

Copy for Sir Robert Borden,

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Mr. Cote.

879545 Imm.

EBR/BB.

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164 W.D. Scott to C. J. Doherty, Acting Minister of
the Interior

Ottawa, 18 July 1914

MEMORANDUM

Hon. Mr. Doherty,
Acting Minister of the Interior.

Mr. Wm. C. Hopkinson, who is an officer working jointly for the Canadian Government and the Imperial Government, securing particulars regarding the Hindu agitators for the Home authorities, wires as follows:-

"My letter eleventh instant file one hundred and fourteen Harnam Singh with Balwant Singh Prie~~s~~ and Bhag Singh one of charterers of Komagata Maru went to Sumas today and there met Taraknath Dass. Each of these three either purchased there or were supplied with revolvers and ammunition by Taraknath Dass. One of them returned Canadian territory and arrested with one revolver and five hundred rounds of ammunition. The remaining three have been arrested in American territory at our suggestion and held for investigation. Kindly communicate contents of this lettergram to Commissioner Clarke with view of investigation re cancellation of citizenship papers on the grounds of assisting East Indian to offer armed resistance to Canadian Government officers or with supplying them with arms to overthrow law and order in this country. Citizenship papers granted Dass in San Francisco recently. Mr. Reid making full investigation and will report as soon as concluded."

Personally I do not approve of asking the United States authorities to cancel the citizenship papers of Taraknath Dass on the grounds that he assisted East Indians in offering armed resistance to Canadian Government officers or with supplying them with arms to overthrow law and order in this country. While the action of Taraknath Dass may be very reprehensible, it seems to me that Hopkinson's view in the matter is, to say the least, slightly exaggerated.

W. D. Scott

Superintendent of Immigration.