12-10-'30

Holiday Home
Rajpur.
Dehra-Dun.
U. P.
India.

1

My dear Miss Lichtmann,

How can you forgive me for holding over for two months your long letter of 11th Aug.? The truth is your letter found me much occupied with a sick person & also with many demands on my time, among other things weekly articles to Le Matin (Paris), & a manuscript for publication. And my removal for wintering here upset things generally. Your letter has been on the top of a big pile & now receives first attention. — I understand your feelings about the refusal of a permit to Prof Roerich to return to India. But I understand the Government's position also; because it happens that circumstances, not of my choosing, have placed me behind the scenes: & the reality is so serious that even such hardship as in the case in question seems justifiable. A wave of dark ignorance is passing over the whole world; & India, from the very law of correspondence & contrast, must be & is the centre of the whirlwind of error. The Government is up against all the powers of evil let loose; & many an unsuspecting & innocent person is caught in the toils & coils. We must simply hold tight, &, being sure of our own innocence & clearness, await in patience for the passing of the darkness.

Sometimes I wonder if I am not the innocent cause of this temporary mishap.. I have a mind to relate this because it may ease the puzzle & mental distress:

Mrs Roerich will remember Mr Laiden-La. But I wonder if she knows his history & his authority? He was a General in the Tibetan Army during the uprising in Tibet against "foreigners" (read: the English Government): & he betrayed - (Sold) - his Army into the British hands: for which act a price was on his head for years,. but - (he is extraordinarily clever) - he has now regained the favour of Lhassa & is as powerful as ever in his own land. - During the Great War, he rendered invaluable service to the Allies by heading their Secret Service Corps ("Spy-branch") in Berlin. He was disguised as a Chinaman. He speaks all occidental & oriental languages. There is no one, however small in social or political influence, in Europe or India who is unknown to Mr Laiden-La. I suppose he is really the greatest detective in the world; & if the truth were known, holds in his hands the fate of thousands.

Now, the fact that Prof. Roerich held a passport signed by Kerensky makes him doubtful to such a man; especially given the Soviet aim of conquering Mongolia & even China: & they claim that his four years' trek in Central Asia were subsidized by the Soviet (through their agents in U.S.A.): they claim that those four years gave no scientific results such as have attended other explorers into Tibet & Mongolia: but were fruitful to the Soviet - as the present situation in China illustrates. -

Of course, Mr Laiden-La found means of insinuating himself into the Roerich home in Darjeeling; & frequently rises up before my vision the picture of this gentleman sitting at the feet of Mrs Roerich in my drawing-Room one afternoon of reception. Knowing him for what he is - (one of the cleverest men in the world) -, I was fascinated by his assumed guilelessness on that occasion. - It goes without saying that all the official element in Darjeeling considered Prof. R. as a Soviet-agent; & I rather enjoyed flouting this & doing what I could to make the family's visit a happy one. What cowards people are! How few are the truly brave! the truly indifferent to who's who & what's what. How few are able to form independent judgments and act up to them!

However, Mr. Laiden-La was extremely gracious to me after the family left Darjeeling; he would stop me in the street & talk as he only can always interestingly; & came several times to my home. At last he got what he wanted, (& I knew he wanted it) & I gave it to him with open eyes. He wanted to know the future plans of Prof. R. I told him just what Mrs. R. had confided to me: They hoped – as soon as the great work in New York was well on its way – to build the greatest Observatory in the world somewhere in the Himalayas where climatic conditions were better than in Darjeeling; they hoped then to offer to Western Scientists those perfect conditions for study & observation which are so necessary to Science & so rare & difficult to obtain. —

His eyes glowed as I spoke so confidingly. He intimated he would call again & made alluring promises of my going to Tibet during the great Variant festival etc. But I never saw him again. Indeed I left Darjeeling soon after.

