

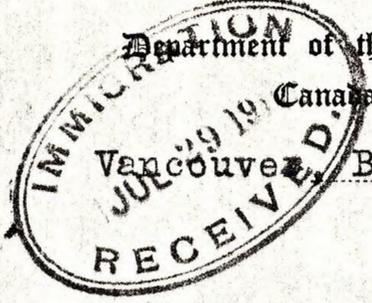
RG 76 vol 602 file 879545 pt 5

Kindly do not write of more than one subject in any one letter.

In your reply refer to No. 2392

Immigration Branch

RUSH



R

B. C., July 22, 1914.

Sir:

I beg to confirm my wire of the 21st instant as follows:

"Rainbow abreast Point Grey 7:24 A. M. Two hundred men local militia on dock hundred twenty Irish Fusiliers balance Sixth Regiment and seventy second Highlanders. Negotiations proceeding between McNeill Bird and R. L. Reid"

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and to acknowledge receipt of your wire:

"Morning papers say Irish Fusiliers, Highlanders and Sixth called out in connection with Hindu trouble who ordered this and why. Rush reply."

my reply to your wire being as follows:

"Magistrates of city ordered out detachments of these regiments. Major Ogilvie Victoria wished two hundred men here. Brigade Major Tobin told me at 2 P. M. yesterday he had received official orders. Possibility riots city."

and my further rush wire:

"Have just held conference with Commander Hose aboard Rainbow with Chief Police, Stevens, Officers of Garrison and magistrates present. Definite line of action planned. Will deliver final ultimatum with assistance of Committee from local shore Hindus who are unanimous excepting Rahim the alleged charterer in wishing that Komagata return without resistance. Intense excitement. Thousands people lining waterfront. Feeling high. Numerous small craft in harbour. Chief Police fears rioting in city and has called out force maintain order in city."

The final ultimatum was delivered by Inspector Hopkinson as follows:

"I am instructed by the authority of the Government of Canada to say that much regret would be felt by this Government should any injury be done to you and to urge you to peaceably submit to the laws of this country.

Your case has been most exhaustively and ably argued in the Courts and decision been given against you, and you have been lawfully ordered deported by the authorities; but in view of the peculiar circumstances of your case the Government

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have offered, as an act of grace, to supply you with provisions for your return voyage. This offer still holds good and I am instructed to assure you that all necessary provisions will be placed aboard immediately you restore command of the Steamship "Komagata Maru" to her rightful Captain Mr. Yamamoto.

I am further to say that the Government regrets to note that you have been guilty of a very serious and grave offence against the laws of Canada, first in resisting the orders of the Immigration authorities; secondly, in taking away from the Captain the control of his ship and by preventing him from getting up steam on his vessel; and thirdly, by violently resisting and obstructing the peace officers in the performance of their duties.

The Government regret that unless you now submit, that it will be necessary to forthwith take steps to enforce the law."

I also enclose copy of the requisition calling out the militia, which is signed by the Mayor of the City, Thomas Proctor, J. P., and E. J. Clark, J. P., reading as follows:

"COUNTY OF VANCOUVER)
TO WIT)

WHEREAS it has been made to appear to our satisfaction that a riot or disturbance of the peace beyond the powers of the Civil authorities to deal with and requiring the aid of the active militia to that end, is anticipated as likely to occur at the City of Vancouver, B. C.

THESE ARE, THEREFORE, to require you to call out the active Militia present in the City of Vancouver, or such portion thereof as you consider necessary for the purpose of dealing with such riot or disturbance. DATED at Vancouver, B. C. this 21st day of July, 1914.

(Sgd.) Thomas Proctor (Sgd.) E. J. Clark, J.P.
Justice of the Peace for the in and for the Province
Province of British Columbia of British Columbia

To:

The District Officer Commanding
(Seal) at the City of Vancouver, B.C. "T.S. Baxter"

A further requisition was signed by His Honour W.B.B. MacInnes and the same two Magistrates.

