

213
TAJ MAHAL HOTEL,
BOMBAY, April, 7, 1947.

PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE ROERICH

PACT IN INDIA

Dear Madam Sahab,

In view of the large destruction of art and cultural institutions in times of war and civil upheavals and the consequent loss to the world, Nicholas Roerich devised a plan for the protection and preservation of cultural monuments and institutions in times of such upheavals.

The idea underlying the plan is to persuade the nations of the world to sign and adhere to a pact and create an agency of the nature of the Red Cross which shall be actively engaged in this work. The 21 Republics of South America and the United States of America have already signed this Pact.

It is now proposed to form an Indian Committee to approach the Government of India with a view to persuade the Government to sign this Pact and to take all necessary steps to put this Pact into operation.

A number of prominent men and women have been approached and have agreed to join this Committee. We feel that your cooperation in this matter would be of great value and we, therefore, request you to lend us your support by joining this Committee.

The articles of the Pact are enclosed in this letter. We hope it shall be possible for you to join this cultural endeavour.

Yours Very Sincerely,

Shamshad Chetty
Svetoslav Roerich

Please send repl to Mr. Svetoslav
Roerich to the above address.





TAJ MAHAL HOTEL,
APRIL, 7, 1947.

PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
ROERICH PACT IN INDIA

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Shambhau Chetty
Svetoslav Roerich

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Roerich to the above address.



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12000
12000

India Adheres
to Roosevelt Pact
for the preservation
of Cultural
Treasures.

The Govt. of India have
~~approved~~ signified
their approval of the

International Pact for the
Protection of Cultural
Treasures ~~and~~ promulgated
by the Famous Acad.
Nicholas Pevsner.

This pact which is
designed to render
inviolable ^(all) Treasures of
Art and Cultures
~~and~~ Monuments of Art,
as well as
Educational and
Scientific Institutions
in Times of War and Civil strife

4
Dr. Nicholas Poverock always
felt that ~~in order to~~
Peace could be brought

dearer if humanity was
made to realize that there
were values common to all

Nations to all people.

