

Immigration Branch

Department of the Interior

Canada

San Francisco, Cal., Jan. 11, 1913.

I beg to confirm my lettergram of the 10th inst as follows:

"Re recent attempt Harding please ask India to look up all connections and relatives of Har Dyal now Berkeley, Cal., but recently of Oxford University England, and about nine years ago student of St. Stephen's College, Delhi, and native of that city. Twenty-fifth December last ~~Har Dyal~~^{Har Dyal} convened meeting of Hindu students at Berkeley to partake of feast given in honor of attempt. Large gathering great jollification and heard to express knowledge of party who committed act.

Please inquire and apprise me of date of landing at New York by French or German line of Har Dyal within past eighteen months and also request United States Department of Justice Washington, D.C. to consent to request of Special Agent here to co-operate in my investigation.

Would like to hear if wire understood address W. C. Hampton, Argonaut Hotel."

I left Vancouver on the 6th inst., arriving here at 10 P.M. of the 8th. The following morning I started out to make enquiries and first visited the British Consul General's office on Market Street.

I met Mr. Carnegie Ross, the Consul General, and after producing my credentials, we had a long discussion over the Hindu students attending the University at Berkeley. Mr. Ross informed me that a couple of days previous to my arrival, a Hindu named S. N. Guha had called on him and in an interview, disclosed the fact that another Hindu named Har Dyal was actively engaged with certain other Hindu students at Berkeley in a revolutionary propoganda affecting the British Government in India. That on the 25th of December last, at Berkeley, Har Dyal had called together a large party of Hindu students to celebrate and partake of a feast given in honor of the attempt made on the 31st of that month in Delhi, India, on the life of Lord Harding, the Viceroy of India. That at this gathering there were present about 15 to 20 people, prominent among whom were Tarak Nath Dass, Sarangadhur Dass, and one American.

Mr. Ross took particulars of this matter from Guha and stated he was not in a position to do anything except report the matter. During our conversation, Mr. Ross showed me a letter received by him that morning from a Hindu student, named Henry Edward Pandion, asking for an interview. I advised Mr. Ross to write him, appointing the following afternoon.

In view of the fact that before I left Vancouver I was advised by some of the members of the Hindu colony in that city that, should I ever visit the State of California and more particularly, the town of Berkeley, to be careful inasmuch as it had been stated that I was a marked man and likely to come to harm if seen or met by any of the fanatics. I took the precaution of making over a letter of authority to Mr. Ross to take possession of all papers, documents or belongings found on me or at the Hotel where I am registered, as W. C. Hampton, should I be so unfortunate as to meet with accident or be the victim of an irresponsible Hindu fanatic, and asked him to forward them to you.

From Mr. Ross' office, I proceeded to the Hindu Temple in this city, where I met Swami Trigunatita and from him I ascertained that the situation in Berkeley was worse than it was in 1911, and the leader was now one Har Dyal, a well educated Hindu, who arrived here some time last year and had practically assumed charge of the party of students devoted to the cause in India. That with him were associated Tarak Nath Sarangdur Dass and a few other of the old students. That although he was not closely connected with the situation in Berkeley, some of the students who have visited him from time to time have told him of what has been going on. The Swami also informed me of the feast and jollification that took place on the 25th of December last at which Har Dyal presided and gave a speech in honor of the miscreant who threw the bomb in Delhi.

On the morning of the 10th, I visited Angel Island, U. S. Immigration Station and called on Mr. Edsall, the Ass't Commissioner, and discussed the situation with him, placing before him what facts had come to my knowledge. Mr. Edsall informed me that his department would be only too willing, if sufficient evidence can be found, to make out a prima facie case, to undertake a thorough investigation of this matter with a view to effect the deportation of some of the Hindu agitators.

At my request, Mr. Edsall furnished me with a letter of introduction to Mr. Clayton Herrington, Special Agent of the United States Department of Justice, in this city. I called on this gentleman in the afternoon and was well received by him. After producing my credentials, I informed him of my mission in this part of the country and sought his assistance in the matter.

I asked Mr. Herrington if it would be possible to secure a list of the Hindu Students attending the University at Berkeley

with, if possible, particulars to show in what part of India they had been residents. I also suggested that the Post Master at Berkeley could be of great assistance to us if it could possibly be arranged to look over the mails addressed to any of the students, more in particular the prominent agitators whose names I supplied him, and also to look up any record of registered matter sent out by any of these boys to any part of the world.

