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Naggar, Kulu.

4th February, 1936.

Dear Miss Grant,

Your cable of the 31st ultimo about the vicious statement emanating from the Department of Agriculture, and the retraction exonerating the expedition by the same department which followed the next day, caused great surprise. It is unbelievable that a governmental department could do such a thing. Evidently the statement of the 30th was calculated to influence the decision of the judge at the hearing of the 31st January, and thus we have a direct proof that the trio succeeded in using the channels of a governmental department to achieve their own ends. In itself it is criminal, and we can only explain the whole procedure by an utter ignorance of governmental usages on the part of some persons.

I spent the last two days copying for you our correspondence with the Department from June, 1935 to January 30th, 1936. We are sending all copies by boat mail, and I wish to draw your attention to the following cable received from the Department: Sept 23. "We ask that there be no publicity whatever about recent expedition there must be no quoting of correspondence or other violation of department publicity regulations FD. Richey". I presume that we have the full right to show copies of our correspondence to our attorneys, and that this act will not be construed as a divulging of correspondence. As you will see, the correspondence is of purely businesslike character, and there is nothing in it that could be interpreted as a reflection on the good name of the expedition's leader. You will also see, that the expedition was transferred to Kuku-nor, and that we had to refuse to follow this recommendation on account of the political situation in that region. So that all statements and rumours about the recall of the expedition are fundamentally untrue. The transfer of the expedition to Kuku-nor was in itself an impossibility, and could only originate in the head of a person ignorant of local distances and present conditions. In our letter of July 27th we strongly protested against the insinulative articles which appeared in late June in the United States and in the American press of the Far East. All this fear of Cossacks reminds me of the war-time German cartoons depicting bearded Cossacks devouring newly born babies, candlesticks, and, I believe, cats. In those days these colourful cartoons did more good, than harm to the reputation of Cossacks! John Powell, the author of these articles is a well-known "character" in China, and some of our Chinese friends offered to us to take action against him, as he is widely known as a mercantile journalist, and has frequently printed false and insinulative information. While we were in Shanghai I made an attempt to meet Powell, but at that time he was hiding in an asylum, as the Japanese military were after him for printing slanderous reports about the Emperor of Japan.

You will see from this correspondence, that our Report on exploration accompanied by a complete photographic record, and eight

maps has been completed and sent to the Department on the 27th January. A copy of the text of the report will be sent to you by registered boat mail. Please keep it in a safe.

As a constant witness at all our preliminary conversations with Mr. H. A. Wallace, you know the original plan of the expedition. Prof. de Roerich was "to lead and protect" the field party, and I was to assist him, act as interpreter, and collect data on the local materia medica. Two botanists were to conduct the specialized research. However, as you know, the two botanists deserted the expedition on their arrival to Manchuria, and preferred to remain in the town of Khailar where there was a strong enough Japanese garrison to protect their precious lives! We had to enlist the services of competent botanists to carry on the work. No extra funds were transferred to us to enable us to engage salaried botanists, and Prof. de Roerich had to exert his influence to secure the cooperation of well-known scholars free of charge. For a time we thought that the Department would replace the two botanists by someone else, but then nothing was heard about it, and we were left to decide the matter ourselves. Frankly speaking, I do not understand how an artist and an orientalist were supposed to do botanical work without the assistance of specialists. It was natural to appoint Prof. de Roerich to lead the party, for, as you know, Americans are newcomers in the Central Asian field, and that up to now most of the work on Mongolia has been done by Russian explorers and scientists. European and American explorers, ignorant of Mongolian or Russian, often find themselves in the dark when they start the study of Mongolia. Only recently Prof. Ferd. von Lessing of Berlin, a coworker of Sven Hedin, published a book on Mongolia, and in it made a number of sad mistakes which he could easily avoid, had he known the works of Russian scholars.

There now remain to be settled the various financial matters pertaining to the Expedition. As you will see from the correspondence a number of equipment and subsistence items have been suspended by the Comptroller General, and have been resubmitted by us. A number of our coworkers, including Prof. Gordeyev and Dr. Keng, joined the expedition staff without salary in return for subsistence and field equipment, and we do not see how we can charge to them these items. Our collectors and drivers received minimum wages of U.S. \$ 15-17 per month plus subsistence and field equipment. A man who was sending most of his salary to his family, and keeping for his own expense less than U.S. \$ 3 per month could not possibly equip himself or pay his own subsistence. I fail to understand the Comptroller's reasoning in this case. The purchase of the second-hand Dodge car has also been suspended, and resubmitted by us. How the Department expected us to solve our transport problem, I do not know. We have been instructed to sell our camp and field equipment. Since most of it was left in China with the Ford Agent in Kuei-hua, who undertook to dispose of the property, we have to correspond with him, and it takes almost a month for a letter to reach there. It is evident that we cannot accept some of the suspensions, and it would mean quite a considerable outlay of personal funds. We are doing all we can to expedite the matter, as we are anxious to regain our freedom of action. From the above you will see that it will take another two or three months to settle the financial matters of the expedition.

