

1937

Home Deptt.

Political

F.No. 28/26

1/26

Govt of India \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Dept \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Sec. \_\_\_\_\_

Prot. No.  
Serial

*Indexed*

Subject.

Application of Mr. T. R. Duncan Greenlee for the  
renewal of his passport to enable him to leave for England.

Request to the India office that the passport of Mr.  
Greenlee should be cancelled and impounded on his arrival  
in England on account of his undesirable activities in India.

Previous References.

7. 28/38/33-Poll

Later References.

7. 17/25/38-Poll  
7. 17/21/40-P.H.R. (E)

2

7. 28/26/37-Political

Home Dept.

Coll.

28/26/37 P.H.

*Indexed*

Application of Mr. T.B. Duncan Greenless for the renewal of his passport and question of preventing his return to India.

Letter from the Govt. of Madras No. 3/71-1/37, dated the 15th Feby. 1937.

*M. 20/38/37*

*1905*  
*7.20/38/37-P.H.*

The eventuality mentioned by the Madras Govt. was taken into consideration before our letter of the 16th June 1933 was issued. All that seems necessary is to renew the passport for those countries only which Greenless intends visiting and to take steps to impound and cancel it in England and prevent the grant to him of any further endorsements for India. The Madras Govt. may be informed accordingly and asked to let us know by telegram as soon as Greenless leaves India so that we may address the India Office in regard to the further necessary action. Draft submitted for approval. D.I.B. may see before issue.

*M.H.*  
*5/3*  
*Est 5/3*  
*Ans*

It is not really correct to say that the eventuality mentioned by the Madras Govt was taken into consideration when the orders of 1933 were issued. It was taken into consideration only in respect of a proposal for immediate cancellation. I think the Madras suggestion is sound. Will D.I.B please advise?

1905

*M.H.*  
*6/3*

*Mingins*  
*5/11/37*

*D.I.B*

*3*

*H.O. 46 No. 28/26/37 P.H. 07 6/2/37*

The kind's suggestion is very sound provided that Mr's forb. will agree to compound and cancel the passports when he presents the arrival in the UK. I think the India Office's views on this point should be obtained by cable as there are obvious objections to renewing the passports solely to find that Mr's forb. refuse to cancel it.

*Hamilton*  
10/2/37

H.D. (Miss Clifton)

Det 3 off No 22 / 20/2/37 17 MAR 1937

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AS far as I can see, the India Office know nothing about this man. It is, therefore, necessary to justify our proposal at a greater length than is possible in a telegram, and, I think, we shall have to write by Air Mail asking for a reply by telegram. Mr. Hamilton's suggestion is a valid one and I ~~am~~ agree that we should consult the India Office. I put up a draft on the file for Secretary's consideration.

*Hamilton*  
11. 3. 1937.

SECRETARY.

*D.S.*

*Best way since. Put up R.C. to me.*

*10/3*  
*12/3*

*M.F.O*  
*Put up*

*2/4*

*4*

*12/3/37*

D.O.No.F.23/26/37-Political.

Government of India.

Home Department.

New Delhi, the 16th March 1937.

My dear Peel,

I am desired to address you on the subject of the renewal of the passport of one Greenless. I enclose a note on this man written in 1933. We have no reason to revise our opinion of him. Greenless is in possession of a passport the validity of which expired in 1934, and has applied for renewal up to February 1939, stating that he wishes to return to England on a holiday, visiting various places ~~in Russia~~. We are anxious, if he leaves India, that he should not be allowed to return. One possible course would be to renew the passport only for a period sufficient to cover his return journey to England, and to ask His Majesty's Government not to renew the passport. We fear, if this is done, that Greenless will not leave India at all. A better course would be to renew the passport in accordance with the application, and to ask His Majesty's Government to take steps, when Greenless reaches England, to cancel and impound his passport and refuse a further passport. I write to ask whether His Majesty's Government are prepared to agree to this proposal. The Government of India would be grateful if they would do so. Could you please let us have a reply, if possible, by telegram.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-A.S.Handa.

R.T.Peel, Esquire, M.C., . . .

Secretary, Public and Judicial Department,

India Office, London.

5



CARRE

N O T E

Thomas Richard <sup>D</sup> Duncan Greenless, M.A., (Oxon), was born in S. Africa, of Scottish parents, in 1899. After a brilliant career at Oxford, he elected Archaeology as a profession, was for some time Assistant Curator at the Boston (U.S.A) Museum, and later proceeded to Egypt to work under Dr. G. Reisner on excavations near the Pyramids.

