

On April 28th, 1934, Professor N. de Roerich, who had been invited by the U.S. Department of Agriculture "to lead and protect" the Department's expedition to Mongolia /see letter dated March 16th, 1934/, accompanied by Mr. G. de Roerich, assistant to the Leader of the expedition, left Seattle on the SS "President Jackson". They arrived at Yokohama on the 10th of May, 1934, at 11 p.m., and were met at the pier by Dr. Yuzo Ishimaru, Director of the Bureau for Culture and Arts of the Imperial Ministry of Public Instruction, who very kindly arranged a laissez-passer for the expedition's arms and baggage through the Japanese Customs. Prof. de Roerich and Mr. de Roerich left for Tokyo the same evening travelling with Dr. Ishimaru in a motor car supplied by the Ministry of Public Instruction.

During the first few days courtesy calls were made to the U.S. Embassy and to various Governmental offices and institutions, such as the Foreign Office, the Ministry of Public Instruction, Museum authorities and the Imperial University. On May 15th, the Japan-American Society arranged a luncheon in honour of Professor de Roerich at which the U.S. Ambassador Mr. J. C. Grew was present. The speakers at the function were Prince Iyesato Tokugawa, Mr. K. Horinouchi, of the Foreign Office, and Professor de Roerich.

At the Foreign Office, Mr. Teiji Tsubokami, Chief of Bureau of Cultural Relations, was of the utmost assistance and introduced Prof. de Roerich to various officials in the Government whose assistance was necessary to obtain permission to conduct exploratory work in Manchuria.

A conference was held with the U.S. Ambassador who advised Prof. de Roerich that "because of the very delicate situation with the new State in Manbhuria, it was better for him to use his personal connections

in negotiations with local authorities". This interview was mentioned in the report dated October 24th, 1934.

During negotiations with Mr. T. Tsubokami, a complete programme of exploration in Eastern Mongolia / Barga and the Khingan region/ was arranged to be communicated to the Manchukuo Foreign Office in Hsinching. Mr. Ohashi, the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Manchukuo, was expected in Tokyo about May 13th, and Mr. Tsubokami promised to arrange an interview for Professor de Roerich.

While the authorities were studying the submitted programme of explorations, Professor de Roerich and Mr. G. de Roerich visited the various Japanese scientific institutions in charge of explorations in Manchuria, Mongolia and North China. A visit was paid to the Imperial Botanical Gardens and a conference held with Prof. Nakai, Director of the Botanical Gardens. Several visits were paid to the Botanical Department of the Imperial University for the purpose of getting acquainted with scientific literature on Manchuria and Mongolia, as well as to secure translations of needed passages.

On the arrival of Mr. Ohashi, the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs in Hsinching, Professor de Roerich had a conference with him and Mr. Ohashi promised to recommend the matter to his Government in Hsinching, and also gave Professor de Roerich a card of introduction to the Manchukuo Legation in Tokyo. Mr. Ohashi stated that while they had recently refused Mr. R. C. Andrews permission to conduct explorations in Eastern Mongolia, they were making an exception in this case. He also stated that all details of route will have to be settled in Manchuria with the local authorities who were familiar with the local situation.

On May 23rd Professor de Roerich and Mr.G.de Roerich visited General Senjuro Hayashi at the War Ministry, in order to secure from him introductions to the Japanese Army authorities in Manchuria. This was necessary, because an introduction from the Army authorities was considered essential by all who knew the situation in Manchuria. Gen.Hayashi after examining the submitted programme of explorations, issued introductory cards to the military authorities at Harbin, Tsitsikar, Khailar and Jehol.

It was agreed by the Secretary of Agriculture and Mr.K.Ryerson, then Chief of Bureau of Plant Industry, that the expedition should engage the services of a Japanese secretary and interpreter to assist the expedition in the field. The expedition was fortunate to secure the services of Mr.S.Kitagawa, a former official of the South Manchurian Railway and a man with a long experience in Manchuria, recommended by Mr.T.Tsubokami.

