

COPY

January 6th: 1931

The Right Hon. The Viscount Willingdon  
Governor General of Canada  
Ottawa.

My dear Lord Willingdon,

A complete set of copies of recent correspondence in connection with Professor Nicholas Roerich is now in the hands of your secretary together with a copy of this letter, which is designed merely to draw your attention to the case and to invite your unbiassed consideration.

The writer of this has just returned from London, where he appears to have been able to satisfy the high authorities that various vague charges and allegations against Professor Roerich are without foundation and, in some instances, even ridiculous. Professor Roerich, his son and his physician were accordingly granted visas to re-enter India, and they are now at Naggar Kulu in the Punjab.

There remains, however, still to be decided the question of certain land purchased by Professor Roerich at Naggar, Kulu for the purpose of residence and for the furtherance of the objects of the Roerich Museum, of which he is President-Founder.

The Roerich Museum, in common with all those connected with it, has nothing whatever to do with politics and is not engaged in undermining, criticizing or opposing any Government. It is a world-wide organization financed, as it happens, by United States citizens. Its purpose is: to help in every possible way to improve the state of mind of the world by encouraging the active study of the arts and sciences; and to cooperate, to that end, with any Government and with any non-political organization to whom that aim appears well chosen.

We maintain a permanent exhibition, in New-York, of the paintings of Professor Roerich; and in the same modern skyscraper building we arrange exhibits sponsored by such Governments as care to take advantage of our organization. Recently we had an exhibition of modern Brazilian art. The next exhibit will be Australian sponsored by the Australian Government. Negotiations are under way for an exhibition of Canadian sculpture; also for an exhibition of modern German paintings. As will be seen in the accompanying correspondence, we have all offered to arrange a tour of Indian musicians throughout the United States, provided the Indian Government will select musicians of merit who are capable to present their art intelligently to audiences who are only familiar with Western music.

We need the establishment at Naggar Kulu (where we have already laid out \$175,000) for purposes of archaeological and medical research. The property was acquired by Professor Roerich in good faith, after consultation with Lord Irwin and certain members

bers of his staff. It is his belief, and ours, that he made the purchase with the full knowledge and approval of the Indian authorities, to whom our objects were fully and frankly explained by Professor Roerich before negotiations for the purchase were commenced.

Professor Roerich, and those associated with him, entertain feelings of only the greatest friendliness towards the Indian Government. Their numerous overtures to Indian scientists inviting their cooperation at the Scientific Institute at Naggar Kulu give witness of their good will. Professor Nicholas Roerich is an artist and archaeologist of great eminence and integrity, whose whole life is an open book, and whose only motive is to bring more good will into the world by persuading people to think more in terms of the arts and sciences, rather than in terms of mutual recrimination. His career and his character will stand the most rigid investigation; and he has proved, over and over again, that he may safely be trusted.

As we have nothing to conceal, and no ulterior motives whatever, we hope that when you assume office in India you will be kind enough to permit Professor Roerich to call on you and to explain his own case. He will answer any questions you may care to ask, and we are confident that he will satisfy you as to his good faith. We are also confident that you will conclude he is an individual whose services, granted opportunity, can be of priceless value to India and the whole of civilization.

With cordial good will, and with the sincere hope that you may be endowed with Wisdom, Courage and excellent health throughout your term of office, I remain,

my lord,

yours respectfully

(signed) Talbot Mundy.