Now, you may or may not know that when the Great War broke out – it was discovered that India was practically undermined with an extremely clever system of underground wireless. Even in Darjeeling, an illegitimate son of the Kaiser had – (in three houses, one of which is now the residence of Mrs Mira Bose whom Mrs Roerich will remember) – set up a perfect system of wireless in the cellars & towers of his three adjoining houses, masking his activities as a Spy by lavish entertaining just as the Germans did also at Singapore & elsewhere prior to the War.

Now at various places on the North-Western & Northern Frontiers of India, these wireless installations existed connecting Germany with India, & more particularly, the members of the Communist (Soviet)

Party. Some at least of these cleverly concealed wireless installations were discovered; & no doubt the extraordinarily efficient Secret Service of India are fully aware of all these points as well as of the various activities of the Soviet & Communistic elements throughout the East: their (the Soviet's) great aim being the conquest of China & India. —

Now, perhaps I have said enough to suggest some explanation of this refusal to allow Prof. R. — to return to India especially during the present situation in India . . — until something like peaceful conditions return.

The idea of an observatory would at once suggest to the great Head of the Secret Service in India (Mr Laidenla) wireless communication with the enemy of mankind which the Soviet appears to be. — And thus must there ever be innocent victims when chaos exists & the constructive powers of Law & Order are fighting with the destructive powers of anarchy & rebellion.

The position is such that personally I do not think that any amount of International interference will alter matters. Nations never interfere with the doings of the Secret Service which in itself is, so to speak, international and mightier than Kings & Presidents & names however socially powerful. And at no time in the history of the world was it so necessary as it is today to guard against & foil the machinations of the wicked, to protect the innocent even against themselves, to save the future from destruction. In that great work, the bedrock of which is the Secret Service in all its International ramifications & the surface of which are the various diplomatic heads, — we must are be content to labour or stand aside, certainly not to labour against, & suffer if so be it suffering be our lot.

I hope I have not said anything liable to be misconstrued. And, though I do not believe it possible yet awhile, I hope that Prof. Roerich will be with you soon; or that Mme Roerich will be able to join him in America. — I hope Mrs Roerich has benefited from her stay higher up in the mountains. I shall be so glad to hear news of her. Shall I ever be able to visit her at Naggar? I hope so. — I have settled here for the winter, — a large house (Mr Rajah's house) — which gives me all the undisturbed & peaceful conditions necessary for good work. I am only 24 hours if that, away from Naggar: so whenever it may be convenient to Mrs Roerich, I could make a flying visit. With affectionate regards to Mrs Roerich & yourself.

Yours very sincerely Laura I. Gray.

Copy of letter from Mrs. Whites. friend.

12.10.30

My dear Miss Lichtmann,

How can you forgive me for holding over for two months your long letter of 11th Aug.? The truth is your letter found me much occupied with a sick person and also with many demands on my time, among other things weekly articles to Le Matin (Paris) and a manuscript for publication. And my removal for wintering here upset things generally. Your letter has been on the top of a big pile and now receives first attention. — I understand your feelings about the refusal of a permit to Prof. Roerich to return to India. But I understand the Government's position also; because it happens that circumstances, not of my choosing, have placed me behind the scenes and the reality is so serious that even such hardships as in the case in question seems justifiable. A wave of dark ignorance is passing over the whole world; and India from the very law of correspondences & contrasts must be and is the centre of the whirlwind of error. The Government is up against all the powers of evil let loose; and many an unsuspecting and innocent person is caught in the toils and coils. We must simply hold tight, and being sure of our own innocence and cleanliness, await in patience for the passing of the darkness.

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hands, for which act a price was on his head for years, but (he is extraordinarily clever) he has now regained the favour of Lhasa and is as powerful as ever in his own land. — During the Great War he rendered invaluable service to the Allies by heading their Secret Service Corps ("Spy-branch") in Berlin. He was disguised as a Chinaman. He speaks all occidental & oriental languages. There is no one however small in social or political influence in Europe or India who is unknown to Mr. Laden-La. I suppose he is really the greatest detective in the world and if the truth were known, holds in his hands the fate of thousands.

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(further follow a few private things)

signed L. T. F.

