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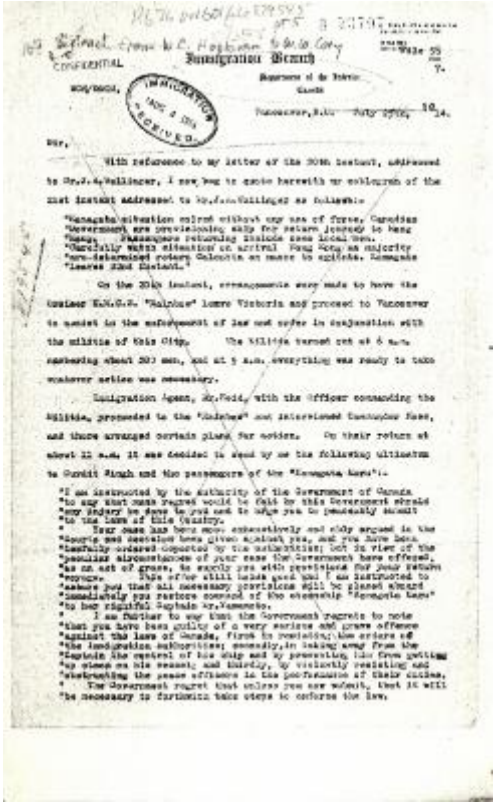
[Extract from William C. Hopkinson, Immigration Inspector, to William W. Cory, Deputy Minister of the Interior. Copy]



Extract from W.C. Hopkinson to W.W. Cory

CONFIDENTIAL

Immigration Branch

Department of the Interior
Canada

Vancouver, B.C. July 19th, 1914.

Sir,

With reference to my letter of the 20th instant, addressed to Mr.J.A.Wallinger, I now beg to quote herewith an extract of the 21st instant addressed to Mr.J.A.Wallinger as follows:-

"Komagata situation solved without any use of force, Canadian "Government are providing only for return journey to Hong "Kong. Passengers returning include some local Sikh. "Carefully watch situation on arrival. Peng Kong an majority "are determined return Calcutta or remain to agitate. Komagata "leaves 22nd instant."

On the 20th instant, arrangements were made to have the cruiser H.M.C.S. "Rainbow" leave Victoria and proceed to Vancouver to assist in the enforcement of law and order in conjunction with the militia of this City. The militia turned out at 6 a.m. numbering about 200 men, and at 9 a.m. everything was ready to take whatever action was necessary.

Immigration Agent, Mr.Reid, with the Officer commanding the Militia, proceeded to the "Rainbow" and interviewed Commander Hose, and there arranged certain plans for action. On their return at about 12 a.m. it was decided to send by me the following ultimatum to Gurdit Singh and the passengers of the "Komagata Maru":-

"I am instructed by the Authority of the Government of Canada "to say that much regret would be felt by this Government should "any injury be done to you and to urge you to peacefully submit "to the laws of this Country.

"Your case has been most expensively and ably argued in the "Courts and decisions have given against you, and you have been "lawfully ordered departed by the authorities; but in view of the "peculiar circumstances of your case the Government have offered, "as an act of grace, to supply you with provisions for your return "voyage. This offer still holds good and I am instructed to "assure you that all necessary provisions will be placed aboard "immediately you restore control of the steamship "Komagata Maru" "to her rightful Captain Mr.Yamamoto.

"I am further to say that the Government regrets to note "that you have been guilty of a very serious and grave offence "against the laws of Canada, first in resisting the orders of "the Immigration Authorities; secondly, in taking away from the "Captain the control of his ship and by preventing him from getting "up steam on his vessel; and thirdly, by violently resisting and "obstructing the peace officers in the performance of their duties.

"The Government regret that unless you now submit, that it will "be necessary to furthwith take steps to enforce the law.

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ARTIST
Cory, William W.; Hopkinson, William Charles, 1880-1914; H.M.C.S. Rainbow; Komagata Maru Shore Committee; Singh, Gurdit, 1858-1954