

Copy for the information of:

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H.H. Stevens, Esq., M. P.
203 Kingsway,
C I T Y.

MRJR/EC.

Vancouver, B. C., July 10th

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Ottawa File No. 879545 Imm.

W. D. SCOTT, ESQ.,

Superintendent of Immigration,

Ottawa, Ont.

Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your telegram of yesterday's date as follows:-

"Inform Captain Komogata Maru that he as representative of owners of vessel is responsible for maintaining sanitary conditions and supplying proper food to all on board. Owners liable heavy penalty for bringing prohibited immigrants. Department however has no intention of prosecuting providing owners bear all costs taking care of immigrants while in Canada and returning them to Hong Kong."

I also beg to confirm my night lettergram of the 9th instant:-

"Your wire received this afternoon and contents noted. Consultation held this morning, Consul Hori, Captain and Agents for vessel and Department's Solicitor. Matter fully discussed. Captain states willing leave immediately deportation orders served but charter unexpired. Hori claims no connection with Consul General Ottawa and never advised Captain as suggested your wire yesterday. Bird's representative, Immigration Counsel, Board of Enquiry and Hopkinson went aboard this afternoon to complete boards. All refused appear or answer questions except four and situation explained from bridge. These four claim exemption as non-immigrants. Cases under investigation. All very defiant. Have taken control from Gurdit Singh, appointing committee of five who claim all passengers have been starving for three days, giving Department until eight o'clock tonight to furnish same or rush boats and lower ship's boats and try effect landing. Endeavor made hold me as hostage until food and water arrived. With assistance of Hopkinson managed explain situation bringing them to reasonable mood. Am assured that situation with regard to food and water not exaggerated and on legal advice and with view staving off any threatened action on part of passengers, have undertaken responsibility furnish at Government's expense small amount provisions and water, sufficient two or three days, by which time hope solution will be effected regarding situation. My position is peculiar in this respect that Government have refused and are not bound to replenish provisions. Charterers and owners Agents also

W.D.S. - 2.

"refuse. Civic authorities refuse assistance and Department will agree with me in my action to relieve tension and avoid bloodshed and possible landing of nearly all consignment. Took provisions aboard tonight accompanied by Chief Inspector Police explaining present food was unofficial until dispute settled between Captain, Agents and charterers as to responsibility this connection, also any overt action would result in Police force being put on board ship to control situation. Bird threatened bring action Admiralty Court on behalf Rahim and Bhag Singh new charterers to detain vessel. Will report immediately fresh developments."

Yesterday was a somewhat strenuous day here and at one time it looked as though serious trouble might develop on board the vessel.

Enc.

I now beg to enclose further communications between Mr. J. Edward Bird, the Committee aboard the vessel, and the Department's solicitors and myself.

You will note Mr. J. Edward Bird in concluding his communication states:-

"This implies that you are to feed them while you are holding them for deportation, and you will fail ~~at~~ in this at your peril."

Enc.

I enclose further, copy of bill for provisions supplied last night, which you will note I have had charged to Captain Yamamoto.

Your obedient servant,

Malcolm. R. J. Rae

DOMINION IMMIGRATION AGENT & INSPECTOR.