All previous Proceedings bearing on this case have been marked on this Collection.

1903.4

Receipt and Iusse Diaries marked.

Initials of Markers.

45
29/3/04

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

FINANCE AND COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

The Property of the Department of Commerce & Industry GOVT. OF INDIA

SEPARATE REVENUE.

Proceedings, February, Nos. 74/77

Illicit import by Ghulam Muhi-ud-din Khan a trade agent of the Amir of Afghanistan of 10 seers of Afghan Opium as a sample for sale in India

Made as Stat. of Rev.
(supplemental rule)

Previous Proceedings.					Later Proceedings.				
A, B or C.	Classification.	Month.	Year.	Nos.	A, B or C.	Classification.	Month.	Year.	Nos.
A	Sep Rev	Feby	95	103/27	B	Sep. Rev.	Septbr	1904	436-437
A	do	Sep	95	992/1003	B	"	Septr	1906	332/34
A	do	Nov	95	1169/77	A	"	Novr	1907	467-68
B	do	Oct	03	388					

NAIDLF02585863

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

* If there are no Keep-withs, the word "None" will be written against the head. If there are Keep-withs, it will be stated what they are. If [illegible] has reprinted Keep-withs, the fact will be stated.

ARCHIVES OF INDIA

	MISCELLANEOUS.		
	Illicit import by Ghulam Mahiuddin Khan, a trade Agent of the Amir of Afghanistan, of 10 seea of Afghan opium as a sample for sale in India.		
	Letter from the Ghulam Mahiuddin Khan, Kabuli Calcutta, to the Foreign Department, dated 6th January 1904.	A Sep. Rev., Feb. 1895, Nos. 103 to 127 A „ Sept. „ „ 992 to 1003. A „ Nov. „ „ 1169 to 1177. B „ Oct. 1903, No. 388.	1—3
	Telegram from the Foreign Department to the Agent to the Governor General and Chief Commissioner, North-West Frontier Province, dated 12th January 1904.		4
	Telegram from the Agent to the Governor General and Chief Commissioner, North-West Frontier Province, to the Foreign Department, dated 19th January 1904.	.....	5
74	Letter to the Government of Bengal, with endorsement to the Foreign Department, No. 759 S. R., dated 1st February 1904, forwarding a copy of the correspondence on the subject above referred to, and requesting that instructions may be issued to the Board of Revenue to keep in custody the opium referred to therein until further orders.	.....	6—7
75	Letter from the Foreign Department to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, with endorsement to the Finance and Commerce Department, No. 498 F. A., dated 3rd February 1904, forwarding about 10 seers of Afghan opium, which was imported without a pass, by Ghulam Mahiuddin Khan, a trade Agent of His Highness the Amir of Afghanistan, and requesting an acknowledgment thereof.	.....	8—9
76	Endorsement from the Foreign Department, No. 616 F. A., dated 9th February 1904, forwarding a copy of letter from the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, acknowledging the receipt of the quantity of opium forwarded with the letter above referred to.	.....	10—11
77	Letter from the Government of Bengal, No. 993 S. R., dated 11th February 1904, reporting that the quantity (about 10 seers) of Afghan opium, which was imported without a pass by Ghulam Mahiuddin Khan, a trade Agent of His Highness the Amir of Afghanistan, has been received by the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, through the Foreign Department, and that the opium in question will be retained in the Presidency Opium godowns pending receipt of further orders from the Government of India.	.....	12

For the printed notes please see the notes at 8½ G.

CONFIDENTIAL.

D. No. 16

(3)

Extract from Confidential Diary of the Superintendent of the Calcutta Police, Detective Department, dated 3rd January 1904.

Golam Mohiuddin, Agent to the Amir of Cabul gives out that the Government of India have sanctioned a proposal made by the Amir to dispose of their yearly opium crop amounting to 30 lacs of rupees worth to China via Calcutta.

No. 116

Forwarded to the General Superintendent, Thagi and Dakaiti Department, for information.

Sd/- R. A Bignell
Commissioner of Police.

Calcutta,
5th January 1904.

Forwarded to the Foreign Department for information.

Sd/-D.McCracken
6-1-04.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(4)

Dy.Heading- A f g h a n i s t a n.

Dy./No.~~xxxxxxx~~- 31-F.A.

From Ghulam Mohiuddin Khan Kabuli,

C a l c u t t a.

Dated the 6th January 1904.
Recd. the 7th January 1904.

