

The Third International Roerich Peace Banner Convention  
Held in Washington, D.C. on November 17th and 18th, 1933  
Report by the Chairman

The Third International Roerich Peace Banner Convention opened on November 17th at three o'clock in the presence of an audience composed of the highest representatives of the diplomatic corps, United States Government officials, and leaders in the field of art, science and religion.

Already before three o'clock, when the Convention opened, the Hall was filled. The great interest manifested has been evidenced also in the continued articles carried by the Washington newspapers in regard to this great cultural event, during the past two months.

It is only attempted here to give a brief resume of the proceedings, the complete addresses as well as the hundreds of messages received from all over the world - from the highest officials and from cultural institutions, will be published in the Proceedings.

The Hall was magnificently decorated with the flags of all nations; and the entire galleries were decorated with greens and flowers. Naturally, behind the Speakers, was prominently displayed the large flag of the United States, flanked on either side by the Roerich Banner of Peace, and the Roerich Museum flag. On one side of the platform was placed the painting of Professor Nicholas Roerich, and on the other side, a painting of the President of the United States. Near the entrance through which the distinguished guests came in, was placed the large painting of Professor Nicholas Roerich, by Mr. S. Roerich, and this was also surrounded by flowers.

Permanent seats were reserved throughout the three sessions for the Delegates and Observers, each chair bearing a card with the name of the Delegate, and the Government he represented.



It is of significance that in addition to the 35 countries represented at this epochal Convention, there were among its sponsors Members of the Cabinet, an Associate Judge of the Supreme Court of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Heads of American Government Departments, 14 Senators, 16 Governors of States, Members of Congress, Officials of the U.S. War and Navy Departments, heads of leading colleges, scientific institutions and libraries.

Among the Endorsers and Honorary Members were also great leaders in the field of international law, art and science from foreign countries.



Before the Convention was called to order by the Chairman, an International Broadcast was sent out to the world. The participants in this included the Honorable Henry A. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture; Professor Ralph Van Deman Magoffin, Honorary President of the Archaeological Institute of America; the Chairman, who introduced the speakers. Both the Honorable H. A. Wallace and Professor Magoffin spoke on the great purpose of the Convention, and extolled the humanitarian work of Professor Nicholas Roerich.

The list of Governments represented at the Convention, and the names of their Delegates or Observers, is as follows:

Argentina	-	-	The Hon. Senor Don Eduardo L. Vivot Second Secretary of the Embassy
Brazil	-	-	The Hon. E.B. Fraga de Castro Second Secretary of Embassy
Chile	-	-	His Excellency, Senor Don Manuel Trucco Ambassador of Chile
China	-	-	The Hon. Tswen-ling Tsui Second Secretary of the Legation
Colombia	-	-	The Hon. Dr. Lopez
Costa Rica	-	-	The Hon. Senor Don Manuel Gonzalez-Zeledon Charge d'Affaires
Czechoslovakia	-	-	His Excellency, Dr. Ferdinand Veverka Minister of Czechoslovakia
Dominican Republic	-	-	The Hon. Senor Don Agustin Acevedo Feliu First Secretary of the Legation
Ecuador	-	-	His Excellency, Senor Capitan Colon Eloy Alfaro Minister of Ecuador
Greece	-	-	His Excellency, Charalambos Simopoulos Minister of Greece
Guatemala	-	-	His Excellency, Senor Dr. Don Adrian Recinos Minister of Guatemala



Honduras	-	-	His Excellency, Senor Dr. Don Miguel Paz Baraona, Minister of Honduras
Irish Free State	-	-	His Excellency, Michael MacWhite Minister of the Irish Free State
Japan	-	-	The Hon. Toshihiko Taketomi Counselor of the Embassy
Lithuania	-	-	The Hon. Dr. Mikas Bardonas Secretary of the Legation
Nicaragua	-	-	The Hon. Senor Dr. Don Henri de Bayle Charge d'Affaires
Panama	-	-	His Excellency, Senor Dr. Ricardo J. Alfaro Minister of Panama
Paraguay	-	-	His Excellency, Senor Dr. Don Enrique Bordenave Minister of Paraguay
Persia	-	-	His Excellency, Ghaffar Khan Djalal Minister of Persia
Peru	-	-	The Hon. Dr. Juan Mendoza Almenara First Secretary of the Embassy
Poland	-	-	The Hon. Edward Weintal Attache of the Embassy
Portugal	-	-	His Excellency, Dr. Joao Antonio de Bianchi Minister of Portugal
Spain	-	-	The Honorable Senor Don Ramon Padilla y de Satrustegui. Second Secretary of Embassy
Switzerland	-	-	His Excellency, Marc Peter Minister of Switzerland
United States of America	-	-	The Hon. Henry A. Wallace Secretary of Agriculture
Venezuela	-	-	His Excellency, Senor Dr. Don Pedro Manuel Arcaya. Minister of Venezuela
Yugoslavia	-	-	The Hon. Dr. Ivan Franges Secretary of the Legation

