

THE AMERICAN CULTURE TREATY

Sent to
The Hindu
Madras

Dr James H. Cousins writes: Reuter's cable from Washington published in "The Hindu" of April 16, announcing the treaty made on the previous day between the United States of America and eighteen South and Central American Republics, recognising the inviolability of cultural monuments in times of conflict,

speaks of the creation of a new flag which will render inviolable the buildings on which it is flown. I should like to say that the flag referred to has not been created by the treaty; rather the treaty is the outcome of a movement ~~started~~ started five or more years ago by the worldrenowned painter, Nicholas Roerich, who threw the whole significance of the movement into the simple symbol of a circle enclosing three spheres, indicating the universality of creative expression through beauty and truth. The flag is known as The Banner of Peace. Its adoption by practically the whole of the Americas will emerge in history as one of the supreme acts of growing human sanity in national relationships. The flag and its significance were brought to the attention of President Roosevelt at an annual celebration held in Washington on November 17 last year. The treaty is, I surmise in the absence of the detailed information that will reach me by mail in due course, the result of that celebration. It is a spiritual triumph of the vision of an artist who is also a rishi, a genius of our time comparable to Leonardo da Vinci, the myriad-minded. The congratulations of many persons in India who have followed Professor Roerich's career will go to him in his home at his biological research institute at Nagar in Kulu Valley, Punjab. The event gives me peculiar happiness, for I had the great privilege of being the Chairman of the Banner of Peace Committee of Roerich Museum, New York, in 1931 and 1932, and was orator at the consecration, in the Roerich Theatre, of the Banner that was then sent forth on its mission of ~~asserting~~ claiming that the embodiments of man's creative genius in the arts should be placed by common assent outside the sphere of human conflict. Other nations besides those of the Americas have adopted the Banner of Peace. The British nations have not yet done so officially, but an unofficial beginning has been made by a few cultural institutions in India, including Madanapalle College, whose assembly hall is now a gallery of Indian art.

With my warmest felicitations.

James H. Cousins

Vacation address
till June 13

"NITON",

KOTAGIRI - NILGIRIS