

# The Komagata Maru

By Sabrina





# The Road Map

Arriving in B.C

Protest against  
the Komagata Maru

## Conditions on board

The beginning

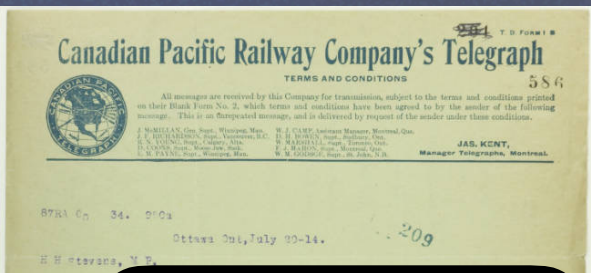
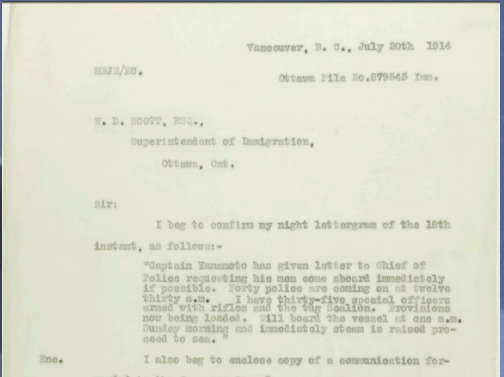
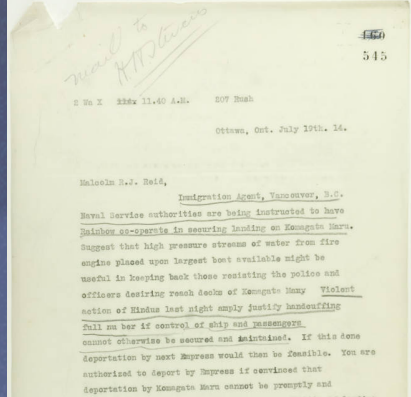
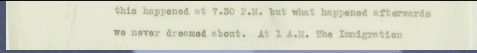
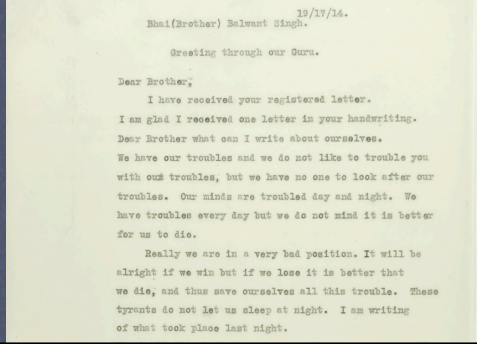
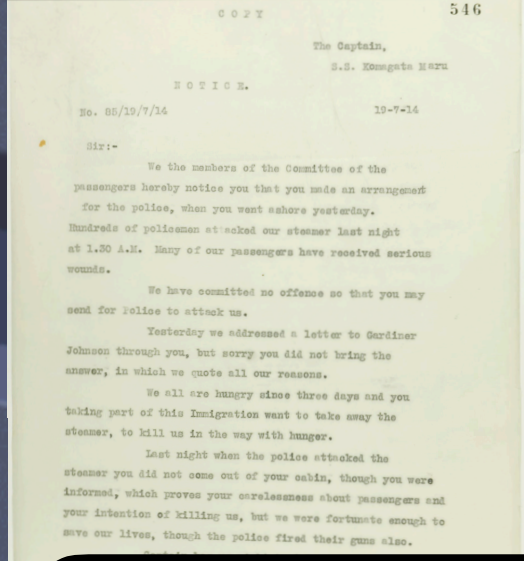
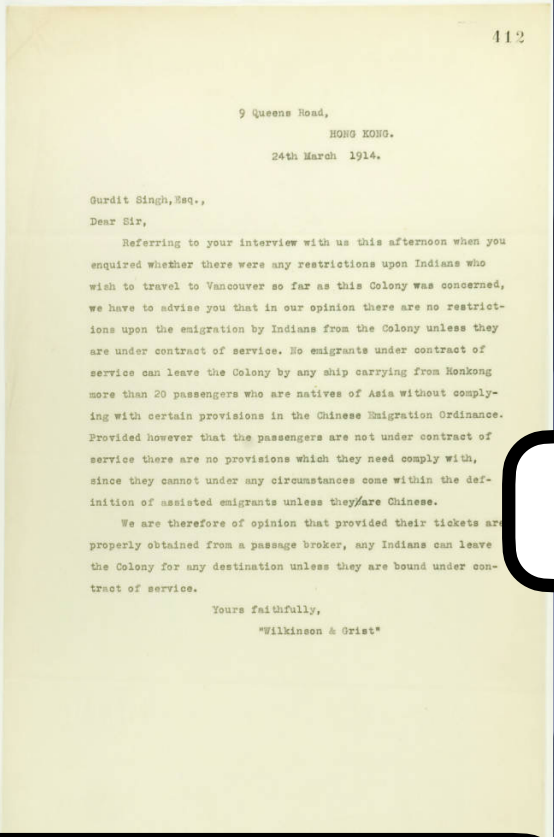
Resistance of government forces