I am enclosing a copy of the last letter received from the Department dated December 27th, 1935. Most of it is self-explanatory. You will notice that they keep our salaries for December and January until the settlement of all financial matters. Apparently such are governmental regulations. The amount which they claim for refund of the advance has been actually spent by us on field equipment, and the purchase of one motor car, which items have been suspended by the Comptroller General but have been already resubmitted by us, and it is expected that they will be accepted. I shall send with the next mail a copy of my reply which I hope will be approved by our attorneys, since we cannot wait two months for their opinion. A report from China on the sale of the equipment is expected shortly, and will be then forwarded to the Department. We shall be interested to hear from you, and to know the advice of our attorneys re the claimed refund. Please note that Mr. Richey states that "you will be reimbursed for any items which may later be allowed for payment".

With cordial greetings and best wishes,

Yours very sincerely,

Naggar. (31

26th February, 1936

Dear Miss Grant,

We have received the second lot of clippings from the 31st January containing the continuation of the slander, and the Department's retraction. As stated in our to-day's cable, we consider the retraction quite inadequate, since the statement about our alleged discharge has not been retracted. It is clear that they have intentionally misinterpreted the termination of the Expedition's fieldwork and transfer to India as a discharge. I also note that in one of the clippings / from the N.Y. Sun / it is stated that the Department received only 20 packages of seeds. This is an intentional false statement, and I am sending here a list of all material forwarded to the Department and acknowledged by them. During the period of our fieldwork in the Far East the following materials had been sent to the Department:-

- 1) Systematic Herbarium collected in Barga and the Khingan Mountains.
- 2) Herbarium of drought-resisting plants, and forage plants from Barga and the Khingan region.
- 3) Herbarium of medicinal plants from North Manchuria.
- 4) Collection (93 numbers) of Materia Medica from North Manchuria. This collection was accompanied by complete record on the use of the various items in the collection.
- 5) Collection of Tibetan Materia Medica according to the rGyud-bzi, the standard work on Tibetan medicine.
- 6) Collection of Tibetan medical texts, and medical charts.
- 7) A complete map of the Inner Mongolian region in 4 sheets. The original of the map had been shown to you by Dr. Bressmann so that you can go on record, if necessary. I keep photostatic copies of this map.
- 8) 49 lots of seeds from Barga and the Khingan region.
- 9) 436 lots of seeds from Inner Mongolia and Spiti (N.W. Himalayas) collected during the fieldseason of 1935.
- 10) A systematic herbarium of 1169 numbers collected in Inner Mongolia.
- 12) A vegetational map of the Inner Mongolian region in two sheets. The first map of its kind to be prepared. We have taken photographs of the maps before sending the originals to the Department.
- 13) Systematic herbarium collected in Spiti (N.W. Himalayas), 192 numbers.
- 14) Complete photographic record with annotations.

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15) Report on explorations in Barga and Inner Mongolia. A complete copy of the report had been sent to you for your information.

You know how Macmillan and his companion tried to jeopardize the expedition's fieldwork in Manchuria during the field season of 1934. The delays in the summer of 1934 were entirely caused by them and you must have copies of their correspondence with the Department and our replies to their allegations.

As stated in my letter of the 4th instant, which I hope you have received, we were never notified of a discharge. The Expedition had been transferred to Kuku-nor in the end of August, and this we had to refuse on account of the local conditions. It was always our intention to terminate our field work in Inner Mongolia by Sept. 25th as the seeding season is over by that date. We have sent you copies of all our correspondence beginning with July, 1935, and from it you will see the actual situation. In the interest of truth, the Department should make a clear statement, based on facts, and not to permit false statements in the press, which can always lead to a libel suit.

We have to defend ourselves against all these defamatory statements, and are anxious that the members of our Defence Committee and the U.S. public should know the actual facts. Therefore please acquaint the members of the Defence Committee and our attorneys with all the above facts. Perhaps our Defence Committee will find out ways to make these facts known, and this counteract the malicious slander.

