

187 Viceroy to Secretary for India

TELEGRAM

11 December, 1917

Secret. Murder of Hopkinson. Please refer to your telegrams of 20th October and 2nd Dec. We are fully conscious and appreciative of value of deceased service to us. As a meritorious officer engaged in most dangerous work, we agree that his family has every title to consideration, but we would represent one point of importance. It is stated that Hopkinson's relations with us were not disclosed at the trial. The newspaper Ottawa Citizen of 22 October gives subsidiary possible motive for murder that Hopkinson testified in favour of an enemy of Nawa Singh, named Ram Singh, but attributes it mainly to vendetta by revolutionary party against all who were active in preventing landing of 'Komagata Maru' passengers. It is a possible theory that it was as much his work for Canada as for us that marked him down, and should fact of assistance to family become known, it would place us in undesirable position, politically to appear to have rewarded

family of a man who materially helped
Canadian Immigration Department.
Circumstances could be trusted as
evidence that we encouraged Canadian
actions. We note your Lordship says
murder was outcome of work done for India
and that grant would be made from
Secret funds, while possibly your
~~Lord~~ Lordship or Canadian Government
has further information as to motive but
much as we sympathize with family
whom we would willingly help, we
think above considerations merit attention.
Incidentally we notice that your Lordship
speaks of two children of deceased
whereas four are mentioned in
letter Cleveland from W [Lalinger].