

BRAZIL TO RATIFY ROERICH PACT

Ambassador Aranha Appointed Plenipotentiary
to Sign Treaty--Secretary Wallace, Minister
Alfaro of Panama, and other Plenipotentiaries
of Ecuador, Uruguay, Guatemala and Honduras are
Also Empowered to Sign Instrument

His Excellency Oswaldo Aranha, Ambassador of Brazil, has notified the Roerich Museum that his Government will ratify the Inter-American Treaty on the Roerich Pact, and that he has been appointed plenipotentiary to sign the instrument for Brazil at the Pan American Union, in Washington. Other countries which have thus far taken the same action are Panama, Honduras, the United States, Ecuador, Uruguay and Guatemala. President Roosevelt recently appointed Secretary Wallace as plenipotentiary for the United States, while the other countries have empowered their respective representatives in Washington to ratify the instrument.

The Inter-American Treaty on the Roerich Pact was drawn up by the Pan-American Union, in accordance with the unanimous Resolution passed last December by the Seventh Pan American Conference in Montevideo, recommending that all American Governments sign the Roerich Pact. The Roerich Pact, named after its creator, the internationally renowned artist and cultural leader, Nicholas Roerich, provides for the protection of artistic, scientific, educational, historic and cultural sites, which are to be declared neutral and inviolable at all times. To this purpose, a Banner designed by Nicholas Roerich, has been incorporated in the Roerich Pact, which is to be flown above such sites in token to their inviolability.

The project for the Roerich Pact was first proposed by Nicholas Roerich in 1904, and formally promulgated in the form of the present Pact in 1929. Three Conventions for its adoption have been held -- the first two in Bruges, Belgium, in 1931 and 1932, and the third in Washington in 1933 when 35 nations were officially represented. The Seventh Pan American Conference in Montevideo, upon proposal of the Chilean Delegation, unanimously accepted the recommendation that all the American Governments adopt the Roerich Pact. The formal ceremony of signing the Roerich Pact will take place on Pan American Day, April 14, at the Pan American Union in Washington, when all the American Governments are expected to ratify the instrument.

#####