Message of  
Attack

Events leading  
up to  
departure

The navy watching over Komagata Maru

The Prime Minister's response





# The beginning

412

9 Queens Road,  
HONG KONG.  
24th March 1914.

Gurdit Singh, Esq.,  
Dear Sir,

Referring to your interview with us this afternoon when you enquired whether there were any restrictions upon Indians who wish to travel to Vancouver so far as this Colony was concerned, we have to advise you that in our opinion there are no restrictions upon the emigration by Indians from the Colony unless they are under contract of service. No emigrants under contract of service can leave the Colony by any ship carrying from Hongkong more than 20 passengers who are natives of Asia without complying with certain provisions in the Chinese Emigration Ordinance. Provided however that the passengers are not under contract of service there are no provisions which they need comply with, since they cannot under any circumstances come within the definition of assisted emigrants unless they are Chinese.

We are therefore of opinion that provided their tickets are properly obtained from a passage broker, any Indians can leave the Colony for any destination unless they are bound under contract of service.

Yours faithfully,  
"Wilkinson & Grist"

## Purpose

This document is about whether or not the Komagata Maru can depart to Canada. Prior to this document, an interview between Gurdit Singh and "Wilson & Grist" occurred. After the interview "Wilson & Grist" sent this letter to Gurdit Singh in order to answer the question if this ship was able to leave Hong Kong. "Wilson & Grist" told Gurdit that it's alright if the ship leaves Hong Kong as long as if none of the passengers are soldiers and they have their tickets. The letters say that Indians can leave to Vancouver as long if they have their ticket and not in the military. The sources tells us how Gurdit Singh planned to get the Indians to B.C and how he wanted to make sure he was wishing legal boundaries for his voyage. It also tells how the Indians most likely expected that their would be no further issues when coming to Canada.

Press to get back to first page



# Arriving in B.C



PA-034015

## Purpose

The photo showcases Indians smiling as they dock on the shores of B.C. The photo displays to the audience the reaction Indians had when coming to B.C. This is shown by the Indians raising their hands and having smiles on their faces. They are clearly looking forward to their new lives in British Columbia.

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# Protest against the Komagata Maru



