W/2/Mar

Marine (1899) Department.

G.O., No. 531/ Marine

DATED 13 June 1899.

R

Plague [Despatch Abstract.]

Govt of India requested by wire to state if Venice Convention Regulations are to be imposed against Penang

[M.-6 / 500—7-1-99.]

Indexed.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
983	Mad	3-5-99					
327	Mad	2-5-98					
7156	Mad	22-8-97					
601	„	6-7-97					
142	„	20-2-97					

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
-	335	Educa:	5-7-99				

Note Abstract only to be sent to Madras for Tables & Indices 17/6/99

No 531 (Mard) 13 June 99

Marine Dept

B

C. Nos 701. 729 to 730. 731.

Ordered that the following telegram be despatched to the Govt. of India

From Madras Marine
To. Home - Simla

Please wire if Venice Convention Regulations are to be imposed against Penang.

Wi. Despd: 13/6/99

R.S.

13.6.99

Fair copy

Was there not another place also? Bushire? J.C.

Ch

It does not seem necessary to quarantine Bushire at present - There have been only 2 cases of plague - and the traffic is wholly with Bombay - Moreover

BACK PAPERS.

No orders have been passed by Govt. in regard to Bushire!

A.S.

Nil

Plague

Marine (1899) Department.

CURRENT No. 701

Urgent

Telegram

H.E. the Governor

For orders

whether quarantine should be imposed on arrivals from Penang. The Govt. of India might be asked by telegraph as Madras should not perhaps take isolated action. Bombay and Bengal are equally concerned. The voyage from Penang to Madras is believed to take 11 days †

A.S.

J Bell
2.6.99

From The Govt of India

No.

† Probably via Ceylon, but not direct. A.E.H.

Dated 31 May 99

Received
Registered 1 June 99

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT

Reporting three fatal Cases of Plague in Penang

I think we should, in the first instance, make up our own minds as to whether Quarantine should be imposed. The Chairman Madras M.C. should be consulted by Telegraph.

H.E. 2.6.99. R 3/6.

Gr. No. 2674 E.D. 4 June 99

A.E.H.

Telegram (urgent) 3.6.99

From Madras Marine

To Chairman - Madras M.C.

Three fatal cases plague reported

[P. W. 29. / 1,000—5-9-98.]

reported from Penang. Do you advise quarantine against Straits Settlements.

C. S.

M 4-6-11

Desp'd 4 June 99

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	D
	n		
237 Mis		11-3-98.	

Sanitary Reports

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Urgent

INDIAN TELEGRAPHS. Monthly Number. } 16

Code Class. } DS				From (Office) Simla	
To (Office) Ootacamund				Official Instructions. } Dfd	
Words. 18/7.	Day. 31.	Hour. 19.	Minute. 10		
To (Person) Madras marine oty				From (Person) Home	

number 1785-88 sanitary three fatal cases plague reported from Penang

32 Word Form.

F.C.I.

Recd. from LN. At Hrs. Mts. by

Sent to LN. At Hrs. Mts. by

Telegraph Master.

OOTACAMUND 1-6-99

J & P—No. 236 T—13 10 98—500000

Telegraph

No 701

Department

Mr Ashw

Do you know the length of voyage between Penang & Madras?

M 6.1

The P & O steamer takes 6 days between Colombo and Penang. The B. I. steamer from Madras is believed to take 11 days,

500—14-8-97.

but I can get no auth
information on the la

R.S.
7 June 99

Telegram

Marine (1899) Department.

CURRENT No. 729.

Order

From The President
Municipal Commission
Madras

No.

Dated 5-6-99
Received 5-6-99
Enclosures
Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Informing that the quarantine is not recommended provided the Strait Settlements are put under the same rules as other infected ports.

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.

INDIAN TELEGRAPHS Monthly Number. 379

Code Class. Xp

To (Office) Ootacamund From (Office) Madras

Words 32 Day 5 Hour 13 Minute 10 Official Instructions. urgt

To (Person) Madras Marine From (Person) The ag. President munpl. Comn

Quarantine not recommended provided the strait settlements are put under the same rules as other infected ports and the passport system applied.

32 Word Form. F. C. I.

OOTACAMUND 5-6-99

Recd. from I.N. At Hrs. Mts. on

Sent to N. At Hrs. Mts. on

Ego
Telegraph Master.

