

PAN AMERICAN ENDORSEMENT
INTER-AMERICAN TREATY FOR THE ROERICH PACT

Among the distinguished accomplishments of the Seventh International Conference of the American States in Montevideo, in December, 1933, the Trustees of the Roerich Museum, point with sincere gratification to the Resolution passed unanimously at the plenary session on December sixteenth, recommending the adherence to the Roerich Pact by the governments of the Americas.

In this act, the Seventh Pan-American Conference once again identified itself as a body which sought the unification of the Americas on the principles of humanity, and on a new inter-American relationship based upon mutual respect among the nations for the cultural accomplishments of their sister-republics of America. As Dr. Esteban Gil Borges so beautifully expressed it in speaking of the Resolution, it designated the solidarity of the Western Hemisphere behind the Roerich Pact and its ideal that the cultural heritage of the nations should forever remain inviolable.

The official notification, as received from H. E. Enrique E. Buero, Ministro Plenipotenciario, Secretario General de la VII Conferencia Internacional Americana, was as follows:

Me apresuro a poner en su conocimiento que la Resolución del Pacto Roerich y la Bandera de la Paz fué presentada por la Delegación de Chile ante la VI Comisión (Cooperación intelectual—Tema 24) y aprobada en la Sesión Plenaria de la Conferencia el 16 de Diciembre de 1933.

La Resolución número XIII dice así: Recomendar a los gobiernos de América que aún no lo han hecho, la suscripción del Pacto Roerich, iniciado por el Roerich Museum de los Estados Unidos y que tiene por

objeto la adopción universal de una bandera, ya creada y difundida, para preservar con ella, en cualquiera época de peligro todos los monumentos inmuebles de propiedad nacional y particular que forman el tesoro cultural de los pueblos.

News of the passage of this resolution was also graciously transmitted to the Roerich Museum by the Hon. Benjamin Cohen, member of the Chilean Delegation, and the Hon. Dr. Leo S. Rowe, Director General of the Pan-American Union, to whom the Trustees of the Roerich Museum wish to express a deep appreciation for their constant understanding and sympathy with this measure.

With the aim of consummating the noble purposes expressed in the Resolution of the Montevideo Conference, the Pan-American Union, at the meeting of its Governing Board on Feb. 21, 1934, took up this question of the Roerich Pact and adopted a Resolution appointing a committee of members of the Board to advise on its further action.

Information to this effect reached the Roerich Museum on Feb. 22, in a letter from Dr. Esteban Gil Borges, Assistant Director of the Pan-American Union, in which he stated, "I am happy to inform you that the Governing Board adopted at its meeting this afternoon a resolution appointing a committee of members of the Board to advise the Board on the manner in which the Pan-American Union may cooperate to the high-minded purpose and noble ideals represented by the Roerich Pact. I take pleasure in sending you a copy of the Resolution to this effect."

"May I assure you again of my profound interest in cooperating with you in furthering these great humanitarian ideals."

The Resolution as adopted was as follows:

"WHEREAS, the Seventh International Conference of American States by resolution of December 16, 1933, recommended to the Governments of America that have not yet signed the 'Roerich Pact' to adhere to this instrument, which proposes the adoption of a flag for the preservation of cultural monuments; and

"WHEREAS the Pact attributes certain functions to the Pan-American Union,

"The Governing Board of the Pan-American Union

RESOLVES:

"To appoint a Committee which shall inform the Board on the manner in which the Pan-American Union may cooperate in the realization of the thought that inspired the Pact, and to which the Seventh Conference recommended that the Governments, members of the Union, adhere."

Cognizant of this Resolution and in line with the Resolution of the Montevideo Conference, Professor Nicholas Roerich, creator of the Pact and Honorary President of the Roerich Museum, on March 19, transmitted the following letter to Dr. Leo S. Rowe, Director General of the Pan-American Union:

"Sir,

"The Seventh International Conference of American States held at Montevideo, Uruguay, adopted on December 16th, 1933, a resolution recommending to the Governments of America, their adherence to the Roerich Pact, formulated by the Roerich Museum.