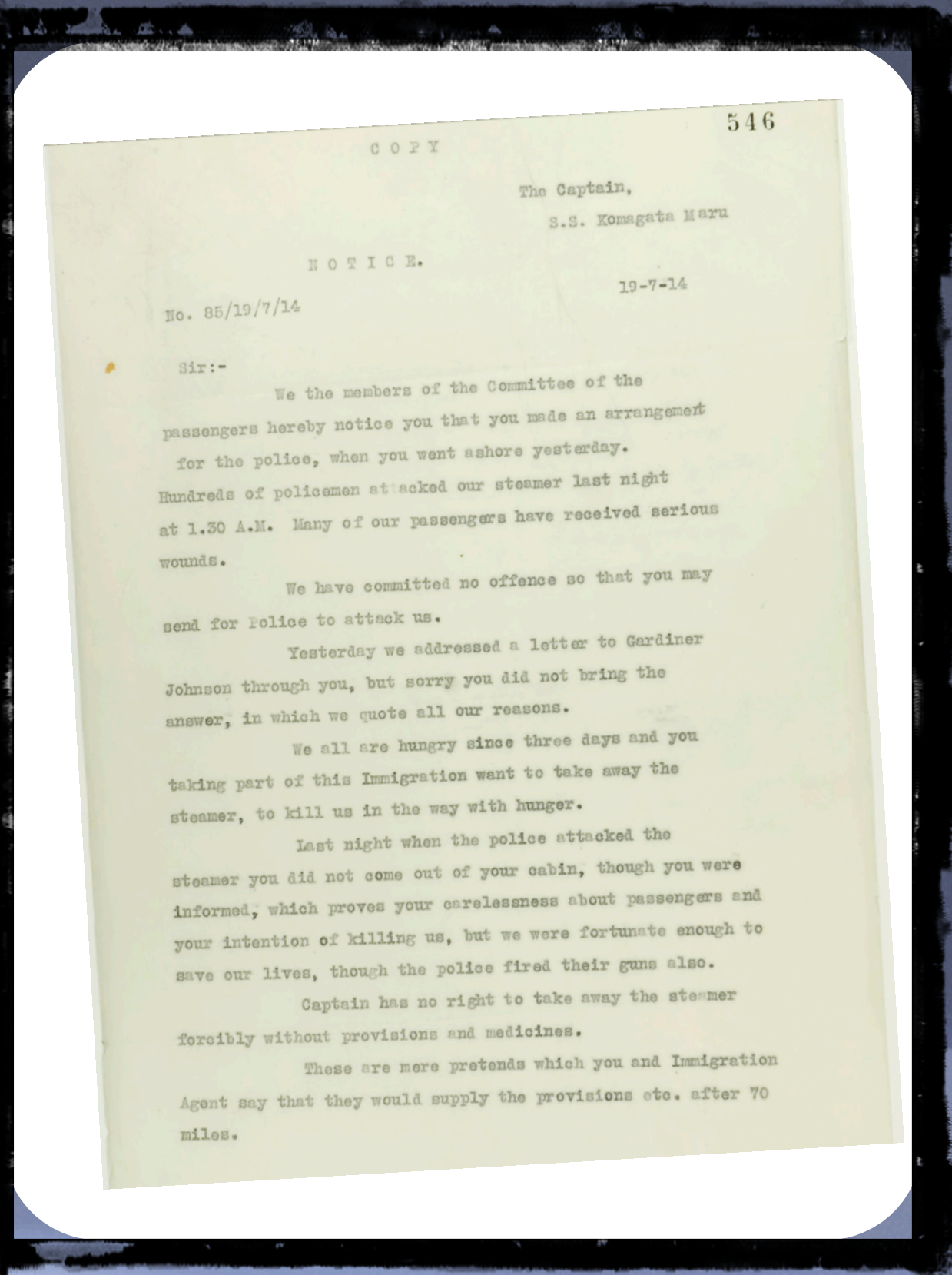
## Purpose

This cartoon was created as a reaction of the Komagata Maru. When the Komagata Maru docked on Canadian shores there was protest against it from white Canadian. This cartoon's purpose was to get Ottawa's attention or help in getting the Komagata Maru to leave. Moreover, it illustrates how white Canadian citizens reacted negatively to the Komagata Maru and how they tried to get rid of it. This photo shows more implicit bias due to it implying that Indians are breaking immigration laws and showing a picture of an angry Indian man.