Observers

Albania	-	-	His Excellency, Faik Konitza Minister of Albania
Belgium	-	-	The Hon. Gerard Walravens Attache of the Belgian Embassy

(over)



## (Observers, continued)

France - - - The Hon. Count Pierre de Leusse  
Attache of Embassy

Germany - - - The Hon. Werner Schuller  
Second Secretary of Embassy

Italy - - - The Hon. Giuseppe Tommasi  
Attache of Embassy

Netherlands - - The Hon. Baron B. van Loen  
First Chancellor of the Legation

Turkey - - - The Hon. Ussaki zade Bulent  
Second Secretary of Embassy

Hungary - (according to telegraphic advice received from  
Dr. Chklaver, European Center)

A program of the Convention is also attached, from which will be seen that some of the acceptances came in too late to be included in the program, specifically: France, Germany, Albania, Lithuania, Paraguay, *Hungary*, Brazil and Costa Rica. This is true also of the Honorary Members whose acceptances were received too late to have the names printed in the official program.

~~Despite xables x from x the x European x Center x that x is x not x possible x~~

The Afternoon Session

At 3:05 p.m., on November 17th, 1933, the Chairman called the Convention to order.

A beautiful Invocation was made by a famous Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Bishop J.E. Freeman, Bishop of Washington, who later on delivered also an inspiring address.

The Honorable Henry A. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture, then



gave a warm greeting to the assembly.

This was followed by the greeting of the Chairman, who expressed his welcome to the high representatives of all nations present, to the special delegates, and to the general audience. Introducing the high purposes of the Convention, and paying the highest homage and tribute to the great creator of the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace, the Chairman read the Address of Professor Nicholas Roerich to the Third International Roerich Peace Banner Convention, which was received with great applause. A Resolution was passed to send Professor Roerich a vote of thanks for his significant contribution.

An excellent speech was made by the Honorable James P. Pope, United States Senator, who very forcefully spoke of the need of the Roerich Banner of Peace.

The Honorable Sol Bloom, Member of Congress, praised highly the work of the Roerich Museum, stating how proud he was that the Roerich Museum was situated in his congressional district, and that he felt himself most privileged to assist the Museum in its endeavors.

A full report of the addresses made by the Delegates from the various nations will appear in the Proceedings. However, it is desired here to state that these were most significant, indicating the full sympathy and support of the respective Governments for the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace.

Dr. Charles Fleischer spoke beautifully about the Banner of Light.



The Venezuelan Minister made an address, affirming that the plan outlined to this end by the Roerich Museum deserves the warmest praise.

The Minister of Panama spoke to the Convention in a ringing address, stating that he personally, as well as his government, fully endorse the Banner of Peace, stating that the idea underlying this Congress cannot but elicit the approbation and the support of all those who have in their heart the love of peace and the aspiration to diminish in every respect the calamities of war.

The Delegate from the Dominican Republic stated that the Dominican Republic has received with enthusiasm and sympathy the idea advanced by Professor Nicholas Roerich, of creating a "Banner of Peace" and that they consider this a humanitarian work.

The Minister of Persia was received with applause. He spoke with deep feeling and understanding of the need of the Roerich Pact, pointing out the great treasures of his country which should be protected, and adding that his country fully supports the noble creation of Professor Roerich.

The Delegate from Nicaragua strongly endorsed the Banner of Peace, saying that it is of paramount importance not only to the present generation, but to future generations.

The Chinese Delegate made a very friendly and warm speech in favor of the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace, saying that the Roerich Museum deserves the good wishes of all people for sponsoring this Convention.



Dr. Ales Hrdlicka, of the Smithsonian Institution spoke from the scientific point of view.

Mrs. Sina Lichtman addressed the Convention, speaking of the great achievements of Professor Roerich, and high esteem in which he is held. ~~Her address was warmly received.~~

Mr. Leon Dabo made a fiery speech, calling attention to the great destructions of the cultural treasures of the world.

