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Govt. of India  
Home Dept.  
(Political)

Delhi, the 10th Feb. 1915.

To  
Sir T. W. Holderness, K.C.B., K.C.S.I.,  
His Maj. Under Secy. of State for India.

Sir, In continuation of my letter No. 2936, dated the 17th December 1914, I am directed to forward, for the information of the Secy. of State, further copies of papers, as noted in the accompanying schedule, which contain all the information available on the subject of the source of the supply of weapons to the passengers of the "K M".

The evidence on the point is conflicting, but the Govt. of India are of the opinion that the probabilities point to Kobe as the principal, if not the only, source, and that if any arms were procured at Vancouver, it was not through the Indian community there, as the dealings between them and the passengers on board were watched by the Immig. authorities.

I have etc.,

(Sd) H. Wheeler,  
Secy. to the Govt. of India.

#### List of Enclosures.

1. Letter from the Chief Secretary to the Govt. of the Punjab, No. 74365, B., dated the 24th December 1914 and enclosure.
2. Summary of evidence bearing on the question of the supply of weapons to the passengers of the "K M", taken from Vols. II and III of the Proceedings and Exhibits of the Committee appointed to enquire into the circumstances of the voyage of that vessel to Vancouver, its return to India, and the subsequent loss of Budget Budget.



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Copy of a letter No. 7436 S.B., dated the 24<sup>th</sup> December 1914, from the Chief Secy. to the Govt. of the Punjab, to the Secy. to the Govt. of India, Home Dept.

In continuation of correspondence ending with my letter No. 7106 S.B., dated the 12<sup>th</sup> December 1914, regarding the source of the supply of arms on the SS. "KMS", I am directed to forward for the information of the Govt. of India the accompanying extract from a statement made by one of the passengers who loaded arms at Calcutta and recently found his way back to the Punjab.

Extract copy from the statement of Saddle Singh, son of Kahan Singh, Jot of Chuhar Chak, Ferozepore Dist.

at Kobe Gurdit Singh and the two Sindhis brought two boxes of pistols. I saw the boxes brought on board. The 3rd Engineer assisted Gurdit Singh in concealing the pistols. Most of the people demanded their money and wanted to put down at different places. The boat went straight from Kobe to Singapore. He said he had got money from the Consul at Kobe and he might get some from Singapore. Gurdit Singh had left Biri Singh and Hasram Singh at Kobe to lecture there. We were not allowed to land at Singapore. The Police were strong there. We then left Singapore. Gurdit Singh said he would have a case at Calcutta and get compensation from Government and that he did not know where Government would send us all. When we reached Diamond Harbour the Police came on board and there was searches for three days. The officials did not meddle with us in any way except the mere searching of our things. I spoke to Sukka Singh and he said that he had no time to listen to me. We



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arrived at Badge Budge and we collected all our luggage and were landed at noon. Sukha Singh and the police landed and Han Gurdit Singh got the boxes of pistols and distributed them among his friends. I do not know how many pistols were there.

Summary of Evidence bearing on the supply of pistols to the passengers of the "K. M."

Captain Yamamoto states, G. Singh told him that he (G. Singh) had four or five pistols in his possession; they had probably been brought aboard at Hongkong on the outward voyage as there was no chance of such things being procured in Vancouver. Boxes were brought on board at Yokohama containing two hundred pistols; this was on the return voyage; in Vancouver G. Singh once approached the Captain asking him to send a Steward on shore to purchase 12 pistols, but the request was refused; as to the procuring of pistols at Yokohama, Captain Yamamoto had no personal knowledge, but was told by Bhan Singh.

(Captain Yamamoto, however, mentioned only 5 pistols in his statement made on board the ship on the 28th September, 1914, (Note - as to the boxes of pistols at Kobe, the Captain is not corroborated by Bhan Singh))

"Some of Bhan Singh's followers told me at Yokohama that ~~there~~ 3 or 3 (sic) boxes full of automatic revolvers (pistols) had been brought on board during the night. I did not see the boxes myself."