U G P- No. 201 T—17 9 97 — 00. 400.

BAC

No.

Special

Marine DEPARTMENT.

READ the following :—

Telegram from the President, Madras Municipal Commission, dated 5th June 1899.

Circulated to

H.E. the Governor

FOR ORDERS

Received from H.E.
will L. & M. please
note on this matter.
MA 6.6.99

Submitted with reference to His Excellency's note dated 3rd June 1899.

2. The President, Municipal Commission, does not apparently understand the effect of the Marine Quarantine Regulations. He says that "Quarantine is "not recommended, provided "the Straits Settlements are "put under the same rules as "other infected ports and the "passport system applied".

3 If these Settlements are put under the same rules as other infected ports, as he distinctly recommends, it can only be done by applying to them the "Regulations for the Inspection

P. W. 43.
1,000-28-2-99.

H2 6/6

Inspection of Inward-bound vessels under the Epidemic Diseases Act 1897". Quarantine will then become necessary in the Cases prescribed by the Regulations, but not otherwise; and the Passport System will *ipso facto* come into effect under Regulation* 20.

Vide page 46 of the Pamphlet.

* Flag Q.

4. The answer of the President of the Municipal Commission would thus seem to be in the affirmative

Flag P.

R.S. In G.O. No 237 of 11.3.98 we have enforced quarantine regulations on arrivals from Hong Kong at the request of the Govt. of India. It seems necessary to do the same with Penang.

L Bell
6.6.98

NOTE FOR THE ~~Secretary~~ H.M.

It is the Government of India which receives in the first place intimation of plague in other Countries & which gives to other Governments similar intimation of plague in India under the Venice Convention. In its telegram printed in G.O. No 142 Marine dated 20-2-97, the Govt of India said — "Govt of India consider it ~~best~~ will be best that they should continue to issue Regulations affecting sea borne trade and that local Govts should not issue such regulations under Epidemic Diseases Act"

2 In the case of Calcutta, Jedda, Hongkong &c, the Govt of India took the initiative in ordering the enforcement of the quarantine Regulations & may do the same in the case of Penang. If the matter is considered urgent, a reference may be made to Govt of India, as its previous sanction seems necessary to put in force the Plague Regulations. It is not known

known whether the 3 cases reported from Penang are imported or indigenous. Under Section II, Chapter II of the Venice Convention "no locality is to be deemed infected merely on account of the importation into it of a few cases of plague which have led to no diffusion of the malady."

8/6/99

It would seem that if action is to be taken against ships from Penang, a reference to the Govt of India sh^d first be made.

10. vi. 99

This seems clearly the correct course.

12.6.99

Transferred to Marine with U.O. 28 / 13.6.99 reference to H.M's note.

13. vi. 99

Urgent Telegram

Marine (1899) Department.

CURRENT No. 730

From The Govt of India

No. 1856

Dated 7-6-99

Received 7

Registered 7

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Informing that Penang is free from Plague since 29 May.

[P. W. 29. 2,000—15-39-5.]

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Code Class. 3 D S Surgn

INDIAN TELEGRAPHS. Monthly Number. 522

To (Office) Ootacamund

From (Office) Simla

Words.	Day.	Hour.	Minute.	Official Instructions.	
28/14	7.	14.	20		Defd

To (Person) Madras.
17 Marine

From (Person) Home

number 1856 sanitary continuation telegram* 1785 31st may X since 29th may penang free from plague X total cases six five of which fatal

32 Word Form.

F.C.I.

Recd. from LN.
At Hrs. Mts. by

Sent to LN.
At Hrs. Mts. by

Telegraph Master.

O G P—No. 2 T 17 9 97—2000000.

OOTACAMUND 7-6-99

*: Put up with cce 729
sent to H.D. on 6-6-99.

Telegram

[illegible]rantine (1899) Department.

CURRENT No. 731.

~~The Hon'ble Mr A T Arundel C.S.I.~~ From The Govt of India

~~H.E.~~ The Governor

No. 1867

Submitted for orders with reference to C No 729 now in circulation

8.6.99

Dated 7-6-99

Received } 8-6-99

Registered

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Informing about four more Cases of Plague at Penang

Seen. Please circulate to the Hon. Mr. Arundel.

A.G.H. 8.6.99

Seen. A.T.A. 9.6.99.

