

FIRST REPORT

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On August 13th 1928, <sup>we -</sup> Francis R. Grant, Director of the Roerich Museum, and Mrs. Dina Lichtmann, Director of the Master Institute of United Arts arrived in Darjeeling, India, where <sup>they were by</sup> we met Professor Roerich who acquainted us with the following facts:

" During the winter of 1926-27 we stayed at Uрга preparing for the approaching route encircling Central Asia. We could accomplish our pre-determined plan to reach India either through China or through Mongolia-Tibet. Also we had all our Chinese passports, the route necessitated <sup>though</sup> great consideration because of the <sup>great war</sup> unrest. This time we became acquainted with Tibetan representative in Mongolia who was doing the regular consular work. We had to trust in his credentials ~~which~~ as he had some genuine credentials which he showed to us. He gave us hints that we could go by the Mongolian-Tibetan route but never consenting to anything uncertain. I told him that he must first ask the Tibetan government if his proposition would be fulfilled. He has sent to the Lhasa government two <sup>official</sup> letters by the official Tibetan caravan and the third time he inquired from his government through a special messenger sent from Peking from where this man <sup>could</sup> ~~should have~~ wired to Lhasa. In ~~February~~ March 1927 this Tibetan representative told to us that he had received a favorable reply because his messenger returned from Peking. At the beginning of April in the presence of two representatives of American institutions, Mr. and Mrs. Lichtmann, he handed over to our house personally a special letter passport granted <sup>from the Tibetan government</sup> us the passage through Tibet, as a special letter to His Holiness Dalai Lama and <sup>not dangerous</sup>. By this act we had been convinced that the route through the Mongolian-Tibetan desert was the more advisable for us. The

Expedition set out from Uрга the thirteenth of April

was official farewell and honorary escort by the first day's road to the government to the expedition.



following the road Inner Mongolia, Outer Mongolia, Central  
 Gobi crossing <sup>Tsaidam</sup>~~Zaidam~~ and reaching Tibet through Naiji Pass.  
 on September 15. Incidentally we heard that already caravans  
 having the letters of the representative had already reached  
 Tibet a long time ago. On the twenty-third of September? we  
 reached the first Tibetan outpost. <sup>from</sup> ~~On the first~~ <sup>outpost</sup> they took our  
 Tibetan passports to be presented to Nagchu governor <sup>Mr.</sup>. And allowed  
 us to proceed further. <sup>which we reached on the Sixth of Oct.,</sup> At the second outpost the officer of  
 the guard took our letter addressed to ~~the~~ Dalai Lama and asked us to  
 await two days until the reply from the High Commissioner of  
 Horpa would give his consent to proceed further. One day later  
 came a special officer from the High Commissioner asking us  
 to proceed to his camp. When we reached the camp of the High  
 Commissioner General <sup>Rap-shö-pa.</sup> ~~Kapshi-pa~~ he told us that everything was alright  
 and asked us to remain with him two days only until he would  
 receive the letter from the Nagchu governors. Afterwards ~~probably~~  
<sup>without no reason at all</sup> ~~he received some instructions and his attitude somehow changed.~~  
 He asked us to remain for a short time on this place at the  
 River Chunargan<sup>e</sup> while he would send a special messenger to his  
 Holiness Dalai Lama. During this time he looked over our baggage and  
 told us that he was performing this procedure himself because the  
 hands of small people must not touch the belonging of the  
 great people. In three days after he told us that he must go  
 to the province of Kham but he will leave with us a Major,  
 Commander of his Guard with a few soldiers to be at our disposal.  
 Then the General went away. Instead of being on the <sup>same place</sup> ~~position~~ for  
 several days, the Expedition was detained in the same district



for 150 days. The constantly drunken Major took quite another attitude toward us. He forbade us everything so that we remained as virtual prisoners. So it was forbidden to <sup>us to</sup> communicate with the passing caravans. It was forbidden to buy products such as food or fuel from the natives. And it was forbidden to send any letters anywhere.

We tried to send some letters to His Holiness Dalai Lama but ~~the~~ one of them was found on the road crumpled and the two others were returned to us. The same fate ~~was~~ met our letters to the Prime Minister of the Lhasa Government, to the British Politicals officer in Sikkim <sup>F.M.</sup> Colonel Bailey, <sup>C. 12.</sup> and to the American Consul in Calcutta. We tried to write to the General. This letter the Major accepted but we received a strange answer that until permission arrived from Lhasa we must remain in the same place. We asked to proceed via Kham, China, Assam. Afterwards we asked to return to Mongolia but everything was rejected. Major consented to send a special messenger to the Governors of Nagchu. They sent an officer announcing that until Lhasa's answer would come they could do nothing. At this time began a strong snow fall and some frost reaching 70 degrees celsius. Our animals were without fodder, but the Major insisted that we must send them one day beyond our camp, saying that there must be grass. In this way without fodder, in terrific snowfall and cold we lost ninety animals. The health ~~was~~ of the members of the expedition became <sup>impaired</sup> ~~undimmed~~, so that even the natives of our caravan could not withstand the terrible conditions of our imprisonment. <sup>Due to such</sup> In ~~these~~ difficulties we lost five of our native caravaneers. On November 18th Doctor of the Expedition issued a medical certificate warning the Tibetan government of the dangerous <sup>top</sup> ~~conditions~~ of our health.



This certificate, we have been told, was sent by the major to the General but the Major smiled telling us that the question of health is of no consequence to the Tibetan government. Terrible hurricanes, so characteristic of the heights of northern Tibet, <sup>(affected) did a great to</sup> harmed us tremendously. And in our summer tents --because the Expedition had had no intention of spending the winter on the height of 15,000 feet--~~was~~ it was terrible. The doctor many times predicted that one night we could all be frozen. The heart of Mme. Roerich considerably affected and my son George twice nearly succumbed to these conditions. Colonel Kardashevsky, <sup>chief of our guard</sup> ~~chief of our~~ <sup>II m. I</sup> transport Portniagin were suffering for many days. We tried to find another spot in the vicinity but nothing ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ <sup>availed</sup> against the terrific cold. So the fourteenth of January 1928 the doctor of the Expedition issued a second medical certificate as follows:

By the present, I the undersigned certify a second time that since November 18th, 1927, the state of health of all Members of the Roerich American Expedition Mission has been greatly aggravated. Besides the general weakening of the heart activity, frequent colds and general weakness--two of the members of the Mission fell ill with scurvy. It is absolutely necessary for the <sup>Expedition</sup> ~~Mission~~ to start at once southward by the shortest route to Sikkim in order to recover in more civilized surroundings.

The <sup>Expedition</sup> ~~Mission~~ has been detained on the cold uplands for more than a hundred days. Further detainment of the ~~Mission~~ will be considered as an organized attempt on the lives of the members of the ~~Mission~~. <sup>Exp.</sup>

Signed C. Riabinin

Doctor of the ~~Mission~~ <sup>Exp.</sup> R. Am. Exp.

This certificate was not accepted either by the Major or by the Nagchu governors who came personally to our camp from Nagchu to discuss our situation, probably they received some instructions from the government.



On — were dispatched to Tibet

Get Seal & Cm + put wax seal every  
object sold — Just Seal is even better.  
Eliminate year from seal. (This for Stationery  
and all this) Seal, Black or Burnt.