States that the Amir of Afghanistan has given him 10 seers of opium as a sample for sale, and encloses copy of an order from His Highness for perusal. Requests that a pass may be granted him, so that when he shows the opium to mercantile people in Bombay etc., the Government Officials may not interfere with him.

S.F.July/94 523/39
S.F.Jany./95 611/15
S.F. Novr./95 53/74.

F.B.-Decr./3 493/499.

Please see the papers marginally noted, regarding the late Amir's attempts to start an opium trade. The present Amir is apparently trying to revive this scheme,

2. It is not understood how Ghulam Mohiuddin could have possibly brought this large quantity of opium to Calcutta without a pass or Executive order- if detected, it would be treated as contraband opium. Before replying we may let the Finance Department see for favour of remarks.

Sd/
11-1-04.

Sd/ G.W.M.
12-1-04.

Issue

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Issue the telegram which I have drafted; then send the file at once to Finance Department as above.

Sd/ E.H.S.Clarke
12/1/04.

Telegram to the Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner and Agent to the Governor General, North-West Frontier Province, No. 159-F.A., dated 12th January 1904.

Enquires if Ghulam Mohiuddin obtained any special pass from him for the ten seers of opium which he has brought to Calcutta as a sample.

Finance Department U/O No. 37-F.A., dated 13-1-04.

This Department is hardly in a position to offer definite advice on this case without the information which has been called for from the Agent to the Governor General, and Chief Commissioner, North West Frontier Province, in the Foreign Department's telegram dated the 12th instant. We may therefore ask the Foreign Department kindly to send the file to us when the Agent ~~x~~ to the Governor General's ~~xxxxxx~~ reply to their telegram has been received. (It will probably be in a day or two).

Sd/ [illegible]
14-1-04.

Sd/ R.A.Mant
14-1-04.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(6)

Dy.Heading- A f g h a n i s t a n.

Dy. No. 78-F.A.

Telegram from the Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner and Agent to the Governor General in the North-West Frontier Province.

Dated the 19th January 1904.
Recd, the 20th January 1904.

With reference to Foreign Department telegram No. 159-F.A., dated the 12th January 1904, reports that no pass was issued to Ghulam Mohiuddin to export ten seers of Afghan opium to Calcutta or elsewhere.

The case may now be returned to ~~H~~ Finance Department.

Sd/ [illegible]
20-1-04.

Sd/- E.H.S.Clarke
20-1-04.

Finance Department U/O No. 62-F.A., dated 21-1-04.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(7) 5 5

Page 2 supra.

For Deptt. Pro A, Jany. 95, No.611, ~~Slip C~~.
Fml. Deptt Pro: A. Sdr: Feb/95. nos 103-127 Slip B

Ib, Nov.95, No.55 53/54 ~~Slip E.~~
Fml: Deptt Pro A. Sdr. Sept/95. 992/1003. Slip C

Ib, No.64, after
Fml. Deptt. Pro A, Sdr. Sept/95. no 1000 Slip C ~~Slip F.~~

~~Slip B.~~

The preceding notes and the papers referred to on the margin of the office note of the Foreign Department of the 11th Instant should be read.

2. In ~~the~~ Foreign Department letter No.180 P.O., dated the 3rd November '94, the late Amir Abdur Rahman Khan was informed under what conditions Afghan opium could be imported for sale in or for export through India. In letter No.62 P.O., dated the 30th March '95, the Amir's Agent with the Government of India was told, with reference to certain samples of opium which the Amir had sent to his trade agents in Bombay and Calcutta for valuation, that the latter persons could not lawfully keep the samples in their possession without a special pass, and that in order to carry out the Amir's wishes it was necessary that the samples should be placed under the custody of the Board of Revenue at Calcutta and of the Customs Commissioner at Bombay who would be instructed to give every facility to any opium merchants who might wish to inspect the opium or take with them a sufficient quantity of it for analysis. As, however, the Agent did not comply with these instructions, he was informed later on in letter No.117 P.O., dated the 11th July '95, that until he did so the Government of India could not give him any further assistance in the matter of the sale of Afghan opium in India and that they could not also be responsible if the local authorities took, in regard to the samples which the Amir had sent, the steps prescribed by law in the case of illegal possession of opium. Subsequently, at so late a date as 1902, the attention of the agent at Peshawar of the present Amir was drawn by the authorities in the N. W. F. Province to the orders contained in the Foreign Department's letter of 3rd November '94 (vide p 49 of correspondence in Foreign Department Pro B, Dec. '03, Nos.493-499).

