

The 15th of April in the White House, President Roosevelt attending, all the governments of the Americas signed our Pact. This solemn act is not only manifested as a considerable advancement of the Pact but it also makes a matter of record the concern of the American governments about preserving cultural values. In the history of culture the day April 15th will remain a substantial testimonial of effective solicitude about the true values of humanity.

About this memorable action one cannot fail to recall several expressions of opinion about the Pact, as foretelling its furthest advancement. The protector of the third convention of the Pact, the honorary chairman of the Committee of ministers, Wallace has repeatedly expressed in conclusive confident words his conviction that the Pact would be accepted and will serve as a noteworthy step in the development of world Culture. Wallace's words are already proving true.

Congressman Bloom concluded his speech at the last convention of the Pact with the words: " In every civilized country the flame of cultural aspirations lightens the path of progress. Men and women in positions of influence will join in establishing the Banner of Peace as an eternal sign that the hope of the world is not dead. The Divine spark, planted in the hearts of men by the God of Mercy and Hope, will not fail to inspire us to those Divine ideals that lead us on to Him."

I continue from the second volume of proceedings in connection with the Pact. The Minister of Persia, Ghaffar Khan Djalal, affirms: "The Banner of Peace will be a haven of refuge in times of war and tumult. I hasten to add my contribution to the great project you are advancing. It commands deep appreciation and the wholehearted support of mankind because the treasures of the art and science of antiquity are a great factor in human life. Not only do they enlighten our modern civilization on the culture of our ancestors, but they serve at the same time to guide and encourage us in the pursuit of that art and grace which render life gentle and fine."

The representative of the Chinese Republic, Tswen-Ling-Tsui states the support of his government in the following inspired expressions: "The project of ~~writing-all~~ uniting all nations under a common banner for guarding cultural treasures against destruction in times of war as well as of peace has a noble



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purpose and is worthy of the support of every person. Real Culture and true science, in their contributions to civilizations and the welfare of humanity, know no national boundary lines. Their products and shrines should therefore be immune from injury during times of international strife. The Roerich Museum deserves the good wishes of all peoples in summoning and sponsoring this Convention."

The venerable Dr. James Brown Scott, Director of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and President of the American Institute of International Law, concludes his noteworthy speech: "Possessors of the culture of the past, trustees of the culture of the present for the future, we shall, by the signature of a universal pact, set up a universal standard for culture and humanity, past, present and future, and at the same time a universal standard for nations and their international relations."

Professor De La Pradelle, professor of international law at the University of Paris, recalls that the sign of the Banner was on the shields of the Crusaders, and ends his speech with the following affirmation: "To safeguard creativeness is to save human genius. This civilizing action merits well, for that it should convince governments, and as is needed, the supreme government. Opinion, moralists and technicians, artists and jurists enroll themselves under the Banner of the three Bezants."

Dr. Alejandro Alvarez, Member of the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences, Secretary General of the American Institute of International Law expresses his best wishes: "The adoption of the Pact and Banner for the protection of monuments will permit the accomplishment of new progress of international law, and it will be a victory of human Culture. I wish for the complete success of the Conference in Washington."

Professor Louis le Fur, professor of international law at the University of Paris, among wishes for the complete success of the Pact, says; "This will be the work of the Conference, and with all my heart I wish for the success of the efforts which aim at safeguarding the monuments and works of art which are the common heritage of humanity."



Baron Michel de Taube, professor of international law, ends his greeting: "Let the Banner of Peace with all the ideas attached to it expand throughout the world and preserve the ideal of Peace and Union between peoples, realized upon the inviolable base of a true civilization, the synthesis of Art, Science, and Religion."

Dr. Michel MacWhite, Minister from Ireland, concludes: "Fortunately every civilized nation can still boast of proud monuments and of glorious artistic and cultural achievements. It is to preserve these works in which so much history is enshrined that the Pact has been submitted to us and I trust that the intellectual forces of the world today will see to its general adoption."

Dr. Toshihiko Takelomi, Delegate of the Imperial Japanese Government, thus ends his greeting: "Peace is the normal condition of existence, and war is but a passing phenomenon. Today we are striving to build up a durable structure of international peace. Moreover, the seriousness of the economic situation of the world makes us further realize how interdependent the nations are, and I trust that the friendly cultural relations existing between the Occident and the Orient may be a major contribution toward the solution of the universal problem. Thus it is as a tangible evidence of our sincerity and cooperation that this very day, November seventeenth, the Roerich ~~Museum~~ Banner of Peace may be seen displayed over the Museum of the Department of Education in Tokyo. This symbol, then, in behalf of ~~beaut~~ beauty and knowledge brings together again the East and the West."