Wire

Trade Agent

Gyantsé —

Have

as Representatives on Ant Expedition. with  
Prof. Roerich. Am. Exp.

Arrived from New York. Please Communicate  
Grant Hildred regarding Exact Date when  
Reply on letter from Professor Roerich  
Received by you for T. Chetan

Can be Expected.



As a result of their visit, we have been permitted to proceed to  
 for which  
 Nagchu where we started the 19<sup>th</sup> of January. Certainly it was only  
 a change of place in the same district but the same detention. *continued*  
 Only the fourth of March <sup>was</sup> could reach some agreement with the  
 government for our further procedure towards Sikkim border by ~~it~~  
 a very circuitous way. I do not speak about many difficulties during  
 this passage because at some parts of this passage we have been  
 sent by even unexplored ways, and had to cross passes about 21,000 feet  
 high even unmarked on the maps. All the chieftains of this districts  
 where we passed were astonished why the government was sending the  
 expedition through such a difficult way when in the same district there  
 are ways more accessible. I do not know why and how this way was  
 indicated for our expedition. But certainly it was quite unlawful and  
 inhuman to detain our expedition during the severest winter time in  
 summer tents in the most unhealthy place, Chunargan, exposed to the  
 terrible winds where everyone suffered deeply from the severe frosts.  
 It was inhumanly cruel not to take into consideration that in the expedition  
 were three women one of them a <sup>girl</sup> ~~child~~ of thirteen years. It was  
 inhuman to deprive us from all intercourse with the world without any  
 reason and without telling us ~~in~~ the causes. It was unlawful not to  
 recognize the regular passport given by their own Tibetan representative.  
 We do not blame the Tibetan government ~~not to~~ for their forbiddance  
 to enter Lhasa. We ~~are too~~ <sup>some</sup> respect too much the customs of a country  
 although we know <sup>some</sup> which people from several nationalities <sup>was</sup> visited Lhasa.  
 When we told to the governors about visiting Lhasa by General Perera  
 he answered that such personality even never existed.



When we reminded him about the visit of Mem. David-Neal he told us that she never was in Lhasa. We knew decided ly the names of the Japanese and Russian subjects who visited Lhasa, Using the passports of the same representative in Mongolia . But the existence ov all those visitors was plainly denied by Tibetan ~~visitors~~ officials. *as well as it was told that the telegraph between Lhasa and Calcutta is destroyed by Tibetans* But I claim that the Tibetan government is entirely guilty for our illegal detention in inhuman conditions. All members of our expedition can bear witness to the same facts. I warned several time the Tibetan officials of heavy damage that they are doing to our work I warned them that our films shall be spoiled that in this ~~frasty~~ freezing condit on I could not work . I warned them again about as well as the heavy expenses we were incurring by the delay. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ the irreparable effect on our health. But they told us that it is a matter for the central Tibetan government . Because our caravan perished from the orders of the Tibetan government , we had to take local animals and we have been told that we shall pay to the Tibetan government through the British Political officer in Sikkim, <sup>Gantok</sup> because our funds were exhausted. After such trials we reached ~~Sikkim~~ on the twenty-fourth of May and with the first possibility sent our check for Rupees with our letter to the Tibetan government through Colonel Bailey . Colonel Bailey accepted the check and told us that he will send us a formal receipt from the Tibetan government but he returned our letter to the Tibetan government asking ~~him~~ <sup>us</sup> to send it directly by <sup>mail</sup> post. Our letter was as follows:

*addressed to his holiness the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan State Council.*  
*return signed by the Tibetan Trade agent in Gyantse*

On June, we received a formal receipt from the ~~mail~~ post that our letter was delivered to Tibetan officials. But strange to say until now we have received no reply to our letter , nor even the acknowledgement of the payment transmitted through Colonel Bailey. After reaching Darjeeling



we have been visited by representative of the Englishman and the  
 the leading  
 Statesman, Calcutta newspapers, to whom we accounted so e details of  
 our experiences in Tibet. The Statesman in a leading article of June  
 attitude  
 3 gave some indication of the actual intention of Tibetan government  
 against foreigners. In the following letter I gave some information  
 of our travels experiences:

On we received a letter from the American institutions as  
 follows:

In conclusion I deeply understand the just indignation expressed by  
 the American institutions and the entire American Press because I  
 cannot imagine that a ~~comm~~ government can treat in such manner  
 incorporated *leading*  
 a peaceful artistic and scientific expedition organized by organizations"

----- $\frac{1}{2}$

*educational institutions*

In transmitting to you this preliminary report we may state  
 that ~~all this~~ damage mentioned *has been back* was very great and the work of the  
*has been immensely*  
 Expedition was considerably harmed by this unexpected detention, and  
*the health of the members has been seriously impaired*  
 and ~~such~~ the dignity of the Professor Roerich and the members of  
*has been*  
 the Roerich American Expedition was outraged, *for* the Expedition ~~is~~  
*these*  
 came not as intruders, but ~~justified~~ by legal passports. it is an  
 unprecedented fact that such a large expedition with nine European  
 members and more than twenty natives was treated in such an inhuman  
 manner. ✓ In the entire expeditionary records such occurrence  
 has been unprecedented. (The Expedition comprised Professor Nicholas  
 Roerich, leader of the Expedition, Mme. Roerich. George Roerich, *M.A. (Harvard)*  
*master*  
 of Harvard, Dr. K.N. Rabinin, well known physician; Colonel Kardashevsky  
 Chief of the convoys;  
 formerly of the British forces, Mr. P.K. Portniagin, in chief of  
 transportation



Mr. A. Golubin, his aide, and Ludmilla and Kaya Bogdanof, aids to  
Mme, Roefi (Insert where best )

We are now awaiting the reply from the Tibetan government  
as it seems inconceivable that a government should fail to reply to  
so urgent a matter.

We shall transmit further reports at the earliest opportunity?

Since our arrival we have despatched

You

1826  
9  
1835



I also blame the Tibetan government because they knew long before our arrival about the coming of the Expedition and they permitted us to cross three outposts and to travel <sup>for</sup> ~~ten~~ <sup>ten</sup> days

<sup>into</sup> the in their territory of Tibet, and only afterwards without giving any reason under the most treacherous way did they detain us ~~XXXXXX~~

on the most unhealthy place. I point out that if the attitude of the Tibetan govt. was suddenly changed, for some explicable reason. The Tibetan government claims to be a religious government

Under ~~with~~ the meaning of religious, one may understand cultural, but during

begin five months of our detention their conduct was that of savages

During <sup>my artistic</sup> peaceful international <sup>career</sup> relations knowing our pure <sup>of</sup> scientific <sup>artistic and</sup>

aim, they ~~were~~ <sup>were</sup> absolutely without rights in thus treating us. I told the officials often that I was honorably accepted in twenty five countries, <sup>received</sup> of which they unfortunately had heard of only seven. So did

one of the greatest diplomats of the country.

Some quotation for Archer & ~~others we write to~~

Americans.

Should the answer not be forthcoming in a few days we shall write again.

reason - I have already have learned from the Expedition at the outpost. Various without ready.