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However Mr. Laden La was extremely gracious to me after the family left Darjeeling; he would stop me in the Street and talk as he only can always interestingly; and came several times to my home. At last he got what he wanted, (and I know he wanted it) and I gave it to him with open eyes... He wanted to know the future plans of Prof. R... I told him just what Mrs. R. had confided to me: They hoped - as soon as the great work in New York was well on its way - to build the greatest observatory in the world somewhere in the Himalayas where climatic conditions were better than in Darjeeling; they hoped thus to offer to Western Scientists those perfect conditions for study and observation which are so necessary to science and so rare and difficult to obtain. — His eyes glowed as I spoke so confidingly. He intimated he would call again and made alluring promises of my going to Tibet during the great Vaisak festival etc. But I never saw him again. Indeed I left Darjeeling soon after.

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3-12-'30

6

Holiday Home
Rajpur.
Dehra Dun.
U.P.

My dear Miss Lichtman,

I have had hope since your letter of the 22nd Nov. With Prof. Roerich so close, at Pondicherry, accompanied by Dr. Lapeyre, it feels as though things must come right. Could not Dr. Lapeyre go alone at once to Naggar & from there certify direct to the Viceroy the state of Mrs Roerich's health. Forgive me for what I am going to say: Dr. Lapeyre in consultation with the Civil (military) surgeon should send in his report officially to the Viceroy. Please do not look at the offensive aspect of Government action: but make the most of it taking the precaution of insisting on a consultation between Mrs Roerich's own Dr. (Dr. Lapeyre) & the Government's specialist. Another advice I would like to give is to draw the attention of the English in England Press to the matter if Dr. Lapeyre's action is ignored or détourné in any way. – We have always to be careful when handling double-edged tools: the public is essentially cowardly & prefers evil to good: therefore publicity through the Press will have to be very carefully carried out; otherwise the career of the work in India will be jeopardised. Nine out of ten ordinary people will delight in saying: "Bolshevist!" & pointing the finger of scorn at innocence for the rest of its life. Therefore, be careful. The better way is the quiet way, persistence, dogged persistence & from sheer weariness the door will open. To have taken such action as

7

this, especially in view of the renown of Prof. Roerich, indicates a powerful enemy somewhere & therefore some evidence of apparent weight against him. Therefore extreme caution is necessary before any publicity — through the Press is resorted to.

Personally, I would not care if Prof. Roerich were a thoroughgoing Bolshevist: if he were, he would be of the Lenin type, the true reformer: & God knows Russia, under Tzarism had need of reform; extremes invariably produce extremes, & Bolshevism has swung to the other extreme, it will of course equalize, if it does not surpass, the worst days of Tzarism. I have some dear friends among former Russian Royalty, they were not responsible for the excesses, it was the régime itself which was wrong. Neither do I blame Lenin: he was great, too great for humanity at its present level.

However, the direct method is wrong: it is the leaven which is needed to revolutionize civilization: this is slow but it is sure & more worthy of that perfect stature of the perfect man at which we are all aiming. — Forgive this aside. —

I wish Mr & Mrs Roerich & you were down here! (we are 4.000 ft. high here) It is beautiful: those lovely hills all around & such beautiful drives! Could you not risk things & bring her down here for Xmas? I will have this house all to myself from the 18th for a whole month. A change sometimes works miracles. Will you not try this? In 24 hours all worst you could be here. It is cold, but not so cold as it must be at Naggar. I feel sure that some such change would be productive of much good in every way; Roerich will end by having Prof. Roerich here too to take his treasure back.

Please think this over & do try to come!

My love to Mr & Mrs Roerich. Yours affectionately Edward Price.

19-12-30

Holiday House. Rajpur.
Dehra Dun. U. P.

8

My dear Miss Lichtman,

I have been expecting the letter which your telegram announced. Perhaps it has gone astray or in the general relief & joy you have not had time to write. It was joyous news which your telegram brought. It was very good of Mrs. Roerich & you to think of sharing your happiness with us. I think you are all united again now & able to enjoy a Christmas such as is perhaps given to few to experience.