[P. W. 28. / 2,000—15-30-9.]

H.G. 8/6. R 9/6. A.M. 9/6. R 9/6

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Code Class. SS **INDIAN TELEGRAPHS.** Monthly Number. 564

To (Office) ootacamund From (Office) Simla

Words. 24/11 Day. 7 Hour. 19 Minute. 15 Official Instructions. Sfd

To (Person) madras marine deptt

From (Person) Home

number 1867 sanitary ~~[illegible]~~ continuation my telegram 1856 7th June four more cases plague have occured at penang

SC

Recd. from LN. At Hrs. Mts. by

Sent to LN. At Hrs. Mts. by

Telegraph Master.

32 Word Form.

F. C. I.

G C P—No. 2 T 17 9 97—2000000.

OOTACAMUND 8-6-99

Telegram 1

Marine (1899) Department.

CURRENT No. 732

~~H.E. the Governor~~

H.M.
H. 10 vi 99

For orders
as to whether the Venice Sanitary Regulations should be imposed against Bushire. The case is similar to that of Penang, already before His Excellency.

On former occasions the Govt. of India decided as to the imposition of quarantine – vide G.O. 837 Marine of 11 March 99 as regards Hongkong and G.O. 243 Marine of 14 Mar 99 as regards the Hedjaz littoral.

In the present case and in that of Penang no instructions have been issued, from which it is inferred that the matter is left to the discretion of the Madras Govt.

C.S.

W Bell
9.6.99

The papers about Penang are with Local out

From The Govt of India

× Since been ordered R.S. 23 June 99

No. 1877

× Flag Z
o Flag P.

Dated 7 June 99.

Received }
Registered } 8-6-99

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Communicating report from the Political Resident Persian Gulf about two cases of Plague and two suspicious deaths in Bushire.

go to the same Depart.?

A.E.H.
9.6.99

[P. W. 29. / 2,000—15-89-9.] Municipal. There had better go

H.E. 9/6 R.W. 6.

P.T.O.

Urgent

C Nos. 730. 731. 732

No. 294 E.dy 10 June 99

Transferred to the Local and Municipal Department.

Secretary to Govt.

N.L.

I.

The L & M Dept. with notes in original

See note in L & M ~~[illegible]~~

NA 12.6.99

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Code Class. 58 **INDIAN TELEGRAPHS.** Monthly Number. 568

To (Office) Ootacamund From (Office) Simla

Words.	Day.	Hour.	Minute.	Official Instructions.
26/4	7	19	19	[illegible]

To (Person) Madras.. Marine Deptt

From (Person) Home

number 1877 sanitary political resident persian gulf reports occurrence in bushire of two cases plague and two suspicious deaths

32 Word Form.

F.C.I.

Recd. from LN. At Hrs. Mts. by

Sent to LN. At Hrs. Mts. by

Telegraph Master.

G G P—No. 1 T 17 9 97—2000000.

OOTACAMUND 8-6-99

M

C. No 701

After all the delay that has taken place, these papers now come back to the Marine from the L & M. Dept with the identical suggestion put before His Excellency by their Dept in the first note written on the 2d. Encl. Flag A.

I respectfully submit that the L & M Dept are wrong as to the grounds on which they base their recommendation. They assume that the Madras Govt has no power to ~~impose~~ ~~go~~ bring the Venice Regulations into effect, relying on a ruling× of the Govt of India which refers to commodities and not to passengers. The Marine Dept based its recommendation on the ground that it was not advisable for Madras to take isolated action in a case where all India was equally affected; but without

---

× Flag B.

Marine Department

he following :—

surrendering the right of this Govt. to do so, if necessary

And this leads to the general question raised in the notes flagged D.

There seems no reason to assume that the Marine Dept. is not in a position to advise Govt. on Marine matters —

R. S.
13 June 99

Wire to India for rules, & write a note for orders on the general question

13.6.99

Marine Department.

Read the following :—

Procedure in regard to Plague.

Circulated to
H. E. the Governor ✓ again 23/6
The Hon'ble Mr Arundel C.S.I.

× C. Nos. 701, 729, 730, 731 & 732

FOR ORDERS

With reference to the accompanying office notes × which have arisen in connection with the question of imposing the Venice Sanitary Regulations against an infected foreign port, the Secretary begs to request, for future guidance, definite instructions in regard to the procedure to be adopted in similar cases.

