

(Copy of carbon copy)

April 17, 1925.

To the Honorable  
Secretary of State,  
State Department,  
Washington, D.C.

Honored Sir:

In the name of the directors of this institution and its affiliated institutions, Master Institute of United Arts and Corona Mundi, International Art Center, we take the liberty to approach you upon a matter of urgency and keen public interest.

These institutions, directed and supported by public spirited American art patrons, in May 1923 commissioned an Artistic Expedition to go to India and Tibet, financed entirely by American capital and directed by Nicholas Roerich, the world-renowned artist, whose works are represented in all the greatest museums of the world.

The Expedition is purely of an artistic and cultural nature and was sent for the purpose of the painting of a great panoramic series of works of that country never heretofore painted by a western artist, as well as to translate the original manuscripts, folk lore, and artistic material of these countries.

In the organization of this Expedition the sum of more than \$200,000. has already been expended and a sum subscribed of \$1,000,000.--all toward the establishment of a center of art long awaited in America. In addition a new building has been purchased to house this panoramic exhibition.

Of all places in India and Tibet the most fertile for such material is Leh in the Ladak, and it was with this particular site in mind that the Expedition was primarily sent.

The Expedition has begun its work most successfully and is now in Srinagar, Kashmir, on its way to its most important point, Leh. Today, however, we have received a cable from the Expedition informing us that the local authorities before granting permission for the Expedition to proceed to Ladak, desire that the American Ambassador in London inform the India Office of the American nature of this Expedition and of its organization for purely artistic purposes: also that it is supported solely by American capital to provide America with one of the great art centers of the world.

In the name of the directors of these institutions, all identified with the finest cultural and educational movements of this country, as well as in the cause of American art, we beg you to send a cable to the American Embassy in London instructing them to so communicate to the India office requesting them to grant permission to the Expedition to proceed and stay in Ladak to complete this great work for American art institutions.

Honorable Secretary of State

2  
April 17, 1925.

- 2 -

This Expedition not only involves a financial investment by America of tremendous proportions, but its completion will be of incalculable cultural artistic and educational influence to America and the world at large. We therefore feel confident in saying, that in granting our request you will be winning the deep gratitude and appreciation of these Institutions, their honorary directors throughout America, as well as the people of this country who have looked forward to the completion of this great work in the cause of American art.

Sincerely hoping to receive the granting of our request, we are

Very respectfully yours,

---

President

---

Executive Director