And now perhaps will it be possible for me to think of making a home in Kulu or Naggar. Are there any small but comfortable bungalows not too far from you?.. & the rent by the year? It would have to be low as my income has rather sensibly diminished this year through doings in Australia & France. I have written to "Mr. MacDonald", I think that was the name given me by Mrs. Roerich, asking him if he has or knows of any houses not too far away from you.

I could go up now or later on. But I do not relish the thought of paying R. 250 for the journey from Pathancote to Kulu! Is there no reasonably inexpensive way of doing that part of the journey? The two American girls who went up last year said they did it in some sort of motor trans-vere so shaken up

they would never forget it & dreaded the return trip... Is that the only alternative to a motor?

It is possible, but not yet certain, that I may be obliged to go to Europe end of March returning in November. If so, could I send (or take) to you my two doggies & my bearer? The latter is a Mahommedan, he's a good cook & a good all round man, quick, very clean, & efficient. He wages I pay him (R. 25/- a month) are sufficient, & I would give him 15/- extra for the dogs' food: (he is very good of the dogs & they of him). He would be as an extra servant for you, & I indeed would want this as he hates having nothing to do (unlike the average Indian servant). — This is just in case I must go to Europe in March: I would then stay on here perhaps & take the three up to Kaffar on my way to Bombay.. look at what was available, & plan for settling at the end of the year.

I shall not know certainly of the European visit until somewhere in January, towards the end. Then if the visit can be avoided, I could go up to Kulu in February.

I am dreaming of seeing a big hospital established in your regions under the management of my daughter (M.D. & a London Hospital & Queen Alexandra Military Service Corps) & three of her friends who have all seen four years' war service & one is a friend of the Duchess of York & her family in Scotland.

a hospital - sanitorium (but not for tuberculosis). This is one of the greatest needs in India. The Government would help, also some Indians whom I know. So we must concentrate on this. For the time being, my daughter, who went to Australia when I came here, & her friends cannot come until they sell the good-will of the hospital they have in a suburb of Sydney: the principal private hospital in Sydney. This may be sometime as Australia, like the rest of the world, is passing through severe financial straits, & no one wants to disbourse money. Indeed, except in tiny sums monthly, no one in Australia is allowed to send from or take out of Australia any money at all. Extraordinary to think that Banks won't allow you to draw out your own money as you like!

I hope you found Prof. Roerich in real good health & full of enthusiasm. Are the two sons back also? I hope so for Mrs. Roerich's sake. It will be a lovely Xmas for you all then.

How we do value that season! which seems to mean above all things family reunions, peace after struggle, joy after sorrow. I had a hard fight with myself to forget things when Xmas came these last five years! & found me alone in India.

I love it also for its dear associations. —

The weather is so glorious about here. Cold enough for snow, quite as cold as in Darjeeling at this time. But no snow has yet fallen up in Mussoorie. When it does, it comes right down to these Rajpur hills. — I think Rajpur & Kulu must have the same climate as Darjeeling & all the hill stations, is it so?

Give my warm affectionate greetings to Mrs Roerich & her happy family.

And with the same for yourself
I am Dear Miss Lichtman

Yours affectionately
Laura D. Irish.

Laura D. Irish

Holiday House
Rajpur. Dehra Dun. U.P.
Xmas Day. 1930

My dear Miss Lichtman,

As your telegram said you were then writing, & I have had no letter this promised, I fear it means that Mrs Roerich's health may have given way under the strain & joy. I would be glad to know how she is; to know that your silence is only because joy is filling to overflowing all the hours & minutes & leaves literally no time for anything else.

I like to think you are all together this day & that all is well. Will you, if you have time, send me a line to reassure me?

I have Mr. Donald's answer now waiting, before deciding to take the smaller cottage he speaks of, to see his last tenant, who lives in Dehra Dun.

I am also booking passage to Europe for early in April.

