



MINISTRY OF TOURISM
AND PROVINCIAL SECRETARY

July 21, 1989

Komagata Maru Day Proclaimed

VICTORIA - The British Columbia government has proclaimed Sunday, July 23, Komagata Maru Memorial Day, Premier Bill Vander Zalm announced today.

The proclamation commemorates the day 75 years ago when 376 British subjects of Indian origin, denied entry to Canada, were forced to leave Vancouver aboard the ship Komagata Maru.

"Those events which took place in 1914 are not ones we look back on very comfortably," the Premier said. "However, by remembering the event, we can learn from the past and resolve to build a society where British Columbians of all cultural backgrounds work and live together."

Provincial Secretary Bill Reid said this is an opportune time to rededicate ourselves to the development of a more tolerant, harmonious community of people from different backgrounds.

"This proclamation affirms the provincial government's dedication to a society in which those differences are respected and traditions are cherished," said Reid, Chairman of the Cabinet Committee on Cultural Heritage.

He added that the government has also funded the production of a video by the Komagata Maru Foundation of Canada which provides an historic, educational review of the incident.

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Contact: Mike Hughes
Victoria, 387-1311



David Lam
Lieutenant Governor

Canada
Province of British Columbia
A Proclamation

ELIZABETH THE SECOND, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom,
Canada and Her other Realms and Territories, Queen, Head of the
Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith

To all to whom these presents shall come – Greeting

WHEREAS Seventy-five years ago, on May 25, 1914, 376 British Subjects of Indian origin arrived in Vancouver aboard the Komagata Maru seeking to immigrate to Canada and were forced to depart on July 23, 1914, having been denied entry;

AND WHEREAS by commemorating this regrettable incident in the history of Our Province and Our Country we can learn from the past and resolve that such events will not reoccur;

AND WHEREAS our Government is committed to the development of a society in which mutual respect and understanding are honoured, and which differences are respected and traditions are cherished;

AND WHEREAS Our Lieutenant Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, has been pleased to direct by Order in Council in that behalf that a Proclamation be issued designating July 23, 1989, as "Komagata Maru Memorial Day" in British Columbia;

NOW KNOW YE THAT We do by these presents proclaim and declare that July 23, 1989, shall be known as "Komagata Maru Memorial Day" in British Columbia.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent and the Great Seal of Our Province to be hereunto affixed.

WITNESS The Honourable David C. Lam, Lieutenant Governor of Our Province of British Columbia, in Our City of Victoria, in Our Province, this twentieth day of July, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eighty-nine and in the thirty-eighth year of Our Reign.

BY COMMAND.

David Lam
MINISTER OF TOURISM AND
PROVINCIAL SECRETARY

Bud Smith
ATTORNEY GENERAL