We do all we can to expediate the sale of the Expedition's equipment, left in charge of Mr. G. Soderbom in Kuei-hua, Sui-yuan. We expect to receive soon his report and his remittance which will be then forwarded to the Department through our attorneys, for we are of the opinion that it is impossible for us to continue direct correspondence after the events of January 30th. We also wish to make it quite clear, that neither Prof. de Roerich, nor myself had or have any intention to apply for an extension of service with the Department. The rumour, therefore, must have originated in the Department. We have received no letters from the Department after Mr. Richey's letter of December 27th, 1935, a copy of which had been sent to you with the rest of the correspondence.

Please note that total of seeds collected during the whole expedition was 485 lots of seeds. Dr. Y. L. Keng, our botanist on the Inner Mongolian expedition, informs me that the species of *Agropyrum* / No. 748 of our herbarium / may prove to be a new species, and I am awaiting his final report.

I am sorry to have to tell you, that Mother's health is not at all good. You can easily imagine the terrific tension, for betrayal is never easy. We are heading towards great events!

We all hope that your Mother feels better. I know too well how worrying it is. Please tell Mrs. Sutro that I have read with the greatest interest her memoirs, especially the account of her last journey.

With all best wishes,

Yours always,

5 (N58) 4
March 10th, 1936.

Dear Miss Grant,

Please find enclosed a letter addressed to Mr. F. D. Richey and a statement of expenses incurred in Harbin with covering documents. This letter and statement, please forward to Mr. Richey through our attorneys.

On Sunday, March 8th, we received the following cable from Richey:-

"Your report gives no account of May June July nineteen thirty four please give fullest possible details your accounts in these months so our record may be complete Richey."

To this we replied as per copy enclosed which please hand over to our attorneys.

We did not include an account of the period May-July, 1934 in our Report on explorations for two reasons:

1) The period of May-July 1934 was fully covered in our reports to the Secretary of Agriculture dated July 20th, Oct. 1st and 24th, 1934. Copies of these reports had been sent to you for your information. I am enclosing an extra copy of our letter-report dated October 1st, 1934. Please let me know whether you have kept copies of the reports dated July 20th and Oct. 24th?

2) Dr. Bressman in his letter of July 9th, 1935, stated that the Report on exploration should contain scientific data only, route maps and photographic record. The Report was therefore drafted according to this direction.

You will note from our Report on explorations, a copy of which had been sent to you, that we neither included in it the account of our stay and work in Peiping in winter 1935, because this period was covered in our periodical reports to the Secretary of Agriculture and Dr. Bressman who was placed in charge of the expedition matters.

It seems that the Department is not in possession of our reports sent from Harbin dealing with the Macmillan case, and is probably unaware of the fact that we possess copies of the Macmillan correspondence. We shall be glad to

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give all details of this case, and send them copies of our reports dated July 20th, Oct. 1st and Oct. 24th, 1934. I am enclosing for your files a copy of a cable received in September 1934 from the Secretary, an extra copy of his letter to Col. Saite, though you must have a copy of it in your file. This letter is interesting because it clearly states the organization of the expedition. Also wish to refer you to the Department release which appeared in 40 papers in July 1934 and which clearly states that Prof. de Roerich was Leader of the expedition, and that I was invited as an expert on Central Asiatic tongues, and not as botanist. I also enclose a copy of a letter written to me by Mr. Vazykov, secretary of the American Consulate in Harbin. The letter is in Russian and I am not sending a translation in order not to make this present letter too heavy for airmail. Mr. Vazykov's letter is interesting because it shows that the American Consulate was also ignorant of the whereabouts of Mr. Macmillan and his associate, and because it is written by Russian employee of the Consulate, and thus proves that Russians are employed by American concerns abroad. You will remember Mr. Garrels' statement that "of all the people in the world to travel with in this part of the world, the last ones to choose are Russians". Mr. Garrels was the American Consul General in Tokyo, and I do not know from where he got this information which was repeated in Macmillan's correspondence. Anyhow it seems that the poor consul was suffering from acute Russophobia! In some parts of the world this is a particularly virulent affliction. You must possess copies of the Macmillan correspondence, and this will certainly interest our attorneys. By the way, we have received clippings from the Paris edition of the New York Herald containing the slanderous story of Jan. 30th. It seems that the United Press and the Associated Press go ahead with their story. We shall be interested to hear about the libel suits planned by our attorneys. We all are hard at work and know the coming victory. It is unfortunate that Mother continues to feel herself not so good. Of course the strain is enormous. But better days are coming! With cordial greetings to all,

Yours very sincerely,

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N59

March 15th, 1936.