I am writing you from bed having yesterday slipped on the wet asphalt road & sprained my knee. It's painful for the time being, worse than a thorough going broken leg perhaps, - but it will be alright in a few days. Meanwhile, I am rather

enjoying bed. Like Topsy, I had forgotten what bed was like; "When I puts me head on the pillow I falls asleep, and then I wakes up I gets up", so she thought she didn't know what bed was like ... & I was thinking likewise the other day! —

I hope all is well & that Xmas day is finding you all in a haven of joy.

With my reverent love to Mrs Roerich & affectionate greetings to you all,

I am

Yours affectionately

Nancy G. Price.

14-1-'31

Holiday House
Rajpur
Dehra Dun U.P.

My Dear Miss Lichtmann,

I thank you for your letter & all the beautiful household for their Christmas wishes & cards. I am very sorry to learn how serious is Mrs Roerich's condition; but I think also that the Doctor from Paris may be able to cure her. One does not like constant vomiting which is a sign of cancer in the stomach (between you & me). But I still think that it may be from some other cause & therefore curable under the daily attention of your good physician. Besides, we can remember that Mrs Roerich is under very special protection & really a thing can happen to her without their knowledge & permission. It is good to think that Prof. Roerich is now with her.

I spent yesterday afternoon with the Mc Gowans who were at Raggar Cottage last October. They had taken many good snapshots of the house & the surroundings which gave me a very good idea

of the house & Kaffar. If I do not go to Europe (of which I shall not be sure until March) – in April, I will take the cottage on lease, or rather for one year first in order to try the loneliness. If I go to Europe, I will take it when I return.

Has Prof. Roerich a long lease of his place? Are they likely to remain in Kaffar & purchase land there when the necessary permission is obtained? I rather long for a corner somewhere in the Indian Highlands which I can make my own home & go as I wish; I want a lonely spot but to know there are friends within reach. — The Cottage is, they say, 5.600 ft. high. Much lower than Darjeeling or Mussoorie: Our place last year was 8.000 ft. high & is snow bidden under snow. —

I shall be glad when my present uncertainty ends & I can know for certain when I may be able to go Kaffar-wards.

With love to Mrs Roerich & yourself & kindest regards to Prof. Roerich & Mr Sevaj.

Sam. dear Miss Lichtmann,

Yours affectionately

F. Pirey

Laura

17

Rama Krishna Ashram
Kankal . Hardwar .
U. P.

16 - 2 - '31

My dear Miss Lichtenauer,

Your letter forwarded me here where I have been staying for a little while.

I am indeed very sorry to hear of Mrs Roerich's serious state of health. She seems never to have been well since she left Darjeeling. I could wish she had gone to Kappar! – It sounds terribly like Cancer, all the symptoms are there. I am very grieved. —

Yes, I felt all along you did not want me to go to Kappar. But I made full inquiries all the same & had very many photographic views given me of all the surroundings. The very isolation of the Cottage was in its favour. However, – as I can rent nothing unless I have the option of sub-letting & Mr Donald refused to allow me to sub-let, refused even to give me the cottage on other than a month to month basis though binding me down to a year's rent in advance! it was all so "fishy" that I decided to have nothing to do with any property belonging to him. Moreover, he wrote most disparagingly

of your good people though he knew you were my friends & that I was going to Rajpur only to be near Mrs Roerich. —

So I have definitely refused his Cottage & informed him that all further communication with me must cease. —

If I do not go to Europe, I shall decide for some hill station in these parts or even perhaps Kashmir. Narendra Rajpur, high up in the mts of the Teri State attracts me as it commands a wonderful view over this the most sacred corner of India: the Dun, Kaudhal, Rishi-Kesh, Mori-Kuati, Lakshmanu-Jhoola, the Manikot-Hills of old, old Rishi haunts, & the Ganges in all its youthful vigour as it escapes from the Badrinath Gorges. I have wandered all over the ground now & am very loath to leave it. I could find near Rikhi-Kesh the absolute Quiet I am looking for, but I want also the heights.

I shall be anxious to know how Mrs Roerich improves; I hope you may have time now & then to let me know.

Address me to Rajpur until a new address of some permanence is mine. I am moving about

there upon for a while longer I have no other permanent address until I decide on Europe or? — In the lap of the Gods! —

Excuse this hurried note.

