

COPY

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

CONFIDENTIAL

Immigration Branch

DEPUTY MINISTER

Department of the Interior

Canada Interior Department

In your reply
refer to No.

105

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WCH/DMEN.

Vancouver, B.C. August 28th, 1914.

Sir,

On the 15th inst, at 9 p.m. I received your wire as follows:-

"Your message eleventh re Yugantar Ashram arrangement you should proceed at once to San Francisco and report names of suspicious east indians who sail from that port obtain necessary funds from immigration agent temporarily."

I arranged to immediately leave Vancouver, and obtained necessary funds from the Immigration Agent as instructed. I arrived in San Francisco at 7-30 p.m. of the 17th inst, and was able to ascertain that the SS. "Shinyo Maru" had not left the port for the Orient. It was indefinite with regard to her sailing at an early date. The same night I also got into touch with Mr. Steele and obtained a verbal report of the situation from him.

In confirmation of his telegram, Mr. Steele handed me a report on the 19th inst, covering the situation. I enclose you herewith a copy of his report marked (A).

From another source I also received a copy of the printed circular referred to in my letter of the 11th inst, File 105, and enclose herewith the same marked (B). I would request that you kindly have photographic copies made of this document, and sent to all parties concerned including Mr. Wallinger and myself.

The following morning I visited Mr. A. Carnegie Ross, British Consul General, San Francisco, who confirmed his telegram to me of the 14th, advising me that some 40 Hindus had booked their passages on the "Shinyo Maru". He also acquainted me with the fact that he had received instructions from the Embassy at Washington D.C. to obtain the names and addresses of suspicious East Indians who sailed from that port. Mr. Ross was unable to obtain this information, and I promised to let him have it as soon as I could get into touch with the situation.

The same day I also visited the United States Immigration

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Office at Angel Island, and learnt that the "Shinyo Maru" would leave on the 14th inst, at one p.m.

On the 20th inst, I tried to get into touch with my informers; but learnt that all but two were out of the City, and likely to be away some time. From these two men, Ram Chand of the Village of Nagger, District Jullunder, and one Baboo Khan of the Village of Kulwara, District Ludhiana, I was able to ascertain that the Yugantar Ashram Society in San Francisco were taking an active part in a campaign to induce Hindus to return to India as soon as possible to start a revolution. That Hindus from all parts of the Pacific Coast had concentrated in San Francisco, and that so far, some 100 men or more, were ready to proceed to India.

Several meetings were held in different parts of the State of California and Oregon, notable on the 3rd August at Stockton, Cal., where a sum of \$580 was collected. On the 7th August at Sacramento \$307.00 collected, and on the 16th August at Fresno Cal., \$575.00 collected, as also at Fowler, Cal., on the 8th August and on the 18th August at Yuba City. It could not be ascertained how much money was collected in these last two places.

At these meetings, the under-noted prominent agitators made speeches:-

Barakatullah,	Bhagwan Singh,	Barnam Singh,
Gobind Behari Lal,	Ram Chand,	Narain Singh.

These speakers have organised committees at different centres in California, to assist in the movement to return to India for a revolution. These speakers announced that

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the time was now opportune for them to start a revolution, insomuch as England was at war.

As a result of this campaign, some 100 or more expressed their willingness to return at the first opportunity, and if it had not been that the "Shinyo Maru" was delayed through unforeseen circumstances, the venture might have carried through. The delay in the sailing of this boat owing to the war situation, caused some of these people to ponder over the matter, and no soon had hesitation appeared in the minds of some of the men, the natural result of wholesale withdrawal took place. Having obtained this information, I sent you the following night-lettergram:-

"Present war situation has delayed departure of Shinyo Maru
"due to sail seventeenth with about 60 of them - Am arranging
"to secure particulars - Before leaving Vancouver asked Reid
"to wire you names of prominent men leaving Victoria eighteenth
"instant Mexico Maru - Will advise further developments.
"Brewer will be in toils within short time - is actively
"engaged arranging exodus - address here Argonaut Hotel."

The same evening I left for Sacramento arriving there about midnight, and the following morning took a walk into the country to a grape farm. After visiting two or three of these places, I at last came across the farm of Mr. Owen about three miles from Sacramento, who employs some seven or eight Hindus.

Representing myself as in need of Hindu labour, I was soon able to ascertain from these people, that Hindu labour would be scarce in the United States in the future, and the reason put forward was, that their countrymen were preparing to leave for India to fight the English. These men advised me of the meeting that took place in Sacramento on the 7th inst. I also learnt from them that Barakatullah and Bhagwan Singh were the two principle speakers at the meeting. I returned to San Francisco the same day.

The following evening I left San Francisco for Stockton, arriving there Sunday morning, and during my stroll through the

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City, I met two Mahomedans and five Hindus, and from these people I learnt the same story, and also that a meeting had been held there on the 3rd August. I left Stockton the same night, returning to San Francisco the following morning.

These small excursions of mine confirmed the information of Mr. Steele, and I accordingly made arrangements to keep a watch on the "Shinyo Maru" to ascertain how many Hindus were leaving on her. To avoid recognition, I engaged the services of a special man to watch the "Shinyo Maru" from the night of the 23rd inst, till she sailed at one p.m. on the 24th inst. From information received from this man, as also through official sources, I learnt that not one of some 73 who had booked their passages, embarked on the "Shinyo Maru" when she left San Francisco Harbour.

In conversation with Mr. Athely of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha Oriental S.S. Co., Agents for the "Shinyo Maru", I learnt that some 73 passages had been booked through their Hindu Agents Ram Nath Suri, and H.L. Thakar; but for some reason unknown, everyone of these bookings had been cancelled. Under these circumstances, I sent you the following night-lettergram:-

"Of seventy three that arranged to leave on the Shinyo
"Maru to-day everyone withdrew owing to Japan German situation
"No indication if further attempts will be made in the
"near future."

and also acquainted Mr. Ross of the conditions.

In confirmation of the information received with regard to the meeting at Fresno on the 16th inst, I beg to enclose you herewith copy of a very interesting communication received by Mr. Ross, the British Consul General at San Francisco from Mr. Chas. F. Ward of 336 Howard Street, Fresno, Cal. marked "C".

In view of the present war situation and also in view of the confidential nature of my telegraphic communications, will

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you be so kind as to give me a code address in lieu of your official designation. You have perhaps noticed that all my telegraphic communications from the United States territory have been over the Postal Telegraph & Cable Company's lines which connect with the Canadian Pacific Railway Co's lines in Canada, and also that I have invariably used the C.P.R. in Canada for the transmission of my messages. I have also noted that your messages in the United States have been over the Western Union Lines, and I have followed the safe procedure of not replying over the same lines; but by the Postal Telegraph. This procedure prevents leakage of any description, as messages are received and despatched over two different lines.

To-day I sent you the following night-lettergram which is self-explanatory:-

"In connection with names of suspicious East Indians
"transmitted to Department from here on their leaving
"Canada please advise authorities that every effort will
"be made by these men to assume fictitious names and
"otherwise deny their identity - Am forwarding written
"report of my investigation in the South."

Yours obediently,
W. C. HOPKINSON

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

P.S. I am enclosing you herewith copy of the "HindustanGadar" issued in the Gujarati language.