Dear Miss Grant,

Please find enclosed a copy of another cable from Mr. Richey dated Washington March 12th and a copy of our reply through Messrs Plaut & Davis. I am also enclosing the requested particulars for the period May-July, 1934, and a covering letter for Mr. Richey. Please hand over the letter and the particulars to our attorneys for transmission to Mr. F. D. Richey. I wonder why they need another statement about our activities during May-July, 1934. The period was fully covered in our letters to the Department of June 5th, July 20th, October 1st and 24th, 1934. From the enclosed particulars you will see that we have made a full statement of the Macmillan case without mentioning the fact that copies of his letters to the Department are in our possession, sent to us by the Secretary. Our letter of Oct. 24th, 1934, contains our answer and comments on the Macmillan correspondence. Before writing the enclosed particulars, I went over again the whole of this "immortal" correspondence. Indeed one may say, that paper stands a lot! In reading through the correspondence, it struck me as interesting that one of the worse letters in the whole lot was written by Macm. to Arthur Garrels, the Consul-General in Tokyo, dated July 20th, 1934. Now it is ^{not} often that officials of one Governmental department communicate in such a way with officials of another department. In this letter the botanist certainly went out of his way, and the whole procedure certainly gives ample food for thought. I also wish to draw your attention to Ryerson's letter of October 15th to the Secretary. His statement that "there was no single leader on this expedition, we sent them out with divided authority" explains the whole nonsense which happened during May-July, 1934, and which we could explain to ourselves at that time. It is clear that while Mr. W. was thinking and acting along one line, his subordinates were doing something quite different, with the result that the expedition was unnecessarily delayed due to the actions of Mr. Macmillan and his associates.

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Ryerson's letter also contains another illuminating passage which a quote in extenso:

" From the time of the appointment of the R-s, the barrage set in within as well as without the Department. Explorer friends of mine openly questioned my sanity. Others said I was directly jeopardizing you as well as the Pres. The R-s were accused as swindlers, mountebanks, and imposters or hair-brained visionaries. When accounts came out in Time and other papers I was laughed at and the expedition razzed. Will Beebe only gave my encouragement and even he questioned the organization back of the R-s - said they were being played for suckers by wealthy Jews". This para is interesting from several points. First Mr. Ryer, must have an extraordinary ability to collect libelous information and gossip, secondly it may help to discover existing centres of slander. It would be very interesting to find out from Mr. Ryerson the source of his information. Perhaps our attorneys will find a way to discover the original sources of this slander. We know that the botanists have been very active round Manchuria, Japan and North China in slandering our name and spreading false information. You know that I had already a very strong conversation with Lattimore on the same subject and other members of the Embassy in Peiping. Two Americans were once seen in the Peiping Grand Hotel talking about the case, and apparently fully believing the botanists statements. Such cases were quite numerous round Peiping, and only show to what extent the harmful activity of the botanists spread in the American colony in the Far East. Did you see Mrs. Pruyn Harrison at the Museum? She was a good and helpful friend in Peiping, and promised to visit the Museum on her return to the USA. Her address is c/o Gerard Trust Company, Philadelphia. Perhaps you could come in touch with her, she was well informed of the Peiping atmosphere, and could be helpful. It is also characteristic that while Prof. de Roerich and myself were frequently invited by foreign representatives in Peiping, the American Embassy abstained from invitation. We were only once invited by Mr. Ed. Clubb, one of the Secretaries of the American Embassy. At that time we thought that such was the status of agricultural explorers, but now I am inclined to think that there was more behind it all. Major Constant, the Assistant Military Attache, was the only friendly and helpful person, and I remember with pleasure this contact. I hasten to finish this letter. With all best wishes,

Yours cordially,

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March 16th, 1936

Dear Miss Grant,

We have just received your cable of the 14th inst, and I hasten to forward you copies of available documents. Neither Prof. de Roerich nor myself remember having signed an agreement form in April, 1934. We were notified of our appointments by telegram, a copy of which is enclosed. We also received notifications of our appointments a copy which is also enclosed. In my case the form was similar, only instead of \$ 6000, stood \$ 4600. I am also enclosing a copy of the Letter of Authority dated April 11, 1934. The subsequent letters were similar in form. The Letter lists our duties as collaborators of the Bureau of Plant Industry. You will note that we have carried them out to the best of our ability under existing circumstances. I also enclose a copy of a letter from Mr. Mahoney. Before receiving funds for the expedition, we had to execute a bond for \$ 5000 each to enable us to keep government funds. This was done by myself in Washington, and by Prof. de Roerich in New York in the presence of Mr. Mahoney and yourself. We also filled out personal data forms, and signed a special form instructing the Department as to the disposal of our bodily remains in case of death during the expedition. This is all, as far as I remember. I am also enclosing a copy of Mr. W's letter dated Sept. 27th, 1934, which is important as it states that he fully approved of Prof. de Roerich's actions in Japan and Manchukuo. You must have copies of our correspondence with the Department during April, 1934, as the letters had been written with your assistance and copies were left in New York for your files. The letters were dated April 1st, 14, 16, 18, 11, & 21, 31 also the very first letter of March 22.

