

135/12

YOUR HOLINESS,

THE BUDDHIST ASSEMBLY IN AMERICA ON MARCH 24TH, 1927, APPOINTED ME HEAD OF THE FIRST EXTRAORDINARY MISSION OF WESTERN BUDDHISTS TO TIBET TO PRESENT PERSONALLY TO YOUR HOLINESS THE ADDRESS OF THE BUDDHIST ASSEMBLY, THE GREAT ORDER OF BUDDHA, THE VICTORIOUS, AND THE JOYOUS NEWS OF THE SPREADING OF THE TEACHING OF THE EXALTED ONE IN THE WEST. THE JOURNEY FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO TIBET TAKES ABOUT EIGHT MONTHS - MORE THAN SIXTEEN THOUSANDS ENGLISH MILES. WE HAVE BEEN FORTUNATE TO OVERCOME ALL THE UNUSUAL HARDSHIPS OF THAT WAY, AND WERE JOYOUSLY HEARING THE INNER FORTUNE OF TIBET. BUT HERE INSTEAD OF JOY WE WERE CONFRONTED WITH THE GREATEST DISAPPOINTMENT. LIKE CRIMINALS, NOTWITHSTANDING MY HIGH SOCIAL POSITION, WE HAVE BEEN FORCIBLY STOPPED BY THE AUTHORITIES OF NAGCHU-DZONG. AND NOW AMIDST THE FROST AND SNOW OF CHANG-THANG, DANGEROUSLY ILL, OUR FOOD-SUPPLIES COMING TO END WE ARE RETAINED HERE ALREADY FOR TWENTY ONE DAY, WITHOUT ANY HOPE TO MOVE FURTHER. WITH OPEN HEART WE MADE KNOWN THE AIMS AND GREAT SIGNIFICANCE OF OUR MISSION TO THE FRONTIER AUTHORITIES. HERewith WE ENCLOSE THE COPIES OF OUR LETTERS TO THE SAID AUTHORITIES, FROM WHICH YOUR HOLINESS WILL PERCEIVE ALL DETAILS OF OUR PRESENT SITUATION, AND WHAT GREAT CONSEQUENCES WILL ARISE FROM OUR FORCIBLE AND OFFENDING ARREST. WE CANNOT HELP TO THINK THAT SOMEONE WITH GREAT INJUSTICE IS TRYING TO HARM THE PURPOSE OF THE FIRST WESTERN BUDDHIST MISSION.

135/13

WE KNOW, THAT YOUR HOLINESS, AS VICE-REGENT OF THE EXALTED-ONE IN THIS WORLD, WILL PAY DUE ATTENTION TO THE WHOLE MATTER, AND WILL ISSUE ORDERS TO LET US MOVE FURTHER FOR PERSONAL PRESENTATION.

MOST REVERENTLY,

Reta. Rigden. Roerich.

 HEAD OF THE UNION OF WESTERN BUDDHISTS.