I also cherish the hope of being able to see Mrs Roerich again before she or I pass onwards.

Affectionate regards to all the noble household.

Yours

Laura J. Price.

24-2-'31.

Shakti Ashram
Rajpur.
District Dehra Dun.
U.P.

Dear Friend,

I have to acknowledge & thank you for several good things: your letters, the Bulletin of the Institute & Prof. Roerich's new book: "The Heart of Asia", all of which I am very happy to receive.

As you may see from the above address, I have changed quarters. Long ago advanced Indian friends wanted me to come here & even keep. And quite suddenly & unexpectedly, like a bolt out of the blue, I came here on my return from Rikhi-Kesh & Hardwar. Certainly some great unseen Power arranged it all, probably issuing from the very advanced Head of the Rama-Krishna Ashram at Kankal who wanted me either to remain in his Ashram or to come here .. neither of which decisions seemed to my limited view to be possible .. But it was arranged that an English Swami - (an English Clergyman who is also well-known to, & a friend of, the Colonel in command at Dehra Dun) - should accompany me back to Rajpur. And when Miss Clifford (the English Missionary head of Holiday Home) saw a man in hated yellow "rags" enter her house - (though she had accepted him by telegram) - she turned mad at the sight & ordered the "stinking creature" & a flow of similar epithets out of her house; & seemed to think it "un-Christian" & unbearable that I should also instantly leave .. my excellent bearer doing my packing & removal. Thus works the Spirit when we wide enough follow its pointings. I have been tremendously unhappy

all the time I have been at Holiday House; but a mistaken sense of pity for that woman who depended entirely on me (I paid her a high rent) made me stay on until the heat could give me an excuse for going up north. . —

I have more than once been asked to keep in the work of this Ashram which was founded by the late Dr. Shastri whose American widow & her sister have kept the place going since he died. It is in a beautiful situation & about 2.000 ft. higher than Rajpur which is, they say, about 3.000 ft high. So maybe the summer will not be too hot, in which case I will remain if I am not obliged to go to Europe. The Ashram is enclosed within a high wall, contains many small cottages & cubicles, a large residential house, & well laid-out grounds. Very quiet & peaceful, even though the new motor road up to Mussoorie skirts the back of the property.

I do not know what is before me, & care not: "One day, ~~one~~ step, enough for me" has always been my guide. —

Please do not trouble about Mr. D. I burnt his letters. But as soon as I knew he was the brother of a Mr. D. in Rajpur, I decided not to have anything to do with one of his family. — (The Mr. D. in Rajpur has obtained the charge of an extremely wealthy young man of 25 or 20 who is just slightly deficient; & his manner of carrying out his responsibilities is a scandal).

I was fascinated by the absolute solitude of Rajpur Cottage; I was tempted to have taken with me my Bearer & all his very nice family, I turned not have been alone; also a friend would have joined me. But, as I said, the climax came suddenly: discovery of who the Kuku Donald was; his uncalled-for remarks about "the Roerich lot"; his exaggerated claims on me demanding a year's rent in advance & yet one month's notice to terminate my tenancy at his pleasure! . . All in keeping with the reputation of the Rajpur Donald! . Not possible! —

You remember that you recommended the Cottage to me some time ago! However, the Museum have arranged things & it looks as though I were a fixture here at least for the time being. I hope so, for I have a mountain of manuscript to prepare for publication & need quiet & settled conditions for that as well as for the inner life.

I am very grieved to hear about Mary Roerich's health. Maybe, when I have lessened the pile before me, I shall accept invitation to visit two States near Kagar & so have a chance of seeing you all. —

There is a young high-born worthy Hindu aspirant for the higher life staying here just now. He has been, this, under the spiritual guidance of some eminent men; & recently returned from Aurobindo Ghose's Ashram in Pondicherry where he spent four months. He seems to be able to go & come as he thinks fit in all the Ashrams in India. But he does not seem favorably disposed towards the Pondicherry Ashram. It has never appealed to me. An intermediary, — in the shape of Mme Richard in this case —, is a thing I would never accept. And a "Master" who only gives you exactly two minutes of his august presence every four months is no "Master" as I interpret that splendid Power. — There are some curious financial arrangements also: you give all your possessions to the Ashram in return for which you are fed & clothed; if, & when, you wish to leave you may leave but you leave penniless: for once & for all you have divested yourself of all worldly possessions, burnt your boats & your bridges, & there is no return, no going forth again except to poverty. That seems too much like pressure to suit me.

