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Letter for India Office HOME DEPARTMENT

FILE NO. I/32-POLL, SERIAL NOS. 1-14.

Proposal to deport undesirable British Indians from the United States of America to India. Procedure to be observed in the case of such deportations.

**PROPOSAL TO DEPORT UNDESIRABLE BRITISH INDIANS FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO INDIA. PROCEDURE TO BE OBSERVED IN THE CASE OF SUCH DEPORTATIONS.**

*Serial no. 1.*—LETTER FROM THE INDIA OFFICE, NO. P. & J. (S.) 1375/31, DATED THE 16TH OCTOBER 1931.

With reference to the correspondence ending with your letter no. D. 2083, dated the 4th July, 1929 (P. 1-6-1929-Poll), concerning the deportation from United States of America of Indians who are on the Black List, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India to forward for the information of the Government of India a copy of a letter received from the Foreign Office, dated 6th October 1931, no. A 5729/318/45, forwarding a despatch from the British Embassy at Washington on the subject of the activities of the Ghadr Party in California.

As it seems possible, if satisfactory evidence connecting with Ghadr Party with communism is forthcoming, that the United States Government may shortly approach His Majesty's Government with proposals for the deportation of a considerable number of Indians resident in United States of America who are on the Black List, Sir Samuel Hoare would be glad to be informed what the attitude of the Government of India would be towards such a proposal.

From the point of view of the United States authorities it would obviously be an advantage if they could rid themselves of a number of Indians who by their terrorist activities and abuse of the Immigration Laws have rendered themselves undesirable. From the point of view of the Government of India, however, there would appear to be two aspects of the question: first the utility of wholesale deportations of undesirable Indians as a means of hampering the activities of the Ghadr Party and secondly the undesirability of the return of several of the Ghadr Party leaders to India where they may be more dangerous than they are in the United States of America. As regards the first aspect, it appears to the Secretary of State that a more effective method of incapacitating the Ghadr Party might be the deportation of some of its leading members only and at the same time the enforcement of a strict embargo on the entrance of its travelling emissaries such as Teja Singh and Gurmukh Singh, into the United States of America. The majority of the members of the Ghadr Party are uneducated and without any gifts of leadership. If their existing leaders were removed and the arrival of others from outside prevented, it is probable that the movement would be satisfactorily crippled.

The Secretary of State would be glad to be furnished with the views of the Government of India on these considerations as soon as possible in order that a reply may be sent to the Foreign Office.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE, NO. P. & J. (S.) 1375/31, A 5729/318/45, DATED THE 6TH OCTOBER 1931.

*Referenced.*—F. O. Letter A 8373/869/45, January 6.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs transmits herewith copy of the undermentioned paper for such observations as Secretary Sir Samuel Hoare may desire to offer.

H. M. Representative, Washington no. 1486, September 15, regarding Activities of Ghadr Party in California.

CONFIDENTIAL LETTER FROM THE BRITISH EMBASSY, WASHINGTON, D. C. NO. 1436,  
DATED THE 15th SEPTEMBER, 1951.

With reference to your predecessor's despatch no. 13 of January 2nd referring to activities of Indians belonging to the Ghadr Party in California, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a memorandum summarizing the information which has been received from His Majesty's Consul-General in San Francisco on this subject since January of this year.

2. Your Lordship will observe that both the Federal Immigration Service and the City Authorities are taking an anxious interest in the activities of these Indians, in the hope of obtaining evidence to connect the Ghadr Party with Communism. If such evidence is forthcoming it is to be anticipated that a considerable number of these Indians will be held for deportation. It is possible that the wholesale deportation of Indian suspects from California would be most unwelcome to the Government of India, but it will only be possible to determine whether such deportations can be resisted when, if ever, individual cases are presented to the Embassy by the Department of Labour.

3. At present it appears unlikely that the United States Government propose to approach the Government of India through His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom with any proposals for the supply of particulars of Indians leaving the Punjab for North or South America, or other measures of co-operation but at the same time it is clear from the information in the memorandum that the United States authorities, both federal and local, are fully alive to the potential danger of disturbance among the Indian Community on the Pacific Coast and are prepared to furnish information to His Majesty's Consul-General at San Francisco in regard to the activities of Indian suspects.