While at Oxford Greenless' interest in Oriental studies brought him into touch with Indian students at the University who induced him to take up the study of Theosophy. In February 1923 it was reported that one Allistair or Edward Richard Crowley, a notorious bad character and drug addict had attracted to him certain young Oxford Men, among them T. A. D. Greenless.

In December 1925, Greenless left his excavation work to meet at Port Said a vessel bearing European Theosophists proceeding to India to celebrate the Jubilee of the Theosophical Society. He was persuaded by his co-religionists to accompany them to India, and ~~xxxxx~~ sacrificing an archaeological career, he did so.

He landed in Madras and left for Madraspalle to take up work at the Theosophical High School and College, at which institution he became Headmaster in 1926.

In a letter dated 27.2.29 he wrote to Jawahar Lal Nehru that he was sending him copies of "An Phoblacht" (the organ of the Irish Republican Army which has since been prohibited from entry into India under the Sea Customs Act). He also wrote that he would be leaving for England in a few days, and on his arrival in London would look out for some good modern books on Ireland to send to Nehru.

He left for England on 13.3.29.

On 29.4.29 he wrote a letter to Jawahar Lal Nehru from St. Leonards-on-the-sea, Sussex, England, which showed that he was in touch with Peadar O'Donnell, editor of the

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"An Phoblacht", from whom he conveyed a special message of encouragement to J.L.Nehru and "Independent India".

On 23.8.29 he sailed from Southampton for Colombo. On his arrival at Rhanushkodi on 13.9.29, his luggage was searched and a large quantity of Communist and Irish revolutionary literature confiscated. His passport showed that since he had left India he had visited Norway, Sweden, Czechoslovakia and Egypt.

Returning to India by the same boat were Mrs. Alyda Jafar Ali and her step-daughter. The former is also known as Mat. Savitra Devi. She is an European, took an interest in Congress activities and was reputed to be of loose morals. Greenlees acquaintance with her was to continue on their return to India.

He next came prominently to notice for the part he took in a procession of salt satyagrahis at Madras on 13.4.30. As the only European present, Greenlees, who was dressed entirely in Khaddar, attracted considerable attention and was called upon for a speech. Complying, he declared he was in sympathy with the Civil Disobedience Movement, and that the day was a memorable one in that it was the 11th anniversary of the Jallianwallah Bagh crime committed by the British. His presence in the meeting was, he said, to apologise for that crime.

He left Madras for Jhansi in May 1930 and there stayed with Mrs. Jafar Ali. This visit was made with object of apply for the post of Headmaster of the MacDonald High School, Jhansi. He was apparently unsuccessful in this effort for he eventually accepted the Headmasterahip of the Balmukand Anglo-Vernacular High School, Gorakhpur but left when this school was reorganised as a Middle School and his salary reduced. In July 1931 he accepted the Headmasterahip of the City Anglo-Vernacular School, Allahabad.

It is noteworthy that in a testimonial granted him

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by Ajobhya Das, M.L.A., Bar-at-Law, President of the Balmukand A.V.School, Gorakhpur, in May 1931, Greenless was recommended to any institution "where the boys are to be brought up on nationalist lines and not much tied down by departmental rules".

For the first six months of his headmastership at Allahabad he attracted no attention but in January 1932 he was found taking particular interest in the proceedings against Yashpal and Mrs.Jafar Ali.

From observation and enquiry it was ascertained that he was not only connected with members of the revolutionary party but that he himself took an active part in corrupting the minds of youths and students by providing them with revolutionary and other forms of objectionable literature. In April 1932 secret information was received that ~~he~~ he was associated with R.S.Pandit and other Congress leaders in the drafting of provincial congress bulletins and the character of certain bulletins which came to notice at that time and on subsequent occasions left no room for doubt that the writer was an European. There was also reason to believe that he was concerned in the preparation and possibly also the circulation of objectionable literature in Gorakhpur. In May 1932, the Jasoda Devi Press, Allahabad was raided and several galleys of type set up and ready for printing were seized. Rough proofs showed that the type set up were intended for the printing of highly objectionable leaflets for circulation on Ghadr Day (May 30th) and other leaflets ~~for~~ of an objectionable character. The original typescript of these leaflets showed that they were typed apparently by the machine in the possession of Greenless and contained corrections made in Greenless' handwriting. As a result, Greenless was arrested at Mainital whether he had repaired to interview Government officials having obtained information apparently that he was not to be confirmed in his appointment in the U.A.V. High School, Allahabad. Greenless' house at



Allahabad was searched and the typewriter believed to have been used for preparing the typescript of the revolutionary leaflets was recovered together with certain other documents.

