

Mrs. Devika Rani Roerich,
C/o. The Indian Bank Ltd.
Infantry Road,
Bangalore Cantonment,
Mysore State, South India.

15th May, 1958.

My dear Pantji,

Thank you very much for your most welcome letter of 10th May which I have just received.

The news in your letter that we can now have our paintings back without paying any customs duty and that the necessary formal orders will be reaching us and that the Collector of Customs, Bombay has also been informed of the Government's decision in the matter has given us a new impetus in our work.

As soon as I arrived back in Bangalore I received a letter addressed to my husband from the Finance Ministry which I forwarded to him to Bombay. My husband wrote to me immediately to say that the formal orders had been received with regard to the above matter from the Ministry and immediately to write to you.

I had a slight attack of fever due to the abnormal heat here and so I sent you a telegram of grateful thanks from both of us which I do hope you have received?

We came back from Kulu to Delhi and when I phoned to your house I was told that you were not in and would be going next day on tour and when you came back I did not have the heart to phone you for an appointment to bid you farewell before we returned to our work, because we knew you were terribly busy with urgent meetings after the announcement of the Prime Minister to retire.

I can hardly tell you how very grateful we both are to you for having helped us to bring back these original paintings of my husband which were painted here by him.

We have been trying steadily for the last 4 years approximately to get them back as we so wanted to have a comprehensive exhibition of his art throughout India, to choose some from those abroad and to add from the paintings he has done during these years here.

It is our intention also if we can to put up a Roerich Gallery here. My husband as you know looks upon our country as his own and we both strongly feel that we should build here something lasting as our contribution for the future to Beauty and Culture.

It is astonishing to think that inspite of all the tremendous burden of work which you have, you have found the time to go into this our matter of getting back our paintings and to have so promptly helped us to get them back.

I cannot tell you in mere words how grateful we are to you and how much hope and encouragement your sympathy and help have given to us, but when we came to you we felt certain that you who love Beauty so well and who in yourself represent the

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true culture of our land you would understand our request.

I hope that we may have the great pleasure of showing you our paintings and that you will be able to spare a little time if you come to Bangalore to visit our home, as to welcome you there would give us so much joy!

May God Bless you and keep you well ever.

With our affectionate regards,

Yours affectionately,

The Hon'ble Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant,
Home Minister,
6, King Edward Road,
NEW DELHI.