"In accordance with that resolution I have the honor to transmit to you herewith a copy of the Roerich Pact, formulated by the Roerich Museum, for deposit in the Pan-American Union.

"May I express the hope that it will be possible to deposit the original instrument with the Pan-American Union, to be kept open by that Institution to the adhesion of the Governments, members of the Union.

"I am, sir,

"Yours very sincerely,

"(Signed) NICHOLAS ROERICH,
"Honorary President."

"Hon. Leo S. Rowe,

"Director General,

"Pan-American Union, Washington, D. C."

Dr. Rowe's letter of acknowledgement on March 22, 1934, was as follows:

"My dear Professor Roerich,

"This will acknowledge the receipt of your letter of March 19th, with which you transmitted the instrument of the Roerich International

Resolution to be appended to Treaty

P.A.U. Resolution to be appended to Treaty

Handwritten scribbles

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Pact for the Protection of Artistic and Scientific Institutions, Historic Monuments, Missions and Collections, with the request that the Instrument be kept open to the adhesion of the Governments, members of the Union.

"The Special Committee of the Governing Board appointed to inform the Board on the steps to be taken to give effect to the Resolution of the Seventh International Conference of American States recommending that the Governments of America sign the Roerich Pact will hold a meeting this week, and it will give me much pleasure to submit your letter to the consideration of the members of the Committee.

"Believe me, my dear Professor Roerich, I am,
"Yours very sincerely

"(Signed) LEO S. ROWE,
"Director General"

"Professor Nicholas Roerich,
"Honorary President,
"The Roerich Museum,
"New York City, N. Y."

The Report of the Committee on the Roerich Pact was made on April 4, 1934, notification thus reaching the Roerich Museum:

"Dear Professor Roerich:

"April 6, 1934.

"I am happy to transmit to you the enclosed copies of the report of the Special Committee of the Governing Board appointed to report on the Roerich Pact, to which is attached a draft of the Inter-American Convention on the Roerich Pact formulated by the Committee. The Convention and the report were approved by the Governing Board in its meeting of April 4, 1934.

"We are now engaged in transmitting to the Governments members of the Union certified copies of the Convention.

"Very cordially yours,

"(Signed) E. GIL BORGES,
"Assistant Director."

"Professor Nicholas Roerich,
"Roerich Museum,
"New York, N. Y."

Report of the Special Committee of the Governing Board of the Pan-American Union on the Roerich Pact

The Committee appointed by the Governing Board to report on the steps that might be taken by the Pan-American Union to contribute to the realization of the idea originally expressed by Professor Nicholas Roerich and incorporated in the Pact for the Protection of Artistic and Scientific Institutions and Historic Monuments, the adoption of which was recommended to the nations of America by the Seventh International Conference of American States, has the honor to report as follows:

The Committee has taken the fundamental principles of the instrument originally proposed by Professor Roerich as a universal pact and given them the form of an Inter-American draft convention, which is herewith submitted to the consideration of the Board.

The Committee recommends that the Governments, members of the Union, be asked to grant their Representatives on the Board plenary powers to subscribe to the pact, which is to be signed on April 14th, 1935, or at an earlier date to be determined by the Board if all its members have received plenary powers before April 14th, 1935.

After April 14th, 1935, the pact will be open to accession by non-signatory states.

(Signed) PEDRO M. ARCAÑA,
Minister of Venezuela.

(Signed) R. J. ALFARO,
Minister of Panama.
Washington, D. C.
April 4, 1934.

(Signed) ROBERTO D. MELÉNDEZ,
Charge d'Affaires of El Salvador.

Report to be
Appended to
Treaty

International Pact (Roerich Pact) for the Protection of Artistic and Scientific Institutions and Historic Monuments

The Governments of.....