It was an exciting day, but I need not dwell upon this point as doubtless the press despatches have informed you in regard to it. A committee of the Hindus

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were taken on board the vessel after long consultation between A. H. Macneill, the Honorable Martin Burrill, R. L. Reid, H. H. Stevens and myself. The following letter was forwarded to A. H. Macneill:

"At your request we arranged for the taking off to the Komagata Maru of certain Hindus in an effort for them to persuade their countrymen on board the vessel to recede from their present position of opposition to the master of the vessel.

After this offer was communicated to you some Hindus came to the Immigration Shed stating that Sohan Lal, one of the influential Hindus in the City refused to go, but while they were ready to go themselves at one time they were not ready now, and neither would H. Rahim nor any other of the Hindus proceed out to the "Komagata Maru".

Following that, you were communicated with and promised to get in touch with the Hindus who are instructing you. Your telephone message to Mr. Ladner to the effect that you had now gotten H. Rahim on the 'phone, that he Rahim was procuring the immediate attendance of the Hindus, but that before any answer to the demand of the authorities should be required food should first be put on the boat and then several hours' delay be given for the purpose of considering their position. It has been very fully explained to the Hindus that food will be placed on board. We have no objection at all to food being taken out, and on the other hand, welcome any action along that line. In this connection however you will remember we have food here that is available for this purpose.

If your Committee of Hindus advising you, in good faith, wish to carry out their offer to go to the Komagata Maru, we will take them out at once - they to arrive here at the Immigration Office to take such a reasonable quantity of food, now in the possession of the Immigration Officials, ^{as may be required from the stores of food} But this letter must be acted on by 1:30 o'clock. The Government is being put to great expense and these orders have been defied, and this is absolutely the last word in this connection."

The local Committee finally agreed and appeared here. They were taken out on the Winnamac and were transferred to the Sea Lion and given one hour to complete their negotiations with the Hindus aboard. At the toot of the siren of the Sea Lion as the last men went up the gang-plank the time was taken, at 2:25 1/2, and they were given until 3:25 1/2 or all negotiations were off. This action

*All
Burrill
Cable to Buder
young same time*

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was reported to you in my wire as follows:

"Committee of ten local Hindus put aboard Komagata at 2:25 P. M. Food shown them on wharf and in order reach same they were paraded between the troops with fixed bayonets. At 3:26 P. M. negotiations must cease"

The provisions which had already been purchased were in the west shed of Pier A, and I asked Colonel Duff-Stuart to parade his men with fixed bayonets, and two hundred men were drawn up and the local committee passed through the ranks. This I think had a good moral effect, as there was considerable doubt expressed by the Hindus as to any drastic action being ever taken.

Gardner Johnson received the following cable from Sato & Company:

"Before steamer's departure ask lawyer to have every means and steps taken to protect owners and not give charter a chance to claim afterwards."

and I also wired the Honourable C. J. Doherty, acting Minister of the Interior:

"Kindly rush answer message from Hindus sent you yesterday regarding appeal to yourself against deportation of all passengers. Important."

The Committee on the Komagata Maru sent the following letter to Sir Charles H. Tupper:

"With reference to your letter per Captain, being Counsel for the Owners, we the members of the Committee beg to inform you that we are deported by the Emigration from 6 days, and hungry from that very day, and no food has been supplied up to this by the Department. If you are legal adviser in other matter, why you don't arrange for the provisions?"

There is no law that any steamer may leave port unless supplied with provisions and medicines before lifting anchor.

We don't want your responsibility, but of the owners, because when Mr. H. Rahim and Bhag Singh sue us in India for their fare, where they can put us into jail for that. We can't do anything with you

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at that time. When you are going to become responsible, why don't you ask Mr. Gardner Johnson to give this responsibility for the damages?

We are ready to go if Mr. H. Rahim consents that he will not sue against us for fare, or Government may take responsibility for the damages. Unless we get definite reply for the above-mentioned we will not let the Captain to make up steam.