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FIRST      REPORT

On August 13th, 1928, we--Frances R. Grant, Director of the Roerich Museum, Mrs. Sina Lichtmann, Director of the Master Institute of United Arts, and Mr. Sviatoslav Roerich, Director of Corona Mundi, International Art Center, arrived in Darjeeling, India, where they were met by Professor Roerich who acquainted us with the following facts:

"During the winter of 1926-27 we remained at Urga preparing for our coming passage encircling Central Asia. We could carry out our previously determined plan to reach India either through China or through Mongolia-Tibet. Although we already had all our Chinese passports that route demanded utmost consideration because of the great unrest. During this time we became acquainted with Tibet's representative in Mongolia, who was doing regular consular work. We trusted his credentials, as he had genuine credentials which he showed us and of which we obtained a copy. He suggested to us that we could go by the Mongolian-Tibetan route. But never consenting to anything uncertain I told him that he must first ask the Tibetan government if this projected could be accomplished. He despatched to the Lhasa government two official letters by the official Tibetan caravans and the third time inquired from his government through a special messenger sent from Peking from where this man could wire to Lhasa. In March, 1927, the Tibetan representative informed us that he had received a favorable reply as his messenger had returned from Peking. At the beginning of April in the presence of two representatives of American institutions, Mr. and Mrs. Lichtmann, in our house he personally handed over to us a special letter passport from the Tibetan government granting us the passage through Tibet and a special letter to His Holiness the Dalai Lama. By this act we became convinced that the not dangerous route through the Mongolian-Tibetan Desert was the more advisable for us. The Expedition set out from Urga on the Thirteenth of April. An official farewell and an honorary escort on



the first day's route was given by the Mongolian Government to the Roerich American Expedition. In this report I shall not mention how the Expedition was helped by the British Consul in Kashgar and what great assistance we received from the Mongolian Government.

Following the route from Inner Mongolia, Outer Mongolia, Central Gobi and crossing Tsaidam, the Expedition reached Tibet through the Maiji Pass on September 15. We incidentally heard that already caravans carrying the letters of the representative had reached Tibet a long time ago. On the twenty-third of September we reached the first Tibetan outpost. At the first outpost they took our Tibetan passports to be presented to the Nagchu governors, and allowed us to proceed further. At the second outpost, which we reached on the Sixth of October, the officer of the guard took our letter addressed to the Dalai Lama and asked us to wait for two days until the reply from the High Commissioner of Horpa would grant us the permission to proceed further. The next day a special officer from the High Commissioner came and asked us to proceed to his camp. When we reached the camp of the High Commissioner, General Kap-shô-pa he informed us that everything was alright and asked us to remain with him for two days only, until he received the letter from the Nagchu governors. Afterwards without any reason whatsoever his attitude somehow changed. He requested us to remain for a short time on this site at the River Chunargen while he sent a special messenger to His Holiness the Dalai Lama. During this time he looked over our baggage telling us that he was performing this procedure because "the hands of small people should not touch the belongings of great people." Three days later he told us that he had to go to the Province of K'ham but he would leave at our disposal a Major, Commander of his Guard, with a few soldiers. Then the General departed.

"Instead of remaining on the same place for several days the Expedition was detained in the same locality for 150 days. The Major, constantly drunk, took quite another attitude toward us. He forbade us to do everything so that we remained as virtual prisoners. Thus it was forbidden us to communicate with the passing caravans. It was for-



us to buy products such as food or fuel from the natives. And it was forbidden to send any letters any where. We tried to send some letters to His Holiness Dalai Lama but one of them was found on the road crumpled and the two others were returned to us. The same fate attended our letters to the Prime Minister of the Lhasa Government, to the British Political officer in Sikkim, Colonel F.M. Bailey, C.I.E., and to the American Consul in Calcutta. We attempted to write to the General. This letter was accepted by the Major but we received the strange reply that until permission arrived from Lhasa we must remain in the same place. We asked permission to proceed via Kham, China and Assam. Then we asked to return to Mongolia but everything was rejected. The Major consented to send a special messenger to the Governors of Nagchu. They sent an officer announcing that until Lhasa's answer came they could do nothing.

At this time a strong snow fall began and the frost reached seventy degrees celsius. Our animals were without fodder but the Major insisted that we should send them one day away from our camp saying that there must be grass. In this way without fodder, in a terrific snowfall and cold we lost ninety animals. The health of the members of the Expedition became impaired so that even the natives of our caravan could not withstand the terrible conditions of our imprisonment. Due to such difficulties we lost five of our native caravaneers. On November 18th, the Doctor of the Expedition issued a medical certificate warning the Tibetan government of the danger to our health, as follows:

"By the present, I, the undersigned certify that all members of the American Buddhist Mission, numbering nine persons, are suffering from weakening of their heart activity, caused by a pulse of 96 to 125, and by the forcible stay on high altitudes (about 15,000 feet) at Chu-nargan two days north of Nagchu. The state of health has been still more endangered by continuous cold which, taking into consideration the general weakening of the heart activity, may turn into pneumonia-- a mortal disease on high altitudes. Therefore I, as Doctor of the Mission do state that further stay on this high altitude amidst snow and cold will cause irreparable harm to the health of the members of the Mission. It is absolutely necessary for the Mission to start southward in order



to recover in more civilized surroundings.

" Signed, Doctor of the Mission, C. Riabianin.

November 18, 1928  
Chu-nargan, Tibet"

This certificate was not accepted either by the Major or by the Nagchu governors who came personally to our camp from Nagchu to discuss our situation. Probably they received instructions to this effect from the government. As a result of their visit we were permitted to proceed to Nagchu for which we started on the nineteenth of January. Of course, this was only a change of location in the same district, but the continuation of the same detention. Only on the fourth of March could we reach some agreement with the government for our further procedure towards the Sikkim border by a most circuitous way. I will not speak about the many difficulties during this passage because during parts of this passage we were sent by actually unexplored ways and had to cross passes of about 21,000 feet unmarked on the maps. All chiefs of the districts where we passed were astonished as to why the government was sending the expedition through such difficult ways when there are ways more accessible in the same district. I do not know why and how this route was appointed for our expedition.

"Certainly it was quite unlawful and inhuman to detain our Expedition during the severest winter period in summer tents in the most unsanitary place, Chu-nargan, exposed to the terrible winds and where everyone suffered intensely from the severe frosts. It was inhumanly cruel not to take into consideration that in the expedition were three women, one of them a girl of thirteen years. It was inhuman to deprive us of all intercourse with the world without reason and without telling us the causes. It was unlawful not to recognize the regular passport given by their own Tibetan representative. We do not blame the Tibetan government for forbidding us to enter Lhasa. We respect too highly the customs of a country, although we know the people of several nationalities who visited Lhasa. When we told the governor about the visit of General Pereira to Lhasa, he answered that such personality never even existed. When we reminded him about the visit of M<sup>rs</sup>. David-Neel, he told us that she never was in Lhasa. We knew unquestionably the names of



Japanese and Russian subjects who visited Lhasa, using the passport of the same representative in Mongolia. But the existence of all these visitors was plainly denied by the Tibetan officials, who also informed us that the telegraph between Lhasa and Calcutta was destroyed by Tibetans. I claim that the Tibetan government is entirely guilty of our illegal detention under inhuman conditions. All members of our Expedition can bear witness to the same facts. Several times I warned the Tibetan officials of the heavy damage they were doing to our work. I warned them that our films would be spoiled and that in this freezing condition I could not work. I warned them again about the irreparable effect on our health as well as the heavy expenses we were incurring by the delay. But they told us that it was a matter for the Central Tibetan government.