Convinced of the desirability and necessity of adopting measures for the protection during times of danger of all movable and immovable property, nationally or privately owned, which constitutes the cultural treasure of the world;

In accordance with the desire unanimously expressed by all the American States by means of the Resolution approved on December 16, 1933, at the Seventh International Conference of American States, held at Montevideo; and

For the purpose of giving conventional expression to the principles expressed in the above-mentioned Resolution, have resolved to conclude the present treaty and have nominated for this purpose their respective Plenipotentiaries, to wit:

.....

Who, after having respectively presented their full powers found to be in due and proper form, have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I

The historic monuments, museums, scientific, artistic, educational and cultural institutions shall be considered as neutral and as such respected and protected by belligerents.

The same respect and protection shall be due to the personnel of the institutions mentioned above.

ARTICLE II

The neutrality of, and protection and respect due to, the monuments and institutions mentioned in the preceding article, shall be recognized in

the entire expanse of territories subject to the sovereignty of each of the signatory and acceding States, without any discrimination as to the State allegiance of said monuments and institutions. The respective Governments agree to adopt the measures of internal legislation necessary to insure said protection and respect.

ARTICLE III

In order to identify the monuments and institutions mentioned in article I, use may be made of a distinctive flag (red circle with a triple red sphere in the circle on a white background) in accordance with the model attached to this convention.

ARTICLE IV

The signatory Governments and those who accede to this convention, shall send to the Pan-American Union, at the time of signature or accession, or at any time thereafter, a list of the monuments and institutions for which they desire the protection agreed to in this convention.

The Pan-American Union, when notifying the Governments of signatures or accessions, shall also send the list of monuments and institutions mentioned in this article, and shall inform the other Governments of any changes in said list.

ARTICLE V

The monuments and institutions mentioned in article I shall cease to enjoy the privileges recognized in the present convention in case they are made use of for military purposes.

ARTICLE VI

The States, members of the Pan-American Union, which are not signatories to the present convention shall have the right to accede to it at any time.

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ARTICLE VII

The instruments of accession, as well as those of ratification and denunciation of the present convention, shall be deposited with the Pan-American Union, which shall communicate notice of the act of deposit to the other signatory or acceding States.

ARTICLE VIII

The present convention may be denounced at any time by any of the signatory or acceding States, and the denunciation shall go into effect three months after notice of it has been given to the other signatory or acceding States.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, PANAMA, HONDURAS, BRAZIL, URUGUAY, ECUADOR AND GUATEMALA OFFICIALLY EMPOWER PLENIPOTENTIARIES TO SIGN ROERICH PACT

As this volume goes to Press, the Trustees of the Roerich Museum are happy to announce that seven Governments of the Americas have already indicated their intention to sign the Inter-American Treaty on the Roerich Pact: United States, Panama, Honduras, Brazil, Uruguay, Ecuador and Guatemala. President Roosevelt has designated the Secretary of Agriculture, Hon. Henry A. Wallace, as Plenipotentiary to sign for the United States. The Government of Panama has granted full powers to His Excellency Dr. Ricardo J. Alfaro, Minister of Panama, to sign the Roerich Pact, these powers having been deposited with the Pan American Union. The Governments of Honduras, Brazil, Uruguay, Ecuador and Guatemala have also notified the Pan American Union of their adherence to the Roerich Pact, and have empowered their respective Ministers at Washington to sign the instrument.

With this truly noble and enlightened act, the Pan-American Union

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has expressed once again its consecration to a new unity among the Americas, founded upon a mutual vigilance for treasures of culture. And those, who regard as inevitable the ideal of international understanding founded upon the principles of culture, as set forth by Nicholas Roerich in the Roerich Pact, will look forward to the Pan-American Day, April 14th, 1935, when we may salute a Greater America united in spirit and celebrating the acceptance of its common Cause—the protection of man's creative and spiritual heritage.

As Nicholas Roerich has expressed it so universally in his own writings, "If humanity recognized the Red Cross as a protection to the physically wounded and ill, then it will also recognize the Banner of Peace as the Symbol of peaceful prosperity and health of spirit."



