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Naggar, July 12, 1935.

51211

Dear Colonel Mahon,

Many thanks for your letter of July 11th.

Regarding the plot of land our driver will show the exact plot to the ranger, when he comes. As we were interested in conducting a comparative scientific experiment, it would be preferable, perhaps to split the original plot asked for, up into two separate plots at different elevation, with different physical conditions. We have found two definite half-plots of 6 acres each approximately. Since there is a great deal of rocks as on the surface so also below the ground, the actual usable area is thereby greatly reduced.

As regards Z. we would like to have your advice as to what is the best course to follow? for us in the matter of our rent?

Mr. Shibayev asks to thank you very much for your letter of the 9th and for the clipping enclosed.

Hoping to hear from you soon, with kindest regards from Mme de Roerich and myself to Mrs Mahon and yourself

Yours very sincerely,

Naggar, July 15, 1935.

51234

Dear Colonel Mahon,

Many thanks for your letter of the 13th. As regards Mr.Z. Mme de Roerich says that there is fifty rupees which were due to him for last year and this we send you enclosed in check. Please obtain a receipt in full settlement of last year's rent. As regards the current year Mme de Roerich will not use the place any longer. There would be rent payable to Mr.Z. Rs:200 at the end of the season but in this case since we shall not use the house any longer and there was a studio built at our expense the summer before last, and this studio will naturally remain with him, we regard the matter more than settled. As regards our furniture we ask you to tell Mr.Z. to store it in that studio until we can send someone to collect it.

Hoping there will be no difficulty in settling this matter, with best greetings from Mme de Roerich and myself to Mrs Mahon and yourself

Yours very sincerely,

SR .

P.S. I hear the ranger is coming here on the 20th, when I will send with him our driver, who has the plots already marked.

P.P.S. Of course the sum is so small and we don't want to have any trouble, so should you think it best to pay something more for this year's season, we shall certainly be in accord with your decision and will send you such amount.

A.



No.

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Prefix } Code

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TO

Name

Colonel Mahon

Address

MANALI

Telegraph Office

NOTICE.

PLEASE
GIVE A
FULL
ADDRESS.

51951

Thanks have wired greetings

FROM {

Roerich

NOT TO BE
TELEGRAPHED

{ Signature

and

{ Address of Sender

for Mr. Sv. Roerich Naggar, Sept. 2, 1935.

8w - 9 As

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606108

June 11, 1936.

Dear Colonel Mahon,

I have just received from SDO a reply to my application for land for experimental purposes. The letter is self-explanatory - what about Mr. Gotley's part? After all it was Mr. Gotley who promised the upper plot definitely and it was on this assumption that I expanded my plantation for seedlings considerably. The other cultivation of medicinal herbs which was to go with it thus also becomes impossible. Our research in Urusvati of medicinal plants must thus come to an end. I am afraid our friends who have been contributing, will be greatly disappointed at this turn of affairs, since on Mr. Gotley's promise we had interested them in this matter. It does seem as if the Government has not changed its attitude from former days, remembering also the myserious search of our botanist in Lahul.

Turning to more cheerful matters, it appears the monsoon is not far away.

With best wishes to Mrs Mahon and yourself,

Yours very sincerely

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June 20, 1936

My dear Colonel Mahon,

Many thanks for your letter containing the conversation with Mr. Glover and Mr. Gotley. I do not know if it would be worth while to pursue the matter any further for the simple reason that the plants will die unless they are transplanted in time and any further steps in this matter will only lead to nought - it would be the old story all over again. The matter had been dragging on so long already that I doubt very much results can be obtained, by pressing it further. We shall add this as another example of our unfortunate dealings with the forest department, which began ever since we asked for some trees for the laboratory. At the time when these plots of land were chosen over a year ago, I told Mr. Gotley that we have chosen this for want of something better, yet apparently he was able to give Kotgarh away to a private cultivator and it was he who assured me in the presence of Mr. Shibayev and others that the lower plot he was uncertain off but the upper plot he could give me at any time, even going

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so far as to promise to instruct the forest guard to guard the place and stating that this would have a good effect upon villagers and that such cultivations are just what he wants to encourage. He sent me a couple of weeks ago his ranger who asked me all sorts of questions concerning the cultivation of kuth and asked me to show him some of my Kuth and apparently got to know what he wanted, as I did not refuse him any co-operation. It now appears that Mr. Gotley had already then given orders for the S.D.O. not to pass on the land. As I said before the cultivation of kuth was only one of our objectives and Mr. Gotley was well aware of it. You probably remember that it was generally accepted that kuth could not be successfully cultivated in this valey and botanically it was nowhere recorded that kuth grows here. To my to the contrary assertion, everybody was very much surprised, but apparently people began to think about it. Is it not change that a year after my application for land goes in, it is the Government that chokes the matter, after assuring me that I would get land.