"I also blame the Tibetan government because long before our arrival they knew of the coming of the Expedition. Yet they permitted us to cross three outposts and to travel for fourteen days into their territory and only then without giving us any reasons and in the most treacherous way did they detain us in the most unsanitary place. I point out that if the attitude of the Tibetan government was suddenly changed for some inexplicable reason they should have turned back the Expedition at the first outpost without delay. The Tibetan government claims to be a religious government. Under the meaning of religious one may understand a cultural one. But during the five months of our detention their conduct was that of savages. In conditions of peaceful international relations and knowing of our purely artistic and scientific aim, they were absolutely outside their rights in thus treating us. I told the officials often that I had been honorably received during my international artistic career in twenty-five countries. Unfortunately, as one of the greatest diplomats of their country informed me, they had heard of only seven.

Because of the orders of the Tibetan government our caravan animals perished and we were compelled to take local animals. As our funds were exhausted we were told that we should pay the Tibetan government through the British Political Officer in Sikkim. After such trials we reached Gangtok on the twenty-fourth of May and with the first



opportunity sent our check for Rupees with our letter to the Tibetan government through Colonel Bailey. Colonel Bailey accepted the check and told us that he would send us a formal receipt from the Tibetan Government but he returned our letter to the Tibetan Government, asking that we send it directly by post. Our letter was as follows:

"To the most Incomparable Precious Protector of All Living Creatures the Dalai Lama and the State Council of the Government of Tibet:-

The Roerich American Expedition arrived at Darjeeling on May 26th, 1928. I beg to inform Your Holiness that the sum of Rupees one thousand eight hundred twenty-six (Rs. 1826) covering the cost of transport provided for the Roerich Expedition by the Government of Tibet from Nag-tsang Shen-tsa Dzong to Thang-gu in Sikkim, the price of the two silk garments and other things sold on request to the Joint-Governors of Nag-chu, and the High Commissioner of Hor, Kusho Kapshopa, equalling Rupees eight hundred ninety (Rs. 890) and Rupees one hundred sixty (Rs. 160) being the cost of hire of five camels belonging to the Expedition which carried from Tsaidam to Nag-chu loads belonging to Your Holiness, has been forwarded to the Government of Tibet through Colonel F.M. Bailey, C.I.E., British Political Officer, Sikkim. A receipt for the whole sum is hereby requested as also all receipts given by the Expedition to the district officials and headmen stating the amount due to each district. The official receipt of the Tibetan Government will be forwarded by us to America.

In order to be able to present a full report to the most lofty Government of the United States of America, I beg Your Holiness and the State Council of Tibet to give me full explanation of the following points:

1. What was the reason of the Government of Tibet not to depute an official to discuss the Expedition plans, and not to answer the several official letters addressed to the Government of Tibet by Kusho Kap-shō-pa, High Commissioner of Hor. Instead of giving the Expedition a chance to discuss matters with an official deputed from Lhasa, the Government official detained the Expedition for five months north of Nag-chu in terrible conditions. Five persons and ninety caravan animals perished from want of food and fodder. The cold was intense and the local authorities did not try to help the Expedition but on the contrary forbade the local population to sell food supplies to the Expedition. No other country treated us in such a barbaric way.



" '2. What was the reason that Your Holiness and the Government of Tibet did not accept the image of the Victorious Lordma letter and large donation for the three great monasteries of Lhasa on behalf of the Buddhist Center in New York, U.S.A. Your Holiness and the State Council were informed of our intention to make presents to Your Holiness and the monasteries of Lhasa but no official reply was received by the Expedition. This matter I shall have to report to America.

" '3. From Nag-tsang to Saga-dzong the Expedition has been sent by the north route instead of being sent by the south route. As a result of this the Expedition experiences tremendous difficulties.

" '4. What was the reason of the Government of Tibet not to recognize the Expedition passport granted by the Tibetan official representative in Urga, Lobzang Cholden, and the three petitions presented by him to Your Holiness and the State Council. I beg to request a full explanation of such an action by Tibetan officials which <sup>is</sup> contrary to all laws and customs of other Governments.

" '5. My name has been honored in twenty-five great countries and only in Tibet where I came for the welfare of the Buddhist Doctrine had I to experience untold hardships.

" 'It is only because of the passport given by Lobzang Cholden in Urga, that the Expedition started by the northern route to Nag-chu. Otherwise it could have completed its mission through China or India.

" 'About all the humiliating treatment contrary to the manners and customs of other countries, the unlawful detention for five months amidst severe winter on the highlands of Tibet, and all the loss sustained the Expedition will have to report to the Most Lofty Government of the United States of America.

" 'The present has been executed in two copies, one English and one Tibetan, in Darjeeling on June        th, 1928

" '(Signed) Nicholas Roerich,  
" 'Head of the Roerich American Expedition.' "

c " 'The detailed account of the cost of caravan animals is as follows:-

1. From Shen-tsa to Chok-chu for 100 pack-yaks and 10 riding ponies-  
331 Ngusangs 5 sho



2. From Chok-chu to Nam-chen for one day for 80 yaks and 8 horses  
20 ngusangs 5 sho
3. From Nam-chen to Ngamo-dangkang for 161 pack-animals and 8 horses  
20 ngusangs 6 sho
4. From Ngamo-dangkang to Lokar for 83 pack-yaks and 10 horses  
43 ngusangs 3 sho 5 karma
5. From Lokar to Sangmo-ngadum for 84 yaks and 10 horses  
21 ngusangs 4 sho
6. From Sangmo to Lap-saru for two days for pack-animals and 8 horses  
37 ngusangs 5 sho
7. From Lap-saru to Saga dzong for three days for 206 pack animals  
and 8 horses  
48 ngusangs 7 sho
8. From Saga to Yanju for 295 for 295 pack-animals and horses --  
76 ngusangs 9 sho
9. From Yanju to Karchung for four days for pack animals and horses  
72 ngusangs 3 sho
10. From Karchung to Dak-cho for 64 pack-animals and 9 horses  
17 ngusangs 1 sho
11. From Dak-cho to Tingri for 57 yaks and 10 horses  
15 ngusangs 8 sho
12. From Tingri to Memo for 59 yaks and 10 horses  
16 ngusangs 3 sho
13. From Memo to Shekar for 61 yaks and 8 horses--  
16 ngusangs 1 sho
14. From Shekar to Tinki for 4 days for 60 donkeys and 13 horses  
68 ngusangs 4 sho
15. From Tinki to Kampa-dzong for two days for 80 pack-animals and  
10 horses  
150 ngusangs.
16. From Kampa to Thangu for 21 horses and 54 yaks--  
9 432 ngusangs  
(horse per/ngs. and yaks per 4 ngs 5 sho)

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"On June , we received a formal receipt from the post that our letter was delivered to Tibetan officials. But strange to say, up to now, we have received no reply to our letter, not even the acknowledgment of the payment transmitted through Colonel Bailey. After reaching Darjeeling we were visited by representatives of the "Englishman" and "Statesman" the leading Calcutta newspapers to whom we accounted some details of our experiences in Tibet. The "Statesman" in a leading article of June 3, gave some indication of the actual attitude of the Tibetan government against foreigners. In the following letter I gave some information of our experiences:



On we received a letter from the American institutions  
as follows:

July 6, 1928.

