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PAN AMERICAN UNION
Washington, D.C.

ROERICH PACT TO BE SIGNED ON APRIL 15, PAN AMERICAN DAY

A treaty for the protection of artistic and scientific institutions and historic monuments, nationally and privately owned, will be signed on April 15th next, the date on which Pan American Day is to be observed this year, it was announced today by the Pan American Union.

The origin of this convention which is to be applicable in time of war and in peace, was a resolution of the Seventh International Conference of American States, held at Montevideo in December of 1933, which was unanimously approved by all the delegates and recommends the adoption of the pact created by Professor Nicholas Roerich, and initiate by the Roerich Museum, by means of which protection of cultural monuments was to be achieved through the universal adoption of a distinctive flag to be raised over such monuments in any time of danger.

A special committee appointed by the Governing Board of the Pan American Union for the study of this subject, taking as a basis the original proposal made by ~~the~~ Professor Roerich, prepared a draft convention and submitted it to the consideration of the Board, recommending that a request be made of the various Governments to grant their representatives plenary powers to sign the treaty, and designating April 15th, 1935, as the date for its signature.

After April 15th the pact will be open to accession by the nonsignatory States. The Pan American Union has thus far been notified that the representatives of the following nations have received plenary powers to subscribe to the treaty: Brazil, Ecuador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama, United States and Uruguay. The Government of Honduras has accepted the Treaty. incorporated in

The distinctive flag ~~incorporated~~ is the Roerich Pact and designed by Prof. Roerich, consists of a red circle with a triple red sphere in the circle on a white background and is to be raised over all monuments to be considered as neutral on this account. Belligerents will respect as such all historic monuments, museums and scientific, artistic and cultural institutions, as well as their personnel. The same respect and protection will be accorded in time of peace as well as in war., shall be due in the entire expanse of territory subject to the sovereignty of each of the signatory and acceding States and the respective governments agree to adopt the measures of internal legislation necessary to insure said protection and respect. The signatory and acceding States shall send to the Pan American Union, at which the treaty is to be deposited, a list of the monuments & institutions for which they desire the protection agreed to in the pact, and the Union shall send copies of this list to the other Governments. This protection would cease at once in the case of any monuments or institutions used for military purposes.

The Roerich Pact offers all the Governments of the world a splendid opportunity to grant the cultural treasures of humanity and the people whose lives are connected with these world-wide protection at all times and through this united protection of cultural treasures, provides a new basis for world peace.