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Exp. 32.2
Harbin,
1st October, 1934

Dear Mr. Secretary,

The following is a brief report on the scientific activities of the Expedition. We arrived in Yokohama on the 10th of May at 11 P.M. and the same evening proceeded to Tokyo. Two weeks have been spent in negotiations with the Imperial Japanese Government and the Manchukuo authorities. On receipt of the necessary permissions to carry on scientific explorations in Manchukuo, our party left Japan on the 28th of May, accompanied by Mr. S. Kitagawa, Japanese Secretary to the Expedition recommended by the Foreign Office in Tokyo. We proceeded direct to Harbin in Manchukuo via Korea, and on the 31st of May at 6 A.M. arrived in Harbin where we established a base to complete all arrangements for the proposed expedition to Eastern Mongolia (Barga), the Khingan Mountains and Jehol. Our original plan was to start for the field by the end of June and to spend the month of July in Barga, and the month of August in Jehol. However, we were obliged to delay our departure from Harbin due to the non-arrival in time of the two botanists who were detained in Dairen. In our letter of May 23rd addressed to Dr. Macmillan we had outlined all necessary steps to be taken by him on his arrival to Japan. For some unknown reasons the botanists disregarded our advice and proceeded to negotiate with the authorities on their own accord, with 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. The whole situation has been described in our Memorandum of July 20th forwarded with copies of correspondence between Dr. Macmillan and ourselves.

Between June 20th and 22nd we paid a visit to Hsinching, capital of Manchukuo, to complete negotiations with the Manchukuo authorities. Mr. Kitagawa, the Japanese Secretary, remained in Hsinching until the 28th of June planning the route and discussing details with the Khingan Provincial government. During our stay, in Hsinching, we had the honour of being received in audience by H.M. the Emperor of Manchukuo who very graciously expressed his interest in the purposes of the Expedition. On the arrival of Dr. Macmillan and Mr. Stevens to Harbin, Mr. G. de Roerich visited them at the Hotel in order to discuss plans. Dr. Macmillan however expressed his intention to start as a separate unit, and even did not think it necessary to visit the Leader of the Expedition. We therefore exchanged letters, ~~some~~ copies of which have been sent to you for your information, and decided to start with the field work. We left Harbin on the 1st of August for Hailar, accompanied by Professor T.P. Gordeev, whose services as botanist have been lent to the Expedition by the Museum of North Manchuria. Prof. Gordeev volunteered to join the Expedition without salary, his travelling expenses to be paid by the Expedition. Prof. Gordeev is a well-known scientist who had made a ~~special~~ special study of the sand-dunes areas in Eastern Mongolia. Dr. Macmillan and Mr. Stevens were travelling on the same train and in the same car, 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, early in the morning and at once proceeded to make final arrangements. However the Chief of the Japanese Military Mission, Colonel Saito, requested us to delay our departure for a couple of days as he had to ask us several questions in connection with the arrival of the two American botanists. On the 2nd of Aug. Professor de Roerich, accompanied by Mr. G. de Roerich and Mr. Kitagawa paid a visit to the Japanese Military Mission. Colonel Saito stated that the local authorities were under the impression that the Expedition was headed by Professor de Roerich and that the permission to proceed with the exploratory work has been granted to Professor de Roerich. Dr. Macmillan had made a statement to Col. Saito that he did not consider himself a member of Prof. de Roerich's party, that he had no instructions to this effect from the Department of Agriculture, and that he intended to proceed as a separate unit. Col. Saito requested Prof. de Roerich to explain the whole situation. We agreed to explain the matter and promised to bring the next day documents to prove the correctness of our previous statements in Tokyo and in Hsinching. On Aug. 3rd, took place a second interview with Col. Saito. The Chief of the Khingan Provincial Police and Chief of the Foreign Dept. of the Police were also present at the interview. We showed him a photostap copy of your letter of March 16th, 1934, and Col. Saito asked permission to show this letter to Dr. Macmillan who was sitting in the room next to us. When Col. Saito came back he told with utter surprise that Dr. Macmillan considered the document to be not true! After discussing the matter, Col. Saito expressed his satisfaction at our explanation, but stressed his utter surprise at the strange conduct of the two botanists who seemed to disregard the instructions of their own Chief. He strongly advised us to proceed as a separate unit, and stated that the two botanists will be permitted to work around the city of Hailar within a specified area. We consider this strange action by Dr. Macmillan and his associate to be a deliberate attempt to disorganize the Expedition and sow distrust in the minds of the local officials. Considering the present situation of the country, their unwarranted action almost brought about a very grave and serious situation.

On Aug. 4th our party left Hailar and proceeded in two motor cars to Ganjur Monastery, situated some 175 kilm. SW of Hailar. The Monastery was reached on the same day late in the evening and several days were spent collecting in the vicinity of the Monastery situated

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in a typical desert and steppes country. Particular attention was paid to sand-dune areas. During the stay in the monastery, Mr. de Roerich conducted investigations in the local materia medica and copied medical manuscript in Tibetan, an English translation of which will be prepared. From Ganjur, the party proceeded towards Arshan Yamen situated some 20 km. SW of the Ganjur Monastery, and then past Dzangin Sume towards Khandagai. During the journey extensive botanical collections were made by members of the party. 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 the Guen-gol and Imin-gol. From Hailar, the Expedition proceeded to the Khingan Mountains and established a ~~base~~ base in Barim. Two weeks were spent in the Khingan Mountains. At present the following works is proceeding:

1. Seed gathering in the Khingan Mountains and in the steppe country around Ma-kou.
2. Study and arranging of the botanical collection gathered in Eastern Mongolia and the Khingan Mountains.
3. Collecting of information on Medicinal plants and gathering a representative collection of medicinal plants growing in North Manchuria. Translation and collecting of Chinese and Tibetan medical texts.
4. Preparation of scientific report on the botanical results of the 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.

To-day we were told at the American consulate that Dr. MacMillan and Mr. Stevens had left Harbin for the States, via Dairen.

With best wishes from all members of the party,

Yours very sincerely,

(signed)

N. de Roerich