4. Copies of this despatch and its enclosure will be sent to His Majesty's Consular Officers at New York, Chicago, San Francisco and New Orleans by safe opportunity. I shall be grateful if Your Lordship will arrange for the transmission to His Majesty's Ministers in Mexico City and Panama of the additional copies of the despatch and memorandum enclosed herein.

5. I shall take an opportunity of mentioning to the Canadian Charge d'Affaires the fears of the United States Immigration authorities in California that a bombing raid may be carried out by Indians on Vancouver.

#### MEMORANDUM

(Confidential)

#### Activities of the Ghadr Party in California

His Majesty's Acting Consul-General in San Francisco has recently obtained through the local authorities information in regard to the activities of British Indians who are members of the Ghadr Party in California. The United States Immigration Service in California has been investigating the movements of these Indians with the object of finding definite evidence to connect the Ghadr Party with the Communist party. If proof of such connection can be found deportation proceedings will be instituted against the members of the party. His Majesty's Acting Consul-General reports that public opinion in California is becoming exasperated at the number of murders among Indians, and the open way in which these are committed in the certainty that owing to terrorism no evidence will be available. The State authorities are also conducting investigations and it is probable that the Senators from California will interest themselves in the question if proof of connection between the seditious Indians and the Communist party can be obtained.

The following information has been collected in the course of the year —

- (1) A man Neelham or Neelham Singh, stated to be President of the Ghadr Party in California, was arrested in June last and the headquarters of the party at 6 Wood Street, San Francisco were raided. A number of papers and publications were seized which are said to establish the fact that the Ghadr Party has communist affiliations. The Immigration Authorities hope to be able to institute deportation proceedings against Neelham Singh for his part in the raid during the war and it is probable further charges of illegal activities can be proved.

ed against him. The papers seized cannot however be offered in evidence owing to a legal technicality since there is no proof that they were actually issued by the Ghadr Party. No one can be induced to come forward and testify on this point, but the immigration authorities hope to find a witness eventually.

(2) Among the papers seized was a publication called "Kirti" written in the Punjabi dialect on the cover of which is written in English "The only labour publication in Punjabi."

(3) A man named Waryam Singh, who passes by the name of Warren Gravelle and who gives his address as the headquarters of the Ghadr Party in San Francisco, is also being watched by the authorities. He is a qualified pilot and flies an aeroplane purchased by funds subscribed by Indians. The aeroplane is registered in the name of the Royal Andrews Air Line Inc. but is used almost exclusively by the Indian owners. It is believed that Waryam Singh is giving instruction in flying to other members of the Ghadr Party and the Immigration Service authorities are nervous that the aeroplane might eventually be used for a bombing raid on Vancouver, Canada. It appears that there are some young fanatics who have expressed their willingness to sacrifice their lives if they could do anything for India and it is believed that it was for some purpose of this kind that Vaniapurakal Kuruvilla Ipe, who was recently deported from the United States, was studying explosives.

(4) Another centre of seditious activity in California is Marysville, where the leading spirit is a man named Dalip Singh. No evidence can be obtained to implicate this man, although he is considered to be the leader of the Communists in the district. He is rich and employs large numbers of Hindu labourers. All his workmen are compelled to subscribe to the Ghadr Party. A raid was made on his residence in January this year and some of the documents seized showed that he was in correspondence with a group of Indians in Panama where the headquarters for smuggling Indians into the United States are said to be established.

(5) A man named Teja Singh has also been under the supervision of the authorities. He is now believed to be a Turkish subject whose correct name is Azad Teja and not a British Indian. While in California he lectured on military matters and he bequeathed to the Ghadr Party a good collection of books on this subject. He left California in January last bound for Valparaiso and has not returned. According to information received from His Majesty's Minister in Panama it seems that he is now organising the seditious Indians in that country.