But India is a wonderful land; & not the least wonderful is the great power & insight & attainment of a few of these yellow-robed solitary men now & then moving in & out of the people, & then returning to their ice-bound caves. The regeneration of the West & the East alike is in such hands. Such power moves slowly but surely.

Affectionate regards to Professor & Mrs Roerich & to Mr George, with a very special prayer for dear Madame Roerich;

Yours affectionately

Laura G. Finch

Copy.

16

Holiday House
Rajpur
Dehra Dun.
U.P.
29-10-'30.

To

His Excellency the Viceroy of India.

Excellency,

I am permitting myself a great liberty in forwarding you the enclosed letter. I can but hope that the aim I have in mind will justify my action in your eyes.

To those who, like myself, know Professor Roerich and his family, his past, his present and his aims thoroughly, the refusal to renew his passport for India seems painfully unjust. So much so indeed that I am venturing to send you this letter which I have just received from one of the founders(financially) of the Roerich Institute in New York, who is staying with Madame Roerich during the absence of Professor Roerich.

The last page of the letter is particularly pathetic. The letter is in answer to one of mine in which I had tried to excuse the action of our Government in London on the plea of the present situation in India and the role which the Russian Soviet are playing therein; In such times the innocent suffer for the guilty.

Is it not possible for your Excellency to exercise your judgment and will in this matter ? that is : that your considered opinion based upon information not usually possessed might outweigh badly or insufficiently informed opinion at Home?

I have known the Roerich family for years intimately. When they were in Darjeeling (June to December,1928), we were in and out of each others' homes daily. I saw them under every aspect of ceaseless labour, of a beautiful home-life, of an idealism which never fell from its lofty pedestal.

I am positive they are far from sympathising with any subversive agency whether that of the Soviet of of the Indian National Congress. All their thought, day and night, is turned towards the Spiritual planes. Mrs. Roerich herself is a marvellously gifted Soul and in constant communication with the Heights.-I hate to reveal this, but I want your Excellency to know something of the inner life of that family which you could only know from intimates of the family.- Mrs.Roerich is in such close living contact with Christ and "His Companions", that it is like a perpetual spiritual bath to be near her. She has been the inspiration of her husband from the day he met her and the inspiring friend of her two splendid sons; she is the force behind the Roerich Museum. I have witnessed her powers and have had the privilege of benefiting from her great knowledge and perpetual striving after the highest rungs of the ladder of Truth. Those who have had that privilege have given their all towards the materialization of her dreams for the uplift of humanity...along educational, artistic and cultural lines.

It is not likely that the real Power behind the Roerich activities, and which I have just touched upon, will ever be made public. When I try the impossible : eliminating from my consciousness the intimate knowledge and proof I possess of Madame's Roerich's greatness, I can vaguely realize that appearances may be against Professor Roerich. How many are there who live according to the dictates of the Highest ?...That is my excuse for laying before you something of the inner life of the Roerich Family.

Miss Lichtmann , the writer of the enclosed letter, is a wealthy naturalised American (German),who has given her all to the Roerich activities in New York. She is staying with Madame Roerich during her husband's absence...

In case there may be doubt about my own witnessing,I will say that I am the Mother of Captain George Finch,D.S.O. and Professor of Chemistry in the University of London(Technical Dept.) He was a member of the Everest Expedition in 1922 and is again actively preparing for another such Expedition. He is a Member of the Royal Geographical Association.

I beg your Excellency to forgive me for thus encroaching on your most valuable time.

I am,

Excellency,

Yours faithfully,

L.G.F.