconded Professor Moschetti's declaration, and said he would see with pleasure the City of Bruges become a permanent center for the activities in favour of the Roerich Pact.

I expressed my complete agreement with the ideas of the precedent speakers, and moved that all the draft resolutions should be submitted en bloc to the plenary sitting of the Conference in the afternoon. I said also that the European Center of the Roerich Museum would be glad to cooperate ^{with} it with the International Union for the Roerich Pact of which Bruges would become the permanent seat. The Union may work, henceforth, as an affiliated Institution of the European Center, under the latter's general supervision.

M. MARC CHESNEAU moved that the Bruges permanent Committee should be entrusted with executive powers in the limits of the Conference's resolutions.

18

Professor MOSCHETTI again pointed out the urgency of arriving at positive results. The Briand-Kellogg^{Pact} does not abolish war altogether; we must think to minimize the ravages of war. The Roerich Pact is applicable not only in time of War, but also in time of Peace. The Pact will prepare the ground, will strengthen respect of Art and Science; it will help in the preservation of the World's treasures. To achieve these results, we must create a powerful organization with a precisely defined field of action. A permanent Committee at Bruges will certainly succeed in establishing the basis for such an action. In future wars, every new invention, and means of destruction will be used. Of course, no one thinks of going to war, but we should avail ourselves of every opportunity to safeguard the treasures of art. May be some territory or country may be neutralized and serve as a refuge for Works of Art. Naturally, the idea of such a ~~secret~~ Refuge is not applicable to ^mmovables, but as regards buildings too, various measures of protection can be taken, as has been done in Northern Italy during the Great War.

M. Vogelsang (Holland) said that the "Comité International de l'Histoire de l'Art" which is an important organization, comprising artists and historians of many countries would willingly cooperate in promoting ~~with~~ the work of salvation under the sign of the Roerich Pact.

M. SALMON, Chief of the City Engineering Department (Bruges) gave some interesting details of the measures of protection taken in Bruges during the war.

Madame de Vaux-Phalipau expressed the wish that an Experts Committee should be formed in every country. The various Committees should transmit their proposals to the permanent organization at Bruges. Madame de Vaux-Phalipau dwelt especially on the preservation of artistic treasures contained in the private collections in ancient manors and castles.

19

M. REY DE VILLETTE- (France) said that it is highly desirable that we should have official catalogues and maps (topographic and geographical) of natural sites to be preserved.

Then, the Conference, sitting as draft committee, discussed the texts of the various resolutions submitted to the Delegates.

In compliance with instructions, I defended the proposition, inviting the institutions which had already adhered to the Roerich Pact, to ^{house} already now the Banner of Peace; of course, so far as local conditions and legislation will permit. I was supported by Madame de Vaux-Thalipau, Baron de Taube, M. Peyronnet, M. Marc Chesneau, and also by Professor Van Overbeck (Ghent University) and M. Beyaert, Secretary General of the Conference, and the Delegates of Governments and Cities, those of France, Belgium, Holland, Italy, etc..., objected that in their respective countries as in all ^{of the} European countries, Museums, Universities, Historical Buildings, etc..., practically depended upon their Governments, and should do nothing, until authorized by their respective Ministers.

After a lively debate, it was decided to refer to the plenary Session to be held in the afternoon, a draft resolution requesting the governments to ratify the Roerich Pact as soon as possible.

During the intermission between the morning and the afternoon meetings, I had an interview with Her Grace, the Duchess of Somerset and with Mrs Dudley, concerning the possibilities for an extension of our Work in Great Britain.

At 3.0'clock P.M., the sitting was resumed. I rose for an important communication to the Conference : a cable which I had just received from Paris, announcing that the President of the French Republic

had conferred upon Professor de Roerich the Knighthood of the Legion of Honour. This communication was received with a thunder of applause and cries of "Vive Roerich!". Honourable Leon GUERMONPREZ, representing H.E. Monsieur A. Briand, Minister of Foreign Affairs, expressed his pleasure at seeing the merits of such a great friend of France as Professor de Roerich, recognized by the Government of the Republic.

I then announced that the insignia of the Roerich Museum, first class, was awarded to M. Camille TULPINCK, President of the Conference, the insignia second class, to H.E. Baron Janssens Von BISTROVEN, Governor of West Flanders, and to Burgomaster, Von Oestenbergh, Senator of the Kingdom. A certain number of insignias 3d and 4th class, were also awarded to the Secretary of the Conference, (M. Beyaert) the Commissioner General (M. Storie) and to the secretaries of the authorized sections of the Conference.

