

February 24, 1936

To the Editor of the PARIS HERALD:

Our friends abroad have notified us that on January 30th, the PARIS HERALD printed a United Press Dispatch with the following headline: "U.S. Recalls Roerich Plant-Hunters Following Manchukuo Spy Plot."

You are probably aware that the appearance of this item in America was answered by Prof. Roerich's attorneys with the charge of libel and an immediate demand for retraction. Our attorneys publicly charged Secretary Wallace of the Department of Agriculture with 'timing' this libellous story to abet a friend who was to be defendant the following day in a court action brought by Prof. Roerich and his associate Trustees in the Roerich Museum.

The result of this public challenge on the part of Prof. Roerich's attorneys was the immediate retraction within a few hours of this story, and this retraction was sent out by the United Press at once, according to the information they have given us.

The evidence of our charge of malice is patent in the face of the facts that Professor Roerich left Manchukuo in November 1934, after calmly completing his expeditionary work there, thence going according to his prearranged plans, to China and Mongolia, before returning to India where by agreement with the Department of Agriculture, he was to complete his report and send it back to America, on February 1. During his visits to Japan, Manchukuo, China and Mongolia, on the route of the Expedition, Prof. Roerich was received with constant honor.

Since the story of January 30th is a libellous one and action is to be begun shortly on behalf of Prof. Roerich, we wish to learn from you whether the retraction, published by the United Press, was also published in the PARIS HERALD; and whether it received the same attention and space in your editorial columns as did the original story.

Very truly yours,

Frances R. Grant
Vice President, Roerich Museum

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