On 15.7.32 he was convicted under section 18 of the Press Act (XIII of 1931) read with section 63 of Ordinance II of 1931 and sentenced by the District Magistrate of Allahabad to six Months' R.I., together ~~with~~ with a fine of Rs.500/- or in default of payment, six weeks' further R.I.

After his release he was reported to be again engaged in objectionable revolutionary activities.

In March 1933 it was reported that he was an inmate of the Sabarnati Ashram, undergoing disciplinary training for work on behalf of the Harijans. He offered his services to Gandhi on the 25th January 1933 when he interviewed the latter in Poona, and was asked to go to the Ashram to see whether he would get on with the people there and the methods. If, after two or three months, he is accustomed to the life there, he will go wherever Gandhi sends him, otherwise he will eventually go back to Madras.

Latest information shows that he is again trying to obtain a post in the Madanpalle High School, Chittoor District.

In one of his letters dated 6.4.33, Greenless states "I had an interesting and instructive time in jail which I am now capitalising in the form of a book entitled "R.I". wherein I am very frank". Another book which Greenless contemplates <sup>publishing</sup> ~~using~~ is "The Science of the D.I.S."; and, according to him, this and several others are already well under way.

Letter from the Govt of Madras, No 8/71-2/27, dated 1st April 27.

No draft to be affy in sub to

Encl  
2/27/27.  
Encl  
A-1

Issue

*[Signature]*  
26/1/27

Secy (R)  
L.D

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

28/26/27

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10. 9

D.O.No.F.24/26/37-Political.

Government of India,  
Home Department.

New Delhi the 25th March, 1937.

My dear Hood,

Will you please refer to your letter No.1/71-1/37, dated the 15th February 1937, and your reminder of the 15th March 1937, regarding Greenless' application for renewal of his passport? I am desired to say that the Government of India agree with your suggestion but <sup>think</sup> that before the passport is renewed for the full period applied for it is desirable to ascertain whether His Majesty's Government will agree to cancel the passport when Greenless arrives in England. We have accordingly addressed the India Office by Air Mail, on the 16th March and have asked for a reply by Telegram.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/- A.S.Hands.

H. M. Hood, Esquire., C.I.E., I.C.S.,  
Secretary to the Government of Madras,  
Home Department.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

10. ~~10-11~~ H.D. No. 70/27  
7.20.43

1161.

Telegram R., No. 1254, dated 19th (recd. 20th) April 1937.  
From . . . . . Secretary of State for India, London.  
To . . . . . Governor-General (Home Department), Simla.

EXPRESS

Following for Maxwell from Peel.

Please refer to Hand's demi-official letter No. F.28/26/37-Political, dated March 16th 1937. Application of Greenless for renewal of passport. Foreign Office would not be prepared in this case to take action suggested namely to cancel and impound a passport only recently removed by Government of India in the absence of as (sic a) fresh cause of complaint against holder of passport since removal. Possibility has also been considered of asking Foreign Office to cancel British Empire endorsement on his passport so far as its validity for India is concerned after his arrival in this country. But it was felt that this also was open to objection mentioned above. Responsibility for action on these lines would rest with Secretary of State for India and might be difficult to defend if questioned in Parliament. We fear therefore that only course open to Government of India is to grant renewal of passport for a period covering only return journey to England.

SECRETARY AND DEPARTMENT

M.S.M.

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102  
Telegram from the S/S No 1252, d. 09. 4. 37  
R 20

The previous papers are in transit & are expected tomorrow. This will be necessary on receipt of the file. We shall have to inform Messrs who consulted us in the matter.

En  
294  
~~50~~

*[Signature]*  
207-137

A. V. S.

Remember to see that a receipt is

*[Signature]*  
2/1

28  
2  
A. S. Price  
375-137  
2. 21. 4. 37

11661

Telegram R. No. 18. Dated [ & read ] 20th April 1937.  
From .....Resonabili, Cetaosmund.  
To.....Home Department, Simla.

EXPRESS.

Reference Hard's semi-official letter of March 15th.  
Passport application of Greenless. Please telegraph  
reply.

-----  
( SECRETARY AND DEPARTMENT.)

K.S.

(Refer to note on p. 10 ante)

This is resubmitted with the previous papers to which a telegraphic reminder per Maora has been added.