Press to get back to first page



# Conditions on board



## Purpose

Before this letter was sent, the passengers of the ship were unhappy with the captain of ship. This is due to him letting police harass them and not doing anything about the lack of food and water on the ship. This led to passenger on the ship called "the committee of passengers" to send him a message telling him their complaints. It's about how the passengers are dissatisfied with the captain treatment of them by sending letter concerning police harassment and not having enough food and water. These passengers suffered due to the captain and Canadian government. This is by the Canadian government sending police to attack them at night and the captain allowing this to happen and being implied with being in cahoots with the Canadian police.

Press to get back to first page



# Resistance of government forces

19/17/14.  
Bhai(Brother) Balwant Singh.

Greeting through our Guru.

Dear Brother,

I have received your registered letter.

I am glad I received one letter in your handwriting.

Dear Brother what can I write about ourselves.

We have our troubles and we do not like to trouble you with our troubles, but we have no one to look after our troubles. Our minds are troubled day and night. We have troubles every day but we do not mind it is better for us to die.

Really we are in a very bad position. It will be alright if we win but if we lose it is better that we die, and thus save ourselves all this trouble. These tyrants do not let us sleep at night. I am writing of what took place last night.

First all this dishonest Gardner Johnson came and made a speech that I am sorry you are ordered to be sent back. We have all the provisions ready and it is advisable for you to go back quietly for it is no use for you to stay here any longer. It has been arranged to put the provisions on board outside the three mile limit. We informed him that the passengers are ready to go back but we want provisions to last us as far as Calcutta because we do not trust you that you will put the provisions at the three mile limit so we want them put on here.

We do not intend to get off at any place but are going right through to Calcutta but he informed us that we would be forcibly sent back by the Police and to take his advice and go back quietly. We answered him No, send us the provisions first. All this happened at 7.30 P.M. but what happened afterwards we never dreamed about. At 1 A.M. The Immigration

## Purpose

This is a letter was written after police came on Komagata Maru and attacked passengers. It is more specifically, a letter sent to Balwant Singh from Daljit Singh, most likely a passenger on the ship. The source describes in detail how British Columbia police came and tried to force the Indians away through threats. Additionally, this document is showing the inside on how the police came and tried to get rid of the Komagata Maru. It also shows the resistance of the Indians and how they much wanted to start a new life in Canada even though they were starving.

Press to get back to first page



# Message of Attack

mail to  
H.T. Stevens

545

2 Wa X 11.40 A.M. 207 Rush

Ottawa, Ont. July 19th. 14.

Malcolm R.J. Reid,  
Immigration Agent, Vancouver, B.C.

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 reach decks of Komagata Maru. Violent  
action 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 Express would then be feasible. You are  
authorized to deport by Express 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  
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 with  
out 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 44 against Master and assignees of charter and  
instruct them to take any available proceedings immediately.  
Keep me posted of every new development.

(SGD. W.D. SCOTT.

## Purpose

The document was sent after the police went on the Komagata Maru to Maloolm R.J Reid from W.D Scott in order to get their ship, Rainbow, to watch over the Komagata Maru. This letter shows us how the legal action taken by the government to enforce what they see as the law against the Komagata Maru. It shows how the Canadian government thought they were justified by saying that the Komagata Maru is breaking the Canadian law and therefore has to leave.

Press to get back to first page



# Events leading up to departure

Vancouver, B. C., July 20th 1914

MRJR/RO.                      Ottawa File No. 879545 Imm.

W. D. SCOTT, ESQ.,  
Superintendent of Immigration,  
Ottawa, Ont.

Sir:

I beg to confirm my night lettergram of the 18th instant, as follows:-

"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 Sealion. Provisions now being loaded. Will board the vessel at one a.m. Sunday morning and immediately steam is raised proceed to sea."

Enc.                      I also beg to enclose copy of a communication forwarded to the Japanese Consul.

