

Vancouver, B.C. July 20th., 1914.

Malcolm R.J. Reid, Esq.

Dominion Immigration Agent & Inspector,

Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Sir:-

RE S.S. KOMAGATA MARU

A representative of the local Hindus waited upon us this morning with a view of laying before you several propositions which they think (and in which we concur) will lead to an immediate and honourable adjustment of the various difficult questions arising out of the presence of the Komagata Maru with her passengers in the Port of Vancouver. We are sure you will agree that a recurrence of the events of Saturday night should be prevented, if at all possible. If there is any way in which the dignity of the Dominion of Canada can be sustained and the objects which the Dominion authorities have in view be carried out without further difficulty, all efforts should be made to carry out these objects.

We therefore submit for your consideration the following:

As the matter now stands, we think that the assignees of the charter of the Komagata Maru are entitled as of right;

- (1) To land the cargo now on board the steamship.
- (2) To load here a return cargo for the steamship.
- (3) Place on board any local passengers who may desire to so return to India.
- (4) Payment of the loss they have sustained by payments necessary to extend the charter during the time the Immigration Department have taken to hold their Boards of Enquiry under the Immigration Act.



Malcolm R.J. Reid, Esq.

Bearing these circumstances in view, and with the sincere desire of avoiding difficulty and ill feeling, we submit the following alternative propositions for your consideration:

1- The Government may send back all of the deported Hindus by any other steamship, and then permit the assignees of the charter to unload the cargo and load a cargo and take on passengers for Hong Kong or India, and pay the sums which the assignees have been compelled to pay for charter money while the vessel has been detained in port.

2- The Government to pay the assignees of the charter passage money from Vancouver to Calcutta for the deported Hindus at the rate of \$100.00 apiece, and the assignees will pay for provisioning the passengers and will waive all other claims.

3- The Government to pay the assignees of the charter the sum of \$25,000.00 for passage money for the deported Hindus from Vancouver to Hong Kong, and the assignees will pay for provisioning these passengers and will waive all other claims.

We trust that some one of the foregoing alternative suggestions will meet with your favorable consideration.

Should you desire a personal interview on the subject of these suggestions, the writer will be pleased to meet you.

We are further instructed that the deported Hindus on the Komagata Maru are now on the verge of starvation. You will have within your own knowledge information showing when last provisions were placed on board, and will be able to judge for yourself as to whether or not the statement as to the present

Malcolm R.J. Reid, Esq.

-3-

lack of provisions is accurate or not. The information given us appears to be well founded.

You will of course understand that the foregoing propositions are made by the local Hindus without having had any means of communication with the men on board. Representatives of the local Hindus will, if you so desire, go on board the ship and point out to the men there the advisability of carrying out any arrangement which may be agreed upon between yourself, as representing the Dominion Government, and the local committee of Hindus.

Yours truly,

MACNEILL BIRD MACDONALD & DARLING.

AHM/W.

Per A.H. McNeill,