

The Honorable, The Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Secretary,

As you know, the Roerich Museum of New-York, chartered under the University of the State of New-York, in 1928, established Urusvati, Himalayan Research Institute of Roerich Museum at Naggar, Kulu, Punjab India, as an Institute for the pursuance of scientific research in all fields, on headquarters and land donated by Professor Nicholas Roerich, our honorary President and Founder, an investigation which we feel is destined to contribute greatly to the advancement of culture.

As part of its scientific program of research, Roerich Museum employed Dr. Walter N. Koelz, formerly of Michigan University, as Botanist-Zoologist sending him to the Himalayan Research Institute in May 1930 at the expense of the Museum and at a given salary for his services, in addition to his upkeep. Recently, however, the actions of Dr. Koelz in India have led the Board of Trustees to believe that his presence there was highly undesirable, and he was therefore recalled, arrangements being made for his return passage. He has not, however, complied with these instructions to return, as is herein later explained.

Since this matter has assumed proportions beyond the question of his scientific incompetency or that of private differences with an employee, and in order to avoid any possibility of embarrassment to our government and to ourselves through unauthorized actions on the part of Dr. Koelz, we are sending you herewith this communication. The Board of Trustees feels that the facts herein set forth should be placed before you for such action as you may deem desirable, including, if you think it advisable, their communication to the appropriate British authorities.

Of chief concern to us because it may appear as an unfriendly gesture, is the fact that one shotgun and one rifle, property of the Roerich Museum and purchased in America by the Museum for use in our expeditions for securing specimens of bird and animal life for scientific purposes (but registered in the name of Dr. Koelz because under the regulations of the Indian authorities he had to carry the permission for their use), have been permitted by him to pass into the hands of a native together with a quantity of ammunition. It is our understanding that natives are not permitted to carry firearms. It is also reported by our Director at Naggar, Kulu, that through the efforts of Dr. Koelz, without our knowledge and probably through misrepresentation, a permit for the use of the guns was secured for one native. We are further advised by the Director of our Institute at Naggar that Dr. Koelz had organized or was about to organize a private expedition into Tibet, for which no permit was authorized. It is reported to have been his intention to do this as a cloak for a hunting expedition for private enjoyment or commercial gain. We have also been advised that Dr. Koelz has violated the permit given to the Museum to kill specimens of fauna for scientific purposes, by killing superfluous specimens as well as shooting out of season, to

which the British Government has objected. Whatever may have been the motives for these acts, they have been entirely distasteful to us and contrary to the orders of our institution, which desires at all times to keep strictly within the privileges and permits granted by foreign governments in whose territory research is being conducted.

As has been stated, Dr. Koelz had been ordered to return to America. Although he is reported to have left India, he did not return to the United States, on the steamship Roma on April 4th, as he had been requested by the Board of Directors to do, and in accordance with the passage arranged and provided for him.

Before leaving the Himalayan Research Institute at Naggar, he was requested by the Director to return the two guns and ammunition, which had been provided for him by the Roerich Museum, but he failed to do so. It is also reported to us that he has on several occasions incited the natives, he has attempted to purchase land for himself for uses unknown and he has ~~attempted~~ repeatedly defamed and slandered this American institution, and endeavored to jeopardize its position in Naggar. We do not here mention his failure to fulfill his scientific duties nor other shortcomings in his work, but we do feel that his unauthorized actions of the character mentioned herewith and while in the employ of the Roerich Museum in a foreign country, may be of interest or concern to the Department of State.

Should you desire any further details in regard to this matter, we wish to assure you that our files and correspondence on this subject are completely at your disposal.

Very truly yours,

Louis L. Horch, President.