

RG 76 vol 602/46 879545
RUSH

Immigration Branch

Department of the Interior
Canada

Vancouver, B. C., July 23rd 1914

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

In your reply
refer to No. 2392

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
22nd instant, as follows:-

"At seven PM all provisions were placed on board. Mit Singh and Raheim jumped from Winamac on to Komogata Maru, a distinct breach of faith as they were to be permitted only to talk from tug. The militia are now standing by until morning. Strong rumour that another Hindu ship is now off Cape Flattery. Wireless station now at my request endeavoring pick up some definite word. At time of writing Commander Hose, Hon. Martin Burrell, H.H. Stevens and counsel with McNeill Bird in consultation. Other provisions will be supplied but not at Government's expense, MacNeill and local Hindus having arranged and order filled. Following letter sent as final to Captain A Yamamoto, begins: I beg to inform you that all the provisions are now on board as arranged. The Pilot will go aboard from His Majesty's Canadian Cruiser Rainbow at 5 A.M. tomorrow sharp. You will then proceed to sea immediately. Kindly inform your Engineer so that no delay may ensue. Ends."

Yesterday was a day fraught with many difficulties in connection with the problems arising from the KOMOGATA MARU. In the morning all provisions were hurriedly brought down and kindling wood ordered, and towed out on a scow.

Strong representations were made throughout the day to have the local Hindus visit the ship. This was refused, but finally towards evening the understanding was arrived at that the WINAMAC would convey ten Hindus at a time, permitting five minutes' conversation over the bows of the vessel.

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The first contingent left at 5 o'clock in the evening in charge of Inspector Gwyther. Whilst mail was being handed to Mr. Gwyther, the Hindus leaned over the side and pulled up two shore Hindus - Mit Singh and Raheim. On reporting the matter to myself, all further communication was stopped, although just before darkness, Inspector Hopkinson took out ten more to permit two of the leading members of the colony to sleep on board, being removed, with the two who had climbed on board, at 4 o'clock this morning.

Mit Singh's explanation was that he lost control of himself as I refused to allow two Hindu women whom he had brought to the office, to go on board the vessel. As a matter of fact these women looked very bulky and I was under the impression they might be carrying weapons or ammunition.

Throughout the day strong rumours were prevalent, not only amongst the citizens, but Major Odium had the same view, that the Hindus would not go that night or in the morning. In fact Bela Singh and our friendly Hindus, as well as Dr. Raghunath Singh, -the former ship's Doctor, strongly asserted this.

A large number of Hindus came on the dock and frequented this office, and some excitement was caused, bringing an unnecessary crowd of citizens to the waterfront again. The police kindly furnished a patrol for keeping order.

Every endeavor was made by myself to rid the harbour of this vessel by nightfall. Mr. C. Gardner Johnson expressed some fear on behalf of the pilot and in fact was not at all anxious for him to go aboard. I arranged with Commander Hose that the pilot should remain on the warship and

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be placed aboard the vessel when required by their steam pinnace, for the sake of the moral effect on the Hindus.

At 7 P.M. the following letter was handed to me:-

"Sir:- We have the honour to inform you that as the ship is ready to sail tomorrow at 5 A.M. and we do not find some diet of eggs and meat in the provisions which is very necessary for us for so long a voyage; we request you to send some alive sheep, otherwise she could not be able to proceed tomorrow early in the morning.
NOTE:- Send three large brass prants (pots) for mixing up flour.

Sgd. KGS.

for Committee Komogata Maru. "

This I took as a further means of delay. In view of the excitement created, the prevalent rumours and the advice of our friendly Hindus, I immediately communicated with the Garrison officers and asked to have their troops stand by until morning.

This step was taken with the consent of Commander Hose, as I visited the Rainbow and had a long interview with that gentleman. Coming ashore with him, I immediately summoned the Hon. Martin Burrell, Mr. H. H. Stevens, Brigade Commander Col. J. Duff Stuart, R.L. Reid, K.C., and later Mr. A. H. MacNeill joined the conference, as counsel for the Hindus.

Commander Hose and I agreed that drastic action should be taken at 5 A.M. without fail, if the vessel did not steam out at that hour.

After a long conference, all these arrangements were concurred in by the above named gentlemen, Mr. McNeill stating that sooner than have any controversy over the remaining provisions, he would supply a portion himself, and the shore Hindus the remainder, which was done. Mr. MacNeill went aboard the vessel and held a consultation with his clients, when Hassam Raheim gave the following letter:-

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"To Immigration Dept:
Vancouver City.

Sir:-

I shall thank you to send your launch alongside by 4 A.M., by which time all the shore men will land; the ship will be free of our shore men, the vessel having been arranged to weigh anchor and leave the harbour at 5 A.M.

Yours truly,

Sgd. H. Raheim,

Charterer Komogata Maru."

Unfortunately the newspapers were publishing very wild reports as to members of the Japanese crews being thrown overboard, all of which were unfounded, but created unbounded excitement here, and I deemed it advisable to use every effort to rid the harbour of the vessel before morning. Accordingly a communication was addressed to Captain Yamamoto as outlined in my night lettergram, as follows:-

Captain Yamamoto,
s.s. Komogata Maru,
Vancouver Harbour.