2. On receipt of India's telegram dated 3Ist May 1899, a note for His Excellency was written in the Marine Department asking for orders as to ~~xxx~~ whether the Venice Sanitary Regulations should be imposed on arrivals from Penang. It was suggested that the Government of India might be referred to in the matter, as it was not desirable that Madras should take isolated action, Bombay and Bengal being equally concerned. This paper and subsequent telegrams on the same subject were made over by the Honourable Mr. Arundel to the Local and Municipal Department to be noted on. A note has accordingly been written

Flag A.

I should myself say that in a question of quarantine for plague, the Depts. dealing with Marine and Plague should both have their say. But, I do not profess to be an authority on office routine. The Hon. Member's view on the subject would be accepted by me.

But, quarantine is a matter of urgency. The health and lives of people may be jeopardized by delay. The question whether quarantine should be imposed against Penang was raised on the 2nd June. It is not settled yet, the 15th June.

Flag C

I send the file to the Depts. [illegible]
Arundel

[P. W. 43. 1,000—28-2-19.]

HE 13/6. R 15/6. Hon(?) 15/6. R 17/6. HE again 23/6. R 27/6.

written in that Department which has reached the Marine Department 13 days after the date of the first telegram. It contains a recommendation to the same effect as that made in the Marine Department in the first instance, eleven days earlier, but based, it is submitted, on wrong grounds. It is assumed in the Local and Municipal Department note that the prior sanction of the Government of India is essential to bring into force the Regulations under the Venice Sanitary Convention. It is submitted that this is a wrong assumption. It is based on a special ruling of the Government of India which refers to commodities and not to passengers. It was issued with special reference to the importation of "rags, used apparel and bedding, waste paper and used gunny bags" from infected ports. There is nothing in the instruction of the Government of India which would lead to the inference that the general powers of the Local Government under Act III of 1897, which have been specially conferred by notification under the law, have been wholly withdrawn by the executive order in question. It is, therefore, submitted that the Local Government still has the power thus conferred to impose the Venice Sanitary Regulations against an infected port, without reference to the Government of India, if it sees any necessity for so doing, though it may not be desirable on administrative grounds that isolated action should be taken by the

Arundel on the 6th June, the day following the receipt of a reply to our reference to the M.B. Madras. Mr. Arundel at once sent the papers into L. & M. The note of that Dept. is dated 10.6.99. It took therefore, four days, in a matter of urgency, to draw up that Note. Such delays are fatal to prompt action, and may lead to disastrous consequences. Placed as our offices here are, under the same roof, conference between departments could be and should be carried out, by personal interchange of views, — which should occupy a few minutes.

Flag B

A.E.H.

~~[illegible]~~

A

I read the law and the Regulations in this sense, and I think this Note at A puts the right interpretation upon the Ex. order of the Govt. of India referred to in the L. M. Note of 10.6.99. It would be for us to decide in each particular case whether independent action should or should not be taken. In this particular case, as Penang is nearer to Madras & Madras ports, than it is to Bombay or Calcutta, and, as moreover, we have considerable passenger traffic with Penang, — I should have been disposed to take independent action. But, we had better now await a reply from India to our telegram of 13.6.99.

A.E.H
15.6.99

the Government of one Presidency in cases where other Local Governments are equally concerned.

3. The practice hitherto followed in plague matters has been for the Marine Department to advise the Government on all questions as affecting shipping, the functions of the Local and Municipal Department being confined to inland arrangements.

4. Orders are respectfully requested as to whether that arrangement is to continue, and if not, what modification is to be made.

5. It may be added that a telegram has this day been sent to the Government of India enquiring whether the Venice Sanitary Regulations are to be imposed against Penang.

13.6.99
M.

Note
Regulations since imposed against Penang
R.S. 22 June 99

5312 [illegible]
13.6.99 just below

R.S.

To L. & M. for a further note on the point raised & an explan. of the delay. I don't know whether the former reference + linked file was marked "Urgent" or "Very Urgent". The present file is marked neither on the ~~that~~ cover. It should however be treated as "Urgent" by L & M.

R.A. 16.6.99

Note
The Govt. of India has, in a telegram received today, replied that no cases of plague have been reported from Penang since the 3rd Inst., and that it does not think that the Venice Regulations should be imposed unless more cases occur.