A draft telegram to Madras is submitted for approval. D.D. may see after issue. E.A. Dept. may be asked to issue of them, after

E.A.  
21/4

Ans

1. The Secy of State at least will agree to the proposed draft. There is also to Dept. Secy - in the matter. E.A. Dept. should be asked to issue the telegram.

MTC  
2/19

E.A. Dept

No. 147-0/07.

No. 10 no. 22826/33, P. 4 02216/33

11/6  
2/4

Conf.

(7) <sup>14</sup>  
P. H. H. H.

The E.A. Dept. was not consulted in the decision on this case, and it does not appear to be in order that they should merely issue the orders, which incidentally are demi-official. We may suggest that the Home Dept. should deal with the case and refer the question of procedure to us later, when earlier papers on the subject not immediately available can be examined.

d.s.  
24/4/37

W.S.  
Review of file

Send to case  
24/4/37  
Issued  
copy to file  
info

In reply to Mr Stephenson we may issue this draft as a special case in view of the urgency of the matter. We cannot however be responsible for the issue of all drafts dealing with Passport matters until and unless it is finally decided that Ex. Affairs is to deal with the subject of issue of Passports entirely. Home Dept may should continue as before to deal with matters with which they have in the past been dealing.

B. Hailley

16

27-4-37

27/4



16-15

G (H) B  
27/4/37

1095.

Telegram B No.1095, dated 27th April 1937.

From.....Foreign, Sials.

To .....Resonabili, Gotezmond.

Inst-official. Reference correspondence ending your telegram No.10 dated 20th April. Greenless. Secretary of State sees difficulties in cancelling and impounding passport if renewed in absence of fresh cause of complaint. Government of India consider therefore that only alternative course is to grant renewal of passport for period covering only journey to England. Action may be taken accordingly. Government of India would be glad to be informed in due course of action taken and date and name of vessel by which Greenless proposes to leave India if he decides to do so, so that Secretary of State may be informed.

2. In view of the above it is not proposed to send any reply to your aforesaid letter E.S. 71/1/37 dated 15th February.

Copy 1-2.

(G.H., F.S. D.S.F. A.D.S.F.)

M.S.

17

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Page 13 and 14

(From page 15 ante).

CONFIDENTIAL.

These papers may now be returned to the Home Dept.  
Any information about Greenlee's departure received in  
this Department from the Madras Govt. will be passed  
on to that Department.

*Ad*  
26.4.37.

*Ad*  
28/4/37.

*P. Hainey*  
29-4-37

*Home Dept.*

*LA Dept. 26/4/37 457-6/37 9/30.4.37*

*For info*

*En 30/4*

*1/11/37*

*APR 30 1937*

*10  
9/5*

Strictly Confidential.

Home Department.

D.O. No. S/3-5/17. Dated the 5th May 1939.

Dear Mr. Maxwell,

Greenless, Mr. F.R.E. - Application for renewal of passport - Reference correspondence ending with the Government of India's telegram No.1005, dated 27th April 1939.

*P. K. Saha*

I am to say that the Government have ascertained that Greenless has changed his mind and does not propose to go to England at present. His passport has been returned and he is being asked to re-new his application when a definite journey is contemplated.

Yours sincerely,

*W. B. S. Saha*  
Under Secretary and  
Assistant Secretary.

The Hon'ble Mr. R.M. Maxwell, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S.,  
Secretary to the Government of India,  
Home Department, Bisle.

(From proposed)

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Seen and returned with thanks.

W. Stammers  
1876

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MAR 20 1887

21/5/87

218-6 to 22/24/29. 5 of 20717 1087

(from 4 18 21/5)

Draft 2/0 letter to the India Office submitted.

21/5/87  
Er 2/6  
21/5/87

It would be as well to / on 1876.  
Draft for approval

W. Stammers  
21/5/87

DS

W. Stammers  
28/5/87

21/5



Record 28. 19. 1937  
Confidential. S

G.O.No.F.26/26/37-Political.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.  
Home Department.

Dated the 3rd June 1937.

My dear Peel,

I am desired to refer to the correspondence ending with your telegram No.1254, dated the 19th April 1937, regarding Mr. T.R.D.Greenless' application for the renewal of his passport; and to say that we have been informed by the Madras Government that Greenless has changed his mind and does not propose to go to England at present. The Provincial Government have returned his passport to him and have asked him to apply again for renewal when he decides definitely to leave India.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/- A.S.Hands.

To

R.T.Peel, Esq., M.C.,

Secretary,

Public and Judicial Department,

India Office.

BCH.  
728/26/23/84