

Early in August the Government of India have announced their approval of the International Pact for the protection of Cultural Treasures, known as the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace.

This ~~act~~ of great significance that India, within the very first year after her Independence should voice her adherence to this Treaty of Cultural Unity.

India's own great Cultural Heritage place her in an unique position. And her voice, like the Mission of Gandhiji must be the voice of Peace, the Ideal of Higher Values and Ever broadening Horizons.

The real purpose of this Pact, as visualized by its creator Prof. Nicholas Roerich, was not only to preserve Treasures of Human Genius for posterity, but to ^{also} create a common unifying bond, by establishing the principle of Inviolability of Cultural Values, common to all Humanity. Prof. Roerich always felt that this Pact should have an Educational

value by awakening in the younger
Generation from the earliest years an
Understanding and respect for the great
Achievements of Man's creative genius,
^{He believed it}
~~which~~ will help to forge ~~the~~ great,
Living bond, common to all, above
any distinction of Race, Colour or Creed,
^{to lead humanity}
towards that great goal ~~of humanity~~
- Peace - Peace based upon the realization
and understanding of the ^{of common} higher values ^{of life}
~~of common~~ ^{above} ~~self-interest~~ and ~~egotism~~.

^{STRAFE}
The Idea for a Pact of this Nature
was first conceived by Professor Perich
in 1904 and proposed first to
the Society of Architects in Russia
and later to the Russian State
Authorities in 1914, though it
was received with great interest
it was ~~again~~ delayed on account
of the War. It was only
in 1929 that the Idea was ~~again~~

Formally promulgated by Prof Powell
 in America and the text of
 this treaty was published in the Russ.
 Semulotaneously Committees for
 the Pact and Banner of Peace
 were founded in Paris, New-York,
 Bruges and Bruxelles.

The Principle articles of the Pact
 provide: "Educational, artistic and
 Scientific institutions, artistic and
 Scientific Missions, the personnel, the
 property and collections of such institutions
 and missions shall be deemed neutral and as
 such shall be protected and respected
 by belligerents. Protection and respect
 shall be due to the aforesaid institutions
 and missions in all places, subject to the
 sovereignty of the High Contracting
 Parties, without any discrimination as to
 the State Allegiance of any particular
 institution or mission.

The institutions, Collections, Missions thus registered
 may display a distinctive flag, which will
 entitle them to special protection and respect
 on the part of the belligerents, or Governments

and peoples of all High Contracting Parties,
The Banner of Peace ^{The Symbol of the Pact,} designed by Professor
Roerich consists of a red circle
within which are inscribed three ^{red} spheres
on a white field. One interpretation
of this symbol is the Past, Present
and future achievements of Mankind
within the Circle of Eternity. This
Banner as provided for in the Articles
of the Pact is to be flown over protected
sites much in the manner of the
Red Cross, a similarity which made
some writers refer to it, as the Red Cross
of Culture. ^{correct.}

From its very inception the Idea
drew an enthusiastic response
from Leaders of Culture, Heads
of States, and International
Organisations and Cultural Institutions.

43

Three International Conventions for the adoption of the Covenant Pact and Banner of Peace were held at Bruges, Paris and Washington. Representatives of 35 nations participated in the Third International Convention at Washington and unanimously adopted the resolution approving the Covenant Pact and Banner of Peace and urging its adoption by other Nations of the World. The League of Nations through its Museum Commission also voiced its adherence and its whole thousands upon thousands of letters and resolutions ^{voicing solidarity with the Pact} were ~~received by~~ ^{received by} the respective committees of the Covenant Pact.

In 1935 on the 15th of April the ^{in the office of President Roosevelt at the White House at Washington,} Pact was officially signed by the Representatives of the United States of America and 20 Latin American Republics signed the ~~Covenant Pact.~~

at the close of this solemn occasion
President Roosevelt ~~broadcast~~
in ~~an~~ International Broadcast
~~and~~ delivered the following message:
"It is most appropriate that on this day,
designated as Pan-American Day by the
Chief Executives of all the republics
of the American continent, the Governments -
members of the Pan American Union - should
sign a Treaty which marks a step forward
in the preservation of the cultural
achievements of nations of this hemisphere.
In opening this Pact to the adherence
of the Nations of the World, we are
endeavouring to make of universal
application one of the principles vital
to the preservation of modern civilization.
This Treaty possesses a spiritual
significance far deeper than the text
of the instrument itself. Let us bring

renewed allegiance to those high principles of International cooperation and helpfulness, which, I feel assured, will be a great contribution to civilization by the Americas."

as the Same Function - 2

The Minister of Panama, Ricardo J. Alfaro in the course of his address said: "The Historic act, which has just taken place" is one that marks a signal victory in the perennial struggle of the better sentiments of man against the savages of War... A great Idealist and fervent Apostle of peace Professor Nicholas Goerck conceived the plan of an international convention for the neutralisation and protection of the cultural treasures of the world. And to day the Republics of the Western Hemisphere sought and attained the honour of carrying the lofty project to a successful conclusion... The deep significance of this occasion has been enhanced by the gracious hospitality which the President of the United States has shown the Plenipotentiaries of the Signatory Nations by inviting them to perform the historic act in the White House,

Committees for the Roerich Pact ^{are} ~~has~~
been established in many countries
including ^{of Europe & America} India.

Here in India ~~are~~ from the very
inception a keen interest has been
evinced by ^{in this project} cultural leaders
~~inspired~~ and organizations. ~~The Roerich~~
~~Pact~~ Committee ^{for the Roerich Pact} includes the following
- names:

~~Mr. Shyamprasad Chetty~~, ^{the Hon.} ~~Mr.~~ Vijayalakshmi
Pandit, Sir C. V. Raman, Dr. Amarnatha
Jha, Sir S. S. Bhabnagar, R. K. SHANMUKHAM
CHETTY, HON. SHYAMA PRASAD MOOKERJEE, SIR
MIRZA ISMAIL, DR. M. R. JAYAKAR, SIR R. TEKCHAND,
LADY S. HYDARI, DR. MATA PRASAD, SIR C. P. RAMASWAMI
IYER, M. R. SIRCAR, ^{HONOR} RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR,
K. M. MUNSHI, G. VENKATACHALAM,
S. GUJAR. SVETOSLAV ROERICH. -

Rabindranath Tagore writing to
Professor Roerich said: -

(5)

5

Robertson
Joyce & Co.

"I have recently followed your most remarkable achievements in the realm of Arts and also your great humanitarian work for the welfare of the nations of which your peace pact, with a special banner for protection of cultural treasures is a singularly effusive symbol. I am very glad indeed that the pact has been accepted by the Museum Committee of the League of Nations and I feel sure that it will have far reaching effects on the cultural harmony of nations: "

in set.
on page 2(b)

~~RP~~

The articles of the Treaty provided that
the accession to the pact was by means
of unilateral action through the
proclamation of the Executive, by
bilateral action, through international
agreements, and by multilateral action
through ^{the} proclamation of international
conferences,

Cultural Unity
as a movement

We are indebted to the Enlightened ⁷
and farseeing vision of our Prime Minister
Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru for making
the recognition of this Endeavour by
India possible within such a short period
of time. Let us ~~hope~~ ^{trust} that India will
~~now~~ ^{now} take ^{in charge} the leadership of this movement
for Cultural Unity ~~in India~~ and that
this Part for the Protection of Treasures
of Human Genius, becomes ^{soon} as universally
accepted as the Red Cross =