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Department of State

In reply refer to FE 102.7 302
MacMillan and Stephens.

June 30, 1934.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I have received your Department's letter of June 9, 1934, advising that Messrs. Howard G. MacMillan and James L. Stephens, now in Tokyo, Japan as members of an expedition charged with conducting botanical studies on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, plan to visit that part of Turkestan situated in the Soviet Union and if conditions permit, to cross over in Chinese Turkestan. Appreciation was expressed for such assistance as this Department might be able to render in this connection. It is noted, however, that according to your letter of June 28, 1934, only Mr. MacMillan now plans to make that trip.

This Department has informed the American Embassy at Moscow by telegraph of the desire of Mr. MacMillan to visit Soviet Turkestan and has requested that the Embassy extend all appropriate assistance. In addition, the Department has instructed the American Legation at Peiping by telegraph to request the Chinese Government to communicate to the Sinkiang authorities authorization for Mr. MacMillan's entry at the border and for the facilitation of his travels after entry. The Legation was also requested to take steps to inform Mr. MacMillan in regard to the Chinese visa requirements for entry into Chinese territory.

Referring to your call on June 22, and to your letter of June 28, 1934, in regard to Messrs. Nicholas and George Roerich, the Department is supplementing its previous instructions to diplomatic and consular officers in Japan and China by a further telegraphic instruction to the effect that the non-American members of the expedition, as members of an official American expedition, are of course entitled to appropriate assistance.

Sincerely yours,
William Phillips