The Manchukuo Legation in Tokyo issued complimentary visae and sent instructions to the Manchukuo authorities en route.

On the eve of Prof. de Roerich's departure from Tokyo, Mr. Shigimitsu, the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, arranged a luncheon in honour of Prof.de Roerich.

News was expected from the Department of Agriculture about Messrs Macmillan and Stevens' start, but no information was received about Mr.Macmillan's plans during the stay in Japan. Mr.Tsubokami was therefore requested to kindly assist Messrs Macmillan and Stevens on their arrival to Tokyo and during the journey to Harbin. This he promised to do, and requested Professor de Roerich to instruct the two botanists to visit him at his office on their arrival.

Mr. G. de Roerich therefore left a letter addressed to Mr. Macmillan at the U.S. Embassy which was handed over to Mr. Macmillan on his arrival to Yokohama. The letter contained full instructions as to the journey to Manchuria.

Professor de Roerich and Mr. G. de Roerich left Tokyo on the 25th May, 1934, in the morning for Shimonoseki. A stop was made at Kyoto in order to visit the Tibetan book collection at the Otani Daigaku Library and where Mr. S. Kitagawa was ^{expected.} supposed to join the expedition. The library in Kyoto contains a good set of the Tibetan Kangyur and Tangyur, the latter containing a section of medicinal treatises. Moreover it was intended to visit Japanese medicinal practitioners in order to secure data on native materia medica, which Mr. G. de Roerich, besides being assistant to the Leader of the expedition, had been requested to collect by the Secretary. The expedition left Kyoto on the 27th May accompanied by Mr. Kitagawa, and on the 28th left Shimonoseki for Korea. At Fusan, the expedition was met by an official representing the Governor of Korea, who saw the expedition off. From Fusan, the expedition proceeded direct to Harbin and arrived there at 6 a.m. on May 31st, 1934. During the expedition's passage through Korea and Manchukuo, the authorities have shown utmost cooperation. At Antung on the Manchukuo frontier, the expedition was met by the local Japanese Consul, and all the expedition's baggage including fire-arms was permitted to enter Manchukuo without examination.

On arrival to Harbin, Professor de Roerich and Mr. G. de Roerich at once proceeded to arrange for the forthcoming research work in order to begin field work on the completion of all formalities.

Complete equipment had to be arranged, and the first days of June were spent in placing orders for various items of equipment.

Mr. Kitagawa, the Japanese Secretary, communicated with the authorities in Hsinching in order to arrange an interview for Professor de Roerich with the Manchukuo Foreign Office and the Bureau for Mongolian Affairs which is in charge of the Mongol territories west of the Khingan Range. On June 18th, Mr. Kitagawa left for Hsinching to speed up the granting of necessary permits.

Meanwhile a study of the herbarium material from Barga and the Khingan region, preserved at the Museum of North Manchuria in Harbin, was made. The expedition was given full use of the material in the Museum and its library, and was able to consult maps of the region.

On June 3rd was received the following cable from Mr. K. Ryerson transmitted through the local American Consulate:

" Macmillan Stephens arrive Yokohama June first President Hoover Ryerson Plant Industry".

This was the first cable received by the expedition about Macmillan. This cable was acknowledged in Mr. G. de Roerich's letter to Mr. K. Ryerson, dated June 5th, 1934, in which was also given a brief report of the expedition's activities.

On June 10th was received the first letter from Mr. Macmillan dated June 3rd from Tokyo in reply to G. de Roerich's letter of May 23rd. A copy of Mr. Macmillan's letter of June 10th, 1934, had been sent to the Department. It is regrettable that Prof. de Roerich was not informed of Mr. Macmillan's delay in reaching Tokyo, or his plans.

