

Letter from,
Mr. George I. Chertkoff, 16811
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To,
Mr. Louis L. Horch,
Pres. Roerich Museum,
310 Riverside Drive,
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Horch:

Your kind letter of Dec. 26th was received by me. I was greatly saddened on becoming acquainted with the slanderous attacks of the Harbin newspapers "Nasch Put" and "Harbin Times" against most revered Professor N.K. Roerich, especially since I personally became convinced that he has expressed a sincere friendship for Japan. These attacks have made a great impression upon the Russian immigration of the Far East who have become divided in their opinions about Prof. Roerich. Sad enough a considerable part of the immigration believe this slander and up to the present time continues to enhance this evil. In regard to Japan proper, no one of the newspapers, either in Tokyo or in any other center has reproduced the vile infamies in Harbin, nevertheless all this has become known in the institutions where are being received police reports from Harbin, and that brought certain Japanese authorities to the point of exercising caution regarding N.K.

From the very beginning, as soon as it became known about the slanderous attacks of the Harbin and Tyan-Dzin papers against Prof. Roerich I have taken the most energetic measures toward the cleaning up of the whole situation, Rehabilitation of the truth and the just liquidation of the permitted insult.

About all the steps which were undertaken by me as well as numerous explanations given to the Japanese authorities, hundreds of personal letters etc., I have given detailed reports to Prof. Roerich in Piping.

In regard to the Japanese official authorities it was first of all necessary to take measures that out of the special institution should cease the flow of information which did not correspond to reality. I am glad to say that in this I succeeded.

I think that if there will be made repeated representations, the Japanese authorities in question will bring their proper regrets about that which has happened, as it was done by the Japanese in Sinking which dispatched the secretary of the Embassy Mr. Muto to visit Prof. Roerich in Peiping.

It has recently become known to me that the mayor of Kyoto to whom I wrote twice, has written a letter to Prof. Roerich in which he expressed sentiments of the highest respect and admiration at the art of Prof. Roerich, assuring him that his paintings will be exhibited in the museum in Kyoto where they can be admired by the visitors and where they will be taken care of.

In the regard to the establishing of good will I am continuously working in Japanese as well as in Russian immigrant circles of the Far East, acting through press as well as through the organizations with which I am linked. Special attention at present I am giving to the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace. If I would not be tied by the lack of sufficient funds for this work, then I could succeed in a short time to organize a Roerich Pact committee and attract prominent Japanese officials as well as public figures to participate in it.

In regard to the discharging of the editors of the newspapers which permitted the slanderous attacks against Prof. Roerich, the Japanese

officials not only did not undertake anything but on the contrary one of them, Mr. Rodzaevsky, in spite of the protests of the Russian leading immigrants in Harbin has been given a position of a Chief of the information department of Russian bureau. By the way I have to say that the situation in Japan proper and in Harbin is quite different - what is permissible there is not permissible here.

Recently for instance, that same paper "Harbin Times" has started slanderous accusations against General Horvat although Tokyo regards in highest light General Horvat.

In the same direction as I am working, also acts very energetically Mr. Kitagawa who was assigned by the Japanese military minister General Hyasi and the Minister of Foreign Affairs to serve under Prof. Roerich and who made with him the trip to Manchukuo and the expedition to Barga.

Miss. Asako Matzuoka works energetically collecting paintings and funds in order to arrange, with your kind assistance, an exhibition of the paintings of Japanese artists in Roerich Museum in New York. According to her words she will be able this March to go to America to bring into life this task. I suppose that it will aid the strengthening of well-wishing and mutual understanding.

I believe that with mutual activities we shall succeed in turning the evil which has happened into the good, and in the name of Cultur strengthen mutual relations. I sincerely hope that in the near future the conditions will permit me to organize the proper representation in Japan which as most revered Professor Roerich wrote me will be the 89th institution in the name of Prof. Roerich.

Awaiting your future indications I have the honor to be absolutely devoted to you and with sincere respect,

George I. Chertkoff.