3. Despite these remonstrances and warnings, the present

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(8) 6 6

present Amir persists in sending through his tradè agents large quantities of opium to our territory in an unauthorised manner. The logical course to follow in a case like this would be to prosecute the Amir's agent for illegal import and possession of opium; but this extreme step will not perhaps be considered necessary, as there can be no doubt that the agent's action in the present instance is a purely bonâ fide one. We may advise the Foreign Department to inform Ghulam Muhyuddin that his action in importing and possessing the opium in question without a pass from the British authorities is illegal, and that he should therefore forthwith make over the opium to the Board of Revenue, Calcutta, who would be instructed (a) to give facilities for the inspection of the stuff by any opium merchants who might wish to see or anyalyse it or take samples of it, or (b) to arrange for its transport to Bombay at Ghulam Muhyuddin's expense if he should so desire. The Board should simultaneously be instructed to receive the opium and to take action as indicated above. Foreign Department might at the same time be asked to consider whether in order to obviate future cases of this kind a protest should not be made to the Amir against his action in sending opium to this country in contravention of the procedure previously suggested to him on the subject.

A

Sd/- B.B.

25-1-04

U.S.

I would not offer any facilities whatever. The only way to stop this illicit import is to take possession of the opium, and to show that we mean what we say. I would ask the Foreign Department to tell the Amir's Agent that, as has more than once been pointed out to his predecessor, the

import

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

import of opium without a pass is illegal, and that by bringing this opium to Calcutta without obtaining the requisite permission from the authorities at Peshawar, he has rendered himself liable to prosecution under the law of India. He should be told to make over the opium immediately to the Board of Revenue, and that, if this is not done, the Government of India will not be responsible for any steps which the local excise officers may take to put the law into force. The opium should remain in the custody of the Board of Revenue until some definite arrangement has been made on the lines indicated in Sir W. Cunningham's letter to the late Amir dated 3rd November 1894.

Sd. R. A. Mant
26/1

Yes. How the Agent managed to bring down the opium without being challenged by the authorities at Peshawar is not clear. They ought to have detained it. The Amir is perfectly well aware that the import of opium into India is illegal and if he persists in attempting to pass it in he must not be surprised if it is confiscated. I think the Board of Revenue should be told (through the Local Government) to seize the opium if it is not surrendered within a brief specified time.

Sd. E. N. Baker,
26-1-04.

H.M.

The course suggested is quite proper from Finance Department point of view but I doubt if Foreign Department will think it advisable to pursue it in present circumstances. They may perhaps think it necessary to limit action to that suggested at A in the office note dated 25-1-04.

Sd. E. FG. L.
6.1.04

Foreign Deptt. U. O.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(10) 8

Notes in the Foreign Deptt.

I think it will be better not to have any direct dealings with Ghulam Mohi-ud-din. We had better ask the Envoy to call, explain the whole question to him, (giving him copies of any of the correspondence that it is desirable he should have) so that he may have no excuse for saying that what happened in the past was before his appt., and that consequently he knows nothing about it, and then, after pointing out that Ghulam Mohi--ud-din, by importing ~~or~~ and possessing the opium without a pass, is liable to prosecution, and that we only desist from ordering this course on the present occasion out of regard for the Amir, proceed as suggested in the part marked A at the end of the Finance Deppt's office note of 25th January 1904. We can make it quite clear that confiscation is the only alternative to this course.

2. The question of addressing the Amir once more can be deferred until we hear what the Envoy has to say on the subject.

3. We may fairly assume that the present Amir is not ignorant of the earlier correspondence referred to in the previous notes. I have noticed in His Highness' letters to us that his office people have an excellent system of keeping their state papers and that they

are

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

are never at a loss to refer us to old cases, when it suits their purpose.

Sd. E. H. S. Clarke.

27-1-04.

I agree.

Sd. L. W. Dane.

28-1-04.

I am afraid that I do not understand the course proposed. I agree with Mr. Clarke as far as B in his note, but why we should assist in the disposal of this illegally and clandestinely imported opium, I do not see. I should have thought that the thing to do was to insist upon this opium being handed over to the Board of Revenue here (as the only alternative to prosecuting the importer) and to leave it there pending an explanation or request from the Amir. This seems to me the utmost ~~real~~ that courtesy or policy demands.

(Sd). C(URZON).

