

310 Riverside Drive,
New-York, New-York
December 31, 1930.

My dear Mr.Green,

Pursuant to our conversation in London in the course of which you very kindly promised to give attention to the case of Prof. Roerich, President-Founder of all our Institutions, I now take this opportunity to supply you with full details.

Although this letter is being written on board of ship, it shall be shown to our principals in New-York before mailing to make absolutely sure that it contains no misleading statements or mis-statements of any kind whatever, my point being that as you have been kind enough to be interested, it behoves us to inform you fully and frankly.

I am numbering the paragraphs for your better convenience and enclosing carbon copy of the letter for your files.

- (1) Roerich Museum is an institution financed entirely by American capital. In a legal way we can prove all details of our activities as well as the financial transactions, our motive being to make clear that we have no political affiliations of any sort whatever. We have nothing to conceal and no aims other than those made public.
- (2) Our purpose is to cooperate in all ways possible with those institutions and people in all parts of the world who believe with us following the motto of Prof.de Roerich, that active interest in the arts and in science is a means - and perhaps the best means - of turning the thought of the world away from its present distress and opening the door toward a better future.
- (3) Our institutions, while in no way political, enjoy the full approval of the United States Government and also of the Board of

Regents of New-York State, who, at our request, have inspected and examined our institution with all thoroughness. The outcome of the examination is that we are fully recognised as an educational institution of high standing and we are permitted to bring alien students into the United States without reference to the "Quota".

(4) Our institution is housed in a modern skyscraper building on Riverside Drive. The building is unique and was designed by the same architect who designed Bush House next door to you. The lower floors contain the Museum dedicated to Prof. de Roerich's world renowned paintings, also the Art Center for American and Foreign Exhibitions; Master Institute of United Arts, Roerich Museum Press, Theater, libraries, auditorium, scientific quarters. At present, we have an exhibition of paintings of Australian artists, sponsored by the Australian Government. Previous to that, we had an exhibition of Brazilian art. We are booked up for many months to come with exhibitions sponsored by various countries. These exhibitions are subsequently routed all over the United States before the exhibits are finally returned to their country of origin. We believe that in doing this we are doing a great educational work.

(5) Within the building are facilities for the study of painting, sculpture, music and many other subjects, and our student are highly successful. Their success is hastened and encouraged by the fact that we have a theater in which they are able to prove what they have learned and in which they may be heard and seen by the leading critics and producers. Several of our teachers are British subjects.

(6) Professor Nicholas de Roerich, our President Founder is, in the opinion of very many artists, governments and the entire cultural world, one of the foremost artists and archaeologists in the world.

Formerly head of the Imperial Academy of Arts under the late Czar of Russia, Professor de Roerich left Russia with his family at about the time of the revolution, visited Sweden, Finland and Great Britain giving exhibitions of his paintings in those countries, and upon an invitation of Dr. Harshe of the Chicago Art Institute arrived in the United States. While he was in London two of his paintings were acquired for the Victoria and Albert Museum where they now hang. Previous to this and during this time he was honoured and decorated by most of the world's civilised governments.

(7) After reaching the United States, he opened an art school which began at once to be extraordinarily successful, Professor Roerich having an unusual gift for leadership and for arousing enthusiasm and energy in young artists. In the course of time he met certain individuals of wealth who approved of his ideas and became imbued with his enthusiasm. His motive to elevate the thought of the world by directing its attention towards the arts and sciences appealed to them and they proceeded to endow an institution in his name and to embody his high cultural ideas in all ways possible. The building of the Roerich Museum was financed and erected and a campaign was set on foot immediately to affiliate with and cooperate with as many art institutions as possible in all parts of the world, wherever that could be done, without in any way infringing on the realm of politics. It cannot be too emphatically or too often stated that we have nothing whatever to do with politics and have no political ambitions of any sort whatever.

(8) After founding the museum and seeing the institution well on its feet, Professor de Roerich, with his wife and family visited India. With the full knowledge and consent of the Indian Government, Professor de Roerich led an expedition northward into Turkestan. After the detention in Khotan, the Roerich Central Asian Expedition proceeded