On the 20th June Professor de Roerich and Mr.G.de Roerich left for Hsinching to complete negotiations with the Manchukuo authorities. During the stay in Hsinching, Professor de Roerich and Mr.G.de Roerich had the honour of being received in audience by H.M.the Emperor K'ang-teh who expressed his interest in the work of the expedition. Conferences were also held with officials at the Foreign Office, Mr.Tada, the Councillor of the Japanese Embassy and Mr.Tsutsui, Secretary of the Embassy, and with General Yoda, Chief of the Bureau of Mongol Affairs. Assurances were given that the necessary permits will be issued. The authorities inquired about the whereabouts of Messrs Macmillan and Stephens, to which question no definite answer could be given, as no information was received from Mr.Macmillan about the date of his departure from Tokyo and of his arrival to Manchukuo. Professor de Roerich could only state that the two botanists were en route for Manchuria and that he was expecting to hear soon from them. Prof.de Roerich and Mr.G.de Roerich returned to Harbin on the 23rd June. Mr.Kitagawa remained in Hsinching until the 28th to discuss details of route with the officials of the Khingan Provincial Government. On the return to Harbin, a letter was received from Mr.Macmillan dated June 20th from Dairen, a copy of which had been sent to the Department. To this letter Mr.G.de Roerich replied on the same day, the 23rd of June, requesting Mr.Macmillan to keep him informed of his progress and to notify Prof.de Roerich in case of further delays. No reply was received to this letter.

The expedition proceeded to complete all final arrangements and to secure travelling permits for the botanical assistant who joined the staff of the expedition. Indirectly through the Foreign Affairs Bureau

in Harbin rumours reached the expedition that Messrs Macmillan and Stephens had some troubles in Dairen, and on one occasion it was even asked whether the two botanists now in Dairen were really the botanists of the expedition of which Prof.de Roerich was the Leader. Mr.Kitagawa on his return from Hsinching reported that Messrs Macmillan and Stephens had applied to the authorities for a separate permission, and that the authorities were confused, hence the delays.

On July 13th the American Consulate informed Prof.de Roerich that the travelling permits for Prof.de Roerich, Mr.G.de Roerich and for Messrs Macmillan and Stephens have been received, and at the same time inquired whether Prof.de Roerich had received news from the two botanists / a copy of Mr.Yazykoff's letter is enclosed/. Prof.de Roerich then visited the American Consulate to collect the travelling permits, and inquire whether Mr.Coville, the Consul, had any news of the two botanists. Mr.Coville said he had none. It was then decided to wait for a couple of days and then send a telegram to Mr.Macmillan.

As there was uncertainty as to what actually had happened to Messrs Macmillan and Stephens, Professor de Roerich asked Prof. T.P. Gordeev, the well-known botanist, to join the expedition. Prof.Gordeev agreed to join the staff without salary, his travelling expenses and subsistence while in the field to be paid by the expedition.

On July 17th the following telegram was sent to Mr.Macmillan c/o the American Consulate in Dairen:

" Sorry my airmail letter June twenty third unanswered stop impossible delay further field work stop field work permits ready stop in case further delays due your scientific work please wire your plans and

dated arrival Harbin.Roerich".

To this the following reply was received:

" Leaving Hsinking morning July eighteenth should arrive Harbin same evening will discuss plans later."Macmillan ".

Messrs Macmillan and Stephens reached Harbin at 11.30 p.m. on July 18th,1934. On July 19th in the morning at 9 a.m., Mr.G.de Roerich visited Mr.Macmillan and the Hotel Moderne and was received by Mr. Macmillan at 10 a.m. Mr.G.de Roerich conveyed to Mr.Macmillan that the travelling permits were ready and inquired as to when Mr.Macmillan could visit Prof.de Roerich, the Leader of the expedition, to discuss future plans.Mr.Macmillan replied that his baggage did not arrive from Hsinching and that he was expecting the arrival of Dr.Sato, a botanist, and of Mr.Takata, of the Kuantung Bureau of Information and Propaganda in Dairen. Mr.Macmillan said he did not make up his mind as to the date of his departure from Harbin. Mr.G.de Roerich told Mr.Macmillan that the expedition had planned to leave on the 27th July, to which Mr.Macmillan replied that he was unable to join the field party, asked not to make any arrangements for him or his assistant, and that he intended to proceed as a separate unit. Mr.Macmillan also informed Mr.G.de Roerich that he did not visit Mr.Tsubokami at the Foreign Office in Tokyo, as advised in the above mentioned letter of May 23rd,1934.

