

Minister of National Defence



Ministre de la Défense nationale

JUL - 7 1989

Mr. Bikar Singh Dhillon  
President  
Khalsa Diwan Society  
8000 Ross Street  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
V5X 4C5

Dear Mr. Dhillon:

Thank you for your most thoughtful letter of April 23, 1989. The Komagata Maru incident, to which you refer, is a sad event in Canadian history and one which, in this more enlightened time, Canadians would assess as unconscionable.

Sadly, that incident and several others dot our history. Nonetheless, I must regretfully deny your request that a naval ship fire a 21 gun salute. Such salutes are reserved for royalty, Heads of State, Governors General and Armistice Day.

I wish to assure you that your efforts to commemorate this lamentable episode are respected and I wish you every success in your plans.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill McKnight". The signature is stylized with a large initial "B" and a flourish at the end.

Bill McKnight