

C047/980

Ottawa, July 19th, 1914.

Hon. J. D. Hasen,
Moncton N.B.,
for Halifax.

Passenger per Ocean Limited
(Please rush and report
delivery)

Confidential. Following telegram received this morning
by Superintendent of Immigration. Begins.

"Attempt made to night to board Komagata Maru on biggest
"tug in harbour. Chief of Police personally attended hundred
"and twenty five picked officers, immigration department
"thirty five special officers and a number of regular staff
"with legal adviser Ladner and H.H. Stevens M.P. This on written
"request Captain who unable get up steam, leave harbour, or
"control ship. Official interpreter went on ship prior to
"any action being taken with a view to solve problem without
"drastic action. All offers refused and message sent not
"come on board. They refused leave harbour without written
"order Bhag Sing and Rahim. On arrival of vessel strenuous
"fight raised, firebricks, pieces of machinery, hatchets, coal,
"iron bars, clubs, all being used which were showered down
"on tug from all parts of ship smashing windows of tug, injur-
"ing Captain, also breaking two of his ribs. Chief of Police
"struck. Shots fired by Hindus, but not fire returned. Twenty
"men now in hospital mostly police officers also injured now
"being attended by Doctor. Forced to retire and return to shore
"at two a.m. Chief Police, H.H. Stevens M.P., and Counsel
"Ladner of opinion no further attempt be made and advise
"that Rainbow take charge of this ship. We urge immediate
"action owing danger anti-oriental outbreaks Vancouver when
"facts made public. The men aboard undoubtedly in desperate
"and fanatical condition. Utterly impossible to reason with
"them or handle in ordinary manner. The peculiar situation
"of this riot occurring on board a ship anchored in the
"stream makes ordinary police methods utterly useless as police
"and guards do not wish use fire-arms to retaliate and can
"do not effective service without". Ends.

Am not confident that Rainbow could be used effectively
as our desire is to secure departure of ship without unneces-
sary violence. Possibly Rainbow could be used more effectively
than tug in securing landing of force on Komagata Maru. As no
officer of naval service seems available today hope you will
forward immediately instructions to Naval Service Officers
at Vancouver and instruct him consult with Dominion Immigration
Agent Reid as to possible use of Rainbow for purposes mention-
ed and to co-operate with immigration officers for such purpose

R.L. Borden.