And this Peace bestows
Sewing & Peaceful

all important Purpose

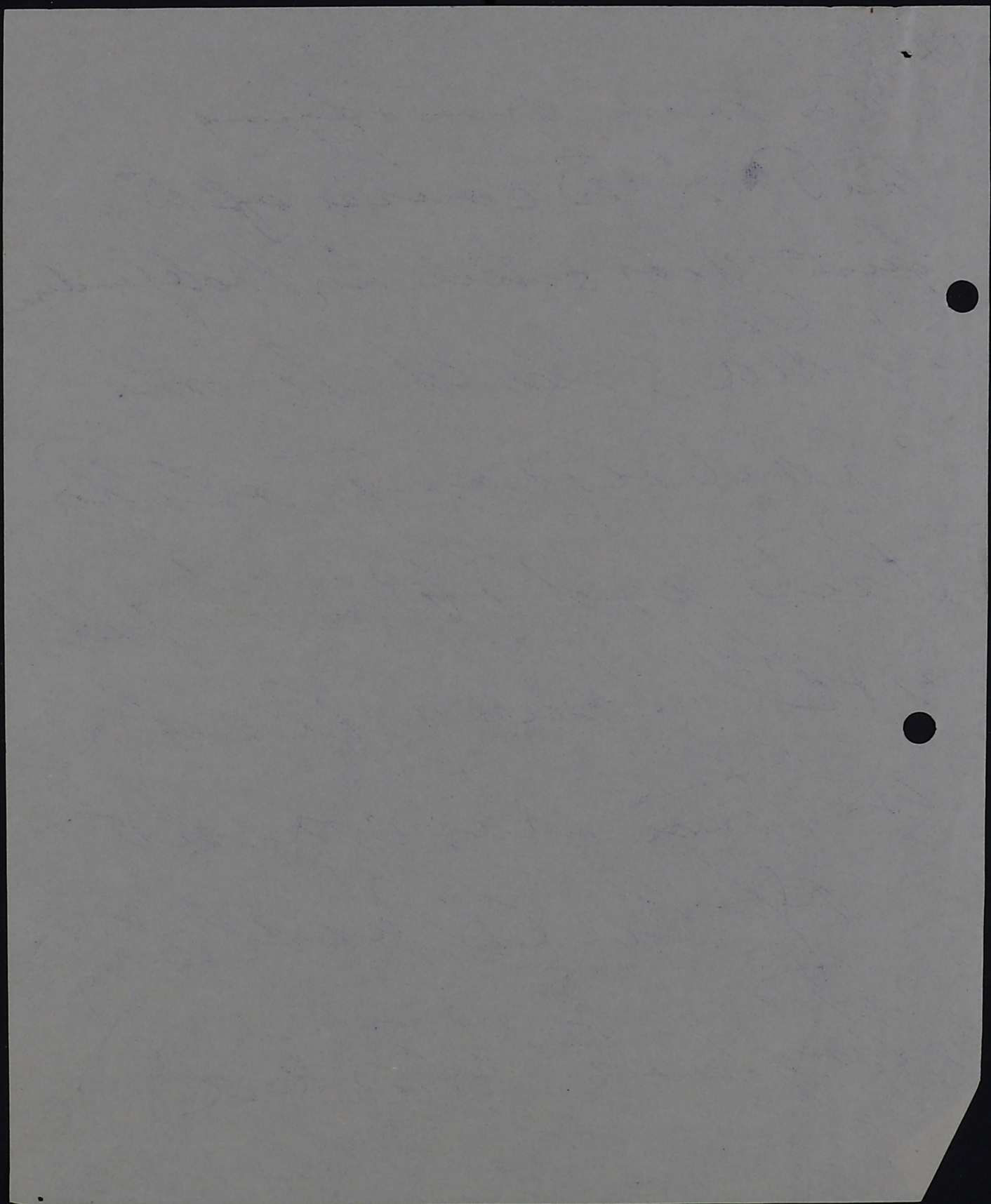
of Safeguarding

Treasures of ~~Humanity~~ Genius

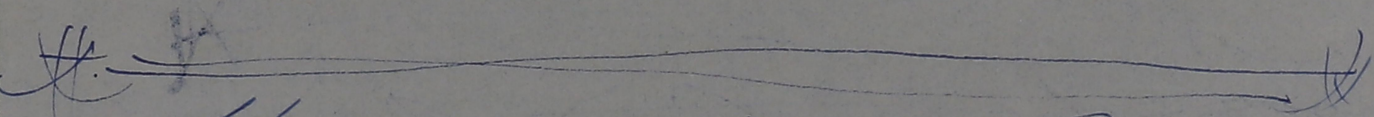
It ² has ^{already} been ratified by
21 Nations including
the United States of America
and approved and recommended
for adoption by 35 Nations.
Makes use of a symbol
a red ~~circle~~ word three
spheres in a banner
of a Red cross to
designate the protected
Sites.

Q. 3

It is more gratifying
that a course of the
past year since her independence
India should become
a participant of the
Pact and it is hoped
will have a hand
in the movement
of cultural unity
throughout Asia.



Rabindranath Tagore
wrote ~~by~~ ~~Prof. Poerch.~~
~~when writing to~~



The Provisional Committee
to the Government of
this Country
includes ^{Hon.} S. Hammann Chetty,
Mrs. Vijayalaxmi Pandit, S. S. Hanbi,
S. Rangabobbar, Lady Hydari,
D. S. Rama Prasad Mueseyy.
N. R. Sankar, M. Jayaram, S.
Musa Ismail, S. Badri Venkatar.

Shows the Educational
~~purpose~~ ^{purpose}, ~~but~~ ^{but} of moving
people realize the Common
Paramount Values;

~~✗~~

~~The Respective of~~

~~The advance to the~~

~~fact.~~ Prod of D

Prominent Men of
Art and Letters have
^{as well as}
¹²²⁶¹⁶⁰⁶ ⁱⁿ

~~stayed~~ ^{stayed} D Idea
of D fact.

4

~~D' Robaprasad~~, D' Ananda
Ila, Sir C. V. Ramas.

D' Robaprasad.

G. Venkubetlam,

Subashree Rao.

[Faint, illegible handwriting, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]

Therefore this Assembly
 is of the opinion that
 the Government should
 accept the resolution
 principles as laid
 down to the Roerich
 pact

as dictated
 by Sir Stansfield
 O'Keefe.

Handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. The text is mirrored and difficult to decipher but appears to contain several lines of cursive script. Two hole-punch marks are visible on the right side of the page.

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Release to Press - 9
Aug. 13
1947

INDIA ADHERES TO ROERICH PACT FOR THE PRESERVATION OF CULTURAL TREASURES

The Government of India has signified their ^{approval} adherence to the international pact, for the protection of cultural treasures, promulgated by the famous artist Nicholas Roerich. This pact which is designed to render inviolable all treasures of Art and Culture, all national monuments as well as educational and scientific institutions in times of war and civil strife has already been ratified by 21 nations including the United States of America and has been approved and recommended for adoption by 35 nations. This treaty makes use of symbol of three red spheres inscribed within a red circle, which symbol, in the manner of the red cross as to ^{designate} ~~discriminate~~ the protected site.

Prof: Nicholas Roerich always felt that the ideal of peace could be brought nearer if humanity was made to realise that there were values common to all nations and to all people. This pact besides serving the practical all important purpose of safeguarding treasures of human genius serves also the educational purpose of making people conscious of common international values above strife and conflagration.

It is most gratifying that this country, within its very first year of Independence, should become a participant of this pact and it is hoped will now take a lead in this movement of cultural unity.

Most of the cultural and educational institutions as well as great men of arts and letters throughout the world have hailed the idea of this pact. Rabindranath Tagore when writing to Prof: Roerich said " I have keenly followed your most remarkable achievements in the realm of arts and also your humanitarian work for the welfare of the nations of which your peace pact, with a special banner of protection of cultural treasures, is a singularity

effective symbol. I am very glad indeed that this pact has been accepted by the Museums Committee of the League of Nations and I feel sure that it will have far reaching effects on the cultural harmony of nations."

The Committee for the Roerich Pact in this country includes:-

- Sir R.K. Shanmukham Chetty, Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, Sir S.S. Bhatnagar,
- Sir C.V. Raman, Dr. Amarnath Jha, Sri Shyama Prasad Mukerje, Sir Mirza Ismail,
- Dr. M.R. Jayakar, Sri B. Tekchand, Lady S. Hydari, Dr. ~~XX~~ Mata Prasad
- Sir C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer, N.R. Sircar, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, ~~XX~~ K.M. Munshi,
- G. Venkatachalam.

S. GUJAR. SVETOSLAV ROERICH.

10

ARTICLES OF THE ROERICH PACT.

- (1) The historic monuments, educational, artistic and scientific missions, the personnel, the property and collections of such institutions and missions above mentioned shall be deemed neutral and, as such, shall be protected and respected by belligerents.

Protection and respect shall be due to the aforesaid institutions and missions in the entire expanse of territories subject to the sovereignty of the High Contracting Parties, without any discrimination as to the State allegiance of any particular institution or mission.

- (2) Each of the High Contracting Parties may furnish to the Registrar of the Permanent Court of International Justice at the Hague, to the International Institute of Intellectual Cooperation at Paris or to the Educational Department of the Pan-American Union of the City of Washington, as it may choose a list of monuments, institutions, collections, and missions, either public or private, which it desires to place under the special protection provided for by the present Pact.

The monuments, institutions, collections and missions thus registered may display a distinctive flag (red circle with a triple red sphere in the circle on a white background) which will entitle them to the special protection and respect on the part of the belligerents, of governments and peoples of all the High Contracting Parties.

The aforesaid monuments, institutions, collections and missions shall cease to enjoy the privileges of neutrality in case they are made use of for military purposes.

- (3) In case of any act alleged to be in contradiction to the protection and respect due to artistic and scientific institutions, collections and missions, as stipulated in the present Pact, the complaining institutions or missions shall have the right to appeal, through the intermediary of its Government, to the International Institution concerned shall then bring the complaint to the cognizance of all the High Contracting Parties who may decide to constitute an International Committee of Inquiry on the case. The findings of such an International Committee of Inquiry may be rendered public. The details regarding the constitution and functioning of the above mentioned Committee of Inquiry shall be regulated by a special agreement.

- (4) The High Contracting Parties declare that it is their intention to provide by appropriated measures of internal legislation the enforcement of the protection enjoyed in their respective territories by artistic and scientific institutions, monuments, collections and missions, either national or foreign.