Mr. Shozaki, Chief Engineer of the K. M., states that he saw four or five pistols on the outward journey; one was with Baljit Singh, the Secretary, and one with



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G. Singh: He was unaware of the names of the other men who possessed firearms; he never saw more than four or five pistols at any time during the outward or return journey and saw no pistols either at Yokohama or Vancouver; he did hear, however, that pistols were brought on board at Yokohama.

Mr. I. Misji, Chief Officer of the K M states that he heard the noise of pistol shots at Vancouver; did not hear any of the pistols being brought on board at Yokohama; thought the Indians probably had pistols but did not know for certain; saw no arms at Singapore.

Surain Singh, son of Jowala Singh, of Sirhali Amritsar, a passenger suspects there were 12 or 14 pistols on board; he was given a pistol and 46 cartridges by G. Singh just before they landed at Budget Budget; G. Singh produced the pistols from a box which appeared to be empty; he saw no other pistols; no pistols were used at Vanc.

Surain Singh in his first statement said:-  
"About 12 or 14 pistols were purchased by him (G.S.) from a Japanese at Vancouver".

In addition to the same statement he said:-  
"Daljit Singh told me that the pistols that were purchased from the Japanese were obtained through the Chief Officer of the ship".

Pir Baksh, son of Tada, of Nussamah, Jullandhar, states that when the ship was returning from Vancouver the members of the Committee got about 6 pistols from the Captain of the ship; they had no weapons in Vancouver.



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Pohlo Ram, son of Rama Mull, of Anandpur, Hoshiarpur, knew of only two pistols, one was with G.S., and one with Harnam Singh of Therghai; knew nothing of the purchase of pistols at Kobe ~~or~~ elsewhere; was suspicious because, when he was keeping the account, he was asked to write down as expended a sum of 240 Yen without giving further particulars; this was just before they got to Singapore.

"Particulars of this amount of ? <sup>240</sup> 400 Yen were never given ~~to~~ me despite many requests".

Bhan Singh, son of Khushal Singh, of Barua, Jullundur, states that once when they were doing accounts Daljit Singh senty, asked them to write down an item of 100 dollars on account of pistols bought at Vancouver, he told the Captain who dismissed at Kobe the steward who, it was thought, had bought the pistols (Note - The Captain denies that the steward's dismissal was due to this). Saw only two pistols on board, one was purchased by G.S. and one was with Harnam Singh; saw only two and can give no idea where the pistols can have been concealed. Bhan Singh in his first statement alleges that during the ship's stay at Yokohama G.S. purchased a pistol for 40 dollars from Bhagwan Singh, the deputed granthi, who came on board. (Note:- This is confirmed by an entry in some papers found in the safe, which show 40 dollars expended for a pistol). He also stated that he saw in one account book an item of 100 dollars on account of pistols purchased at Vancouver; the passengers concluded these pistols had been got through the agency of the Japanese steward who was allowed to land at Vancouver. (Note - The landing of the steward is denied by Captain Yamamoto though Bhan Singh alleges the dit).



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Mana Singh, son of Kharak Singh, of Dhotian Sirhali, Amritsar, a passenger, states: — "Sohan Singh, a resident of Bhagga, district Amritsar, brought some 10 pistols in a box and gave them to G.S. at Kobe. I cannot say from whom he obtained them or from what place."

Mr. F. C. Isenmager, Punjab C. I. D., laid before the Committee books and papers found in G. Singh's Office & cabin. He has stated: —

"There is ~~one~~ item of expenditure at Vancouver in the account which has been ~~partially~~ partially scratched out which may cover the purchase, viz., at p. 62 of the daily account Book: —

'240

120 dollars gold'

The word scratched out clearly ends with the letters 'ol'. In the ledger accounts the corresponding entry is miscellaneous (one thing purchased) p. 280.

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Saddu Singh, son of Kahan Singh, of Ambhar Chak, Ferozepore, states: — "At Kobe Gurdit and the two Sindhis brought two boxes of pistols. I saw the boxes brought on board. The third Engineer assisted Gurdit Singh in concealing the pistols." (Note — This man differs from Manu Singh (VIII) who states that one Sohan Singh supplied the pistols at Kobe).