to Kashgar, where with the help of Major Gillan, British Consul in Kashgar, negotiations were conducted with the Chinese authorities in order to facilitate the further progress of the Expedition. The late Yang-Tseng-hsin, Viceroy and Governor-General of the Hsin-chiang Province expressed the desire to negotiate with Prof. de Roerich personally at Urumchi. This request was fully supported by the Chinese authorities in Kashgar and Major Gillan, the British Consul, the latter assuring Prof. de Roerich that in case the route through West China would be barred by the advance of Fend-Yu-hsiang, the expedition could proceed to China via Siberia, as it was done by several American Explorers. At Urumchi the Governor-General proposed to the Expedition to proceed to Mongolia, China via Siberia and offered to assist in negotiations with the proper Sov. authorities. A Chinese passport was issued and temporary visas to cross Siberia placed on it by the Sov. Consul at Urumchi. The Expedition then proceeded to Omsk, via Zaisan travelling on this Chinese passport. At Omsk the Expedition was informed that there were no Mongol Consulates along the railway line in Siberia and that it was necessary to go to Moscow to negotiate with the Mongol Legation. The expedition was left at Omsk and Prof. de Roerich and family proceeded on rail to Moscow. On receipt of the necessary laissez-passer into Mongolia they left Moscow and returned to Omsk and at once proceeded eastwards. From Urga Mongolia the expedition went on to Tibet, where it endured very severe hardships which greatly undermined the health of Mme de Roerich. After many months, with the loss of some native followers and more than 90 baggage animals, the expedition finally reached India, where Professor de Roerich called on Lord Irwin, the Viceroy, for the purpose of discussing the Himalayan Research Institute.

(9) Lord Irwin was extremely hospitable and his attitude was friendly and encouraging. To him Professor Roerich unfolded his plans for future activities, fully and frankly explaining to him everything he had in his mind in connection with the institute of which he is President Founder. He explained to Lord Irwin his idea of acquiring a suitable site in the Himalayas for scientific study and research in cooperation with the leading scientists of India and all the world. Lord Irwin, in conversation, approved his aims and turned him over to some high official of his staff with whom he had various long conversations and to whom again he explained fully and frankly his objective. Prof. de Roerich and Representatives of the Roerich Museum were assured that there was no restriction for foreigners to buy land in any part of India. Such was also confirmed by several lawyers. After informing the Viceroy and his officials of his intentions, Professor de Roerich proceeded to make overtures for the acquisition of a small tract of land and certain buildings at Naggar Kulu in the Northern Punjab, taking care to keep the authorities informed of what he was doing. No objection was raised by anyone. Prof. de Roerich was advised by officials that he should acquire privately owned land for in a private deed of this kind the Government is no party. Prof. R's first intention had been to buy land from the Govt, but on receiving this official advice, he bought privately owned land. It is to be noted that the present plot of land owned by Prof. de Roerich and bought from the Rajah of Mandi, is privately owned land, only recently bought by the Rajah of Mandi from Col. Roennick. It will thus be seen that the plan of acquiring Govt land was dropped on official advice and that the present difficulty in registering the deed of sale concerns privately owned land in which according to words of the Head of the Political Dept

of India Office in London, "the Government is no party". The purchase money was paid, Professor Roerich proceeded to occupy the land and buildings, a small staff was installed, an Englishman - an ex-Army officer - was placed in charge of certain important details and the authorities were again informed as to what had been done.

(10) Acting in behalf of our institution, Professor de Roerich outlaid upward of \$175,000.- by way of beginning and made a gift of land and house to the Roerich American Institutions for the purpose of installing the Himalayan Research Institute.

(11) In February 1929 Professor de Roerich received a written confirmation that the Govt. was not prepared to sell land to the American group. The objection to buy private land from individuals, raised by the Home Office in London, was at no time stipulated in writing nor otherwise and would have no legal foundation.

(12) Professor Roerich had painted hundreds of canvasses which had to be brought to New-York and which are now together with all other paintings of Professor de Roerich constitute the Roerich Museum and were presented to the American Nation as a gift. The purpose of Prof. de Roerich's journey to America was to inaugurate the Roerich Museum Building and to develop the further scope of work of all Institutions, which bear his name and ideas. He was forced, however, to leave Mme de Roerich at Naggar, Kulu in charge of Miss Lichtmann, Vice-President and Trustee of Roerich Museum; who has medical knowledge and is a trained nurse. The condition of Mme de Roerich's heart was such that she could not safely be removed to a lower level: in fact, to save her life she was moved during Professor de Roerich's absence to an even higher elevation. She suffers from hereditary and chronic heart trouble

and abnormally high blood pressure and the strain of the expedition through Tibet had undermined her health and weakened her physical powers.

(13) His activities in New-York being finished, and urged by Mme de Roerich's serious condition of health, Professor de Roerich and his son George applied to the British Ambassador in Washington for visas to return to India. They were informed at the Embassy that the visas were merely a matter of routine and would undoubtedly be granted if applied for in London. They accordingly visited London where immediately on arrival they were informed that the visas could not be granted. No reason was given at that time.

(14) It being obvious that some misunderstanding had arisen and that he had in some way become an object of suspicion, Professor de Roerich requested those who knew him to make overtures in his behalf. There was no difficulty whatever in arousing sympathy and interest. Most of the civilised governments of the world, including that of France through the French Ambassador, as well as representatives of ten countries and the State Department of America, and the Papal Nuncio in Paris and the Catholic Prelate of England immediately came to his assistance, making it abundantly clear that Professor de Roerich is a man of unimpeachable character and of high eminence. The French Government, desiring to help him in all ways possible, even went to the length of granting them French passports. The visas, however, were still refused and there was still no reason given.