The present Pact shall be ratified by the High Contracting Parties in accordance with their respective constitutional methods.

The investments of ratification shall be deposited with the State department of the United States of America.

The present Pact shall go into force as soon as it has been ratified by the majority of the original signatories thereof.

The Powers who are not signatories to the present Pact shall have the right to join it, by means of a notification addressed to the Government of the United States of America.

In witness whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Pact and affirmed their seals.

Done in suplicate (one copy in the English language and the other in the French language) both of which to be regarded as being equally authentic in the City of Washington on the day of of the year

TUFTARE

MAY

MADE IN NORWAY

The signatories to the present Treaty, desiring to secure the most effective protection for their scientific and artistic works, and to ensure that the rights of authors and artists in their works shall be protected and respected by all signatories.

Recognizing that the protection of the rights of authors and artists in their works is a matter of public interest, and that the protection of these rights is essential for the development of science, art, and literature.

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11

ARTICLE I

Educational, artistic and scientific institutions, artistic and scientific missions, the personnel, the property and collections of such institutions and missions shall be deemed neutral and as such, shall be protected and respected by belligerents.

Protection and respect shall be due to the aforesaid institutions and missions in all places subject to the sovereignty of the High Contracting Parties, without any discrimination as to the State allegiance of any particular institution or mission.

ARTICLE II

Each of the High Contracting Parties may furnish to the Registrar of the Permanent Court of International Justice at the Hague, to the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation at Paris or to the Educational Department of the Pan-American Union in the City of Washington, as it may choose, a list of Institutions, Collections and Missions, either public or private, which it desires to place under the special protection provided for by the present Covenant.

The Institutions, Collections and Missions thus registered may display a distinctive flag (red circle with three red dots on a white background) which will entitle them to a special protection and respect on the part of belligerents, of Governments and peoples of all the High Contracting Parties.

The aforesaid Institutions, Collections and Missions shall cease to enjoy the privileges of neutrality in case they are made use of for military purposes.