R.S.

15.6.99

Recd from Marine and [illegible]
19-6-99.

No 531 March 13.6.99
4 paper.
linked with
No 294 B of 10.6.99

I think ~~the~~ difficulty & delay will be avoided if Marine will send its note or draft G.O. to Plague in L & M. for c.c. The file would be sent to me only in special & probably rare cases. For the rest I agree with H.E.

AH 19.6.99.

A.S.H 19.6.99

To the Marine Depart. for remarks.

GOW
20.6.99

30
20.6.99.

To H.M.

I understand that most of the References regarding Plague in this Depart. are in Madras. If the Marine Depart. here is fully equipped for dealing instantly with all plague matters concerning it, the procedure proposed ~~[illegible]~~ may be adopted.

In other cases. (i.e. those not emergent) the drafts or notes sh^d be sent to L. & M. Depart for c.c.

GOW
21.6.99

The Marine Department has no objection to the Course proposed, provided that, in cases of emergency, it may issue orders by telegram before reference to the Local and Municipal Department. If the latter Department has to make references to Madras, the Marine Department which is fully equipped at Ootacamund for dealing instantly with all plague matters concerning it, will be seriously hampered.

M 21.6.99

I have no objection

AH 27.6.99.

A.S.H 27.6.99

To Marine Depart. U.O.

GOW
23.6.

36
23.6.99

Rec. Dept. 21/6 R. 23/6. Iss. 23/6. 23/6.

The L & M Deptt. U.O.

L. & M.
500—4-3-99.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

NOTE FOR THE Secretary

The view taken by the Marine Dept. at A seems to be correct.

As to delay it is respectfully submitted that the file was received into the office on the 6th. As papers relating to previous plague cases in Penang were at Madras, the file was sent to the Madras office by the post of the 7th. It returned from Madras on the 9th evening & was submitted to the Secy immediately.

On receipt of the ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ telegram from the Govt. of India pasted below, it has been ordered in Marine Dept. G.O. No. 540 of 16th instant that quarantine regulations under the Venice Sanitary Convention should be imposed at all ports of

this Presidency against
arrivals from Penang.

"Telegram of 15th June

Sixteen cases, fourteen deaths, plague, have occurred Penang between 3rd & 13th instant. Venice Convention Regulations should be enforced against Penang. To. H. In."

M
19.6.99 The Govt. of India in its telegram in question said that they considered it best that they should continue to issue Regulations affecting "sea borne trade." Prima facie the words do not seem to include passenger traffic. but it might be desirable in view of a similar question arising again to make a reference to Govt. of India on the subject.

The question regarding the imposition of quarantine against Penang is already settled.

As regards the delay. Assuming the necessity of a reference to Madras. there was no avoidable delay. [illegible]
19.6.99

M [illegible] 21/6 [illegible] 14.23/6. 22/6.

The L & M Deptt. N.O.

M

The H.M's note of 19.6.99 is sent by the L & M, to the Marine Dept. for remarks. It is submitted that if delay is to be avoided the Marine Dept. papers should go to H.M's direct and not through the L & M Dept. H.E. lays great stress on the avoidance of delay. He remarks that "quarantine is a matter of urgency. The health & lives of people may be jeopardized by delay". In the present case, the L & M Dept. could not prepare a note without sending the file to Madras, and even then a note which the office now admits to have been incorrect was sent up. The Marine Dept. on the other hand is fully equipped to deal with all matters at Ootacamund. Orders regarding quarantine have frequently to be sent by wire, even before H.M's have an opportunity of noting. [illegible] in future, nothing can be done except through the L & M Dept., the Marine Dept will be much hampered in the performance of its duty. It would be better to relieve it altogether of Plague work and let the Dept specially organized for the purpose take it over.

21 June 99.

I think the [illegible] that the [illegible] the time come [illegible] affecting the hospital provided [illegible] in Cents [illegible] be kept [illegible] under [illegible] before reference to L & M [illegible] the latter Dept has to make [illegible] wharves, [illegible] which [illegible] dealing with all Plague matters [illegible]

[illegible] delay.

19.6.99

Cor. Dept. 21/6. [illegible] 23/6. H.E. 23/6. 27/6.

Chos 701-729-730-731-732

M

Submitted that the latest notes on this matter should be circulated to H. E. for information.

23 June 99

23-6