"Dear Professor Roerich

With profound shock we have learned of the detention of the Roerich American Expedition under your leadership in Tibet for five months by the Tibetan officials. In the name of the Directors of the Roerich Museum, the Master Institute of United Arts and Corona Mundi, International Art Center, we beg you to transmit to the authorities of the Tibetan government our strong protest against their ruthless and brutal conduct which has aroused indignation throughout America.

By its conduct--so ill-befitting the civilization of our day--the Tibetan government has jeopardized irreparably the health of the members of your Expedition and has done irretrievable wrong to the relationships made by the Expedition. In addition to the dreadful perishing of the caravan, the arrest and detention of the Roerich American Expedition under such inhuman conditions has resulted in a loss of \$250,000 to the American art institutions, under whose auspices the Roerich American Expedition has pursued its work for art and science.

It was our firm conviction that you, who have been received with honors in more than twenty-five countries and to whom Americans are so indebted for your contributions to its culture and your services to its artistic progress, would be received by all peoples with the honor and reverence which your mission merits. The more reprehensible and censurable is the conduct of the Tibetan authorities which has so damaged the peaceful work of the Expedition.

We desire that the Tibetan Government be fully cognizant that the American art institutions which have sponsored the Roerich American Expedition, as well as the American people, deeply protest this damage to the health of the members of the Expedition and the results of its work, as well as the financial losses they have sustained. They shall not permit this matter to rest without the reparation which this serious offence warrants. We are sending a Commission to investigate the details and causes of the events which so hindered the continuance of your work.

We assure you of the deep sorrow which we have experienced by the news, and of our purpose to take all possible measure in the matter.

(Signed for the Board of Directors)

Louis L. Horch, President

In conclusion I may state that I profoundly understand the just indignation expressed by the American institutions and the entire American Press because I ~~cannot~~ could not imagine that a government could have treated in such manner a peaceful artistic and scientific expedition organized by eminent incorporated educational institutions."



In transmitting to you this preliminary report we may state that the damage mentioned has been vast and the work of the Expedition has been immeasurably harmed by this unexpected detention. The health of the members has been seriously impaired. The dignity of Professor Roerich and the members of the Roerich American Expedition has been outraged for the Expedition went not as intruders but fortified by legal passports.

The members of the Expedition comprised Professor Nicholas Roerich, leader of the Expedition, Mme. Roerich, George Roerich, M.A. (Harvard), Dr. K.N. Rabinin, well-known physician; Colonel Kardashevsky, formerly of the British forces, Chief of Convoys; Mr. P.K. Portniagin, Chief of Transportation, Mr. A. Golubin, his aide, and Misses Ludmilla and Maya Bogdanof, aides to Mme. Roerich. It is unprecedented that such a large expedition with nine European members and more than twenty natives was treated in such an inhuman manner. In all expeditionary records such occurrences have been unknown.

Since our arrival we have despatched the following letter to the Tibetan Governmental agent at Gyangtse,

"On June 20th you, in your official capacity as agent of the Tibetan Government, received for transmission a letter sent by registered return receipt mail to "the Most Incomparable Precious Protector of all Living Creatures the Dalai Lama and the State Council of the Government of Tibet", from Professor Roerich, leader of the Roerich American Central Asian Expedition. Thus far, Professor Roerich has received no reply.

"Recently as representatives of the American art institutions, Roerich Museum, Master Institute of United Arts and Corona Mundi, International Art Center, we arrived in India for the purpose of inquiring into the causes of the unprecedented and cruel treatment accorded to our Expedition, under the leadership of the world-renowned artist Professor Nicholas Roerich. It is our purpose to make detailed investigations of all causes of this matter and to present our Report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the United States Senate. In Professor Roerich, eminent artist and scientist, we have sent on the Expedition the greatest leader, a world authority honored in all countries; and all America and the entire



civilized world is indignant at the treatment accorded this Expedition the purpose of which was in the peaceful interests of art and culture.

"Kindly communicate to us by return post when we may expect the reply to the above-mentioned urgent letter, as we are obliged to include it in our Report.

"Requesting your immediate attention to this matter, I am,

"Very truly yours

(Signed) Frances R. Grant  
Director Roerich Museum"

We are now awaiting the reply from the Tibetan government as it seems inconceivable that a government should fail to reply to so urgent a matter.

We shall transmit further reports at the earliest opportunity. You may be assured that we will exhaust all efforts to learn the full details of this nation's reaction against the Expedition.

For the Commission



to recover in more civilized surroundings .

"Signed ,C.Riabinin,Doctor of the Expedition."

This certificate we have been told, was sent by the Major to the General. But the Major smiled on informing that the question of health was of no consequence to the Tibetan government. Terrible hurricanes did tremendous harm to us. And in our summer tents--because the Expedition had had no intention of spending the winter on the heights of 15,000 feet--it was unbearable. The doctor predicted many times that one night we would all be frozen. The heart of Mme. Roerich was considerably affected and my son George twice nearly succumbed to these conditions. Colonel Kardashevsky, chief of our guard, and M. Portniagin, chief of transport, suffered for many days. We tried to find another spot in the vicinity but nothing availed against the terrific cold. So on the Fourteenth of January, 1928, the Doctor of the Expedition issued a second medical certificate as follows:

" By these presents, I the undersigned certify for the second time that since November 18th, 1927, the state of health of all members of the Roerich American Expedition has been greatly aggravated. Besides the general weakening of the heart activity, frequent colds and general weakness-- two of the members of the Expedition have fallen ill of the scurvy. It is absolutely necessary for the Expedition to start at once for the south by the shortest way to Sikkim in order to recover in more civilized surroundings.

" The Expedition has been detained on the cold uplands for more than a hundred days. Further detainment of the members of the Expedition must be regarded as an organized attempt against the lives of the members of the Expedition.

(Signed) C. Riabianin

Doctor of the Expedition."



SECOND REPORT

Having ascertained further details regarding the treatment accorded to the Roerich American Expedition under Professor Roerich, we are sending to you herewith the Second Report of the Commission.

*and wires*  
Professor Roerich has placed in our hands all the ~~wire~~ <sup>communication</sup> letters which ~~were~~ <sup>many</sup> despatched by him he made ~~an~~ <sup>many</sup> effort to send during his detention, but which were returned to him by Tibetan officials. These comprised three letters to the Dalai La a, one to the Prime Minister of the Lhasa Government, two to Colonel Bailey the British resident at Sikkim, one to the United State Consula at Calcutta and two to President Louis L. Horch <sup>Roerich Museum</sup> ~~on M. D.~~

All these letters were handed to us sealed in the identical manner in which they were sent, <sup>and which we personally opened.</sup> ~~We opened the letters~~

As it is unnecessary to quote them all, I shall herewith give you the contents of three of them, from WHICH YOU may see what great damage the members of the Expedition suffered in the failure to transmit these most urgent and sincere letter demanding immediate action in sending help to the Expedition.