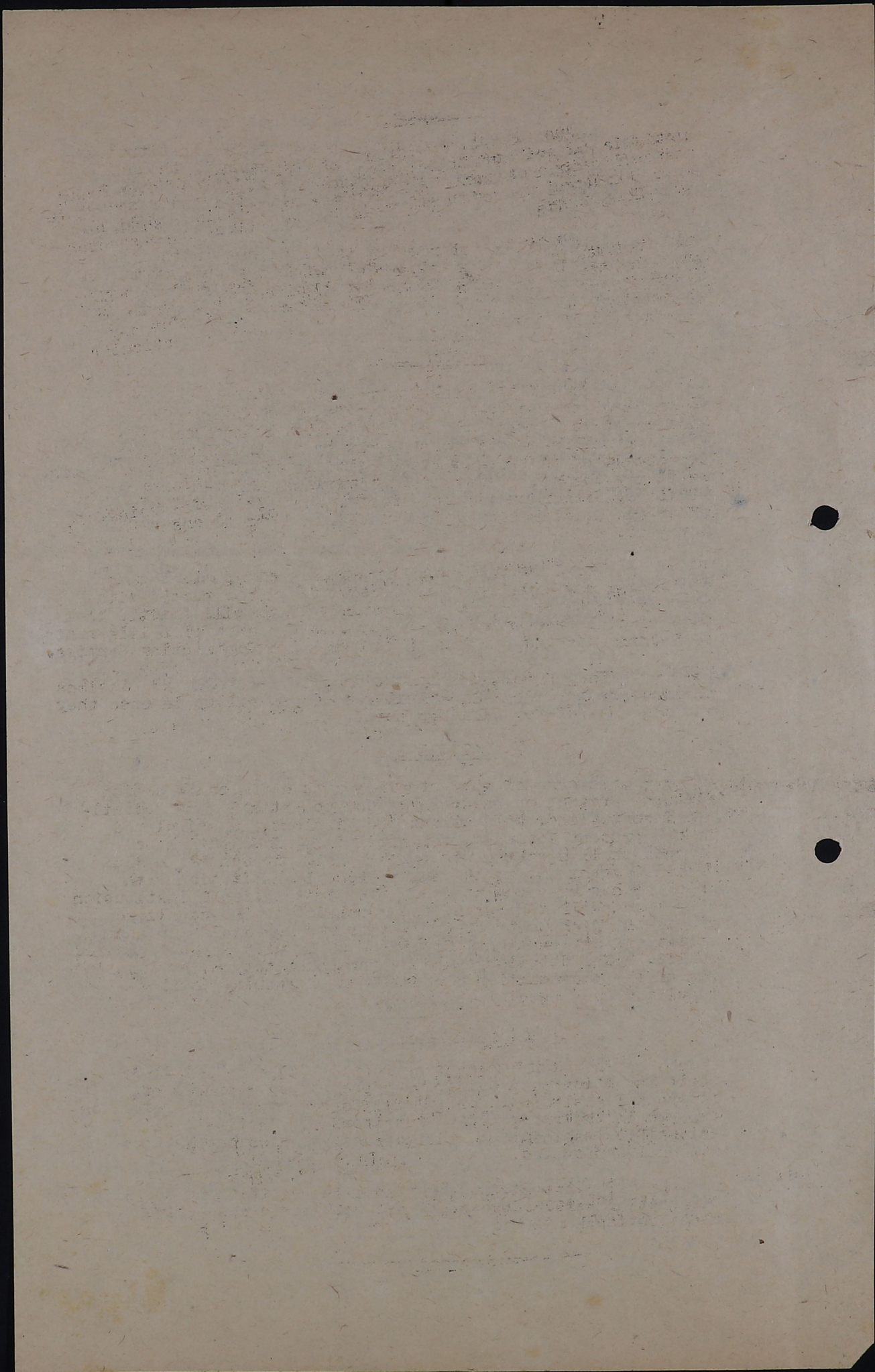
ARTICLE III

In case of any act alleged to be in contradiction with the protection and respect due to artistic and scientific institutions, Collections and Missions, as stipulated in the present Covenant, the complaining Institution or Mission shall have the right to appeal, through the medium of its Government, to the International Institution with which it has been registered. The International Institution concerned shall then bring the complaint to the cognizance of all the High Contracting Parties who may decide to constitute an International Committee of Enquiry may be rendered public. The details regarding the constitution and functioning of the abovementioned committees of Enquiry shall be regulated by a special agreement.

ARTICLE IV

The High Contracting Parties declare that it is their intention to provide, by appropriated measures of internal legislation, for the reinforcement of the protection enjoyed in their respective territories by artistic and scientific institutions, collections and missions, either national or foreign.

The present Covenant shall be ratified by the High Contracting Parties in accordance with their respective constitutional methods.

