

sent to chief

Since my visit to you last Wednesday, I have thought with constantly renewed interest of your words in regard to economic world peace, and your embodiment of this thought into the form of a symbol. The use of a symbol around which may be synthesized a common human purpose has always seemed to me an especially potent and significant method for the consummation of an ideal.

It is for this reason that Nicholas Roerich's plan for the Banner of Peace, of which I brought to your attention and in which I have been interested for years, has seemed to me to embody a really vital plan for the unification of peoples on the basis of a mutual protection of those values about which there can be no dispute--the values of culture. Thus as the Red Cross seems to have effected a unity of ~~purpose~~ feeling among the nations for the physical wellbeing of men, the Banner of Peace would seem to be destined to affect some common vigilance for the spiritual and cultural well-being.

Being profoundly moved by the ideals that inspire your approach to the nations of the world, as well as the penetration of your vision into you approaches in this field, I have been impelled to broach this matter because it seems to me to present a possibility of immediate moment (especially in connection with the third International Convention for the Roerich Banner of Peace which the Roerich Museum is planning to hold in Washington in November.

It is true that of recent years the concern of all nations has been that of putting their own houses in order --and that, in this cause, the nations have taken steps against each other in the form of higher tariffs, import quotas, currency exchange quotas and a multitude of other intensely nationalistic devices. While it must be recognized that some of these things may be justified for the time being, it should also be recognized ~~that~~ by the enlightened spirits in even the most nationalistic of nations, that however great the temporary barriers to peace, there must be no barriers to the fundamentally worthwhile things which transcend national boundaries and have to do with the things of culture.

It would seem to me that at this time when the world, as perhaps never before, is turning to America under your own guidance for new ways out of the old mazes, that a pronouncement on the part of this country for protection and respect of the cultural achievements of all nations and their preservation, would come with especial force.

In view of my personal knowledge of the Banner of Peace, which interested me greatly since its promulgation by Nicholas Roerich in 1929, I should like briefly to present some phases of the subject.

The Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace were created by Nicholas Roerich for the protection of the world's cultural and scientific treasures --the protection of which has been one of his deepest concerns since his archaeological excavations in 1904. Briefly the plan provides that educational, artistic and scientific institutions, artistic and scientific missions, works of art, cultural records and all sites and monuments of cultural significance should be deemed neutral by the nations and as such should be respected in times of war and peace. To insure this a Banner was designed by Nicholas Roerich, by which such museums, universities, cathedrals, churches, special collections, libraries and other similar centers of culture be marked. In practice, the Banner of Peace presents a project for the feasibility of which the Red Cross may be regarded as a precedent.

Since its promulgation in 1930, the Banner of Peace has made extraordinary progress in the consideration of governmental bodies, international jurists, cultural bodies and individual leaders of culture the world. In May 1930, the International Museums' office of the League of Nations unanimously endorsed the plan for the Banner of Peace. A parallel interest in many countries at the same time encouraged the foundation of the Union Internationale pour le Pacte Roerich in Bruges, Belgium, as a permanent body to further the acceptance of the Banner of Peace. Through the initiative of this body, two International conventions were held in 1931 and 1932 in Bruges, during which twenty two countries participated in the

sessions and the accompanying exhibitions, which resulted in the establishment in Bruges of the Fondation Roerich pro pace, arte, scientiae et labore. Both conventions were held under the protectorate of Dr. M. Adatci, president of the Permanent Court of International Justice at the Hague. Deepest regrets were expressed on both these occasions at the indifferent attitude of the Hoover administration towards the conventions, a fact made the more poignant since the plan have emanated from an American institution. It is also because of their anxiety lest the initiative for the plan, ~~so~~ so humanitarian in its aim, be lost to America that the Roerich Museum has arranged for the third international convention for the Banner of Peace to be held this coming November in Washington.

Since 1929, there has been a wide advocacy of the Peace among ~~many~~ wide-reaching bodies and individuals, indicating a highly universal appeal. In the field of international law, in addition to Dr. Adatci, such authorities as Dr. Antonio de Bustamante, member of the permanent Court of International Justice; Prof. B. Loder member of the same body and its former president; Baron Michel de Tshabe, former minister of Education of the Russian Empire and an international jurist; Prof. Alfred Geouffre de la Pradelle, Vice-President of the Institute of International Law; Dr. George Chklaver, have voiced their support of the Roerich Pact and their wide anxiety for its adoption. Similar advocacy has come from such ~~many~~ extensive sources as, for instance, H.E. Marshall Lyentey, Grand Marshall of France; Pope Pius, President Marshall Con Hindeburg, President Masaryk, King Albert of Belgium, King Alexander of Yugoslavia; also from such individuals as Einstein, Tagore, Masterlinck, Bose, Raman and others; world universities and cultural center, of which one may especially cite the International Red Cross at Geneva, since the Roerich Pact is essentially a parallel to the Red Cross. There has been a wide advocacy among the women of the world, ~~unanimously~~ expressed in the unanimous endorsement of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. (Mrs. Roosevelt's expression on the subject seems to me to be especially penetrating: "I think that the ideals of the Roerich Pact cannot help but appeal to all those who hope that the past in the past may be preserved to guide and help future generations.")

Although the Roerich Pact, of necessity takes up the protection of cultural works in time of work, its constructive aspects as a prophylactic against war seem to me to be far more important. Thus, the project plans to inaugurate a recording of the world's cultural treasures, with a view to permanent preservation; it aims at a constructive educational program, especially for youth, in the appreciation of the cultural values of other nations. It includes the formation of a League of Art Cities--a project evolving from the pact when entire cities such as Padua, Rome, Rouen, etc., asked to join as a city--in this way it is hoped to outlaw war around entire cities.

Knowing of your interest in all things which embody a new and unprejudice approach to topic of immediate world application, I have taken the pleasure of bringing the subject again to your attention. It would seem to me to be a plan especially in keeping with the new point of approach to world affairs --a 'New Deal' in international relationships. It seems to me that at this time, an expression of high respect from America ~~through~~ this convention for the artistic and scientific achievements of other countries, as well as a expression of concern for their preservation would be deeply moving. Moreover, because of my interest in things artistic and scientific, I believe that this Convention for the Roerich Pact in Washington in November, might furnish an opportunity for the restatement by America-- particularly happy at the present time --of its belief that there must be no barriers between the nations in the fundamentally worthwhile things which transcend national boundaries and have to do with the expression of a common human purpose, however apparently separate the paths of the nations may lie. Through this mutual respect and vigilance for the cultural achievements of all nations, as the patrimony of the human race, I believe the way might lie ahead for a happy movement towards the peace of the nations.