*Wire to*  
COLonel Bailey,  
Residency  
Gangtok

Hope you received our two letters and two wires stop Fifty days detained intense cold uplands stop scanty food fodder stop caravan animals perished stop we try to reach Sikkim via Shigatse Guantse stop please help obtain permit cross Indian border stop this number three stop greetings stop all members very weak

Roerich

2. unitar  
President Horch  
New York

Roerich American Expedition fifty days detained in intense cold uplands stop scanty food fodder stop caravan animals perished stop we try reach Sikkim India via Shigatse Gyangtse stop cable His H. liess Dalai



*are making*  
We ~~have~~ made efforts to obtain an answer to our  
*send on June 14th and August 17.*  
communications to the Tibetan governments. During our visit to  
through Lama Minguir of Darjeeling  
the Monastery Thum, we had a conversation/in this regard with  
the ~~Tibet~~ High Priest Rinpoche, formerly of Chumbi, ~~xxxxxx~~  
believing that information could be obtained through him. However  
he was quick to assure us that he had *nothing to do with* no connections at all with  
his "peculiar" government. *as he expressed it,* And In answer to our suggestion that  
he indicate to his government the urgent need of replying to our  
communications so that matters could be adjusted, he hastily  
refused with a ~~significant~~ *significant* gesture.

*fortuitous*  
In order that you may realize the ~~conditions~~ and the  
almost unbelievably shocking conditions under which the members of  
the Expedition were detained ~~I am~~ *we* are sending samples of  
the food which the Expedition had to eat. ~~This food~~  
As itemized there are samples of:  
Not only was the quality of the food of an almost unconsumable nature,  
but the price which the Expedition was forced to pay for it will  
furnish further enlightenment on the limits to which the officials  
carried their purpose. The prices were as follows:

A small bag of ~~twenty~~ *about* nine pounds of barley containing about five  
pounds of stones cost about ~~12~~ *\$4.* rupees. A small piece of barley  
sugar (the only sugar obtainable) was ~~three even four~~ *\$3* Mex dollars.  
A small yak-calf ~~fourteen~~ *about* Mex dollars. \$11, ~~xxxx~~ *2* a small cup of  
milk ~~xxxx~~ was about seventy cents. A small piece of butter  
amounting to three pounds was \$8. Even the ~~min~~ *high* fuel was unbelievable  
for two long sticks of wood the price was \$1. Thus ~~our~~ *the* sum, estimated  
in the Letter of Resident Horch, *as our damage for conservative* was really too small and should  
be, correctly, closer to |



Lama through British Resident Sikkim Colonel Bailey asking permit cross  
Tibetzn territory into Sikkim stop<sup>1</sup> Help needed immediately stop communicate  
matter New Syndicate stop(Before taking Italian Line Zina Claude must meet  
Darjeeling early spring)stop transfer Imperial Bank Darjeeling ten  
thousands ruppes stop this number four stop conditions worse than  
arctic expeditions health weak.

Roerich

-----

Chu nargan  
November 14th 1927

3.  
Post Master  
Lhasa

Sir: Please forward the cnlosed cabled urgentsly to Gyangtse for further  
transmission to Gangtok Sikk m G Roerich

Colonel Bailey

Detained for Sixty-four days amidst greezing cold in summer tents  
stop scanty food fuel fodder stop two thirds caravan animals perished  
stop Health dangerously shattered stop Madame Roerich seriously ill stop  
Plase wire persmiion proceed Gyangtse India stop have London Identity  
Books and Certificate Bengal Government permitting return India stop Hope  
you received our two letters and wire stop Situation critical

Roerich

-----

Via



R. an

26

Last year the Expedition under the name  
arrived from N. Tibet to Ladakh & then  
Sikkim returned. Expenses for ~~for~~  
transport received from Col. Bailey of  
Sikkim thru the Tibetan Trade Agent

At Gyantse (Lobang Jang Jung ne)

R. 1826 sent to the Tibetan Govt. Received

+ This is the receipt. Dragon year  
29<sup>th</sup> of the Sixth Month,



In the news re Tibetan  
Kalimpong Trying to get  
this in



28

SECOND REPORT

SUBMITTED TO THE DIRECTORS OF THE ROERICH MUSEUM,  
MASTER INSTITUTE OF UNITED ARTS AND CORONA MUNDI,  
INTERNATIONAL ART CENTER

FROM THE COMMISSION SENT BY THEM TO INQUIRE INTO  
THE ACTIONS OF THE TIBETAN OFFICIALS AGAINST THE  
ROERICH AMERICAN EXPEDITION TO CENTRAL ASIA, SPON-  
SORED BY THESE INSTITUTIONS.

Having ascertained further facts and details regarding  
the hostile treatment accorded to the Roerich American Expedition,  
under the leadership of Professor Nicholas Roerich by Tibetan  
officials, we send to you herewith the Second Report of the Commission.

Professor Roerich has placed in our hands all letters and  
wires which he repeatedly attempted to send during his detention, and  
which were returned to him undespached by the Tibetan officials. These  
comprised three letters to the Dalai Lama, one to the Prime Minister  
of the Lhasa Government, two to Colonel Bailey, the British Resident  
at Sikkim, one to the United States Consul at Calcutta and two to  
President Louis L. Horch.

These letters were all given to us sealed in the identical  
manner in which they were sent and subsequently returned. As it is un-  
necessary to quote all these letters, I shall herewith give you the  
contents of several of them. From these you may see the great injury  
brought upon the members of the Expedition, by the failure of the  
Tibetans to transmit these sincere and most urgent communications  
demanding immediate action in sending help to the Expedition.

The communications here with follow:



29

5. Unitar via India  
President Horch  
New York

Forcibly detained for more than two months on Tibetan uplands altitu  
about fifteen thousands feet stop Severe cold snow scarce food-supplie  
and fuel stop have to stay summer tents stop no answer from Tibetan  
Government on numerous letters stop ignores Tibetan passports stop Cara-  
van animals perished stop Illnesses among members of Expedition and ser-  
vants dangerously increase stop Situation extremely critical stop  
Send strong cables Lhasa through Colonel Bailey British Resident Sikkim  
to get Roerich American Expedition through to Gyangtse Sikkim stop  
Cable content cablegrams Chklaver to inform French Government and  
Press, Bottomley England, Carmelo Italy, Wellington Koo China through  
Crane, Takeuchi Japan Zuloaga Spain stop Inform personally Senator  
Borah stop Transfer ten thousand rupees Imperial Bank Darjeeling  
Greetings this number five--Roerich  
-----

Chu Nargan  
November 21, 1927

To his Excellency the Prime Minister  
Grand Council of Tibet, Lhasa

Your Excellency

Our peaceful Roerich American Expedition is forcibly detained  
for forty six days at Chu-nargan unable to confer personally with His  
Holiness. Further stay at Chu nargan two days north of Nagchu will  
cause irreparable harm to our health. The Mission has <sup>the</sup> only wish to leave  
this inhospitable country and to proceed to Gyangtse and India. The  
head of the Mission has already written to this effect to his personal  
friend Colonel F. M. Bailey, C.I.E. British Resident in Sikkim.

Be kind enough to issue orders to allow the Expedition to  
proceed to Gyangtse via Nagchu.

Thanking you in anticipation, I remain,

Yours faithfully,

G. Roerich



In addition to the above-mentioned letters and wires, there was left with Colonel Bailey by Professor Roerich, two letters and two wires, which the Expedition had attempted to send from Nagchu and which were returned to the Expedition unsent.