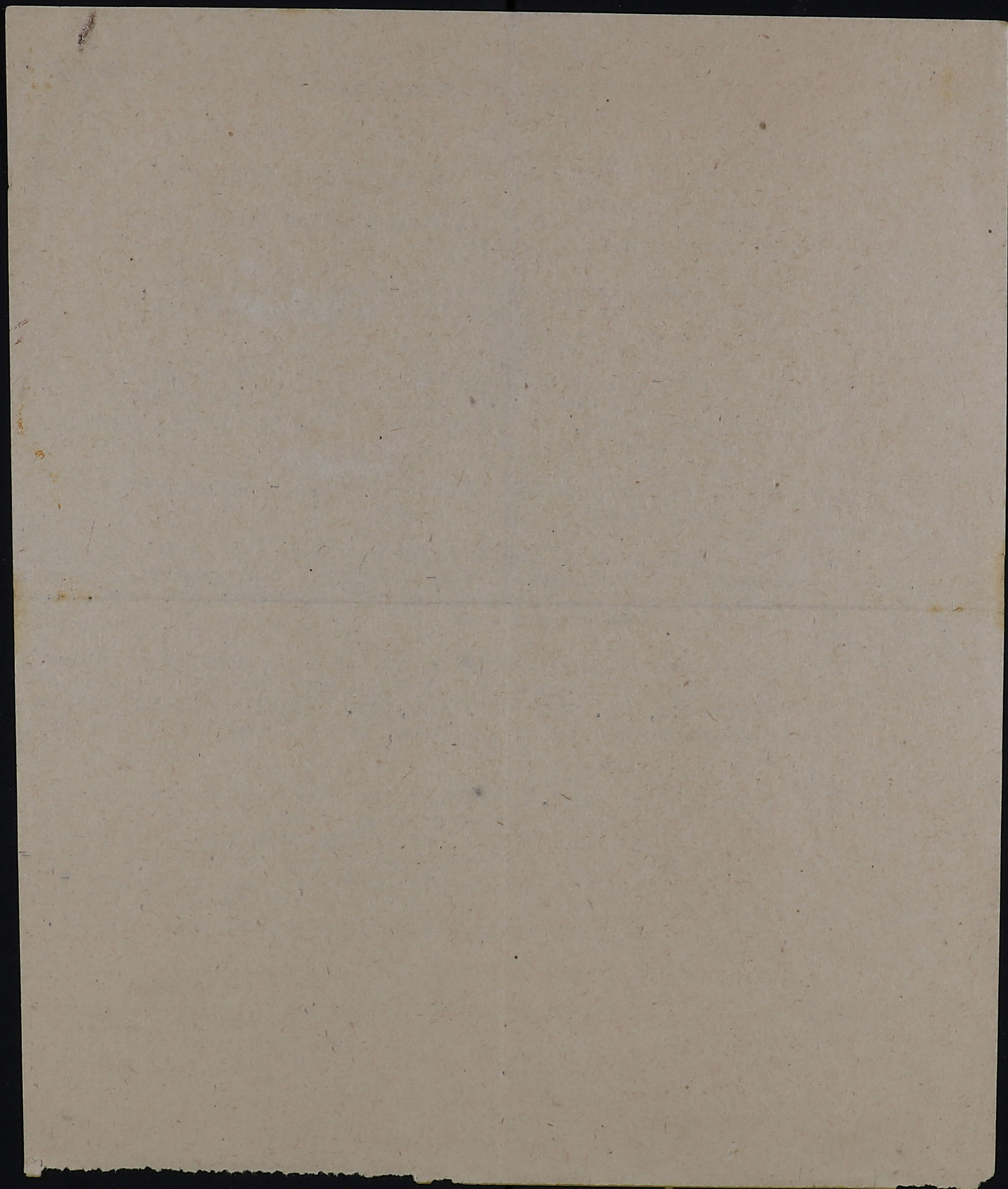


Points of An Article

on

THE ROERICH PACT & THE BANNER OF PEACE

- (1) Nehru on the Pact and the ratification of the Pact by the Government of India;
- (2) Origin and History of the pan-human idea in Prof. Roerich's mind which was to ultimately result in the form of the Pact;
- (3) The World-wide significance of the sign or symbol of the Banner of Peace and its present interpretations in context with, and in keeping with, the provisions of the Pact;
- (4) The Red Cross and the Banner of Peace - comparisons and contrasts;
- (5) The importance of the Roerich Pact and the Banner of Peace in these days of war-torn world and wearied humanity : quotations from George Chaklaver and Prof. Roerich;
- (6) Roerich Pact being ratified by the countries of Americas : quotations from speeches of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Mr. Henry Wallace, Mr. Cordell Hull and others from other countries in South, Central and North Americas; and
- (7) Paintings of Prof. Roerich which have immortalised the the symbol of the Banner of Peace : and the mission, both cultural and educational, of the Roerich Pact in these cataclysmic days of anxiety and in the face of the expected World War catastrophe III; and what has the future in store for the ROERICH PACT & THE BANNER OF PEACE, the RED CROSS OF CULTURE? : Quotations from Rabindranath Tagore.



The pact has been endorsed from its inception by numerous Leaders of Culture and Institutions in the country. Among those who expressed their adherence were Rabindranath Tagore, Sir Jagadish C. Bose, Ven. Sri Devamitra Dharmapalla, Prof. S.R. Kashyap, Sir S. Radhakrishnan, Sir C.V. Raman, S.V. Ramaswamy Mudaliar, Dr. Anaranatha Jha, O.C. Gangoly, Asit Kumar Haldar, N.C. Mehta, Sadhu Vasvani, Swami Jagdish-varananda, Prof. Gurdial Mallik, Dr. Kalidas Nag.

