

Dear Mr. Secretary,

The following is a brief preliminary report on the scientific activities of the expedition. We arrived in Yokohama on the 11th of May, and the same evening proceeded to Tokyo. Two weeks were spent in negotiations with the Imperial Japanese Government and the Manchukuo authorities. On receipt of the necessary permissions to carry on scientific exploration in Manchukuo, the party left Japan on the 28th of May, and proceeded direct to Harbin via Korea. We arrived in Harbin on the 31st of May and established our base in the city in order to complete all arrangements for the proposed expedition to Eastern Mongolia (W Barga), the Khingan Mountains and Jehol. It was our plan to start for the field at the end of June. However the departure for the field was delayed. The two botanists, Dr. Macmillan and Mr. Stevens, who were to accompany the expedition did not arrive in time. In our letter of May addressed to Macmillan we outlined all necessary steps to be taken by them on their arrival. However for some unknown reasons they disregarded our advice and proceeded to negotiate on their own accord. The result was the result that the expedition had to delay its departure, and remain in Harbin the whole of July awaiting the arrival of the two botanists. Copies of all correspondence between ourselves and the botanists have been forwarded to you with our memorandum. During our stay in Harbin we had to visit Hsinching on June 1st to complete negotiations with the Manchukuo authorities. During our stay in Hsinching, Prof. de Roerich and Mr. George de Roerich had the honour of being received in audience by H.M. the Emperor who graciously expressed his interest in the purposes of the expedition. On the arrival of Dr. Macmillan to Harbin, Mr. G. De Roerich visited him at the Hotel in order to arrange for a speedy departure. Dr. M. however expressed his intention of starting as a separate unit with his assistant, and even did not think it necessary

to visit the Chief of the Expedition. We therefore exchanged letters
copies of which have been sent to you for your information, and decided
to start as a separate unit in order to proceed with the firled wor,
which could not be delayed any more. We left Harbin on the 1st of Aug.
for Hailar. Dr. Mac and Stevens were travelling on the same train and
in the same car, but did not think it necessary and during the whole
journey avoided meeting the Leader of the Expedition or any other
member of the party. We arrived in Hailar on the 2nd of August and
at once proceeded to make final arrangements. However the Chief of
the Japanese Military Mission requested us to delay our departure
for a couple of days as he had to ask us several questions in connection
with the ^{arrangement} two American scientists. On the 2nd of Aug. Prof. de Roerich,
accompanied by Mr. G. Ide Roerich and Mr. Kitagawa, visited Col. Saito,
and Col. Saito stated that the authorities were under the impression that
the expedition was headed by Prof. Roerich, and that the permission to
proceed with exploratory work has been granted to Prof. de Roerich
and his assistants Dr. Macmillan and Stevens. But now it appears that
Mac. made a statement to him that he did not consider himself a
member of Prof. de Roerich's party, that he had no instructions from
the Department of Agriculture, and that he intended to proceed as a
separate unit. Col. Saito requested Prof. Ide Roerich to explain to
him the whole situation. Prof. de Roerich agreed to explain the situa-
tion and promised to bring the next days documents to prove the correct-
ness of our previous statements made in Tokyo and in Hsinching. On Aug.
3rd, took place a second interview with Col. Saito, and Prof. de Roerich
showed him a photostat copy of your letter of March 1st; Col. Saito
expressed his interest in the expedition. On the 4th of Aug. Dr. Macmillan
visited him at the Hotel in order to exchange
views. Dr. Macmillan expressed his intention of staying
in Hailar for a short time, but did not think it necessary

at once took the letter to show it to Mac. who was sitting in the room next to us. After half an-hour Col. Saiton came back and told with utter surprise that Mac. considered the document to be not true for the paper on which it was written had no watermark, and that altogether it was not an official letter. We explained that this was not the original, which remained in Harbin, but a photostat copy, and that being written on an official blank it was an official document. Co. Saito expressed his satisfaction at our explanation, but stressed his utter surprise at the strange conduct of the two

botanists who seemed to disregard instructions of their own chief.

strongly He advised us to proceed ~~with~~ as a separate unit, and stated that the two botanists will be permitted to work around Hailar within a specified area, Hailar being situated within the fortified zone.

We consider this strange action by Mac. and his associate as a deliberate attempt to disorganize the expedition and to sow distrust in the midst of the local military authorities suspicion towards the scientific aims of the expedition. Considering the present situation in the country, their action almost brought about a very grave situation. On Aug. 4th, Prof. de Roerich's party left Hailar and proceeded on two motor cars to Ganjur Monastery situated some 175 klm. SW of Hailar. Ganjur was reached on the same day, and several days were spent collecting in the vicinity of the monastery situated in a typical desert and steppe country. Particular attention was paid to sand dune areas. During the stay in the monastery, Mr. Roerich conducted investigations in the local materia medica and copied a medical manuscript which will be translated.. From Ganjur the party proceeded towards Arshan Yamen, situated some 20 klm. SW of the Ganjur Monastery, and then past Dzangin Sume towards Khangai nur. During the journey extensive

botanical collections were made by members of the party, the botanical work being directed by Prof. Gordeev. In Khandagai, the expedition spent three days collecting in the locality. The next stop was at Tsagan nur where extensive collections were gathered. The return journey to Hailar went through the valleys of Guen gol and Imin gol. From Hailar the expedition proceeded to the Khangan mountains and established a base in Barim. Two weeks were spent in the Khigan Mountains. At present the following work is proceeding:

- 1) Seed gathering in the Khingan Mountains and in the steppe country round man kou.
- 2) Study and arranging of the material gathered in Eastern Mongolia and the Khingan Mountains.
- 3) Collecting of information on medicinal plants and gathering of a representative collection of medicinal plants growing in N. Manchuria. Translation and collecting of Chinese and Tibetan medical texts.
- 4) Preparation of a scientific report on the botanical results of summer field work in Barga and the Khingan Mountains.

We propose to resume field work in Jehol and adjacent regions on the edge of the Gobi desert as soon as the collections will be classified and the first scientific report duly completed.