28-1-04.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(12)

The Envoy came to the office today, and I showed him the vernacular copies of the correspondence which took place with the Amir, and am sending him copies of the correspondence which we had with the present Envoy's predecessor. I then conveyed to him the decision laid down in H.E.the Viceroy's note of the 28th January 1904. He has promised to bring the opium to the F.D. on Monday, and we will then send the man who brings it to the Board of Revenue where the opium will be kept until further orders, i.e."pending an explanation or request from the Amir".

2. Will the Finance Department kindly make the necessary communication to the Board of Revenue ? I presume it should issue from that Department, as the matter concerns opium.

(Sd) E.H.S.Clarke,
30-1-04.

Deptt. of Finance U.O.

By special messenger.

Send the d.o. below to Mr. Lyon at the Board of Revenue, and draft to Bengal.

(Sd) R.A.Mant. 1-2-04.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(13) 11

No. 753-S.R. Finance and Commerce Department

Calcutta, the 1st February 1904

Dear Mr. Lyon,

One of the Amir's Agents, Ghulam Mohayuddin, has brought ten seers of opium from Afghanistan to Calcutta without a pass. He has been instructed to make over the opium to the Board of Revenue, and we are issuing orders on the subject to the Government of Bengal. It may take some little time for the orders to reach you, and meanwhile the opium will probably be brought to the office of the Board. So I write to let you know how the case stands and to ask you to take over the opium pending official instructions.

Yours truly,

(sd) R.A.Mant,

P. C. Lyon, Esq., I. C. S.,
Board of Revenue.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(14) 12

The d.o. to the Board of Revenue has issued. A draft to Bengal is submitted for approval.

Sd. B.B. 1.2.04

I have warned the Board of Revenue d.o. to be prepared for this opium, and the official draft may now issue. I suppose we may assume that the opium will be delivered up to the Board, and it is not necessary to ask Bengal to seize it in case this is not done.

(Sd) R.A.Mant, 1-2-04.

Secy.

No; but we should ask the Board to let us know after a short time whether it has been delivered up.

(Sd) E.N.Baker, 1-2-04.

I have added a para to the draft. Issue.

(Sd) R.A.Mant. 1-2-04.

To the Govt of Bengal No 759 SR, dt 1-2-04.

(~~True copy~~)

~~Registrar,~~
~~Finance & Commerce Dept~~

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(R) 13

O.H.C. Dy No 90 Sec

From the Foreign Deptt No 498 F.A., dt 3-2-04.

Forwards copy of a letter to the Board of Revenue L.P., transmitting to that authority about 10 seers of Afghan opium which was imported without a pass by Ghulam Muhiuddin Khan, a trade agent of the Amir of Afghanistan.

For information. No further action is necessary. The papers may now be recorded in B.

[illegible] 5/2

US

R A Thant 6/2

62

O.H.C. Dy No 112 Sec

From the Foreign Deptt No 616 F.A., dt 9-2-04

Fds copy of a letter from the Board of Revenue acknowledging receipt of the opium above referred to.

May be recorded with previous papers.

[illegible] 6/2

[illegible] 11/2

[illegible] 10/2

R A Thant 11/2

US

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

14 14

(16) Offl Dy No 114 Sec.

From the Govt of Bengal No 993 SR, dt 11-2-04

States that the quantity of Afghan Opium (about 10 seers) which was imported without a pass by Ghulam Muhiuddin Khan has been received by the Board of Revenue & will be retained in the Presidency Opium Godowns pending receipt of further orders from the Govt.

May be recorded with previous papers on the subject.

[illegible] 12/2

R A [illegible] 12/2

[illegible]

[illegible] 12/2

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

FINANCE AND COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

Correspondence.

4

Telephone Pro. for February 1904

No. P 74/77

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

No. 26.

(18) (I) 16

Translation of a letter from Ghulam Muhyiddin Khan Kabuli, Calcutta, Kolutola, No.24 Ram Mohan Ghoshe's Lane, to the Foreign Secretary, dated 6th January 1904.

A.C.

His Highness the Amir of Afghanistan has given me 10 seers of opium as a sample for sale and a written order. I beg to send herewith a copy of that order for perusal. A pass may be given to me, so that when I may show it to the mercantile people of India in Bombay etc., the Government officials may not interfere with me.

&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&

B.N.C.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(19) 17

Translation of a copy of a firman from His Highness the Amir of Afghanistan and its Dependencies, dated 13th Rabiul Awal 1321-H., corresponding to 10th June 1903.