Among the Institutions are :- The Andhra Historical Research Institute, The Allahabad Municipal Museum, The Bharat Kala Bhawan in Benares, The Maha Bodhi Society, The Women's Indian Association, The Y.M.B.A. of Ceylon, The Madanapalle College, The Travancore Cultural Association etc., etc. Almost all organs of the press have expressed themselves in favour of the Pact and it has been endorsed by such bodies as the Nagari Pracharini Sabha, The Second India Historical Congress, The Sixth All India Cultural Unity Conference etc.

A Committee for the Roerich Pact in India includes :

Sir R.K. Shanmukham Chetty, Sir S.S. Bhatnagar, Sir Mirza Ismail, Dr. M.R. Jayakar, Sri B. Tek Chand, Lady S. Hydari, Dr. Mata Prasad, Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, Sir C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer, N.R. Sarcar, Dr. Anaranatha Jha, Rajkumari Anrit Kaur, K.M. Munshi, Sir C.V. Raman, Sri Shyama Prasad Mookherjee, G. Venkatachalam, ~~Sir Ziauddin Ahmed~~, Shantilal Gujar, Svetoslav Roerich.

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 B.V. Ramaswamy Mudaliar, Dr. G. Venkatasubramanian, O.C. Ganguly,
 Late Kuntar Lalit, N. U. Mehta, Badin Vasani, Swami Jagdish
 varanasi, Prof. Gopal Hari, Dr. K. Raju,
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 Jagan, Dr. M.K. Jayakar, Sri S. Tek Chand, Lady A. Gopal,
 Dr. Meta Prasad, Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Panik, Sir C.P. Ramaswamy
 Iyer, Mr. Sankar, Dr. Anantashikha Jha, Rajmuni, Anant Kumar,
 K.M. Munshi, Sir C.V. Raman, Sri Shyama Prasad Mukherjee,
 G. Venkatasubramanian, Sri K. Anandam, Shantini B. Gupta, Gopal
 Hoshi.

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Most of the cultural and educational institutions as well as great men of arts and letters throughout the world have hailed the idea of this pact. Rabindranath Tagore when writing to Prof: Roerich said "I have keenly followed your most remarkable achievements in the reals of arts and also your great humanitarian work for the welfare of the nations of which your peace pact, with a special banner for protection of cultural treasures, is a sin-

gularly effective symbol. I am very glad indeed that this pact has been accepted by the Museums Committee of the League of Nations and I feel sure that it will have far reaching effects on the cultural harmony of nations.

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

and WHEREAS any injury to these treasures is to be regarded as an act of 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, 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 ~~entirely~~ neutral at all times.

And WHEREAS the Roerich Pact has been adhered to by twenty one Republics of the Americas and unanimously endorsed by the Representatives of thirty five Nations at the Third International Convention for the Roerich Pact at Washington as well as by the International Museums' Committee of the League of Nations and by numerous Governmental and learned bodies and numerous leaders in the world of culture.

And 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 and the efficacy of this cause depends upon its adoption and application by the Nations.

THEREFORE the Government of India accepts the principles, as laid down in the original ~~articles~~ articles of the said Pact and pledges itself to implement its acceptance by suitable legislation and by the creation of a body to supervise the practical application and working of the Pact.