The reason why I do not wish to pursue this matter in higher instances, except you think it advisable to do

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June 30, 1936.

My dear Colonel Mahon,

Many thanks for your letter of yesterday with enclosures. I am surprised at Mr. Parker's answer to your letter of June 18th which was very courteous. Such a reply as he gave you fully deserves your strong letter of the 29th. Of course I am prepared to take the land at any time. I was surprised to read the last remark of Mr. Parker, since he also deliberately wishes to side-track the issue, and place it all on the basis of Kuth. Whereas it was clearly stated and repeated that Kuth was only one of them, an assertion which we repeat and prove since it is the truth. I can assure you that our interest in medicinal herbs was never limited to any one particular plant as the Department seems to infer in spite of all our assertions to the contrary. Besides Mr. Parker seems to think that Kuth is a commercial product of no medicinal value, whereas it has been clearly proven that it is a herb of great medicinal value and it is to be regretted that at present it is mostly burned up as incense in China.

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When I spoke to Mr. Gorley I even went so far as to tell him what plants I considered of interest to cultivate and experiment with. However for some reason or other they seem to be bent on Kuth and do not wish to hear of anything else. However since they would probably at once stop any other cultivation of interest, which we are likely to pursue, we will have to be more careful in the future.

We are very happy to hear that your knee is getting better. And we hope that shortly it will be completely cured. The Monsoon is unusual yet it is most welcome.

With all best wishes to Mrs Mahon and yourself,

Yours very sincerely,

7 (N152) 2
701238

28-JAN-37

Dear Colonel Mahon,

Many thanks for the successful botanical explorations in the Darjeeling district. Indeed the letter, though somewhat vague, is full of ambitions and hopes. Herewith I enclose a small portrait of the Aralia Pseudo-Ginseng (I hope my different spelling will not confuse the scientists at the other end), which perhaps it would be wise to send on to them as it might help them for identification.

It would be interesting to know if seeds could be obtained regardless of their somewhat and only pessimistic note that they seeds may have been shed already. Though I do recognize this fact as it does happen sometimes during the season yet they may be able to procure the plant itself with roots and which I would greatly welcome here.

It also may be wise to ask them how much they would charge for twelve tubers of Habenaria Susannae and about a pound of the aralia seeds, and also the price of 50 or whereabouts living roots (the older the specimens the better).

Many thanks for the clippings. I am sending you the latest achievement in enigmas or how a person can change.

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Upon receipt of their estimate, we shall place a definite order with them.

We all greatly rejoice hearing that you look younger every day - something we never doubted but are happy to have this confirmed. We hope that Mrs Mahon is entirely over her flue. The weather has been somewhat unstable throughout the world I note. What with the flood in Cincinnati and the spring time on the Rhine?! I also note that the insurgents are at it again, trying to destroy the little there is left of Madrid. However it must be a good practice and they say no effort is lost in this universe of cause and effect. So let us be cheerful.

Would you please ask Colonel Thompson if he would like to have a list of poisonous plants as considered by the local people, or the names of the officially known poisonous plants which are to be found in this Valley? Dr. Merrill is taking his time in bringing out the complete herbarium of Kulu Valley. We have our own private lists of plants which we use for our own work. With all best wishes to Mrs Mahon and yourself,

Yours very sincerely,

8 (N166) 1
703001

1-MAR-37

Dear Colonel Mahon,

Please thank Mrs Mahon for her letter with the enclosed reply from Darjeeling, which I return herewith, should you need it. Could you ask them the time when they could send us about 40 plants, alive, by mail. We shall also later take from them one pound of seeds, unless they have them now - if so we shall be delighted to have them now. Would they be unable to collect one pound, we shall take less. Please tell them that under no circumstances should the seeds be allowed to become dry. I do not know how the live roots could be sent but I suppose properly packed in wet moss in a tin, that will stand the journey alright. Please let them send it direct to Naggar, Kulu, by V.P. to my name. I imagine the leaves should be out by early April, even earlier.

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Needless to say we were delighted at the quick recovery manifested by yourself. The weather in Kulu becoming quite pleasant after the previous weeks of rain and snow, we hope to see you early since our mountain climate is I daresay much more bracing than dusty Lahore.

We are anxious to hear about Mrs Mahon's health. She never mentions herself in her letters. We are sending you ^{both} our best thoughts and greetings.

Yours very sincerely,

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10.5.42

My Dear Col. Rahon,

Just a note of greetings
and Enclaves,

I am returning in a day or two

and am looking forward to seeing
you.

Best wishes to Mr. Mohan
yourself. S. V. Rao.