Ghulam Muhyiddin Khan Kabuli is originally a subject of the God-granted Government of Afghanistan. He is employed to work as a broker, and for that reason I have made over to him certain articles the produce of these dominions as a sample, so that he may take them for sale to the towns and cities wherever he thinks it necessary, and may settle the price of each article, so that if I find that my Government would be profited by trading with the articles mentioned, I shall establish the trade, please God, through him. The following is a list of the articles, the samples of which he has with him and which I have given him:-

Uncut ruby---------- 80 miskals:-

Treated with acid---------- 40 miskals,

Untreated with acid-------- 40 miskals.

Polished rubies, 283 pieces-- 30 miskals.

Uncut "Lals" (rubies of brilliant lustre)---------- 40 miskals.

Durr-i-Naj of stone(crystals)- 1 charak.

Lapis lazuli, ½ seer

~~Yinaxax~~.White stone powder ½ seer

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Vinegar, 5 sorts---------- 5 bottles.

"Karakul" skins---------- 6

Opium, 2 sorts---------- 5 charaks.

Walnut wood, 3 kinds---------- 3 pieces.

The said Ghulam Muhyiddin Khan has taken leave of me and is starting for India, and has with him samples of the articles mentioned above. As the articles belong to my Government by way of samples with a view to ascertain their prices he will visit the places which he will find necessary to do. I have considered it necessary to write out this firman giving a list of the articles mentioned above and which are the property of this Government, together with the particulars as to how he should act, so that the said firman may remain with him as a "Sanad".

Sd/ R.H.
7-1-04.

M.M.C.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(21) (II)

19

No.159-F.A.

Government of India.

F O R E I G N D E P A R T M E N T.

Calcutta, the 12th January 1904.

T E L E G R A M.

From.....Calcutta,

From.....Foreign,

To.....Peshawar,

To.....Chief Commissioner.

No.159-F.A. Ghulam Mohiuddin, one of Amir's trade agents writes that he has brought to Calcutta ten seers of Afghan opium as sample for sale. Did he obtain any special pass from you?

.....

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(5) (III)

26

T E L E G R A M.

From.....Peshawar,

From.....N. W. F.,

To.....Calcutta,

To.....Foreign.

Dated 19th January 1904.

Your telegram 159-A. No pass was issued to Ghulam Mohoyuddin to export ten seers afghan opium to Calcutta or elsewhere.

.....

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

No.759-S.R.

Government of India.

FINANCE AND COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

Calcutta, the February 1904.

From

R. A. Mant, Esq., I.C.S.,

Under Secy. to the Govt. of India,

To

The Secretary to the Government of Bengal,

Financial Department.

Sir,

I am directed to forward for the information of the Government of Bengal a copy of the correspondence cited on the margin regarding the importation without a pass by Ghulam Muhiuddin Khan, a trade agent of the Amir of Afghanistan, of 10 seers of Afghan opium as a sample for sale in India.

1. Translation of a letter, dated 6-1-04, from Ghulam Muhyuddin Khan, Kabuli, Calcutta, to the Foreign Secy. to the Govt. of India with translation of its enclosure
2. Telegram, dated 12-1-04, from the Foreign Deptt. to the Agent to the Governor General and Chief Commissioner, North West Frontier Province.
3. Telegram, dated 19-1-04, from the Agent to the Governor General and Chief Commissioner, North West Frontier Province to the Foreign Department.

2. The Government of India have decided that this opium shall be handed over by the importer without delay to the Board of Revenue, and that it shall be kept in the custody of the Board pending the receipt of an explanation or request from the Amir in regard to its disposal. This decision has been communicated to the Amir's envoy with the Government of India, and it is probable that the opium in question will shortly be presented at the office of the Board of Revenue. I am to request that, with the permission of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, instructions may be issued to the Board to receive the opium and to retain it until further orders. I am also to

ask

(24) 22 9

ask that the Government of India may be informed within a week or ten days whether the opium has been made over to the Board.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Sd. R. A. Mant.

Under Secy.to the Govt.of India.

Copy forwarded to the Foreign Department for information.

By order, etc.,

Under Secy.to the Govt.of India.

B.N.C.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Copy.

23

25

No. 75

No. 496 F. A.

From

The Assistant Secretary to the Government of India
in the Foreign Department,

To

The Secretary to the Board of Revenue,
Lower Provinces.

Dated Fort William, the 3rd February, 1904.