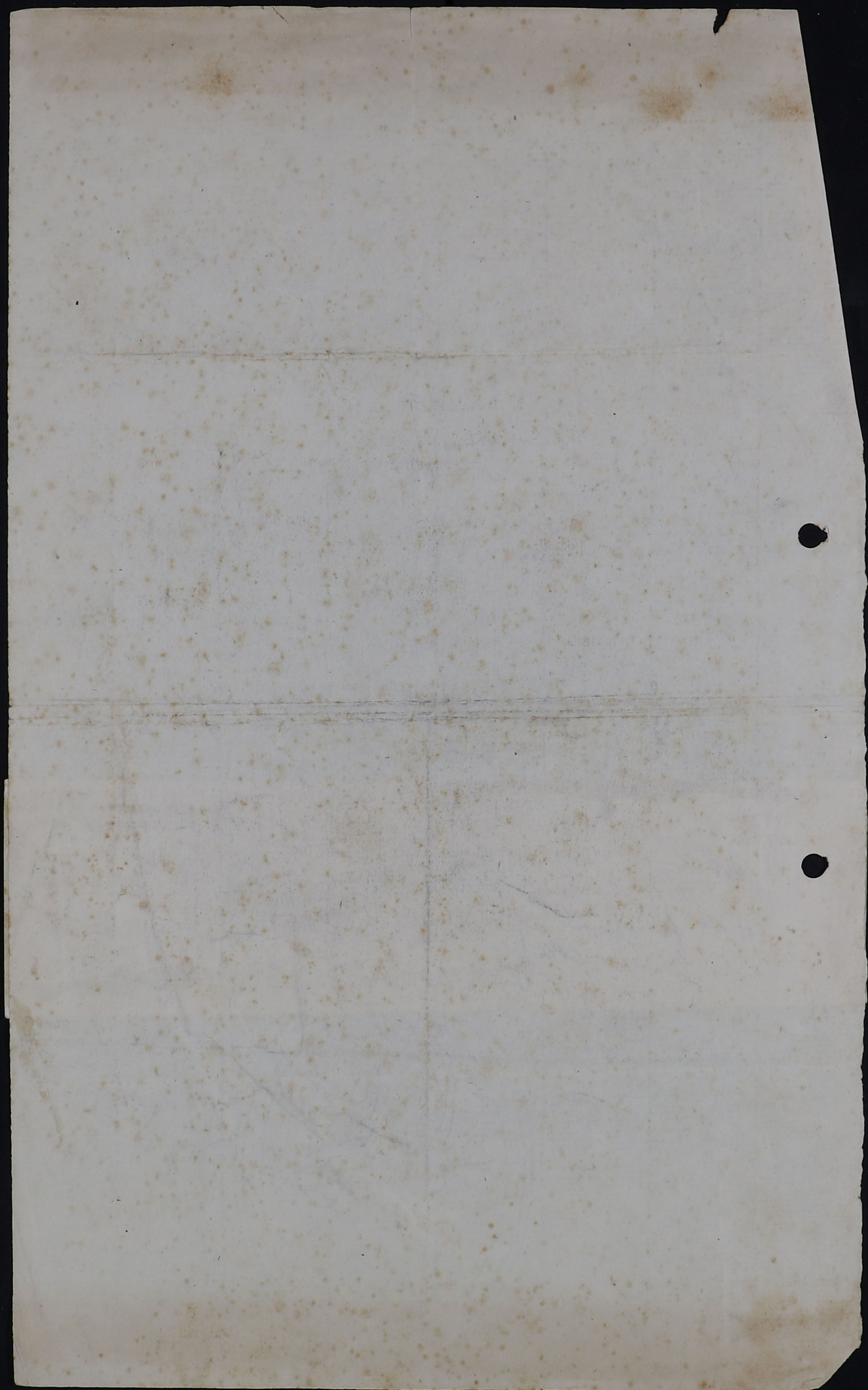
I am enclosing herewith two papers and two volumes of the Roerich Pact for H.M.'s perusal. Mr. Roerich would like H.M. to approve of the ideas contained in this note. In principle, the pact is an excellent thing but for getting Government of India's permission, action will have to be taken separately by the Constituent Assembly.

H.M. is requested to interest himself in this.

P. P. Bhatnagar
9. 2. 1948

I am in complete agreement with the spirit of the Roerich Pact.

D. R. Zaidi
9/2/48



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

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THEREFORE. the Government of India ^{accepts} ~~adheres to~~ the principles, as laid down in the original four articles of the Said Pact and ~~by~~ ~~the~~ ~~creation~~ ~~of~~ ~~a~~ ~~body~~ ~~to~~ ~~supervise~~ ~~the~~ ~~practical~~ ~~application~~ ~~and~~ ~~working~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~Pact~~ . -

pledges itself to implement the acceptance

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THEREFORE. the Government of India adheres to the principles, as laid down in the original four articles of the Said Pact and implements its adherence by suitable legislation and by the creation of a body to supervise the practical application and working of the Pact . -

100 copies

Dr. Roerich
236, Imperial Hotel
New Delhi



The first of the world's cultural revolutions occurred in the
the end of the world, and the end of the world of all humanity.

The second of the world's cultural revolutions occurred in the
the end of the world of the future.

The third of the world's cultural revolutions occurred in the
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The fourth of the world's cultural revolutions occurred in the
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