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November 2, 1948

Dr. Enrico G. Carpani
Comitato del Patto Internazionale Roerich
Vice Presidenza per l'Italia
Via Rizzoli No. 4
Bologna, Italy

My dear friend and colleague:

Your letter of September 18th, in which we rejoiced to see further evidence of your worthy initiative, as well as good judgment from your point of view, would have been answered long ago had it not been for the fact that we have been extremely busy with many tasks and duties which have taken up all our time. Also, at the beginning of the season not all the members of the Board were present in New York, and we had to wait until they returned to the city so that we could acquaint them with your letter and discuss your considerations and propositions.

First of all, we see that your understanding of the situation and conditions we face over here is not as true and complete as is your knowledge of the problems confronting the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace in Italy at present. We read your analysis of the latter and your proposed ways to proceed in the future with immediate approbation. Indeed, your plans for organization of the work of promulgation of Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace in general are splendid, and in conformity with the very broad scope of the task ahead.

However, I must acquaint you with certain deterrent factors, from our point of view. Just now it would be more than difficult for us to support financially your excellent efforts, as we are already engaged in a necessary broadening of our activities which will strain all our resources for the near future and require even additional sums. While the scarcity of funds for peace, for construction, for culture, is almost world-wide, we have good reason to believe that this condition is temporary and will soon change.

We do know that at present the United States Government does not support any enterprises of such nature as ours, and therefore to send an appeal to Washington in favor of the Italian Roerich Committee would be futile. You, my dear friend, are quite well aware of the economic, social and governmental turbulence which gives rise to so much fear and chaos in Europe, but, to my sorrow, I must tell you that the same dark forces are now quite powerfully active also in America. During this period of fierce political rivalries, altruism is either suspected or derided. We must "ride out the storm".

As soon as better forces are in the ascendency all over the world, the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace will have public support, and no doubt in many places governmental support.

Private capital, upon which so many worthy projects have relied in the past, has been withdrawn to a greater and greater extent, although in some places there is much being squandered on various vulgarities. Governmental monies everywhere are being poured extravagantly into wars and war preparations. For our part, I am happy to assure you that we shall eagerly await the moment when, our own essential program reasonably provided for, we can extend aid to you.

And now I must take up another consideration which I feel confident you will understand as being presented to you in the interest of broad and unbiased promotion of our work. We have always held all churches and denominations in equal reverence, without distinction or discrimination, and we feel that the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace should be presented everywhere in this same spirit. If you do find it beneficial to receive the blessing of the Vatican, we are certainly in accord with you, but we all must be cautious enough to make sure that the entire international project of the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace is not presented to the world as being under the exclusive auspices of any one church, denomination or religion. Not everyone, in America particularly, would respond sympathetically to such a policy. As you know, we have taken the same stand from a political angle; that is, the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace knows no politics and should be endorsed in truth by each and every nation. Your being a distinguished scholar and a man far from chauvinism and prejudices of all kinds assures me that your thoughts are in harmony with this universal approach.

We have received from you quite a number of copies of the issue of *Corriere del Libro* in which you inserted the splendid note about the Roerich Pact's being endorsed by the Government of India and the article by Comm. Buttazoni - "Ancora sulla Polemica Roerich-Wallace". These papers will be given to the members of our Board.

It was a pleasure to hear that you have finally received the three framed reproductions and photographs of our quarters. We hope to send you in future some more photographs, as we are waiting for them to be developed and do not yet know the result.

Mrs. Fosdick is quite well and working as actively as ever.

I trust that you have already received my full explanation of Dr. Watson's inability to visit you in Bologna. He himself was quite unhappy about that incident.

And now I have another bit of good news to acquaint you with - a Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace Committee has been recently formed in Brazil, under the leadership of Senor Eduardo Tourinho, poet and writer. The members of the Board there are equally distinguished writers and scientists. We also have information about a Committee being formed in Uruguay, of which I shall write you later. By the way, we have officially dropped the use of the designation "Vice Chairmen" representing various countries, in order to permit more freedom for independent choice of set-up within each country. Therefore, in any country, the head of a Committee may be called "President", "Chairman", "Director" or whatever title conforms to the language and customs of that country.

With warmest personal greetings, in which Mrs. Fosdick and the members of the Board join me, I remain

Fraternally yours,

Dudley Fosdick, Chairman