If any unlawful step will be taken as before the by the Police, who had wounded many of our passengers, you will be responsible for that.

When we ask Mr. Gurdit Singh for provisions he replies that the agent for the Owners has transferred the charter to Mr. H. Rahim and Bhag Singh, when he could not pay the instalment being kept in prison by the Immigration Department, and we could not see the new charterers about the matter. We have to wait for the result of appeal from the Minister, who wired that our case is under consideration as yet.

Passengers are about to die from hunger since six days."

and the following communication was forwarded to Messrs. Bowser, Reid & Wallbridge, our Solicitors, with copy to myself:

"I have yours of the 20th instant in this matter. I do not think that any good purpose would be answered at the present time by a discussion as to what led up to the present situation, or whether the writer concurs in the proposals made in the letter of yesterday's date or not. It appears to the writer, although not having personal knowledge of the situation until very lately, that the facts are not altogether as stated in your letter. However, I have submitted to the Hindu Committee the terms of your telephonic communication of yesterday evening. Up to the present writing I have not received a reply, further than to state that the matter is under consideration; that it was impossible to get the Committee together to discuss the whole question, but that an early reply may be expected.

In the meantime I am instructed to inform you that the Hindu Committee are prepared to supply provisions for the immediate needs of their starving countrymen now on board the Komagata Maru. As you know, these men have now been without food for some four or five days. The whole question appears to resolve itself into one of a financial nature, and I hope you will concur with me that it would be an everlasting disgrace that any blood should be shed or men should be starved in connection with such a sordid cause.

Mr. Rahim has just seen the writer, and points out that as his Committee have had no means of communication directly with the people on board, they are

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desirous of being allowed to go on board the Komagata Maru for the purpose of discussing the situation with their fellow countrymen and obtaining their views, with the object of arriving at some amicable arrangement. The writer trusts that this course will not be considered objectionable under all the circumstances. I think you will see that the men on board should have some opportunity of obtaining the views and advice of their countrymen here who know the situation. It would appear to me that the road of peace lies this way.

Yours truly, A. H. Macneill".

The passengers on the Komagata Maru received a reply to their message of the previous evening above referred to, signed by the Honourable the Acting Minister of the Interior, as follows:

"Your message received. Previous messages have had full consideration. The law does not permit of your landing in this country and it is my duty to enforce that law. Police and volunteers most anxious to avoid violence. Arrangements were duly made to furnish provisions. The immigration officers however must see that you depart. If you submit to law and do so no force will be used. Trust you will recognize the necessity of submitting to the law."

Messrs. C. Gardner Johnson & Company furnish the following letter to counsel Macneill:

"Referring to your enquiry as to arrival in Hong Kong of the S. S. Komagata Maru under the payments already made by the assignees of the charter, we beg to state that the payments now made are amply sufficient to enable the Komagata Maru to arrive at Hong Kong after touching at the ports of Yokohama, Moji and Shanghai; and the assignees will not be called upon to make any further payments for charter money.

This is on the understanding that the vessel gets up steam tonight and sails at the earliest possible moment."

Captain Yamamoto was given the following letter by H. Rahim on behalf of himself and Bhag Singh, the alleged charterers of the S. S. Komagata Maru:

"Negotiations between the Hindu representatives on shore and the Committee of my ship have resulted to my satisfaction, and I am now in a position to authorize you to get up steam, preparatory to leaving

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this harbour, and I hereby give you instructions to do so on receipt of this letter."

and I forwarded you the following message:

"I have the honour to report Komagata getting up steam. Will leave at latest tomorrow afternoon. Militia will be disbanded by morning. Will arrange Rainbow escort one day out. Owing to steam being got up danger rioting in city will pass although at time of wiring thousands crowded waterfront and Chief Police somewhat anxious. Hindus cheered vociferously when we pulled away."