The enclosed letter to Mr. Richey with the particulars for May-July, 1934, should be sent through our attorneys in a closed envelope. In haste, yours always,

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March 19th, 1936

Dear Miss Grant,

Please find enclosed a letter to Mr. Richey dated March 19th, with two enclosures, and a copy for yourself.

The letter requires no explanations. I hope you have received the complete copy of our Report on explorations and copies of our correspondence. Since you must have copies of correspondence covering the period preceding July, 1935, our attorneys will be now able to study the whole case. We are doing our utmost to speed up the sale of expedition equipment in China, but you know the distances, and that even an air-mail letter from here takes one month to reach Kalgan. At the same time it is not so easy to dispose of field equipment at present, due to the general situation in North China and the closure of caravan routes leading west towards Mongolia and Eastern Turkestan. One of our representatives in Manchukuo has sent us the enclosed clipping containing the slanderous story issued by the Dept. Please note that there is not a single word said about the retraction. The Manchuria Daily News is an English language newspaper published by the South

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Manchurian Railway. The cable is called Special to M.D.N. and its wording is interesting. I also enclose a copy of a passage from the R.M. Minutes of Febr. 20th, 1935. This para contains a memorandum on the conversation held between Mr. Sawada and Mr. L. Horch. It mentions the "activity" of two American scientific men who were responsible for some of the articles which appeared in the Japanese and Japanese-controlled Russian press in Harbin. This is interesting.

Looking through copies of vouchers submitted by Macm. which were sent to us, I find interesting things. For example he paid to a Russian guide in Harbin the sum of M\$ 96.00 for five days of service! While we paid Mex. \$ 45.00 per month to our assistants. Thus we cannot be accused of spending lavishly Uncle Sam's money.

It becomes rather difficult to correspond with the Depart. and not to mention the outrageous story of Jan. 30th, but at the same time their failure to make a proper retraction gives us a clear case. You will be interested to hear that one of our *Apropyrum* species has proved to be a new one and

has been called by Dr. Keng *A. mongolicum*. Thus we have one new species of *Agrópyrum* and the discovery of *Timouria Sapozhnikovi* in Inner Mongolia, this grass having been known to exist in the Tien Shan only. With all best wishes and many salams,
Yours always,

9 (163) 4

May 4th, 1936

Dear Frances,

Please find enclosed the originals of the Department's letters from June, 1935, to date. You will note that Mr. Richey's letter of December 27th, 1935, has been kept by us here, since it contains signed authority to dispose of the expedition equipment. A copy of the letter had been sent you by air on Feb. 3rd, 1936. I shall forward the original of the letter as soon as the sales of the expedition equipment in China will be completed. As you know most of the camp equipment and one motor car were left in charge of Mr. George Soderbom / c/o Rev. Carl G. Soderbom, Methodist Protestant Mission, Kalgan, North China / to be sold by him. Mr. Soderbom was formerly with the Hedin expedition in charge of supplies and motor transport, and at present acts as the Ford Agent in Kuei-Hua. He is well known in the American colony in China / his mother is American / and has been recommended to us as a trustworthy man. He is trying to secure good price for the equipment which is not so easy at present due to local events in North China and the virtual occupation of the country by

the Japanese which upset all business. I hope you have received my letters of Feb. 4, 26, March 10, 15, 16, and 19th, as well as the photostat copies of maps attached to our report on explorations. You did not mention the receipt of any of the above listed letters, in your recent letters to Prof. and Mme de Roerich. The letters contained matters on which I would like to have your opinion. I know you are very busy, but hope you will be able to answer some of the points in a paragraph of your general letter here. The rest of the correspondence with the Department will follow by next boat. I do not quite see of what use the originals could be in a suit against the newspaper, unless the attorneys contemplate action against the Department. After all this official correspondence, ^{is} Of course the attorneys know best. We have sent you some more clippings of the slanderous story of Jan. 30th, from various countries evidently someone took great care to spread the slander. One of the clipping from New Zealand states that "informal protests" were received by the Department. I wonder from where they got this information. We know that neither the Japanese, nor the Chinese or Mongolians made any protests either formal, or informal. The only source could be the Legation Quarter in Peiping, which is only a big village with all the gossip characteristic of such places.