Sir,

With reference to the accompanying copy of the letter marked in the margin, I am directed to send herewith about ~~the~~ ten seers of Afghan opium, which was imported without a pass, by Ghulam Muhiuddin Khan, a trade Agent of His Highness the Amir of Afghanistan.

From the Government of India in the Department of Finance and Commerce to Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Financial Department, No. 759-S. R., dated the 1st February 1904.

2. An acknowledgment is requested.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Sd/- E. H. S. Clarke,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

No. 498 F. A.

A copy of the foregoing letter is forwarded to the Department of Finance and Commerce, for information, with reference to their letter to the address of the Secretary to the Government of Bengal (Financial Department), No. 759-S. R., dated the 1st February 1904.

By order, etc.,

Assistant Secretary to the Govt. of India.

Foreign Department,
Fort William;
The 3rd February, 1904.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

FINANCE AND COMMERCE DEPARTMENT
RECEIVED
3- FEB. 1904
NO. 0. 222

(Copy)

Board of Revenue, L.P.

Misc. Revenue Department.

Excise Branch.

No. 1121 B.

(VI) 25 10

Lo.76

From

J.H. Kerr, Esquire,

Officiating Secretary to the Board of Revenue L.P.

To

The Assistant Secretary to the Government of India,

Foreign Department.

Dated Calcutta, the 4th February 1904.

The Hon'ble Mr.C.E. Buckland,
C.I.E.
Member in charge.

Sir,

SNo V

With reference to your letter No. 496 F.A., dated the 3rd instant, I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of the quantity of Opium forwarded therewith, as detailed in the margin, which was imported without a pass, by Ghulam Muhiuddin Khan, a trade Agent of His Highness the Amir of Afghanistan.

x

A tin containing 161½ tolas of Opium (including tin box) A cloth bag containing 584½ tolas of opium Total 746 tolas	

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Sd.) J.H. Kerr,

Offg: Secretary.

Excise

FINANCE AND COMMERCE DEPARTMENT
RECEIVED
10 FEB. 1904
NO. 0. 112 Exc
d/10.2.04

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

No. 616- F.A. (28) 26

A copy of the foregoing letter is forwarded to the Finance Department for information in continuation of the endorsement from the Foreign Department No. 498-F.A., dated the 3rd February 1904.

By order, etc.,

Assistant Secy. to the Govt. of India.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM,
The 9th February 1904.

From the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, L.P., No. 1121-B, dated the 4th February 1904.

G. I. C. P. O.—No. 1382 F. D.—14 12·1903.—500.—J. W. G.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

No.993-S.R.

(29) (VII) 27 12 No. 22

GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

Financial Department.

Separate Revenue Branch.

Calcutta, the 11th February 1904.

From

L. P. Shirres, Esq., I.C.S.,

Secretary to the Government of Bengal,

To

The Secretary to the Government of India,

Finance and Commerce Department.

Sir,

With reference to Mr. Mant's letter No.759-S.R., dated the 1st February 1904, I am directed to say that the quantity (about ten seers) of Afghan opium, which was imported without a pass by Ghulam Muhiuddin Khan, a trade Agent of His Highness the Amir of Afghanistan, has been received by the Board of Revenue, L. P., through the Foreign Department.

S No IV
Pb of Opce

2. The opium in question will be retained in the Presidency Opium Godowns pending receipt of further orders from the Government of India.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

L P Shirres

Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

FINANCE AND COMMERCE DEPARTMENT
RECEIVED
11 FEB. 1904
No. O. 114 Enc
12.2.04

Not for S.R. Bn

SCB
10-2.

10/2

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

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OCR/HTR

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All previous Proceedings bearing on this
case have been marked on this Collec-
tion.
45
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FINANCE AND COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.
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Proceedings, February, Nos.
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has reprinted Keep-withs, the fact will be stated.

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MISCELLANEOUS.
Illicit import by Ghulam Mahiuddin Khan, a trade Agent of
the Amir of Afghanistan, of 10 seea of Afghan opium as
a sample for sale in India.