(6) Among the papers seized by the United States authorities were telegrams from India addressed to a man named Hukam or Lukan Singh in which requests were made for money. It seems that this man is the father of Bhan Singh who was sentenced to death for the outrage in which a bomb was thrown into the Assembly at Delhi, and that the money was required to defend him. Lukan Singh is an old man and is believed to be harmless.

(7) The United States Immigration authorities in California are believed to have submitted a plan to Washington under which the Government of India should supply to the United States Government photographs and descriptions of all Indians leaving the Panjab for Mexico and Central and South American countries. No scheme of this nature has yet been submitted to the Embassy.

(8) The State and Federal authorities in California are evidently determined to get rid of the seditious Indians in the State if they are able to do so and are keeping close watch on suspects in the hope of bringing them within the operation of the immigration laws.

Serial no. 2.—LETTER TO HIS MAJESTY'S COUNSELLOR AT WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA/HIS MAJESTY'S CONSUL-GENERAL AT SAN FRANCISCO, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, NO. D. 7514/31/POLL., DATED NEW DELHI, THE 5TH NOVEMBER 1931.

I am pleased to enclose for your information and guidance, a copy of a demi-official letter to His Majesty's Under Secretary of State for India, no. S. 330, dated the 26th October 1931, and of its enclosure.

2. The procedure to be followed in communicating particulars regarding deportees will normally be that indicated in paragraphs 6 and 7 of the record of the discussion with the Consul-General for the United States of America. The Government of India have no objection, however to His Majesty's Consul General at San Francisco corresponding direct with the Director, Intelligence Bureau in cases in which it is desirable that details regarding particularly dangerous characters should be communicated without delay.

Serial no. 3.—LETTER (BY AIRMAIL) TO THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA, PUBLIC AND JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT, INDIA OFFICE, NO. D. 7514/31-POLL., DATED THE 30TH NOVEMBER 1931.

In reply to Mr. Peel's letter No. P. & J. (S.) 1375/31, dated the 18th October 1931 I am directed to say that the attitude of the Government of India generally towards the deportation of Indians from the United States of America is explained in the note of the discussion on the subject with the American Consul General in India, a copy of which was forwarded with the Home Department letter no. S. 330, dated the 26th October 1931.

2. It appears that the main object of the deportations is to rid the United States of America of undesirable and persons who have entered without authority, rather than to take action which would cripple the Ghadr Party in America, although the fact that the latter are engaged in dangerous activities in the United States will no doubt influence the United States authorities. The Government of India realise that the American Government would be entirely within their rights in taking the action contemplated and the discussions with the American Consul-General were mainly directed towards obtaining the greatest measure of co-operation, so that the purpose of the Government of the United States might be achieved with the least embarrassment to the Government of India.

3. The Punjab Government, who are primarily interested in the Ghadr movement in America, are inclined to take the view that provided that effect is given to the arrangements contemplated by the discussions, it would be practicable for them to keep returned revolutionaries under effective surveillance, and that it might therefore prove that the harm these returned immigrants were capable of doing in the Punjab would be less than they now do by financing and organising the movement from America. The Government of India are not prepared at present definitely to subscribe to this view, and experience may show that the return of these revolutionaries involves more serious dangers than the Punjab Government at present contemplate. In that case it would be necessary to move the Government of the United States with the object of modifying the arrangements contemplated during the discussion. In any case, it is most desirable in the interests of the Government of India that the deportees should be sent in small batches, that early and full information should be given to the authorities in India, and that the fullest measure of co-operation should obtain. It would certainly assist the Government of India and also place an effective check on activities of the Ghadr Party in America if, as suggested in Mr. Peel's letter, the United States authorities were to secure a strict embargo on the entrance of travelling emissaries, such as Teja Singh and Gurmukh Singh.

4. I am to explain that the discussions with the American Consul General were entirely of an informal character and that Mr. Jarvis made it clear that the views he expressed were not necessarily those of his Government. This fact may be made clear in any reference to these discussions, and at the same time if an opportunity occurs an opportunity may be expressed of the spirit of co-operation shown by Mr. Jarvis in his informal talks with the Government of India.