(15) Professor de Roerich is fully protected by the existing French authorities as a holder of a proper French passport and by the United States authorities as officer of incorporated chartered American Institutions. There is a Bill before Congress to make him

a U.S. citizen and this Bill will undoubtedly be passed as soon as it can be brought before the House, Professor de Roerich being of very high standing in the United States .

(16) Months passed during which Professor de Roerich stayed in Paris. From Paris he was able to send prescribed medicines for Mme de Roerich by airplane to India while his friends made use of every avenue they could think of in order to facilitate his re-entry into India and to find out what the charges against him might be. At last, in order to be nearer his wife when the visas should at last be granted, Professor de Roerich, accompanied by his son George and one distinguished physician left for Pondicherry.

(17) It was at this stage that the writer of this letter was requested to visit London and make further endeavours.

(18) The writer was extremely courteously received at the Foreign Office where, at the end of an hour's conversation with Mr. Gaselee he was informed that the Foreign Office had no further objections to Professor de Roerich visiting India, but that the India Office must still be satisfied on certain points. A suggestion was also made at that time that what the Roerich Museum really needs is to be represented in India by someone who can lay our case before the high authorities. It is, however, very far from our purpose to create a "nuisance value" or to be represented by anyone who might cause the authorities embarrassment or inconvenience. We do not believe that this is a case for legal acerbities. Placing the whole basis of our activities upon good will, it appears to us nothing can be gained by the employment of legal talent at this time.

(19) The writer's reception at the India Office was of a different order, although he was shown every possible courtesy. It at once

became evident that the suspicions of the Indian authorities had been increased by if they were not based upon, reports of spies to the effect that Mme de Roerich was not really seriously ill, but that she was "lurking" at Naggar Kulu from some ulterior and hidden motive.

(20) Additional charges were to the effect that Professor de Roerich had acquired, or had attempted to acquire, land at Naggar Kulu in direct "contempt of the law". It was further stated that he had given the authorities a great deal of trouble particularly in connection with two alleged riots, when his caravan was attacked and he reported to the authorities and the police. The statement was also made that the Indian Government preferred that such scientific, cultural, educational and artistic aims as his should be carried out by the Indians themselves.

(21) The writer reported to Mr. Peel and his colleagues at the India Office certain stories that had reached us to the effect that Professor de Roerich has been repeatedly accused in certain Indian circles of being a Russian spy, an American spy, the possession of hidden wireless apparatus, a communist, an anarchist - and also a person of such easy manners and charm that he might possibly be approached with success by persons of malevolent intent. These stories appeared to cause some amusement. Their circulation by irresponsible people was not denied, but it was made plain that they had not been taken seriously in official quarters. The writer offered proofs of Professor de Roerich's integrity together with a complete account of his past. He also repeated the offer to have the Society's books examined fully by the British Embassy. He also offered to cable to Professor de Roerich to send his Doctor to Naggar Kulu should the

authorities permit that, for a joint conference with Doctors appointed by the Indian Government.

(22) The outcome of the interview was that the India Office sent a cable, which was not shown to the writer, but as a result of which Professor de Roerich and his party were granted temporary visas entitling them to go to Naggar Kulu but stipulating "that if they are required to do so by the Government of India, they will leave British India within three months of the date on which they were granted the visa to enter British India".

(23) It is thus evident that the principal charge against Professor de Roerich to the effect that he has been making misleading statements regarding his wife's health, is now withdrawn. As a matter of fact, neither he, nor any member of the Roerich Museum has made a single mis-statement at any time, either to the Indian authorities or to anyone else. And we have just received a cablegram from Professor de Roerich stating that his wife's condition is so serious that the physician advises that for the sake of her health she should be taken to an even higher altitude.

Not one of use has ever used a code either in letters or cablegrams. All our communications have been open and above board, since we have nothing to conceal.

(24) The writer was informed by Mr. Gaselee at the Foreign Office that the charges in connection with the alleged riots, when Prof. de Roerich's caravan was attacked, are not worth consideration. The mere fact that Professor de Roerich was able to lead such an expedition through the heart of Asia and through Tibet with such a minimum of violence and without losing one member of his staff, in spite of frequent obstructions by the Tibetan officials, should

prove in itself that he is a man, not only of high courage, but of extraordinary tact and patience. The alleged riots when his caravan was attacked, were merely minor disturbances such as might have happened on anyone. We sincerely believe that the trouble alleged to have been given to the Indian authorities has been grossly exaggerated, and that in so far that there was any trouble, it was caused by Professor de Roerich's habit of being loyal. Had he not immediately reported what had occurred to the authorities, it is even probable that nothing might have been heard of the disturbances at all.