Sir:-

I beg to inform you that all the provisions are now on board as arranged. The Pilot will go aboard from His Majesty's Cruiser Rainbow at 5 a.m. tomorrow sharp. You will then proceed to sea immediately. Kindly inform your Engineer so that no delay may ensue."

A receipt was taken for this letter.

Commander Rose was prepared, if necessary to tow the Komogata Maru to sea. After duly warning the Hindus not to approach the forecastle head, he proposed to pick up the cable, slipping the anchor, and tow her out, thus, if possible, avoiding any unnecessary loss of life from the military forces.

I proceeded on board the tug SEA LION at 1.30 a.m. At 4.45 the pilot was duly taken out from the Rainbow, and placed on board the vessel. At 5 a.m. sharp I gave the signal for Captain Yamamoto to steam ahead, by blowing the siren of the SEA LION. Immediately his propellers began to move; the wood scow was taken ashore by the SEA LION, and we followed her out, the Launches Winamac and Jessie Ellen also standing

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by in case of any Hindus jumping overboard as some had threatened to do.

We said Goodbye to the unwelcome visitor off Point Grey, the cruiser taking up the escort after mutual congratulations and messages had been semaphored between us. Needless to say, the Hindus went away with a volley of personal abuse towards myself.

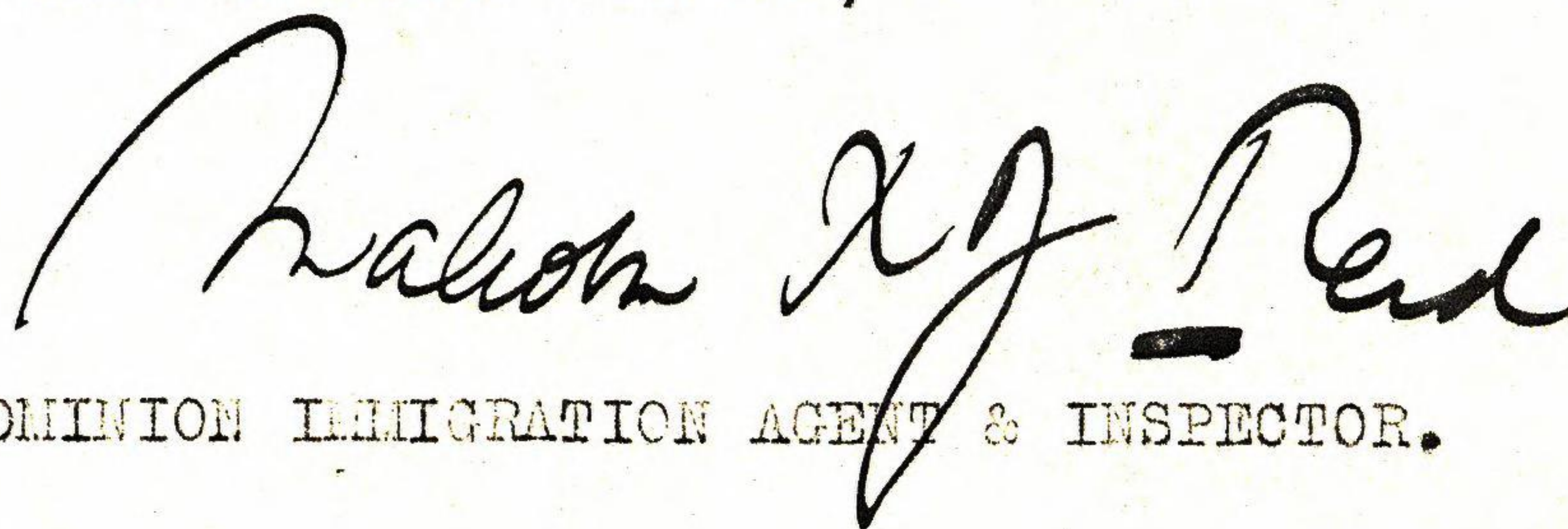
I have communicated with Commander Hise by wireless and will let you know the exact position that he dropped the escort.

It had been arranged for seven passengers to book from Vancouver, but as they understood they were to travel free and H. Raheim insisted on fares being paid, these bookings were cancelled.

The rumour re another Hindu ship is still being discussed and I am trying to ascertain through the wireless operator if any strange vessels are now hovering off the Coast, as it was quite apparent towards the finish that for some unknown reason Gurdit Singh and his associates were extremely anxious to gain time.

I sincerely hope the unfortunate incident of this vessel's visit to our waters, is now closed, and I am glad to say no loss of life or serious injuries have occurred. Whilst the expenses have been a good deal higher than at first imagined, recent developments compelled this, and the last two days the Hon. Martin Burrell sanctioned all expenditure.

Your obedient servant,



DOMINION IMMIGRATION AGENT & INSPECTOR.