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Telegram P. No. 499, dated Simla, the 9th April 1919.

From—The Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department,

To—The Private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy, Viceroy's Camp.

Clear the line.—On the question of Gandhi's entering Delhi and the Punjab—Vincent has been in telegraphic communication with O'Dwyer and Barron to-day and has also consulted Hailey. On the evening of the 8th instant Gandhi is reported to have left Bombay for Delhi. In the opinion of O'Dwyer the situation is now serious and it is advisable that Gandhi should under Regulation III of 1818 be deported to Burma. In 1907 similar deportation of Lajpat Rai was very effective. O'Dwyer thinks that the prosecution of Gandhi in Bombay under Press Act would be playing into his hands. Leading men in Lahore including many of Congress Party have been consulted by O'Dwyer and they think that the position is very serious and that matters have now passed out of their control. O'Dwyer considers that the Government of India should take action immediately. Barron considers it very dangerous at present to allow Gandhi into Delhi as it is probable that he would break the law and would have to be arrested and tried for an offence there. This would create disturbance and probably mean recurrence of recent rioting. Barron is therefore issuing an order prohibiting Gandhi from entering Delhi Province. The Government of the Punjab have already prohibited Gandhi from entering their province and propose if he disobeys order as he will probably do *en route* from Bombay to Delhi to arrest him. Vincent at any rate at present does not agree with O'Dwyer as to expediency of deportation as sympathy of many who do not now approve Gandhi's conduct would be alienated by such action. In Egypt recent doings show how deportation might cause general conflagration. After consulting Sir James Meeson and Sir George Lowndes the Home Member has telegraphed to the Punjab, and the United Provinces Governments and the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, sanctioning the issue by them of an order under Rule 3 (b) Defence of India (Consolidation) Rules directing Gandhi to remain in Bombay Presidency and informing them that it will be their duty to use all reasonable means to enforce this order. All other local Governments have been informed of this and the Government of Bombay have been informed that they may, if they think it necessary, issue further order of restriction after Gandhi's return to that Presidency but that Government of India would prefer his prosecution under Press Act if that can be expedited. The Government of the Punjab and the Chief Commissioner of Delhi have been requested to avoid so far as possible all use of force to Gandhi and to treat him with all consideration. He is to be informed that if his visit to Delhi is not for inaugurating a campaign to break the law and if he will give an undertaking not to promote any such violation, Government of India will reconsider question of allowing him to enter Delhi later but that his going there under present circumstances would cause disturbance and cannot be permitted and that the Government of India trust therefore that he will carry out orders now issued and return to Bombay quietly. Vincent considers that it will be impossible for him to go to Dehra on 12th instant unless and until the situation improves.

A draft letter forwarding the order to the Governments of United Provinces, Punjab and the Chief Commissioner of Delhi is put up. Fair copies are placed below for signature.

A. L.—9-4-19.

H. D. CRAIK,—9-4-19.

J. H. DuBOULAY,—9-4-19.

LETTER TO THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED PROVINCES, NO. 504, DATED THE 10TH APRIL 1919.

LETTER TO THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB, NO. 505, DATED THE 10TH APRIL 1919.

LETTER TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, DELHI, NO. 506, DATED THE 10TH APRIL 1919.

Please see His Excellency's wire of yesterday. On thinking the matter over I incline to the view that we might ask local Governments to get responsible associations to use their influence publicly by manifestos or meetings to discourage this movement of Satyagraha. The danger of it has been shown at Delhi and are very patent and those who have a stake in the country should be willing to move. Annie Besant and the 'Bengali' have done similarly.

W. H. VINCENT,—9-4-19.

Please issue attached wire.

J. H. DuBOULAY,—9-4-19.

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