

On receiving the letter of August 19th, from Professor Roerich, and following the meeting held that day for the purpose of discussing the problem, Miss Grant telephoned to Washington, and ascertaining that our friend would be there, took the midnight train, arriving there in the early morning. An appointment was made for 1.20 P.M. with our friend, but previous to the appointment, our friend sent to the hotel, the file of correspondence, so that she would be able to look through it, and get some idea of what had been written. This correspondence has been copied in toto and is being sent to Naggar and Harbin, together with this report, so that Miss Grant herewith wishes to express her horror on reading the correspondence and to state her indignation at the actions of the botanists and their criminal attempt to implicate Father, together with the entire dreadful complications which they deliberately set out to cause. Despite their knowledge of Father's leadership (viz letters of June 24th and others), they nevertheless deliberately sought to deceive the authorities and assert their independence of Prof. Roerich's orders and even to impugn the genuineness of the letter from the friend. It is impossible to over-estimate, in Miss Grant's opinion, the danger of their actions and she wishes to express here her realization of the peremptory manner in which it should be handled.

On seeing the friend, she expressed to him the sentiments which she has hereinabove written and said she felt there was only one way to handle the situation <sup>11</sup> to recall and discharge both men; to get rid of R. and in every way to answer the entire matter so as to expose the botanists and show their consistent attempt to jeopardize the situation; to write abroad clarifying Father's position and authority and discrediting what the botanists' had done.

Miss Grant indicated to her friend how the entire present complications had been due to the absolutely equivocal manner in which the exp. had been organized (as indicated) and said this explained the constant indications about the terrible formulae which were being pronounced. The friend said he agreed and shared the concern about the entire matter. Miss Grant said that only a bold stroke could solve the situation and prevent repercussions by discrediting the botanists and indicating in the highest manner, the authority of Father.

To the suggestion of recalling and discharging both botanists, the friend said that he ~~thought~~ agreed immediately to recall the senior botanist and would recall both if that seemed the correct plan. However, it had been his thought to send the subordinate 1500 miles into the interior (Yunan); in this way, he thought, the senior would not be able to connive with the other man, on his return to substantiate any attempts to prove his actions and rehabilitate himself. I asked him to wait until the next day on this. As to discharging the men, our friend said he was ready to act entirely in accordance with the advice of Father and Mother on this and asked me to send over the circumstances which obtain in this Government branch of service. All men in the department, including the botanists, are in the civil service workers, which as he explained are not subject to the usual methods of discharge. Certain forms of written charges must be made against the men, who are permitted to answer in writing before action may be taken. In the case of R. the matter was more complicated because he was the head of a department, and might involve a Congressional investigation. I promised to send these facts to both and get full advice as to whether ~~discharge~~ he should proceed with discharge. In the case of the second man (R.), in line with Father's advice, that if he were not discharged he should be sent away some where, I asked our friend whether it might be possible to transfer him to completely different work; he said, since he was head of the dept. it would have to be on the same level, according to the civil service. I thereupon asked if he could not be sent far off on an expedition G. said he would go into all possibilities of neutralizing any harm of this man, but asked advice on this matter.

In his opinion, friend said action taken had probably been provocative; that in his opinion men would like to make political capital of this. That perhaps the discharge of R. would incite them to frame up a congressional investigation which is quite in line with the actions being taken by partisan enemies of the administration and which could be easily precipitated by any congressman friend of theirs (both Mac. and R. are from California) who wanted to reap some political capital from it. He asked me to explain the system in the Government service -- which is entirely bureaucratic; although secretaries and heads change the mass of government employees remain as civil service employees who frequently are even traitors to the heads.

Miss Grant asked the friend how it happened that this matter which was going on for some months had not been previously disclosed in its present horrible way, to which the friend said that R. had been away from Wash. from the end of June to end of August, and then again to Sept. 4. Our friend had also been away and when he inquired from the second chief of the department in regard to the records of the Exp. he had been told that R. had kept this matter 'very close to his own chest' and that had ordered all correspondence forwarded



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to him from the botanists. On Sept. 5, on R's return and G's return, when friend asked for correspondence, R. claimed that he had not seen this correspondence because it had been forwarded and followed him through the country, without reaching him; he claimed to be reading it for the first time. Friend asked R. for his correspondence to botanists, since this was not in file. R. replied that he had sent these letters from his trip and they were still in his baggage. Although our friend requested these from him two or three times, these have not been turned over for examination. Miss Grant asked friend not to permit him to get away with this out showing this correspondence, but to insist until he produced what he had written.

The same evening Miss Grant phoned to New York, and explained the question of the recall of the men, which as the first matter to be considered, saying that friend thought it best to recall the senior bot. at once, and, in order to separate both, to send the other 1500 miles into the interior for six months (French Indo China). Mr. Horch advised Miss Grant to cable advice on this to Father, and Miss Grant thereupon send following: REPLYING YOURS FRIEND RECALLING MAC TEXAS IMMEDIATELY SENDING S. FURTHER CHINA OR TEXAS(U.S.) WIRE IF SATISFACTORY

To this, Prof. Roerich replied suggesting the same action for both men, indicating Mr. Horch's advice extremely well taken.

That night Miss Grant studied the correspondence once again and next day seeing friend once again expressed her opinion that the situation furnished test for bold action and rehabilitation of previously taken weak actions. Friend agreed and said this might be "springing board" from which benefit might be derived towards fulfilling indications of E. Miss Grant suggested following definite actions for present saying that she would take back correspondence and copy it sending any further suggestions from there:

1. To send cable immediately recalling botanists (one or both in accordance with Father's reply)
2. To send a cable immediately to Prof. Roerich expressing exceeding regret over difficulties caused him by insubordination of botanists and informing leader of their recall
3. To write official letter to Professor Roerich again expressing indignation over the acts of subordination and appreciation of Professor Roerich's leadership; also asking Professor Roerich for full report answering all botanists' reports.  
(Friend suggested that Miss Grant write out the text of this letter and send it to him after reading the correspondence. It was thought that this letter should go out at the same times as correspondence, so that Prof. Roerich would be completely enabled to know and answer the contentions made.)
4. To write to American Consulated in countries visited by Professor Roerich, with information also asking them to transmit such information to necessary authorities. (Friend ask also to draft this letter.)
5. Get a full report from Prof. Roerich, following which friend should write out a report reproving botanist and answering all charges herein mentioned.
6. Remove R. (answer to this is hereinabove transmitted.)

Miss Grant brought back to New York the correspondence which she has copied and will not send abroad. She copied the material in toto, because she thought that some of the extraneous matter might also be of use to Professor Roerich in the field. She submitted the correspondence to all Trustees.

In addition to the above Miss Grant visited again the Pan American Union, the heads of which assured her they would go forward moving the actions of the governments. The expressed gratification as to the action of the five countries and indicated this was unusually quick indicating the interest.

Dr Gil Borges who was reached by telephone, since he was away, informed her that they were anxious to have Professor Roerich, as the creator of the Pact, present for the ceremonies, and that the invitation would be forwarded to him.

Miss Grant visited the following newspapers: Mr. Denny, associate editor of Scripps Howard Newspaper from whom she received a letter of introduction to their correspondent in Harbin (United Press); Mr. Grantz of the United Press, a friend who said they had sent to Japan previous news item regarding the Expedition and Pact; and who promised to send out submitted article. Also International News Service; Washington Post; Washington Daily News; Associated Press and Herald Tribune Office.

She also saw the Ecuadorian, Bolivian and Chilean Legations --thanking the former and asking the latter to try to hasten action on the Pact.