Dr. Veverka, Minister from Czechoslovakia, said: "I consider it a great privilege to be among those who bring their admiration and homage to the great idea we are here today to honor. My presence here is the token that Czechoslovakia wholeheartedly supports the noble aim of the International Convention of the Banner of Peace."

The general secretary of the "Maha Bodhi Society", Devapriya Valisinka, conveys the greeting of the society: "May every success attend the deliberations of the Convention. We have no doubt that the Buddhist countries are entirely in sympathy with the movement, and if proper representations are made to their Governments they will be among the first to sign the Pact."



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The venerable Lyantey, Marshal of France writes: " I have the honor to testify to my strong sympathy for the labors of the Conference assembled in Washington, looking towards the adoption generally by all the Powers of the Roerich Pact. The mission which it has undertaken for the effective protection of historic monuments and works of art in time of war has a deep significance for safeguarding civilization and tradition."

The associate secretary-general of the League of Nations, Pilotti, greets the conference as follows: " In wishing for your Third Conference a complete success, I beg you to be so kind as to keep me informed of its decisions as well as of the future works of your organization."

The president of the French Red Cross, Marquis de Lillers says: " I wish to assure you of my full sympathy and that of the French Red Cross with the work of the Conference in Washington to which we wholeheartedly wish the greatest success."

Camille Tulpinck, president of our international union in Bruges, writes: "With deep respect, we preserve in the archives of the union the letters of the Pope and of the King of the Belgians encouraging our first steps. To the League of Nations, the Disarmament Conference, the French Academy, to scholarly institutions, and to countless individuals, we wish to express our gratitude for their interest."

In the message of Shibayev, secretary of the Himalayan Research Institute, besides beautiful expressions on the part of the President of the Hague Court, M. Adactci, and the members of the same Court, Antonio de Bustamente, Rafall Altamira, and Dr. Loder, and also of the President of the Kyushu Imperial University, Dr. Matsuva, and the Minister of Education of the Nanking Government, M. Chiang, there are quoted the welcome words of Maurice Maeterlinck: "I am at full heart in accord with the signatories of the Roerich Pact. Let us group around this noble ideal all moral forces at our disposal." There are also conveyed the notable words of Dr. Rabindranath Tagore, Sir Jagadis Bose, and Sir C.V. Raman, as well as of Professor Anesaki and of the late Prime Minister Hamaguchi.

Let us not forget that the Minister of Education of the Nanking Government, M. Chiang, has expressed himself in precisely the following words: "The Pact is of inestimable humanitarian value since art treasures are universal



property and belong to no one nation or nations. I regret only that it has not been thought of sooner."

From remote Tibet, the Lama Lobzang Mingyur Dorje writes: "The Banner of Peace should receive attention from all Governments. All should think over it, that this Banner should be recognized and made law by all the countries."

A large warranty is contained in these expressed good wishes, greetings and affirmations of the governmental delegates and profound authorities of international law. It is impossible to fall back from these testimonials, because this would be shameful for the international consciousness which has been voiced in such clear and unquestionable expressions. I have quoted only a few of the messages and affirmations but let us remember that they were by the thousands and they had millions behind them. After what has been told, who can say that the preservation of cultural values is not essential for him.

The 15th of April is an unforgettable step in the progress of the Pact. In the same good-will and friendliness will be accumulated all the remaining ratifications.

The Director of the American Museum, Dr. Paul Hessemer, in his recent well-disposed article justly observes that, though such a prolonged time was required for the conclusive establishment of the Red Cross, it should not at all follow from this that the Pact for protecting cultural values should need such an inexplicably long period. This would be disgraceful for humanity. It is quite natural that the Director of the Museum should especially take to his heart the cultural task of the Pact. However, all the above mentioned opinions of the government delegates and scientific authorities so clearly state that the introduction of the Pact into life must not be deferred.

At the preceding conference of the Pact in Belgium, Baron de Taube justly concluded his burning address with the striking call: "Let us redouble our efforts!"

May 8 1935

Tsagan Kure.