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We are making efforts to obtain an answer to our communications of June 14th and August 17th to the Tibetan government. During our visit to the Ghum Monastery we had a conversation in this regard with the High Priest Rinpoche, formerly of Chumbi, through the Lama Mingyur as interpreter, believing that information could be obtained through him. However, he emphasized to us that he had nothing to do with his "peculiar" government, as he expressed it. In answer to our suggestion that he indicate to his government the urgent need of replying to our communications so that matters could be adjusted, he hastily refused with a significant gesture.

In order that you may realize the almost incredibly shocking conditions under which the members of the Expedition were detained, we are sending you samples of the food which the members of the Expedition were compelled to eat. Not only was the quality of the food of an unenjoyable nature but the prices which the Expedition was forced to pay for it, will furnish further enlightenment on the limits to which the officials carried their purpose. The prices were as follows: A small bag of twenty-nine pounds of barley, of which about five pounds was eaten, cost about Four Dollars (\$4). A small piece of barley sugar, the only obtainable sugar, weighing slightly more than a quarter pound cost Three Dollars (\$3). A small yak-calf was about Eleven Dollars (\$11). A small cup of milk was about Seventy Cents (\$.70). A small piece of butter, amounting to about three pounds was Eight Dollars (\$8). Even the fuel was unbelievably high and for two long sticks of fire-wood the price was One Dollar (\$1).



In view of such exorbitant prices as well as the damages accumulated during the detention of the Expedition, we have estimated the financial losses suffered, to be not less than \$294,387. In addition to this we learn constantly further details of the acute injury and indignity to which the members of the Expedition were submitted.

We have recently received news that an article on the Roerich American Expedition and its detention appeared in a Tibetan newspaper published in Kalimpong. We are now trying to obtain a copy of this newspaper to ascertain their presentation of the facts. We shall send this copy upon its receipt.

We are continuing our inquiries into the matter, being constantly more shocked at the savage and uncivilized attitude taken by the Tibetan officials against the Roerich American Expedition with its enlightening and cultural mission.

With our sincere respects we transmit this Report, remaining

Very truly,

August 26, 1928



Please add the following to the THIRD REPORT .

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On the 7th of November there was received in Darjeeling another copy of the Tibetan Newspaper "Pleasant Mirror of News from Different Countries", published at Kalimpong and dated October 14th, 1928 which contained the following:

"The commission of enquiry about Professor Roerich's arrival to Nag-chu last year, is staying in Darjeeling. The Professor has presented a letter to the Tibetan Government and it seems that no answer has been received so far. We hear the Professor has recently acquired a Kanjur from Tibet. "



the commission of inquiry about Professor Roerich's ~~expedition~~ arrival to Nagchu last year, is staying in Darjeeling. The Professor had presented a letter to the Tibetan Government, and <sup>it</sup> seems that no answer has been received so far. We hear the Professor has recently acquired a Kangur from Tibet."

"The pleasant mirror of news about different countries,"  
October 14<sup>th</sup>, 1928. published at Kalimpong, British Bhutan.

B. D. D. D.  
D. C. D. D. - 7 Nov 28



### THIRD REPORT .

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The letter hereinafter quoted was sent to the Trade Agent of the Tibetan Government at Gyangtse on September 21st, 1928:

"Dear Sir,

We are in receipt of a letter from the Tibetan authorities acknowledging the receipt from us of 1826 Rupees, covering the sum given for the Caravan expenses as well as the return of the sum given for old brocade cloth acquired by Tibetan Authorities from the Roerich American Expedition.

"We are now awaiting the reply to our communications of June 20th and August 17th, to the Tibetan authorities concerning the detention of the Roerich American Expedition in Tibet and request you to expedite this matter so that we can have our reply at the earliest opportunity and despatch it to America.

" Yours very truly /signed/."

A copy of this letter with a special accompanying letter, as quoted in the following, were communicated to the British Resident in Sikkim: Colonel F.M. Bailey, CIE:

Sept. 21st, 1928.

"Dear Sir:

We are writing to inform you that we have received through your kindness the acknowledgment from the Tibetan government of the receipt of 1826 Rupees, covering the expense for the caravan of the Roerich American Expedition and for the return of money for the brocade acquired by the Tibetan authorities from the Roerich American Expedition. We presume that we shall now hear shortly regarding our communications of June 20th and August 17th to the Tibetan authorities in regard



"to the detention of the Roerich American Expedition.  
" Should you hear of any intention on the part of the  
"Tibetan authorities to apologize for their actions regarding  
"the Roerich American Expedition, we shall be grateful if you  
"will inform us.  
" We appreciate the courtesy with which you have assisted  
"us in all matters of the Expedition and again thank you  
"for your graciousness. Very sincerely yours /signed/. "

So far no reply has been received either from the Tibetan Agent or from the British Resident. All letters have been sent registered, requesting return receipts.

On the 8th September 1928 an acknowledgement was received from the Tibetan Government, stating that it had received the amount of Rs:1826 from the Expedition for the caravan animals as well as the return of payment for all objects purchased by the Tibetan officials from the Expedition during its detention in Tibet. Being short of funds the Expedition was obliged to comply with the requests of the Tibetan officials and sell them certain objects, which they insistently requested to have sold to them. But after such unhuman detention, in all justice the expedition did not wish to retain this money and returned it to the Tibetan Government together with the sum for the purchased caravan animals. Both these sums were clearly itemized and stipulated in the accompanying letters sent to the Tibetan Government. We are assured that this itemization was received by the Tibetan Agent as we have received his postal return receipt. We can only express our great astonishment at such peculiar procedure.

Recently there was brought to us a copy of the Tibetan newspaper "Pleasant Mirror of News from Different Countries" published at Kalimpong, dated August 16th 1928, Volume Nr.6, wherein on page 5, second column an article on the Roerich American Expedition was printed, of which the following is a translation:



"News of the event of the journey of Prof. Roerich. In the "Foreign Year" 1924, having arrived to Ladak, he crossed the Karakorum Pass and passing Khotan, Kashgar, Kuchar, Karashahk he arrived in the Altai mountains and visited the Kalmuck Monasteries. And the Russian-Mongolian countries. Then the Gobi Desert, Tsaidam, Tibet and Sikkhim. Then he arrived at Darjeeling. This is the first news about the encircling of the country, called Asia. At the time of going through China, because of endless warfare and danger of attacks by brigands, he was obliged to move by night and hide in dark places during the day. On reaching the Tibetan-Chinese border, he was stopped by Tibetan officials. And he was forbidden to proceed further. Except for this difficulty, he did not experience any others. On the way from Tsaidam he had to endure tremendous hardships. This country called Tsaidam has only one road, a very narrow strip of firm ground, to the right and left of which stretches a tremendous salt sea. One of the camels fell into a salt pit and tremendous difficulties were experienced in getting it out."

Strange and misrepresenting as this article is, mentioning an episode with a camel, but entirely omitting the death of 5 natives and 90 animals, it yet - by the very fact of its appearance - indicates that Tibet and the Tibetan Government are well informed about the Expedition, although it is apparent that the fact of the detention of the Expedition by the officials is purposely avoided. In addition the article bears proof to the fact that our letters, demanding an explanation of the detention of the Expedition were not accidentally left unanswered, but with complete intention.

Recently we have also received from Mr. George Schlaver, an authority on international law, a detailed legal opinion, which we shall bring you personally personally, and in which he expressed the opinion that the Tibetan Government has transgressed all international courtesies in their actions towards the members of the Roerich American Expedition on its cultural mission and is fully responsible for all damages, suffered by the Expedition.