The Conference examined the various draft resolutions submitted by the sections and special committees. Each resolution was the occasion of interesting debates, in which almost of the Members participated, expressing the views of their respective Governments, Cities and organizations.

The resolutions ran as follows:

"The First Congress of the International Union for the Roerich Pact expresses the wish that:

(1)- A declaration affirming the principles pertaining to the Protection of Works of Art should be solicited from the Powers, whose Representatives will be assembled at the Disarmament Conference at Geneva, in

(2)- The Permanent Committee of the International Union for the Roerich Pact should do every effort to insure the adoption of the Roerich Pact and the recognition of the Roerich Peace Banner by all States in the shortest possible time.

[not to be published until official text is communicated by the Bruges Committee]

(3)- The Congress request of the Governments to protect all the buildings dedicated to worship, and generally to the Monuments bequeathed to us by past generations.

(4)- A Section, dealing especially with the protection of Works of Art, on the theater of military operations, should be created in the General Staff of every army.

(5)- Instructions as to the protection of Works of Art and of Nature should be given in all schools. Children should be made to love Art and Beauty.

(6)- The "Comité International d'Histoire de l'Art", and all scientific, artistic, and cultural organisations throughout the World, should be requested to cooperate with the International Union for the Roerich Pact in view of the attainment of the Union's aims.

7°- The City of Bruges should become the Center of all activities in favour of the adoption of the Roerich Pact. A permanent Committee will be formed, and will work in close cooperation with the European Center of the Roerich Museum at Paris.

The text of a cable to the Trustees of the Roerich Museum is adopted by the Conference. M. Van Puyvelde, and Professor Moschetti expressed the thanks of the Delegates to the Organizers of the Conference .

Madame de Vaux-Phalipan and I said how gratifying the Work of the Bruges Conference would be to Professor ROERICH, and the Roerich Museum Authorities.

After a final inspiring speech of M. Camille TULPINCK, the Conference was closed amidst renewed cheers in honour of Professor De Roerich and the Roerich Pact.

In the evening, a reception was offered to the local authorities and the Delegates, at the Hotel Saint Georges, by the Roerich Museum Delegation.

The reception was very brilliant and was attended by a great number of guests. The Governor of West Flanders, who, on that occasion, represented His Majesty, the King of the Belgians, was met at the doors of the Hotel by the Officials of the Conference and led into the big hall. There, with a few appropriate words, I handed over to H.E. the insignia of the Roerich Museum, second class.

The Governor thanked for this distinction, and promised his cooperation in our future activities.

During the night, I cabled to the Trustees of the Roerich Museum, and wrote a letter to President Lewis L. HORCH.

Throughout the Conference, I have made every effort to ensure a wide publicity in the Press. At my request, photographs were taken during the various manifestations at Bruges. Each day, I prepared a communiqué for the Press, and sent ^{copies of} these communiqués to the newspapers.

As mentioned already in the present report, several Press Correspondents- among them, especially Miss Reid of the New-York Times- helped me efficiently. I must mention, too, M. Carl BEYAERT, Barrister at the Court of Appeals, Brussels, Assistant Secretary of the Conference, who helped me as regards the relations with the Belgian ~~Knights~~ ^{Knights}. *Ben*

The Press Dept of the Roerich Museum, under the able and energetic leadership of our/co-worker, Miss Frances R. GRANT, succeeded in spreading the news about the Conference in both Americas and in the Far

East. Therefore, our efforts were concentrated to Europe. The following newspapers have published communiques about the Conference:

Belgium- Le Soir- Le Bien Public- ~~l'Ere Nouvelle~~- La Flandre Libérale- De Vrije Burger- La Nation Belge- Le Rouge et le Noir- Le Journal de Bruges- Le Courrier de l'Armée-.

France- Le Temps- L'Oeuvre- Le Journal des Débats- la Journée Industrielle- La République- Comœdia- La Croix- La Volonté- Le Petit Parisien- Le Petit Journal- Excelsior- l'ami du Peuple. Le Matin-

Daily Telegraph

l'Ere Nouvelle

Prager Press

Riga News

Renaissance, etc.....

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. George G. Chklaver

Secretary General.