(25) Of course, the investigation will inevitably prove Professor de Roerich's good faith. It is our opinion, based on reports, and conversations, that the whole difficulty has been due, not to the attitude of the higher authorities in the first instance, but to personal ill will on the part of some subordinate who may have been offended by Professor de Roerich's refusal to be drawn into a political discussion, and who set going some of those rumours that are so easy to invent and yet so difficult to suppress or to track down to their origin. In this connection, we particularly emphasize the fact that had there been any truth in any of the statements made against Professor de Roerich, the Viceroy and his officers had ample opportunity to bring this to Professor de Roerich's notice at the time when he first informed them of his intention to acquire land for the purpose of the institution.

(26) Our attitude is that a nobleman of great eminence, and without blemish on his reputation has been subjected to humiliation and indignity. At the same time, we fully recognise the disturbed conditions in India and are entirely willing to concede that the Indian

authorities acted in good faith. We have no desire to humiliate anyone, nor even desire an apology, since acts committed in good faith are not reprehensible; but we do ask that the Indian authorities should reverse their attitude and recognise Professor de Roerich's good faith and integrity.

(27) We particularly invite your aid in the matter of the land at Naggar, Kulu. Professor de Roerich, and we ourselves, have been at all times specially careful not to embarrass any government if we could help it. We have acted frankly and in good faith. The land was acquired in the belief - a reasonable belief - that the Viceroy and his staff approved the purchase. We respectfully submit that neither Professor de Roerich nor ourselves are such idiots as to suppose that we could acquire property in British India against the will of the Indian Government. That would be the act of madmen. We maintain that our record, our institution and our financial standing, as well as Professor de Roerich's reputation in all civilised countries of the world are proof that we are not madmen. We ask to be dealt with as men of integrity whose purpose is to leave the world a little better than we found it and not to interfere with politics at all.

(28) We concede that law is law, and we have no desire to be above or to evade it, but when people have acted in good faith there is always a way to be found out of any enguing difficulty, especially when the difficulty has been caused, as in this instance, by misinformation and misunderstanding. We believe there must be some way of solving the difficulty about this land at Naggar Kulu, and we feel sure that the Indian authorities will find it when they realize that we have acted from the first in good faith.

(29) We sincerely believe that our aims at Naggar Kulu will be of benefit, not only to India, but to all the world. We have from the first invited the Indian Government to take advantage of our organisation and it would be very pleasing to us if they should cooperate by sending one or more scientists to reside there. Professor Roerich has extraordinary gifts, not only as a painter and archaeologist, but also as a leader and organizer. We believe that great benefit to India would ensue if Indian art students should be encouraged to avail themselves of Professor Roerich's skill.

(30) Furthermore as represented to you during our conversation, we would enthusiastically cooperate with the Indian authorities be arranging exhibitions of work of Indian artists in the United States.

(31) We have been especially successful with music and painting. It would be very agreeable to us to arrange a tour, throughout the United States of Indian musicians if sponsored by the High Commissioner for India and especially if representatives of both schools of music could be included. We believe that such an arrangement would be of great cultural benefit and could be made very successful if properly managed.

We are willing to provide in our building first class accommodation free of charge for four or even six such musicians if recommended by you; and we are now engaged in studying the possibilities and details of a tour for such musicians throughout the United States. As soon as our preliminary negotiations are completed, we will communicate with you again about this. In the meantime, we are thoroughly committed to the idea and are taking it up with enthusiasm.

(32) Should you care to suggest any other way in which you think we might cooperate with your department for the furtherance of education and culture, we will be very happy to consider it sympathetically.

tically and do everything in our power to assist.

(33) In view of the difficulty of arriving at an understanding through the mail and of the misunderstandings that might arise and the delays that might be caused through correspondance, we will be happy to send our personal representative to London to confer with you at your convenience, and to supply you with any information you may wish to have.

(34) Under separate cover we are sending you full sets of Professor de Roerich's books for your library or for any other purpose that you consider suitable; and we are also sending complete printed information about our institutions.

(35) Sincerely believing that we can be of great value to India along culultural and educational lines, and that our pöoposed researches at Naggar Kulu will produce results of great scientific value, and particularly medical value, to the world, we respectfully invite you to come to our assistance. We feel sure that your friendly representations in our behalf will have the necessary influence with the high Indian authorities, and we assure you that we will, at all times, take great care not only fully to inform the Indian authorities as to our activities and aims and intentions, but also to avoid doing anything that might lead to future misunderstanding or embarrasments

Thanking you sincerely for your great courtesy to the writer and for your kindness in consenting to give this matter your attention

I remain, with kindest regards, Yours very sincerely,

Alan M. Green, Esq. I.C.S.
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London, W.C.2.