Dr. Henry James Forman was the concluding speaker of this Session. Dr. Forman drew a parallel between the history of the Red Cross, and the Roerich Pact, speaking at length about the difficulties of the Red Cross in its early beginnings, and of the obstacles which were encountered by Dr. Dunant.

#### The Evening Session

The Evening Session was opened at 8:37, ~~which was quite remarkable for America, where usually events start half an hour, or three quarters of an hour later.~~ It was a brilliant event. Very picturesque was Rear Admiral Taussig in his full dress uniform, as well as the numerous diplomats in the audience. It is fitting to state here, also, the great admiration which was expressed for the program of the Convention, bearing the beautiful reproduction of Professor Roerich's painting, "Madonna Protectrix."

Much appreciation was expressed also for the wide variety of Speakers, who discussed all angles from which the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace might be viewed.



The Most Reverend James H. Ryan, Bishop of Modra and Rector of the Catholic University of America, opened with an inspiring Invocation.

The Honorable E. Gil Borges, Acting Director of the Pan American Union, spoke in beautiful terms of the Pact and Banner, and also read a very warm message from the Director of the Pan American Union, Dr. Leo E. Rowe, expressing full sympathy for the Pact.

Messages were read by the Chairman from some of the leading United States governmental officials, among them Secretary of Commerce, Daniel C. Roper; U.S. Senator Key Pittman, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee; U.S. Senator Robert F. Wagner, Honorary Chairman of the Convention; messages were also read by the Chairman from some of the distinguished leaders from abroad. Announcement was further made by the Chairman that a full report of messages, letters, telegrams and cables received for the Convention, would be printed in the Proceedings, but that these could not all be read at the Session, since otherwise the Session would have lasted for hours.

His Excellency, Dr. Ferdinand Veverka, the Minister of Czechoslovakia, spoke of the full adherence of his government to the Pact, and highly praised the work of Professor Roerich.

Mrs. Nettie S. Horch then spoke in behalf of the 68 Societies which she represented, expressing also the great influence of Professor Roerich as a cultural Leader. Her address was warmly received.



Rear Admiral Taussig made an admirable address, stating that the Navy would fully support the Roerich Pact.

Dr. James B. Scott, Doctor of International Law, and Director of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, made an inspiring address in behalf of the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace, which was followed with deep interest, and appreciated highly. In his speech he mentioned Dr. George Chklaver, and Professor de La Pradelle. Moreover, Dr. Scott was so heartily in favor of the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace, that he gave Miss E.J. Lichtmann the proxy to vote for him, in favor of the Pact, should he not be present the following morning, when the Chairman had announced the Committee on Resolutions would give their report of all Resolutions presented, for a general vote.

Miss Esther J. Lichtmann read some of the addresses received from France in the French language, and then addressed the audience on the significance of the Roerich Banner and Pact, extolling the lofty ideals of our great Leader. This was warmly received.

The Irish Minister then made a beautiful address, stating the fullest cooperation of his government and mentioning in his address that the old Irish castles, temples and shrines should be protected and preserved from further demolition, and advocating strongly the adoption of the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace.



The Honorable Toshihiko Taketomi, Official Delegate of the Imperial Japanese Government, addressed the Convention, speaking in highest terms of the Roerich Banner of Peace. The Delegate mentioned that on the day of the Convention, November 17th, the Roerich Banner of Peace was being unfurled over the Library and Museum in Tokyo. This historic announcement was received with great applause and enthusiasm.

The Chairman indicated also other parts of the world where the Roerich Banner of Peace was being displayed in connection with the Convention held in Washington.

Professor Ralph V.D. Magoffin, Honorary President of the Archaeological Institute of America, made a fine address as representative of the world of Archaeology.

Dr. Frederick B. Robinson, President of the College of the City of New York, one of the largest colleges in America, especially stressed the need of the Banner during Peace times.



Miss Frances R. Grant addressed the Convention, speaking in highest terms of Professor Nicholas Roerich and the Banner of Peace. Her fine address was received with acclaim.

The final address of the evening was delivered by the Honorable Henry A. Wallace, the Protector of the Third International Roerich Peace Banner Convention. The Honorable Secretary Wallace represented the U.S. Government as official Delegate, and read also the address of the Honorable Cordell Hull, Secretary of State, who is at present in South America. The message of Secretary Hull was received with applause. It is of interest to note the statement of the Honorable H.A. Wallace, that the discussion of the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace, had made much deeper the friendship between himself and the Honorable Secretary of State.

