

Vancouver, B. C., July 20th 1914

MRJR/EC.

Ottawa File No. 879545 Imm.

W. D. SCOTT, ESQ.,

Superintendent of Immigration,

Ottawa, Ont.

Sir:

I beg to confirm my night lettergram of the 18th instant, as follows:-

"Captain Yamamoto has given letter to Chief of Police requesting his men come aboard immediately if possible. Forty police are coming on at twelve thirty a.m. I have thirty-five special officers armed with rifles and the tug Sealion. Provisions now being loaded. Will board the vessel at one a.m. Sunday morning and immediately steam is raised proceed to sea."

Enc.

I also beg to enclose copy of a communication forwarded to the Japanese Consul.

I also wish to confirm my night lettergram of the 18th instant, as follows:-

"Following telegram sent His Royal Highness Governor General Ottawa, begins: We passengers of Komogata Maru indicate our sorrow to judgment Board of Enquiry regarding our deportation and humbly have the honor to appeal before your Royal Highness for our landing on following reasons first: being British subjects. Second: Hongkong Government stopped ship one week to consult with you and Imperial Government for our coming. It was better of Government stop us there at that time if our coming was unsuitable. Third ship was duly gazetted in Hong Kong our necessary and legal papers were not produced in Appeal Court because Mr. Gurdit Singh was not allowed to see his counsel; Fourth: continuous journey clause is of no value as we have come to know to charter steamers to go anywhere. To leave on bail is far better than to produce two hundred dollars to save not being public charges. These are mere excuses. We all are farmers, and have to work on farms here. Our brothers ashore can collect sums to arrange for land and everything. Some blocks of land should be awarded in any part of Canada to cultivate. If the Government has to enforce the same law should give sign for our land-

W.D.S. - 2.

"Ing coming direct with two hundred from Calcutta if changed before our re-arrival will be of blame for Government and prove unjust. We have suffered a loss of nearly three hundred and fifty thousand dollars. Kindly take pity and award blocks of land to improve Canada progress and to make land fertile. Shall die if return being in prison for four months. No bodily strength to cross Pacific. An early reply requested by wire. Ends. Signed Passengers Komogata Maru. Have given ultimatum to Captain to take action by six PM. Failing which will enforce deportation orders by invoking section forty-four. Distinctly understood personal arrangement between Premier Borden and Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper; likewise concession re wireless expired at that hour."

I also beg to confirm my rush wire of the 18th which was sent before my night lettergram above quoted:

"Captain Yamamoto and Engineer went on board vessel at five fifteen after being given till six o'clock tonight to decide whether he would obey deportation orders or not; otherwise all special negotiations as outlined Premier Borden's correspondence with Tupper cancelled. If unable get up steam, rocket will be fired as request we communicate Civic authorities place police on board. "

And further my night lettergram, dated the 18th:-

"Attempt made tonight board Komagata Maru on biggest tug in Harbour. Chief of Police personally attended hundred 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 to ship prior to any action being taken with a view to solve problem without drastic action. All offers refused and message sent not come aboard. They refused leave harbour without written order Bhag Singh and Raheim. On arrival at vessel strenuous fight raised. Firebricks, pieces of machinery, hatchets, coal, iron bars clubs, all being used, which were showered down on the tug from all parts of ship, smashing windows of tug, injuring Captain also breaking two of his ribs. Chief Police struck. Shots fired by Hindus but no fire returned. Twenty men now in hospital, mostay police officers and a few special immigration officers also injured, now being attended by doctors. Forced to retire and returned to shore at two a.m. Chief of Police, H.H. Stevens, M.P., and Counsel Ladner, of opinion no further attempt be made and that Rainbow take charge of this ship. We urge immediate action owing danger anti-oriental outbreak Vancouver when facts made public. The men aboard undoubtedly in desperate and fanatical condition. Utterly impossible to reason with them or handle in ordinary

W.D.S. - 3.

"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 firearms to retaliate and can do no effective service without."

I further beg to confirm your telegram of the 19th instant, as follows:

"Naval authorities are being instructed to have Rainbow co-operate in securing landing on Komogata Maru. Suggest that high pressure streams of water from fire engine placed upon largest boat available might be useful in keeping back those resisting the police and officers desiring reach decks of Komogata Maru. Violent action of Hindus last night amply justify hand-cuffing full number if control of ship and passengers cannot be otherwise secured and maintained. If this done, deportation by next Empress would then be feasible. You are authorized to deport by Empress if convinced that deportation by Komogata Maru cannot be promptly and effectively accomplished bear in mind possibility of landing on some unfrequently part of coast under actual or pretended compulsion.

"The self restraint of the police and immigration officers under great provocation is appreciated and commended by the acting minister. It is desired that no unnecessary violence shall be used but that the law shall without fail be effectively enforced. Be sure that all necessary orders and warrants are issued for this purpose.

"Consult legal advisers as to taking proceedings under section 44 against Master and assignees of charter and instruct them to take any available proceedings immediately. Keep me posted of every new development."

Your remarks regarding the self restraint of the police and immigration officers, duly noted with pleasure. The police have been duly informed.

The Vancouver newspaper cuttings form a reliable account of what transpired, the newspaper men having accompanied the Sealion to the side of the ship.

I need not dwell here on the dangerous situation which arose, as the Captain was struck down at the wheel as the Sea Lion backed away; officer McArthur falling overboard, and the tug taking a very dangerous last, a catastrophe being

W.D.S. - 4.

narrowly averted.

I am able to report this morning that all the injured with the exception of one, are doing well, and have nearly all left the Hospital.

Three special officers of the Immigration Department were hurt, one special officers - Taylor - somewhat seriously. In all thirty men were struck down and a number of doctors worked on them in this office, the more seriously injured being conveyed by ambulances to the Hospital.

I am pleased to report that the special guard all duly paraded for duty yesterday, with the exception of the three badly injured. I complimented the men on their stand and their keenness for continued duty. All men picked for this work were service men, or ex-service men.

I further beg to confirm my wire of the 19th instant, as follows:-

"Have got into touch with Commander Rainbow, Esquimalt, situation fully explained - Rainbow's new draft seamen arriving tomorrow; rapid despatch special boat from here. He is further taking up the matter possibility securing Militiamen and Marines, owing to smallness crew Rainbow would arrive Tuesday noon. Meantime Sealion, two small boats will maintain careful patrol night and day. Private information local Hindus tonight will take out boat loaded arms and ammunition to pass same aboard Komogata Maru. Will try and secure co-operation of police as information states Hindus will possibly shoot our officers."

and your rush wire of the 19th instant, as follows:-

"Militia Department here are instructing Vancouver Military officer to supply commander of Rainbow with all assistance he desires."

This morning I wired you as follows:-

"Kindly request Post Master General authorize me open mail going aboard or coming from Komogata Maru. This very important as we will probably ascertain what arms or ammunition are aboard and what attempts will be made to place same aboard by shore contingent. Plans being completed here. Counsel and Howard left to confer with commander Rainbow. Sailors have just arrived leaving two o'clock boat. Rainbow will arrive tomorrow noon. Rigid patrol by Sea Lion and other boats with searchlights last night."

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W.D.S. - 5.

Enc. One letter addressed to the Sikh Temple was opened yesterday, and I would particularly call your attention to the Hindu version of this fact, and the determined and revolutionary attitude displayed.

Enc. I also enclose copies of further correspondence.

In view of rumours to the effect that the Hindus would attempt to assassinate myself, I have taken the precaution to have my house guarded at night, having sent my family out of town.

Your obedient servant,

Malcolm R. J. Reed

DOMINION IMMIGRATION AGENT & INSPECTOR.