

December 30, 1933.

Your Excellency,

In behalf of the PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ADOPTION OF THE ROERICH PACT AND BANNER OF PEACE we wish to acknowledge Your letter of December 12, 1933, stating the regret of Your Excellency for the inability of the Egyptian Government to take any official action on the Resolutions adopted by the THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE ROERICH PACT AND BANNER OF PEACE held at Washington, D. C., November 17-18, 1933, even though interested in its endeavors, for the stated reason that the Resolutions are privately undertaken.

In reply we have the honor to advise Your Excellency that the Resolutions were presented to the Convention by the "Committee on Resolutions" of the Convention. Chairman of the latter Committee was the Honorable Henry A. Wallace, Member of the Cabinet of President Roosevelt, also official Representative of the United States Government at the Convention. The said Resolutions therefore can in no way be ascribed to private undertaking.

In view of the fact that the history of the endorsements and progress of the Roerich Pact are unfamiliar to Your Government, we beg to relate briefly the following chronological developments connected with the Pact, through which its international character and world significance has been undeniably established.

The "Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace" was created and promulgated by Nicholas Roerich for the protection of the treasures of human genius. The Pact, formally drafted as a document for international adhesion by Dr. Georges Chklaver, Doctor of International Law and of economic and political sciences, Paris University, provides that educational, artistic and scientific institutions and missions, works of art, cultural records and all sites and monuments of cultural significance shall be deemed neutral by all nations, and as such shall be respected in times of war or peace. To insure this, the Roerich Pact provides for the adoption of the Banner of Peace created by Nicholas Roerich, by which such monuments, sites, etc., shall be marked.

In 1930 the Pact was presented to the League of Nations, and immediately endorsed by the International Museums' Committee of the League.

In 1931, an International Conference sponsoring the Roerich Pact and Banner was held in Bruges, Belgium, under the distinguished patronage of Jules Destrée, Foreign Minister of Belgium. A second International Conference was held in Bruges in 1932, under the Protectorship of Dr. H. Adatci, President of the Permanent Court of International Justice at The Hague.

The Third International Convention for the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace was held in Washington, D. C., November 17-18, 1933, under the Protectorship of the Honorable Henry A. Wallace. Delegates officially appointed by the governments of twenty-seven nations participated in this Convention, and Observers appointed by eight additional governments attended, besides many other Statesmen, and individuals highly distinguished

in the fields of Religion, Art, Science and International Law. This Convention resulted in the appointment of a PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR ADVANCEMENT OF ADOPTION OF THE ROERICH PACT AND BANNER OF PEACE, and in the unanimous adoption of the Resolutions which Your Excellency has already received, another copy of which is herewith enclosed.

A still more recent development follows closely upon the success of the Washington Convention, of which we are pleased to inform Your Government. The Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace was recommended for adoption by the Committee on Intellectual Cooperation at the SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN STATES held at Montevideo, Uruguay, during the current month, and unanimously adopted by that CONFERENCE at the plenary session held December 16, 1933.

All great world movements have been initiated by single individuals, but having passed through such successive developments as those mentioned above, any movement may be said to have long ceased to be a private undertaking and to have assumed its place as a great international movement. The facts alone pertaining to the Washington Convention bespeak the interest and high recognition which the world at large has accorded the Roerich Pact.

After the participation of so many governments at the Washington Convention, in addition to two International Conferences in Belgium, - after the unanimous acceptance of the Resolutions by the Washington Convention and the foundation of a "PERMANENT COMMITTEE" with a Member of the Cabinet of the President of the United States as Honorary Chairman, - we consider the reference to "private undertaking" as inapplicable.

In the latest edition of Dr. George Chklaver's book, "Receuil de Textes de Droit International Publique", containing all Pacts, the Roerich Pact is already included.

It would seem, furthermore, that the history of the Red Cross and of many other Pacts might have established a sufficient precedent as to the manner in which many such international agreements have been evolved from the initial efforts of single individuals; - and is there any action or idea in the world which in its origin was not private?

We indeed beg Your Excellency to transmit these details to Your Government, in the hope that when presented with these more salient facts Your Government may reconsider the plan for the adoption of the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace and the Resolutions officially adopted at the Third International Roerich Peace Banner Convention.

Thanking Your Excellency for Your interest, I remain,

Sincerely,

Louis L. Horch,  
Chairman of the PERMANENT COMMITTEE  
FOR ADVANCEMENT OF ADOPTION OF THE  
ROERICH PACT AND BANNER OF PEACE.

His Excellency,  
Nicholas Khalil Bey  
Charge d'Affaires  
Royale Egyptian Legation  
Washington, D. C.