The list of provisions submitted by these people and accepted was as follows:

"800 sacks flour, W.W. "V" Brand
600 lbs. Curry Powder
5400 " Pulse
6000 " Sugar
6000 " Cabbage
5000 " Potatoes
20 sacks Onions
10 " Carrots
360 lbs. Cayenne Pepper
6000 " Butter
2000 " Rice
500 " Salt
700 " Ceylon Tea
10 boxes Sunlight Soap
240 cases Canned Milk "Canada First"
600 lbs. Ginger
500 " Pickles
1000 small bottles Hair Oil
200 bottles Vinegar
20 tons kindling wood
1 box matches
200 lbs. Tobacco
200 quarts Molasses
Toilet Paper
Kerosene Oil
Toilet Soap"

The original list of provisions supplied by me on Saturday, now lying in the shed I beg to set out:

"400 sacks Flour, W.W. "V" Brand
300 lbs. Curry Powder
2500 lbs. Salmon
2700 " Pulse
2000 " Sugar
3000 " Cabbage
5000 " Potatoes
7 sacks Onions
Carrots
180 lbs. Cayenne Pepper

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2000 lbs. Butter
600 lbs. Rice
200 lbs. Salt
350 lbs. Ceylon Tea
100 lbs. Soap
62 cases Canned Milk "Canada First"
3000 lbs. Cabbage"

They have since demurred to having canned salmon on the bill of fare. I have arranged for the 2500 cans of salmon to be returned to the wholesalers, receiving credit for same. There was a certain amount of loss of provisions, some falling overboard during the riot on Saturday night from the Sea Lion.

I drafted the following letter of thanks to Commander Hose and also to Brigade Commander Colonel Duff-Stuart. At the time of writing every effort is being made to place the provisions on board and to hurry matters to a successful climax.

Letter to Commander Hose:

"Now that matters in connection with the Komagata Maru" have come to a satisfactory conclusion, I wish to express to you and your Officers and men, and also all who are in anywise concerned with your coming to Vancouver to render the assistance you did, my appreciation of the great difficulties you overcame in arriving at Vancouver so speedily, as well as the courtesies you extended when in Vancouver, and also prior to that to my Assistant Mr. Howard and the Department's Solicitor, Mr. W.H.D. Ladner.

Knowing as I do the fact that your vessel was in the condition she was, I wish that you would communicate to all who so readily assisted you, the knowledge of the fact that the authorities are fully aware of the tremendous amount of detail work that had to be done and appreciate the spirit in which the need of the Immigration Department was answered."

Letter to Colonel Duff-Stuart:

"Now that matters in connection with the Komagata Maru have come to a satisfactory conclusion, I would be glad if you would personally accept my thanks for the ready assistance you gave, and to express to the Officers and men who so readily answered the call, my personal appreciation of the

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ready efforts made and the splendid way in which the Department's efforts to successfully deal with this difficult situation was aided,"

I have just received the following wire:

"I Bhag Singh one of the charterers of Komogata Maru formally give notice that I have not consented that Komogata Maru shall sail unless our demand of thirty-five thousand dollars for fares of passengers and other demands are met. I have not given my power of attorney to anybody and Dominion Govt. authorities should communicate with me directly here while I am detained in U.S. Immigration station Sumas, Wash. for my approval or disapproval wire collect." "Bhag Singh" the same being forwarded through His Imperial Majesty's Japanese Consul at Vancouver. I have told C. Gardner Johnson that we can pay no attention to this matter, but that the ship must go at once. Accordingly he has told off a pilot. I have further interviewed Commander Hose and arrangements have been made to escort this vessel to a three mile limit off Cape Flattery.