Letter from the Ghulam Mahiuddin Khan, Kabuli Calcutta, to the Foreign Department, dated 6th January 1904.
Telegram from the Foreign Department to the Agent to the Governor General and Chief Commissioner, North-West Frontier Province, dated 12th January 1904.
Telegram from the Agent to the Governor General and Chief Commissioner, North-West Frontier Province, to the Foreign Department, dated 19th January 1904.
Letter to the Government of Bengal, with endorsement to the Foreign Department, No. 759 S. R., dated 1st February 1904, forwarding a copy of the correspondence on the subject above referred to, and requesting that instructions may be issued to the Board of Revenue to keep in custody the opium referred to therein until further orders.
Letter from the Foreign Department to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, with endorsement to the Finance and Commerce Department, No. 498 F. A., dated 3rd February 1904, forwarding about 10 seers of Afghan opium, which was imported without a pass, by Ghulan Mahiuddin Khan, a trade Agent of His Highness the Amir of Afghanistan, and requesting an acknowledgment thereof.
Endorsement from the Foreign Department, No. 616 F. A., dated 9th February 1904, forwarding a copy of letter from the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, acknowledging the receipt of the quantity of opium forwarded with the letter above referred to.
Letter from the Government of Bengal, No. 993 S. R., dated 11th February 1904, reporting that the quantity (about 10 seers) of Afghan opium, which was imported without a pass by Ghulam Mahiuddin Khan, a trade Agent of His Highness the Amir of Afghanistan, has been received by the Board of Reveuue, Lower Provinces, through the Foreign Department, and that the opium in question will be retained in the Presidency Opium godowns pending receipt of further orders from the Government of India.
A Sep. Rev., Feb. 1895, Nos. 103 to 127
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Oct. 1903, No. 388.
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CONFIDENTIAL.
For the pointed notes please see
D. No. 16
the notes at
86f
Extract from Confidential Diary of the Superintendent of the Calcutta Police, Detective Department, dated 3rd January 1904.
Golam Mohiuddin, Agent to the Amir of Cabul gives out that the Government of India have sanctioned a proposal made by the Amir to dispose of their yearly opium crop amounting to 30 lacs of rupees worth to China via Calcutta.
No. 116
Forwarded to the General Superintendent, Thagi and Dakaiti

Department, for information.
Calcutta,
5th January 1904.
1
34/-R. A Bignall
Commissioner of Police.
Forwarded to the Foreign Department for information.
Sd/-D.McCracken
6-1-04.

Page - 4
Dy.Heading- Afghanistan.
No.
Dy./Xaxx*x*- 31-F.A.
From Ghulam Mohiuddin Khan Kabuli,
Dated the 6th January 1904.
Calcutta.
5.F.July/94_523/39
5.F.Jany./95 611/15
5.F. Novr./95 53/74.
F.B.-Decr./3 493/499.
Recd. the 7th January 1904.
States that the Amir of Afghanistan has given
him 10 seers of opium as a sample for sale, and
encloses copy of an order from His Highness for
perusal. Requests that a pass may be granted him,
so that when he shows the opium to mercantile people
in Bombay etc., the Government Officials may not
interfere with him.
Please see the papers marginally noted, regard-
ing the late Amir's attempts to start an opium trade.
The present Amir is apparently trying to revive this
scheme,
2.
It is not understood how Ghulam Mohiuddin
could have possibly brought this large quantity of
opium to Calcutta without a pass or Executive order-
if detected, it would be treated as contraband opium.

Before replying we may let the Finance Department see
for favour of remarks.
11/11-04.
11-1-04.
Sa/ G.W.M.
12-1-04.
Issue

3
Issue the telegram which I have drafted; then send
the file at once to Finance Department as above.
Sd/ E.H.S.Clarke
12/1/04.
Telegram to the Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner and
Agent to the Governor General, North-West Frontier
Province, No. 159-F.A., dated 12th January 1904.
Enquires if Ghulam Mohiuddin obtained any
special pass from him for the ten seers of opium which
he has brought to Calcutta as a sample.
Finance Department U/O No. 37-F.A., dated 13-1-04.
This Department is hardly in a position to
offer definite advice on this case without the
information which has been called for from the Agent
to the Governor General, and Chief Commissioner, North
West Frontier Province, in the Foreign Department's
telegram dated the 12th instant. We may therefore
ask the Foreign Department kindly to send the file
to us when the Agent to the Governor General's
*****x reply to their telegram has been received.
La
(It will probably be, in a day or two).
sa/MB.
14-1-04.
t
Sd/ R.A.Mant
14-1-04.

