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Copy to Hon. C. J. Doherty,
Hon. Arthur Meighen, ^{SENT}
Mr. J. A. Cote, ^{P.R.V.}
on Telegram fyle.

33314 20th July, 1914.

MEMORANDUM

Sir Robert Borden.

I beg to quote for your information and for record on the fyles of your office wires received yesterday morning from Malcolm R. J. Reid of Vancouver:-

"Captain Yamamoto and Engineer went on board Vessel at five fifteen after being given till six o'clock tonight to decide whether he would obey deportation orders or not otherwise all special negotiation as outlined Premier Borden's correspondence with Tupper cancelled if unable get up steam rocket will be fired as request we communicate civic authorities place guard on board."

"Captain Yamamoto has given letter to Chief of Police requesting his men come aboard immediately if possible. Forty police are coming on at twelve thirty a.m. I have thirty five special officers armed with rifles and the tug Sea Lion, provisions now being loaded. Will board the vessel at one a.m. Sunday morning and immediately steam is raised proceed to sea."

"Following telegram sent His Royal Highness Governor General Ottawa begins we passengers of Kemagata Maru indicate our sorrow to judgment Board of Enquiry regarding our deportation and humbly have the honor to appeal before Your Royal Highness for our landing on following reasons first being British subjects, second Hong-Kong government stopped ship one week to consult with you and Imperial government for our coming. It was better of government stop us there at that time if our coming was unsuitable. Third, ship was duly gazetted in Hong-Kong our necessary and legal papers were not produced in appeal court because Mr. Gurdit Singh was not allowed to see his counsel, fourth, continuous journey clause is of no value as we have come to know to charter steamers to go anywhere, to leave on bail is far better than to produce two hundred dollars to save not being public charges. These are mere excuses. We all are farmers and have to work on farms here. Our brothers ashore can collect sums to arrange for land and everything. Some blocks of land should be awarded in any part of Canada to cultivate. If the government has to enforce the same law should give sign for our landing coming direct with two hundred from Calcutta if changed before our re-arrival will be of blame for government and prove unjust. We have suffered a loss of nearly three hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

Kindly

Kindly take pity and award blocks of land to improve Canada progress and to make land fertile. Shall die if return being in prison for four months. No bodily strength to cross Pacific. An early reply requested by wire. Ends. Signed Passengers Komagata Maru. Have given ultimatum to captain to take action by six p.m. failing which will enforce deportation orders by invoking Section Forty Four. Distinctly understood personal arrangement between Premier Borden and Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper likewise concession re wireless expires at that hour."

"Attempt made tonight to board Komagata Maru on biggest tug in harbor chief police personally attended hundred twenty five picked officers immigration department thirty five special officers and a number of regular staff with legal adviser Ladner and H.H. Stevens M.P. This on written request captain who unable get up steam leave harbour or control ship. Official interpreter went to ship prior to any action being taken with a view to solve problem without drastic action. All offers refused and message sent not come aboard. They refused leave harbour without written order Bhag Sing and Rahim on arrival at vessel strenuous fight raised, firebricks pieces of machinery hatchets coal iron bars clubs all being used which were showered down on the tug from all parts of ship smashing windows of tug injuring captain also breaking two of his ribs. Chief police struck. Shots fired by Hindus but no fire returned. Twenty men now in Hospital mostly police officers and a few special immigration officers also injured now being attended by Doctor, forced to retire and returned to shore at two a.m. Chief police H.H. Stevens M.P. and counsel Ladner of opinion no further attempt be made and advise that Rainbow take charge of this ship. We urge immediate action owing danger anti-oriental outbreaks Vancouver when facts made public. The men aboard undoubtedly in desperate and fanatical condition. Utterly impossible to reason with them or handle in ordinary manner. The peculiar situation of this riot occurring on board a ship anchored in the stream makes ordinary police methods utterly useless as police and guards do not wish use firearms to retaliate and can do no effective service without."

to which reply approved by yourself and Hon. Mr. Meighen was sent, reading as follows:-

"Naval Service authorities are being instructed to have Rainbow co-operate in securing landing on Komagata Maru. Suggest that high pressure streams of water from fire engine placed upon largest boat available might be useful in keeping back those resisting the police and officers desiring to reach decks of Komagata Maru. Violent actions of Hindus last night amply justify handcuffing full number if control of ship and passengers cannot otherwise be secured and maintained. If this done deportation by next Empress would then be feasible. You are authorized to deport by Empress if convinced that deportation by Komagata Maru cannot be promptly and effectively accomplished. Bear in mind possibility of landing on some unfrequented part of Coast under actual

or

or pretended compulsion. The self-restraint of the police and immigration officers under great provocation is appreciated and commended by the Acting Minister. It is desired that no unnecessary violence shall be used but that the law shall without fail be effectively enforced. Be sure that all necessary orders and warrants are issued for this purpose. Consult legal advisers as to taking proceedings under Section forty-four against master and assignees of charter and instruct them to take any available proceedings immediately. Keep me posted of every new development."

To this Mr. Reid replied:-

"Have got into touch with Commander Rainbow Esquimalt. Situation fully explained. Rainbow's new draft seamen arriving tomorrow. Rapid despatch special boat from here. He is further taking up the matter of possibility of securing militiamen to act as marines owing to the smallness of crew. Rainbow would arrive Tuesday noon. Meantime Sea Lion and two small boats will maintain careful patrol night and day. Private information local Hindus tonight will take out boat loaded arms and ammunition to pass same aboard Komagata Maru. Will try and secure cooperation of police as information states Hindus will possibly shoot our officers."

and after our phone conversation I replied:-

"Militia Department here are instructing Vancouver military officers to supply commander of Rainbow with all assistance he desires."

E. B. Robertson

Asst. Superintendent of Immigration.

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