



CESKOSLOVENSKÝ SPOLEK  
CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIETY, CALCUTTA  
OFFICE; BATANAGAR, 24 PARGANAS.

5th Aug. 1943

Sir Nicolas Roerich,  
Almorah.

Respected Sir,

You may have heard of the small community of Czechoslovaks in East India-- in Calcutta and Batanagar -- of their work and life, their all-out effort and help to win this war to liberate their country from Nazi yoke. In 1939 when the war broke out, all these Czechoslovaks put themselves at the disposal of President Benes, head of the Provisional Czechoslovak Government in London and those who could be spared from work and were of military age and fit left India to join the Czechoslovak forces. They have fought in the Middle East Front, they have fought in the battle of Britain and are now active with the Allied armies in all the theatres of war and even in Russia. And those who were forced to stay here have been doing their duty --; apart from fulfilling their obligations towards this great country which is always so kind to them -- to their country by supporting their and the Allied Governments in their great struggle which ultimately will mean the liberation of Czechoslovakia. They also took upon themselves the task of promoting and maintaining friendly relations between India and Czechoslovakia and strengthen the contact for mutual benefit.

On October 28th falls the twentyfifth anniversary of the Czechoslovak National Day. On that occasion the organising Committee of the Czechoslovak Association propose to publish a book entitled "India and Czechoslovakia"... This book will contain general information relating to the past economical and cultural relations, articles and messages from the leading Czechoslovak, British and Indian writers and personalities and impressions on the Czechoslovaks' fight against the Nazis by the most prominent Indian artists etc. The sale proceeds of this book will go to the benefit of the Indian Red Cross Fund and the Fund for the Gestapo Victims in Czechoslovakia.

May we request you, Sir to spare some time and put your impression on the Czechoslovaks' fight against the Nazis in brush and paint? A few touches of your masterly brush would tell the world of the superhuman efforts of the Czechoslovaks to resist the aggressor and finally regain their independence. Would you take up your brush to represent the victory of truth and justice over the forces of evil and thereby encourage thousands of those who are sacrificing all for their beloved country? Let your impressions inspire the Czechoslovaks, let your impressions give them hope -- in the better morrow, in the better relation and mutual understanding between the nations in the better future for all mankind.

P.T.O.

We would take the liberty of reproducing your painting in the Czechoslovak journals in Great Britain in the United States of America and elsewhere and the original will be kept in the National Gallery at Prague when the Nazi hordes will have been driven away from there.

We are enclosing herewith a few publications for your eventual information, in case you need any further information, we shall be glad to hear from you.

May we expect to have your impression by the end of this month so that we can speed up the work?

Thanking you in advance,



We remain,  
yours sincerely,  
*Fancey*  
C. Valenta,  
President

*M. Barcs*  
Jan Barcs  
Press  
representative



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C. Valenta, J. Baros  
President Press representative