I also wish to confirm my night lettergram of the 18th instant, as follows:-

"Following telegram sent His Royal Highness Governor General Ottawa, begins: We passengers of Komagata 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: Hongkong 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 land-

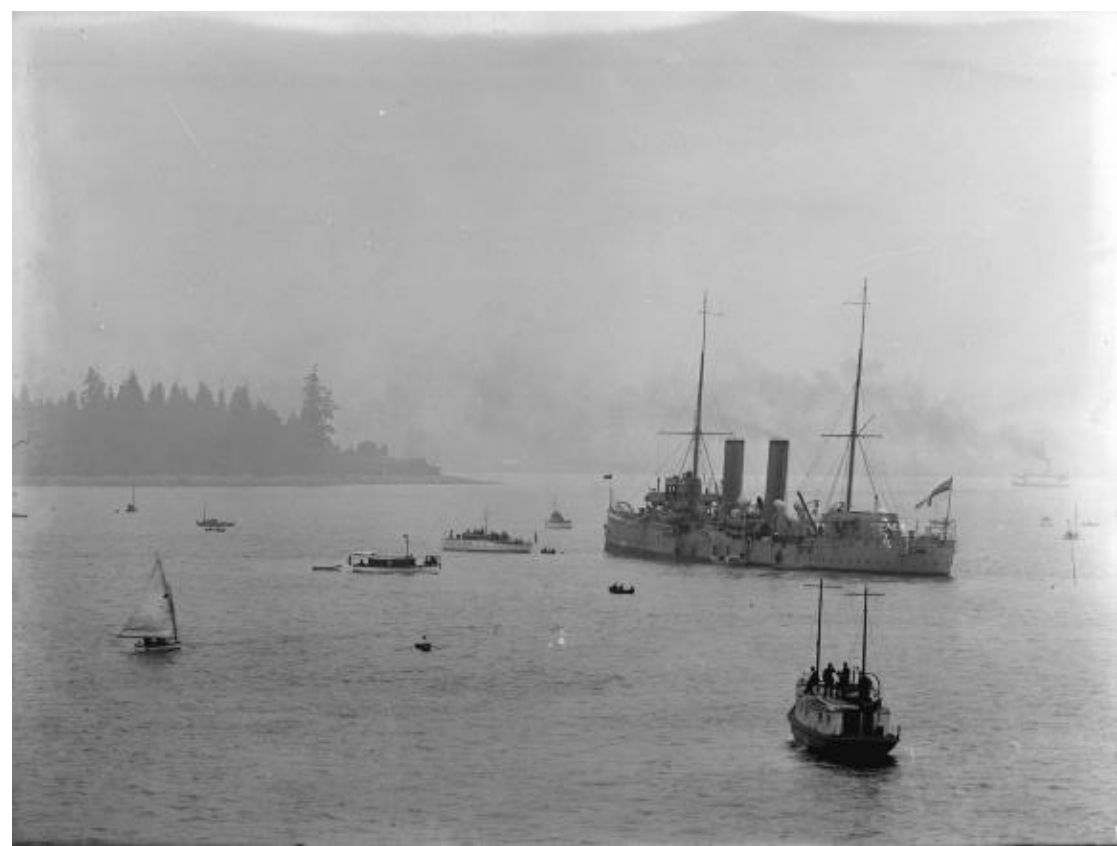
## Purpose

This document details the events spanning from the police coming on the Komagata Maru to Maloolm R.J. Reid fearing assassination from the Indian-Canadian citizens. It includes letters various letters combined into one document. These letter include a letter from the Komagata Maru listing reasons for why they should stayed in Canada, reports on movement of the Rainbow and attempts to know what types of weapon the passenger on the Komagata Maru have. This document shows the Indian pleading to be able to stay in Canada even though they have been treated terrible from the first day they came here.

