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174 W.C. Hopkins to W.W. Cooy

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

In your reply refer to No. File 105

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CONFIDENTIAL

COPY
Immigration Branch

Department of the Interior
Canada

B-292

WCH/DMcN.



Vancouver, B.C. 11th August, 1914.

Sir,

In continuation of my letter of the 3rd inst, to Mr. Erskine, I beg to advise you that I left Vancouver on the 7th inst, arriving at Portland on the 8th, and as his office was closed, I was unable to see Mr. Erskine, the British Consul. However, on the 10th inst, I called on Mr. Erskine and interviewed him in connection with the confidential communication forwarded under cover of your letter of the 9th July. Previous to seeing Mr. Erskine, I took the opportunity to go down to Astoria and met one of my informants there, and returned to Portland the same evening....

Regarding the cablegram being subject matter of Mr. Erskine's letter of the 26th June last to the Embassy, I find that it is a protest of the Khalsa Diwan Society of Astoria, against the action of some Department of the Government of India regarding a temple at Rakabganj, and the meaning of the cablegram is that the Khalsa Diwan in Astoria cabled their headquarters in Amritsar regarding this temple, in the following words:-

"We strictly abhor pitiable cunning decision about the
"Rakabganj. Waithg exactly former structure."

and from which it would apparently mean that the temple was being demolished or had been demolished, or that some alterations were being made at the suggestion of the authorities in India.

While in Astoria, my attention was drawn to a circular printed in the English language and signed by some prominent East Indian residing on the Pacific Coast. During an hour's stay in Seattle, prior to my departure for Portland, I also noticed an item in the Seattle papers giving some prominence to this circular. On my return from Astoria to Portland, I sent you the following

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night letter:-

"Printed circular called an open letter to the British
"public by the Hindustanees of North America signed by
"nine prominent Indians is being circulated here and Seattle.
"This circular draws attention to late Komagata affair and
"is a veiled insinuation that England in her present
"crisis may regret having allowed Canada to deport Hindus
"who attempted land from Komagata. It openly states that
"the Indians here are looking to those on Komagata to
"induce their relatives and friends serving in the Military
"forces in Hong Kong to desert their post hoping that such
"action will have effect on Native forces in India and
"cause embarrassment to Indian authorities. Willing to forego
"leave granted if my presence necessary. Return Vancouver
"Wednesday. Kindly advise."

In Portland I met a Mahomedan named Mahomed Din, who
is well known to me and a resident of that City, and from him
ascertained that the Revolutionary Society in San Francisco were
making every effort to induce East Indians to return to India on
a boat due to sail within a few days, and that 15 of these people
had left Astoria to join the contingent in San Francisco, and
also the transportation of these people was being met by the
Yugantar Ashram in the case of those unable to defray their own
expenses.

Under these circumstances, I sent the following
telegram to Mr. A. Carnegie Ross, British Consulate General in
San Francisco:-

"Efforts are being made by Indians to leave your port in
"large body by steamer sailing fifteenth inst or later
"for Hong Kong. Kindly advise me of such departure with
"name of boat."

Mr. Erskine at Portland, informed me that the British
Naval Reservists in the United States had been called out, and
he had received instructions, if any applied at his office, to
direct them to proceed to Halifax, Nova Scotia. He had had
some Naval Reservists at his office, and had furnished them with
transportation to Halifax over the C.P.R. and expressed the hope
that there would be no difficulty in these men entering Canada.
I assured him that I would take up this matter with Mr. Reid to
facilitate their entry, and accordingly sent him the followin

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telegram:-

"British Naval Reservists are being sent from Pacific
Coast Points to Halifax. Please advise border points
to admit on verification."

On my return to Vancouver this morning, I sent
you the following night-lettergram:-

"Just returned. Your wire re leave received and noted.
"When in Portland received information that Yugantar
"Ashram arranging return to India of as many Hindus as
"possible by next boat from San Francisco. Present crisis
"considered opportune moment to cause trouble in India.
"Fifteen Hindus left Astoria Saturday last to join
"contingent. Have asked Mr. Carnegie Ross to keep watch
"on outgoing boats. Spencer in San Francisco wires me
"to-day as follows, begins "Hindus in California arranging
"return to India by Japanese steamer for great revolt.
"Bhagwan Singh Barakatullah inform me all native troops
"will mutiny simultaneously. Gaekwar behind rebellion also
"in Afghanistan. Inform proper authorities very serious
"consequence will ensue if British troops taken out of
"India now. Wire funds further investigation." ends.
"Munsha Singh village Jundiala District Jullunder referred
"to in my letter 9th December 1913 left Canada on the
"Empress of Russia from Victoria on the 6th inst for Hong
"Kong needs watching on arrival. Preparations are being made
"here to send out as many Hindus as possible under similar
"circumstances. If advisable I can make flying visit
"San Francisco to size up situation and arrange matters.
"If you deem advisable for me to do so please arrange
"remittance."

During my absence in Portland, certain information
was received here from Bela Singh in a letter sent to him by
friends in Victoria. This information was transmitted to
Mr. Scott by telegram.

Yours obediently,
W. C. HOPKINSON

W.W. Cory Esq., C.E.G.
Deputy Minister of the Interior,
Ottawa.

(Copy for the information of W.D. Scott Esq.,
Superintendent of Immigration
Ottawa.)