Although Professor de Roerich's address had been communicated to Mr.Macmillan and was known at the Hotel desk / the hotel communicated the hour of Mr.Macmillan's arrival to Harbin /, neither Mr.Macmillan nor his assistant made any attempt to visit the Leader of the Expedition.

On July 26th a letter was received from Mr.Macmillan of the same

date / a copy of the letter had been sent to the Department/
informing that he was unable to find any traces of his baggage,
in which the expedition was also interested as it contained a
tent, some botanical equipment, arms and ammunition for Professor
de Roerich. In the letter, Mr. Macmillan again made the request not
to make any arrangements for him either in Harbin or in Khailar.
The reply to this letter, dated July 27th, was taken to the hotel
by Mr. G. de Roerich personally. On inquiring whether Mr. Macmillan was
in, Mr. G. de Roerich was informed that Mr. Macmillan and Stephens
were out. Prof. de Roerich and Mr. G. de Roerich then visited Mr. Coville,
the American Consul, in order to take his advice in the matter, and
he advised them to go ahead with their plans, and not to wait for
Mr. Macmillan, as the season was already advanced, and because Mr.
Macmillan was delayed by his baggage. It should be added here that
Mr. Kitagawa visited Mr. Macmillan to see what could be done to find
the baggage and thus hasten the start of the field party. Mr. Macmillan
declined Mr. Kitagawa's assistance. Mr. Macmillan did not inform
Prof. de Roerich of his movements and negotiations in Harbin, and only
indirectly it became known that he had an interview with the Soviet
Consul-General and with Col. Komatsubara, Chief of the Military Mission
in Harbin. When it became quite obvious that Mr. Macmillan was anxious
to work independently, Prof. de Roerich sent the following memorandum
dated July 29th, 1934, to the Secretary, in addition to the letter dated
July 20th:

"Enclosed please find a copy of Dr. Macmillan's letter of the 26th
instant, and copy of our reply dated the 27th instant. Both letters

require no comments. We only wish to state that we shall act according to para 3 of our letter of April 21st, 1934, in which we said that " if, as Mr.Ryerson proposed, for any reason, Dr. Macmillan feels personally uneasy about going to any region, we shall not insist on his going, for him at least, to such region".

Meanwhile the expedition's departure was delayed for a few days due to heavy damage to the railway line between Harbin and Manchuli.

On July 30th, Mr.G. de Roerich received a note from Mr.Macmillan informing him that the baggage had arrived and that he will be at 3 p.m. at the American Consulate. Mr.G.de Roerich visited the Consulate at 3 p.m. and received from Mr.Macmillan one tent, some botanical equipment, two revolvers and ammunition. The ammunition included only revolver ammunition, as the rifle ammunition was left by Mr.Macmillan in Dairen. The expedition therefore started with only 20 rounds of rifle ammunition.

Prof.de Roerich accompanied by Prof.T.P.Gordeev, Mr.G.de Roerich, Mr.S.Kitagawa and Mr.A.Kostin, the botanical assistant left Harbin on the 1st of August for Khailar. Although Mr.Macmillan and Mr.Stephens were travelling on the same train and in the same car, they avoided meeting Professor de Roerich during the whole journey.

The deplorable incident of August 2nd,1934, which took place at the Japanese Military Mission in Khailar, had been fully recorded in the report to the Secretary of Agriculture dated October 1st,1936. It appears that Mr.Macmillan had given a wrong impression of the organization of the expedition to Col.Saite, Chief of the Mission. This misunderstanding which apparently existed all through June and July and had caused considerable inconvenience, was subsequently fully clarified by the Secretary's

letters of September 27th, 1934, to Mr. Arthur Garrels, American
Consul-General in Tokyo, Mr. George Hanson, American Consul-General
in Harbin, Gen. Saite, Chief of the Japanese Military Mission in
Kharlar, and to Prof. de Roerich.