SOUTH ASIAN CANADIAN DIGITAL ARCHIVE

[Letter to Bill Vander Zalm from Bikar Singh Dhillon]

KHALSA DIWAN SOCIETY

SIKH TEMPLE

Re: 75 TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KOMAGATA MARU INCIDENT
"A MISREPRESENTATION OF CANADA'S IMMIGRATION POLICY OF EXCLUSION FOR OVER HALF A CENTURY"

PROJECT SUPPORTED BY:
Various Indo-Canadian and Sikh societies across Canada and U.S.A.

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June 16, 1989

Premier Bill Van Der Zalm,
Premier of British Columbia,
Legislative Building,
Victoria, B.C.
V8V 1X4

Dear Premier Vander Zalm,

Our society along with the rest of the Sikh community across Canada are deeply concerned and shocked at the insensitivity your Government has shown in the commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the KOMAGATA MARU INCIDENT.

We had made a request to you and the Government of British Columbia in writing on March 23, 1989 to unveil a monument commemorating this reprehensible incident. This request was followed by a meeting with representatives of different Sikh societies on your visit to Guru Nanak Sikh Temple, Surrey on April 26, 1989. You assured them at that time that you will certainly have the Government commemorate the incident. We subsequently followed this meeting with another letter on April 26, 1989 requiring three items:

1) Proclaim July 23, 1989 to be KOMAGATA MARU Day (copy of proclamation was attached).
2) The Province of British Columbia unveil a permanent monument on this historic day.
3) You attend the historical gathering on July 23, at Pier A (west of Canada Place) as an honoured guest.

After reading the debates of the Legislative Assembly of May 23, 1989 I was shocked at Hon Mr. Reid's response to Mr. Sihota's simple question on the commemorative recognition of the KOMAGATA MARU Incident. We followed this unfair response by the Government with a letter to Hon. Bill Reid on May 25, 1989. We have yet to receive a reply from him.

IDENTIFIER
2020_04_004_027

ARTIST
Vander Zalm, Bill; Sihota, Moe; Dhillon, Bikar Singh; Reid, Bill