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# The navy watching over Komagata Maru



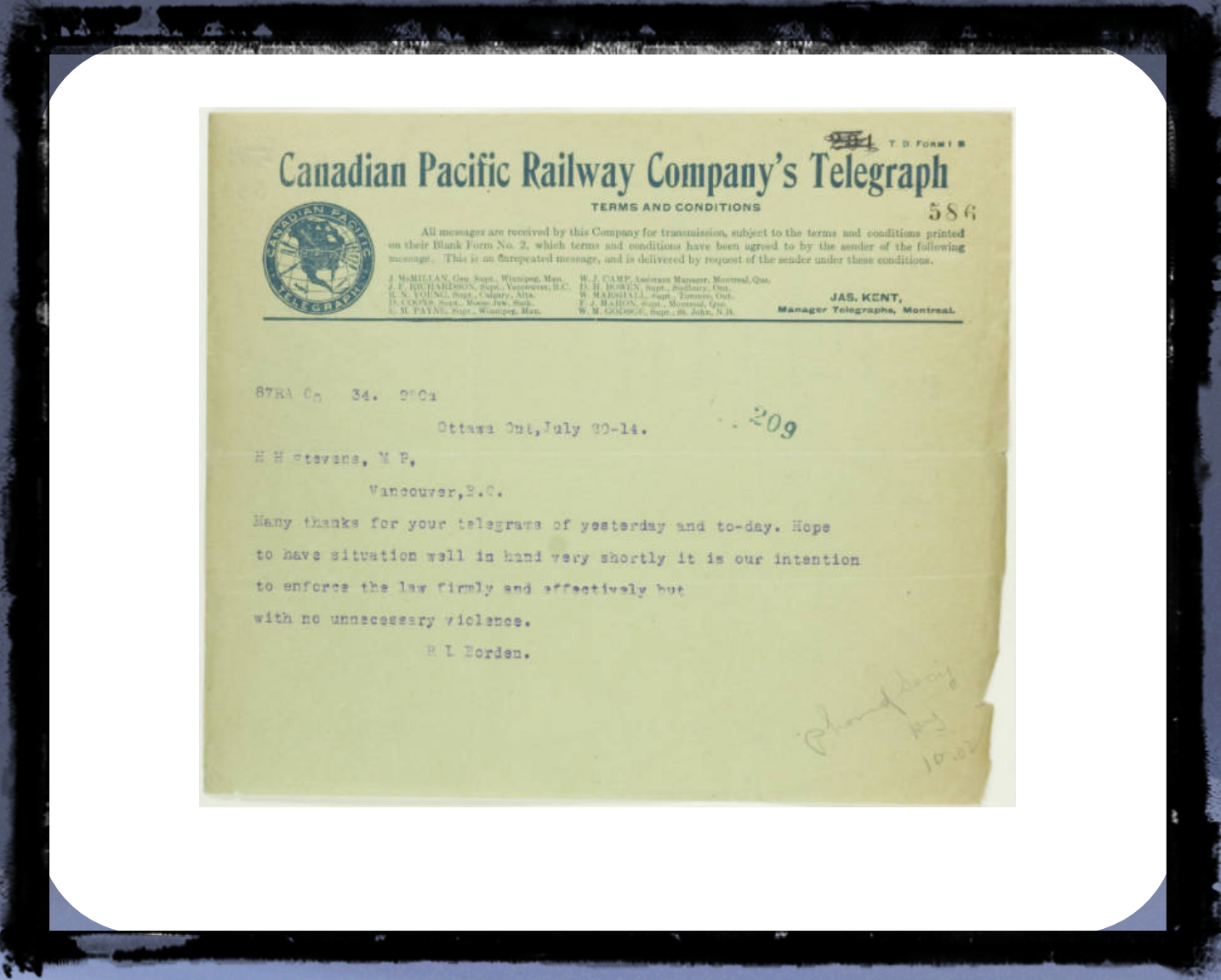
## Purpose

It is a photo of the H.M.S. Rainbow watching over the Komagata Maru at the B.C harbour. The photo tells us how B.C was starting to try to get rid of the Komagata Maru through their military.

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# The Prime Minister's response



## Purpose

This document is the response the Canadian prime minister had on the Komagata Maru that endorses all the violence from the Canadian government. He congratulates the effort taken and says that the law must be enforced. This telegram tells how the leader of Canada saw the Komagata Maru existence in the B.C harbour as breaking the law. For this document, this response shows an implicit bias due to the prime minister saying that they need to enforce the law however, without "violence" even though Canadian police harassed the passengers and sent military boats to deal with them.