Mr. Secretary Wallace read also his own excellent address, in full support of the Roerich Pact, affirming it as a great need against the background of present day conditions. His speech was received with great applause, and the Chairman thanked the Hon. Mr. Wallace for his cooperation.

We wish to remark here that a number of the speakers referred to the Convention as a great historic event, and prefaced the reading of their addresses with the statement that they wished to present their written messages, rather than speaking extemporaneously, since they wished to be careful of the expressions that would go on record.

The Chairman adjourned the Evening Session.



The Morning Session, November 18th

The third and final session of the program started promptly at 10:30 a .m.

Among the speakers at this session was the Honorable Senor Don Eduardo L. Vivot, Second Secretary of the Argentina Republic, who made a glowing speech of the endorsement by the Argentine Government, of the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace.

Mrs. Grace Morrison Poole addressed the audience, expressing her sympathy for the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace, in behalf of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, numbering over 5,000,000 members.

Mr. George Grebenstchikoff, President of the Siberian Roerich Society, read his interesting address in English.

Mr. Maurice M. Lichtmann made a splendid address, which was very well received.

General Alfredo de Leon, President of the Colombian Roerich Society, made an excellent speech.

Dr. Emanuel de Marnay Baruch, President of the Goethe Society, spoke in glowing terms of the Pact.



Messages were read aloud to the Convention from Dr. Georges de Roerich, Dr. George Chklaver, Baron de Taube, Mme. de Vaux Phalipau, Professor Le Fur, Professor de La Pradelle, Alexandre Alvarez, the League of Nations, the French Red Cross, the Himalayan Roerich Association, as well as many other messages from foreign and American individuals and institutions.



Of deep interest was the address of the Ven. Anagarika, President of the Universal Union for the Diffusion of Budhio Philosophy, who made an excellent and inspiring address in behalf of the Budhio world. This was warmly received.

He look most picturesque in his yellow robe.

The Rev. Anagarika highly endorsed the achievements of Professor Roerich. He stated that in behalf of the Budhio world, representing one third of the entire population of the world, he endorses the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace.

Mr. J. G. Phelps Stokes spoke in glowing terms about the Pact, also referring to it as the Pact of Light.

A word was spoken by Mrs. Ida Jolly Crawley, Director of the Crawley Museum of Art and Archaeology, who will hoist the Banner over that Museum as of November 17th.

At 11:30 sharp, the Chairman called on the Committee of Resolutions for their report. Mr. Arthur E. Cook, as representative of this Committee, made the following statements:

(See pages 13, 14, 15, 16)



REPORT OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

The Committee on Resolutions has considered and now presents  
the following Resolutions, which have been submitted, and  
believing that they crystallize the sentiment and desires of  
this Convention, recommends their adoption:



Resolution No. 1

WHEREAS the World's cultural achievements constitute the greatest treasures of the human race, and are the coming heritage of all humanity,

AND WHEREAS injury to these treasures is a violence against the common benefits of mankind and of the future,

AND WHEREAS the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace have been created by Nicholas Roerich, internationally renowned artist and cultural leader, for the protection of churches, museums, libraries, universities, and other monuments and treasures of culture and all natural sites and their designation by the Banner of Peace as inviolable and neutral at all times,

AND WHEREAS the Roerich Pact has been unanimously endorsed by the International Museums' Committee of the League of Nations as well as by numerous governmental and learned bodies and numerous leaders in the world of culture,

AND WHEREAS the efficacy of this cause depends upon its adoption and application by the nations,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Third International Convention for the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace recommend the adoption of this humanitarian measure by the nations, and implore Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States, again to demonstrate his noble attitude towards the cause of cultural protection, by adopting this measure and sponsoring its adoption by the other nations of the world.

BE IT RESOLVED that this Resolution be sent to Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States.



RESOLUTION NO. 2

WHEREAS the World's cultural achievements constitute the greatest treasures of the human race, and are the common heritage of all humanity,

AND WHEREAS injury to these treasures is a violence against the common benefits of mankind and of the future,

AND WHEREAS the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace have been created by Nicholas Roerich, internationally renowned artist and cultural leader, for the protection of churches and all religious monuments, temples and shrines, museums, libraries, universities, and other monuments and treasures of culture and all natural sites and their designation by the Banner of Peace as inviolable and neutral at all times,

AND WHEREAS the Roerich Pact has been unanimously endorsed by the International Museums' Committee of the League of Nations as well as by numerous governmental and learned bodies and numerous leaders in the world of culture,

AND WHEREAS the efficacy of this cause depends upon its adoption and application by the nations,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Third International Convention for the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace recommend the adoption of this humanitarian measure by the governments of all nations as a demonstration of the noble attitude of their people towards the cause of cultural protection and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the appropriate representative of each nation.