At the time of closing this report we are despatching another letter



to the Tibetan Trade Agent in Gyangtse, of the following contents:

October 26th 1928.

"Sir:-

" We have thus far written you twice by registered letters.  
" These have been received by you. Thus far we have received from  
" the Tibetan Government only a receipt, acknowledging money, but  
" without any explanation nor answer to our previous letters.  
" Naturally, you understand, that the acknowledgment of the receipt  
" of money also obliges the Tibetan Government to respond to our  
" detailed letter regarding this sum of money. Moreover we do not  
" even wish to admit the supposition that the Tibetan Government  
" does not wish to accord an explanation to the American Institution  
" regarding the unprecedented maltreatment of our Expedition, which  
" went to Tibet with the necessary Tibetan passports and authori-  
" sations. Should we fail to receive a reply, we regret that we shall  
" have full right to presume that the Tibetan Government deliberately  
" intended to harm our peaceful American Expedition, which went to  
" Tibet with purely scientific aims. Once again we enclose herewith  
" a copy of the certificate of the Doctor of our expedition, in  
" which he confirms that the maltreatment of the Expedition was  
" identical with an intention of destroying it.

" We trust that we may receive a prompt reply which will explain  
" and clarify this matter. Yours very truly /signed/. "



The letters were in 3d Report

Trade

1. Were written on ~~general~~ <sup>after</sup> ~~letters~~ <sup>was sent</sup> to the Agent of the Tibetan Government at Gyantse. The copies of these letters with a special accompanying letter were communicated to the British Resident in Sitakim, Colonel Bailey. So far no reply <sup>has been received either</sup> from the Tibetan Agent or from the British Resident <sup>has been received</sup>. All letters have been sent registered, requesting ~~for~~ return receipts.

In the <sup>(was received a receipt)</sup> from the Tibetan government, stating <sup>that they had</sup> received 18 Dec. rupees from the Expedition for the caravan animals as well as <sup>the return of payment</sup> all objects purchased by the Tibetan officials from the Expedition during <sup>its</sup> <sup>detention</sup> in Tibet. <sup>finds the</sup> Being short of money, the Expedition <sup>was</sup> obliged to <sup>comply with</sup> the requests of the Tibetan officials and sell them certain objects, which they insistently <sup>requested</sup> <sup>have to</sup> <sup>sell</sup> them. But after such unhuman detention, in all justice the expedition did not wish to retain this money and returned it to the Tibetan Government together with the sum for the purchased caravan animals. Both these sums were clearly <sup>itemized</sup> <sup>explained</sup> <sup>for the</sup> accompanying letters sent to the Tibetan Government. <sup>We are assured that</sup> <sup>immigration</sup> <sup>was</sup> <sup>received</sup> <sup>by</sup> the Tibetan Agent, <sup>because</sup> <sup>as</sup> <sup>we</sup> <sup>have</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>receipt</sup> <sup>from him</sup> <sup>stating</sup> <sup>It would</sup> <sup>appear</sup> <sup>strange</sup> <sup>that</sup> the Tibetan Government <sup>has</sup> <sup>accepted</sup> the money for the objects, <sup>not</sup> <sup>returning</sup> the objects, <sup>nor</sup> <sup>even</sup> <sup>acknowledging</sup> the receiving of the money for them.



We can only express our great astonishment  
at such peculiar <sup>customs</sup> procedure.  
During <sup>Recently</sup> ~~this~~ <sup>in</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>present</sup> ~~period of time~~ <sup>murderous</sup> ~~a~~ <sup>from the</sup> ~~Tibetan~~ <sup>Chinese</sup> news-  
paper, <sup>published at</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>Hankow</sup> brought to us with an article <sup>on</sup> ~~reg-~~  
~~arding~~ the Noerich American Expedition.  
Below follows ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> translation of ~~it~~ <sup>the article</sup> by Lama  
Mingyur, the most <sup>reknowned</sup> ~~known~~ expert of <sup>the</sup> ~~Tibetan~~  
Language.

The very fact of <sup>the</sup> appearance of this article  
<sup>indicates</sup> ~~shows~~ that Tibet and <sup>the</sup> Tibetan Government  
are well informed about the Expedition;  
although <sup>it is apparent that the</sup> ~~see~~ <sup>purposefully</sup> ~~hiding~~ <sup>the</sup>  
avoiding to mention of the fact of detention  
of the Expedition by <sup>the</sup> ~~these~~ <sup>officials</sup> <sup>is purposefully</sup> ~~with~~  
<sup>In addition</sup> ~~the~~ article bears proof <sup>on</sup> ~~that~~ to the fact  
that our letters, demanding <sup>an</sup> ~~a~~ explanation,  
regarding the detention of the Expedition,  
were not accidentally left ~~in the~~ <sup>unanswered</sup> ~~man~~ <sup>unanswered</sup>  
but <sup>with complete</sup> ~~also~~ <sup>intentionally</sup> ~~intentionally~~ <sup>intentionally</sup> ~~intentionally~~  
During <sup>Recently</sup> ~~this~~ <sup>time</sup> we also ~~have~~ <sup>received</sup>  
from <sup>our</sup> ~~George~~ <sup>George</sup> ~~Sebastian~~ <sup>Sebastian</sup> ~~an~~ <sup>adetailed</sup> ~~consult~~ <sup>legal</sup>  
offinion, which we shall ~~personally~~ <sup>bring to</sup>  
~~you~~ <sup>personally</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>which</sup> he expressed  
the opinion that the Tibetan Govt has  
transgressed <sup>all</sup> ~~international~~ <sup>international</sup> ~~courtesies~~ <sup>courtesies</sup> in  
their ~~action~~ <sup>actions</sup> towards the members of  
the R. A. E. on its cultural mission and are  
fully responsible for all damages ~~suffered~~ <sup>suffered</sup> by the Expedition.



Tibetan Newspaper published in Kalimpong  
Volume #6 16th of August 1928 (by monthly)

Pleasant Mirror of News from different countries "  
second column of

On the fifth page, second column of this publication the following <sup>article appears (news)</sup> "Information about the <sup>events</sup> happenings of the <sup>journey</sup> trip of Prof. Roerich. In the "foreign year" 1924 having arrived to Ladak he crossed Karacorum Pass and passing Khotan, Kashgar, Kuchar, Karashahr he arrived to in Altai mountains and visited Kalmyck Monasteries.

And the Russian-mongolian countries. Then the Gobi Desert, Zaidam, Tibet and Sikkim. Then he arrived <sup>(to)</sup> in Darjeeling. This is the first news about the encircling of the country, called Asia.

~~Then~~ At the time of going through China, because of endless warfare and danger of attacks by brigands, he was obliged to move by night and hide in dark places (spots) during the day.

On reaching the Tibetan-Chinese Border he was stopped by Tibetan frontier officials. And he was forbidden to proceed further. Except for this difficulty, he did not experience any other difficulties.



On the way from Zaidam he had to ~~face~~ <sup>stand</sup> tremendous hardships. This country called Zaidam has only a ~~very narrow road~~ - <sup>firm</sup> ground, a very narrow strip of firm ground, to the right and left of which stretches ~~itself~~ a tremendous salt sea. One of the camels ~~falling~~ <sup>fall</sup> into a salt pit, and tremendous difficulties were experienced in getting him out.

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