If any correspondence re the recent ~~bomb~~ outrage between interested parties takes place, it is just about the time that letters will come into Berkeley from foreign parts or from India. Of course, the letters cannot be opened but notes can be taken of the parties to whom letters are directed, as also the cities or towns at which posted. Out going registered matter may disclose the name and address of people of whom we have knowledge, but the record of the matter sent will be in the post office.

Mr. Herrington is quite willing to assist me in this matter and has taken all particulars and wired Washington, D. C. for sanction to assist me, which he states he will receive in a day or so.

Later in the afternoon I called on Mr. Ross and met the young lad who had written for an appointment. He had just finished his business with Mr. Ross when I met him and we had a long talk together. Henry Edward Pandion is the name of this young lad, age 21, comes from Palamotta, Tinnevely District, Madras, India, where he has a father, T. B. Pandion. He is a native Christian and at present a student in the University at Berkeley, taking a course in Philosophy and History. He arrived in San Francisco in August of last year, attracted to this country by an advertisement inserted in some of the Indian Newspapers by a man named Har Dyal, offering a Scholarship to deserving Indian boys who were poor, to pay their way through the University. On arrival here, he found the conditions were not as advertised, but through the kindness of a Mr. and Mrs. Pope, connected with the University, he has been able to take a course in the subjects above mentioned.

That shortly after his arrival, he became aware of the fact that certain of the Hindu students attending the University (to use his own words) were Anarchists and using the cloak of students to carry on a propoganda of sedition against the British Government in India. That he had never been used to such surroundings and the matter was becoming so dangerous that, should the United States ever become aware of what some of the boys were doing, it would result in many of them going to jail and also being deported. That the result of such an investigation would bring down disgrace on him and many other genuine students who do not participate in the undertakings of some of the older boys.

That time and again he has been approached by Har Dyal and a few others to become one of them but up to the present he has refused to take part in any of their deliberations. That on the 25th of December last, he was invited, in company with other students, to a feast given by Har Dyal in Berkeley, in honor of the bomb thrown at Lord Harding. He refused to attend and after it was over, he learned that Har Dyal extolled the action of the party who committed the outrage. That among those who attended were the following:- Har Dyal, Tarak Nath Dass, Gobind Behary Lall, Tohara, Kedar Nath, Mokund Lall Pathuk, Ranjit Singh, Shib Deb Singh and Mand Singh.

Har Dyal is the Secretary of the Radical Club (composed of Russians, Poles and Socialists) and on the 23rd of December last when the news was received in Berkeley of the bomb throwing, Har Dyal, in his presence, called up many of the members of this club and in each instance said- "Have you heard the news? What one of my men have done in India to Lord Harding?" That the news was received with great joy and the students gave vent to their feelings by singing the "Bande Mataram" and dancing about their rooms for hours.

Har Dyal has prepared a pamphlet entitled "The significance of a Bomb," which he intends having printed and sent out to all parts of the world, including India, and when told that it is hard to get literature of that nature into India, said that the matter would find its way in through the French possessions.

Immediately after hearing Pandion's statement, I took him with me to Mr. Herrington and there in his presence, and hearing Pandion again repeated what he stated to me, Mr. Herrington has taken notes but has not disclosed what action he intends to take.

I have asked Pandion to call around and see me again on Tuesday next, the 14th inst., and in the meantime, collect whatever information he can and let me know when he calls. I have promised to pay the expense incurred by him in coming over here, inasmuch as he is a poor boy and receives no assistance from home.

I think it will now be clear to you the reason I sent the lettergram, and I trust that the United States Department of Justice will consent to grant the assistance asked for.

Har Dyal, it is stated, was a student of St. Stephen's College, Delhi, about nine years ago and was born in that city. He was recently a student of the Oxford University, England, and left there some three years ago and went to Germany, and from there to France, leaving the latter country about a year and a half ago for the United States, and arrived at New York on either a German or French line boat.

I made diligent enquiries re H. P. Sirkumal Acharya but can find no trace of him. He has apparently not arrived in this part of the country as yet.

Suren K. Bose (see my report of October 1911) has left this part of the country and is believed to have gone to Chicago enroute to France. I think it would be advisable to have a look-out kept for him.

I will report again in a day or so.

Your obedient servant,

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

H. W. Cory