

Copy for the information of:

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

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MRJR/EC.

Vancouver, B. C., July 15th

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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

RUSH telegram of the 14th instant, as follows:-

"Private and confidential. Carry out promptly if practicable suggestion made in following telegrams: Tupper to Prime Minister, "Charterers of the Komogata Maru though clearly liable for provisions for the Hindus refuse to supply them. My firm acts for the owners but under circumstances I address you in my personal capacity and venture the suggestion that it might considerably relieve difficulties and British and Indian Governments and propitiate Hindus while affording evidence of your Government's good will if vessel were provisioned at expense of your Government and in this event the vessel could at once proceed to HONGKONG. The cost is estimated at four thousand dollars. Threats of libelling vessel are being made and situation is becoming more complicated." Ends. Prime Minister to Tupper: "Private and Confidential: Your telegram submitted to Doherty who is acting Minister Interior. He considers it bad precedent supply provisions as this example would encourage other charterers to engage in similar expeditions. However, under circumstances by and by reason of considerations you mention, he will be disposed to accept suggestion if absolutely assured that this action will result in immediate departure. Can you give or obtain such assurance." Ends. Tupper to Prime Minister, - "Thanks much for your telegram as there is a bare possibility of arrest of ship by charterers assignee suggest ship proceed at once Hong Kong. Government steamer take supplies to be delivered at a point outside three mile limit. In this way Government runs no risk as provisions will not be delivered until ship on her voyage." Ends. Prime Minister to Tupper: "Confidential your telegram of yesterday. Acting Minister is instructing Immigration Officials at Vancouver to carry out your suggestion if practicable. If proposal can be carried out very important that action should be prompt." Ends. Acknowledge and report action by wire."

W.D.S. - 2.

I also beg to confirm my private and confidential wire of the 14th instant, as follows:-

"Your private and confidential wire. WINAMAC unable carry provisions. Can you authorize fisheries cruiser report here or shall I hire tug. Answer."

In reply to which I have your wire, dated the 14th instant, as under:-

"Hire tug or tugs."

I further beg to state that Mr. J. Edward Bird is making an application to the Harbour Master for permission to move the vessel from the stream and berth at Messrs Gardner-Johnson Coy's wharf.

I have asked the Harbour Master not to agree to this course, and he claims he is quite within his rights in refusing Mr. Bird the desired permission. I beg to transcribe his letter in this connection:-

"I beg to advise you that I have received an application from Mr. Bird, Counsel for the Hindus on board the s.s. KOMOGATA MARU, to allow that vessel to berth alongside Messrs Gardner Johnson Wharf in Burrard Inlet, being part of Vancouver Harbour.

In this connection I would inform you that under Section 26 of the By Laws for Vancouver Harbour, passed by Order in Council on May 21st. 1914, I assume control of the vessels' movements in the harbour and refuse the permission asked for."

Dr. Monro, the Medical Health Officer, went on board the vessel last night, in response to the enclosed request by the passengers, and the statement that several of them were dying. Several of the men were found to be suffering from aslight attack of bronchitis but in no case was the sickness severe enough to warrant landing.

Your obedient servant,

Malcolm R. J. Rees

DOMINION IMMIGRATION AGENT & INSPECTOR.