RESOLUTION NO. 3

WHEREAS the principles embodied in the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace lend themselves to adoption or adhesion by unilateral action through proclamations of the executive, by bilateral action, through international agreements, and by multilateral action through declarations of international conferences. Therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chairman of this Convention be directed to transmit copies of the Resolution recommending the adoption of this measure by all nations, through the proper channels to the Governments, to international conferences, and to international organizations working for peace and culture, for such action as they may consider appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) Arthur E. Cook

For the Committee.



These Resolutions presented above, were unanimously passed on and adopted. The Chairman wishes again to call attention to the fact to the forceful and unanimous manner in which these Resolutions were endorsed by the Delegates and general audience. After they had been passed, the Chairman addressed the Delegates and thanked them heartily for their cooperation, asking them please to convey to their respective governments the thanks of the Trustees of the Roerich Museum for their participation.

General Alfredo de Leon presented the following MOTION:

Dear Chairman:

It is highly desirable that the work and accomplishments of this Convention rapidly be carried forward to the end that the fulfillment of our ideals may be realized as quickly as possible.

I therefore move that the Chairman be directed to appoint a Permanent Committee for the Advancement of the adoption of the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace.

This Motion was unanimously adopted. The Chairman ~~thereby~~ appointed <sup>a number</sup> ~~certain~~ members <sup>of</sup> for the Permanent Committee. *Others to be appointed later by the chairman*

A ~~few~~ address was made by Dr. Call.

Dr. Kottner addressed the Convention in behalf of the youth of today.

Mr. Horch read messages from important personages received from all over the world.

Captain Dzambulatski, in his picturesque uniform of an Ossetian, made an address as representative of the European Center, which was received with applause.



At this time an international radio hook-up was effected.

Addresses were made by Dr. Charles Fleischer, Leon Dabo, and Miss Frances R. Grant, who acted as chairman. Mr. Leon Dabo addressed the radio audience also in French, German and Italian, while Miss Grant made an address in Spanish.

After the radio addresses were completed, the Convention was addressed by Mrs. Sundar Giffin, who spoke for the New England Roerich Society, and General by Mrs. Rabia Martin, who represented the National Sufi Movement in the Western World.

Mrs. Rothwell, President of the Shakespeare Society of Roerich Museum, as well as Mrs. Cullis, President of the Polish Institute of Arts and Letters, of Roerich Society, also addressed the assembly.

The Minister of Panama, His Excellency, Senor Dr. Ricardo J. Alfaro, asked to be recognized by the Chair, and then offered the following Resolutions:

Resolution 1. 1:

WHEREAS, this Convention was called together for the purpose of endorsing the high cultural achievements and ideals for the preservation of the priceless treasures of art, education and science advocated by Professor Nicholas Roerich,

AND WHEREAS this Convention has endorsed these ideals,

THEREFORE, be it resolved that this Third International Convention for the World Wide Adoption of the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace, recognizes, applauds and commends the high purpose of character and unceasing efforts



with which Professor Nicholas Roerich has carried on his great humanitarian work in the promotion of peace and culture,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Chairman be instructed to send a copy of this Resolution to Professor Roerich.

Motion Introduced by the Minister of Panama:

I wish to commend the ability and the very fine manner and spirit in which this Convention has been conducted and presided over by our Chairman. I therefore move that a vote of thanks be extended by the Convention.

The above resolutions by the Minister of Panama were unanimously passed.

The Chairman expressed his warmest thanks to the Minister of Panama, in behalf of Professor Nicholas Roerich as well as himself.

Miss Esther J. Lichtmann then introduced the following motion:

I move that a vote of thanks be extended to all the Delegates of the *all* ~~Foreign~~ nations who have cooperated so splendidly in this great cause of the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace. I bring the thanks of the Roerich Museum.

This was also unanimously passed.



One of the most striking addresses was made by the official Delegate from Colombia, who affirmed the acceptance by his Government of the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace.

In closing the Convention, the Chairman paid a high tribute to Professor Nicholas Roerich, the great leader of world culture, and expressed the hope that the Banner might soon be unfurled all over the world. The Chairman again thanked everyone of the participants who helped to make this Convention such an outstanding historic event.

The Convention was closed.

*Louis F. Storch*  
*Chairman Third International Roerich*  
*Pact and Banner of Peace*  
*Convention*