The following list of drugs was ordered:

"Magnesium Sulphate	20 lbs.
Pill comp. cathartic	500
5 grn. quinine capsules	500
Castor Oil	5 lbs.
Pill leaden opium	200

for diarrhoea to be taken 3 or 4 times daily as required
10 lbs syrup white pine and tar with heroin.
For bronchitis - one to two teaspoonfuls to be taken
3 or 4 times daily as required to relieve the cough.
4 lbs. following mixture
syrup coccolana comp. anti-asthmatic
elixir - equal parts - to be labelled
for asthma -
2 teaspoonfuls 3 or 4 times daily as required.
500 tablets of aspirin, phenacetin and caffeine,
to be labelled for headache and early stage of
colds. One to be taken every hour or two
until relieved.
Alum 1 lb.
2 gals. strong turpentine liniment.
5 lbs. of cloves
5 cases one doz. quarts lime juice.
1/2 doz. quart bottles of "White Horse"
Scotch Whiskey.
1 quart brandy "Eckshaw"
1 lb. iodoform, powder.
5 galls. creolin (for external use only).

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"Ginger (whole ginger) 5 lbs.
Chloranodyne, 8 oz. and syrup of ginger - add
to three lbs. for relief of pain in belly.
1 teaspoonful or two, to be taken every 3 hours
as required.
5 yard rolls of zo. adhesive plaster, to be
1/2 inch, 1 inch, 1 1/2 inches, 2 inch wide.
one doz. 2 in. cotton bandages - 1 doz. 3"
cotton bandages.
12 packages 1/2 lb. each absorbent cotton.
1 doz. Ess Ginger 3 oz. 1/2 teaspoonful in
a little water for bellyache.
2 gals. Black Draught. Directions."

Their list was very excessive, but with Dr. Monroe's
assistance I cut the same down.

I enclose further other correspondence which may
interest you. The Harnam Singh referred to was deported
from here. (See your File 818294).

Letter from Harnam Singh:

"The Immigration Agent:

I beg most humbly and respectfully to
beg your pardon for me as I am came next time in
Vancouver & have lost three hundred dollars gold.
I am in great trouble to come here again. Please
do me favour in landing here. I know very well
that you can do everything as you like.

I will pray to God to save you all the time
& give you good health if you will favour me in
landing here. Your obediently servant poor
Harnam Singh. You returned me before also."

Letter from Bhan Singh:

"I am very sorry to inform you that on the day
of Board of Enquiry when Mr. Ladner came to take me
with Mr. Hopkinson, I was locked in by Gurdit Singh
and could not come for Board. Now it is well known
to Mr. Hopkinson, Mr. Gwyther, Mr. Quenye and Dr.
Raghunath Singh and others that Gurdit Singh is
against me and all other passengers 351 obey his
order as a general and they threaten me to kill
in the way. They put me handcuffs in the night.

If you kindly allow me to go by C.P.R.'s boat
I shall be very glad to pay the fare as I don't want
to spoil my life with this uneducated group of
savages. I should be ever thankful for your
kindness. Please let me know today if can so that
I may journey down on your boat to come to shed,
as they don't allow me to come near gangway."

Letter from Bhan Singh:

I beg to remind you again for my yesterday's
letter. Please sir my case requires very early
consideration. I can't go back by this steamer

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for the loss of my precious life. When yesterday I talked with you from the deck some one informed the old man who told that his life will be no more in the way. Kindly take pity on my life and allow me to go by C. P. R. This savage group is very dangerous for me, you can have the evidence of Mr. Hopkinson and Mr. Gwyther, Mr. Queenye and of Dr. Rughunath Singh, the Captain, the Chief Officer, the Chief Engineer, that my life surely is in danger. An early consideration is requested. (The following on face of envelope) I will jump when the ship departs as I want my life."

I would call your attention to the closing paragraph of a communication received by the local Chief of Police from the Acting Deputy Superintendent of Police, Shanghai, which reads as follows:

"I have reason to suspect that the presence of the S. S. Komagata Maru may have something to do with this uncalled for attack. As you are doubtless aware, the S. S. Komagata Maru carried away some of the most undesirable of Sikhs from China.

I am,

Your obedient servant,



DOMINION IMMIGRATION AGENT & INSPECTOR.

W. D. Scott, Esq.,

Superintendent of Immigration,

Ottawa.