Page - 6
4
6
Dy.Heading- Afghanistan.
Dy. No. 78-F.A.
Telegram from the Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner and Agent to the Governor General in the North-West Frontier Province.
Dated the 19th January 1904.
Recd, the 20th January 1904.
With reference to Foreign Department telegram No. 159-F.A., dated the 12th January 1904, reports that no pass was issued to Ghulam Mohiuddin to export ten seers of Afghan opium to Calcutta or elsewhere.
The case may now be returned to Finance Department.
sa/D
20-1-04.
Sd/- E.H.S.Clarke
20-1-04.
Finance Department U/O No. 62-F.A., dated 21-1-04.

Page - 7
Page 2 supra.
For Deptt. Pro A, Jany.
95, No.611, Slip 6.
fil. Dehts 620:
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Ib, Nov.95, No.55
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D
The preceding notes and the papers referred to on the margin of the office note of the Foreign Department of the 11th Instant should he read.
2.
In Foreign Department letter No.180 P.O., dated the 3rd November 194, the late Amir Abdur Rahman Khan was informed under what conditions Afghan opium could be imported for sale in or for export through India. In letter No.62 P.0., dated the.
in
30th March '95, the Amir's Agent with the Government of India was told, with reference to certain samples of opium which the Amir had sent to his trade agents in Bombay and Calcutta for valuation, that the latter persons could not lawfully keep the samples in their possession without a special pass, and that order to carry out the Amir's wishes it was necessary that the samples should be placed under the custody of the Board of Revenue at Calcutta and of the Customs Commissioner at Bombay who would be instructed to give every facility to any opium merchants who might wish to inspect the opium or take with them a sufficient quantity of it for analysis. As, however, the Agent did not comply with these instructions, he was informed later on in letter No.117 P.O., dated the 11th July 195, that until he did so the Government of India could not give him any further assistance in the matter of the sale of Afghan opium in India and that
not
they could also be responsible if the local authorities took, in regard to the samples which the Amir had sent, the steps prescribed by law in the case

of illegal possession of opium. Subsequently, at so late a date as 1902, the attention of the agent at Peshawar of the present Amir was drawn by the authorities in the N. W. F. Province to the orders contained in the Foreign Department's letter of 3rd November 194 (vide p 49 of correspondence in Foreign Department Pro B, Dec. 103, Nos.493-499).
Slip B.
3.
Despite these remonstrances and warnings, the present

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6
present Amir persists in sending through his tradė agents large quantities of opium to our territory in an unauthorised manner. The logical course to follow in a case like this would be to prosecute the Amir's agent for illegal import and possession of opium; but this extreme step will not perhaps be considered necessary, as there can be no doubt that the agent's action in the present instance is a purely hona fide one. We may advise the Foreign Department to inform Ghulam Muhyuddin that his action in importing and possessing the opium in question without a pass from the British authorities is illegal, and that he should therefore forthwith make over the opium to the Board of Revenue, Calcutta, who would be instructed (a) to give facilities for the inspection of the stuff by any opium merchants who might wish to see ar anyalyse it or take samples of it, or (b) to arrange for its transport to Bombay at Ghulam Muhyuddin's expense if he should so desire. The Board should simultaneously be instructed to receive the opium and to take action as indicated above. Foreign Department might at the same time be asked

to consider whether in order to obviate future
cases of this kind a protest should not he made to
the Amir against his action in sending opium to
this country in contravention of the procedure
previously suggested to him on the subject.
Sa/- B.B..
25-1-04
U.S.
I would not offer any facilities whatever.
The only way to stop this illicit import is to
take possession of the opium, and to show that we
mean what we say. I would ask the Foreign Department
to tell the Amir's Agent that, as has more than
once been pointed out to his predecessor, the
import

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import of opium without a pass is illegal, and that
by bringing this opium to Calcutta without obtain-
ing the requisite permission from the authorities
at Peshawar, he has rendered himself liable to
prosecution under the law of India. He should be
told to make over the opium immediately to the
Board of Devenue, and that, if this is not done,
the Government of India will not be responsible
for any steps which the local excise officers
may take to put the law into force. The opium should
remain in the custody of the Board of Revenue until
some definite arrangement has been made on the lines
indicated in Sir W. Cunningham's letter to the late
Amir dated 3rd November 1894.
Sd. R. A. Mant
26/1
Yes. How the Agent managed to bring down the
opium without being challenged by the authorities

at Peshawar is not clear. They ought to have detaine
ed it. The Amir is perfectly well aware that
the import of opium into India is illegal and if
he persists in attempting to pass it in he must
not be surprised if it is confiscated. I think the
Board of Revenue should be told (through the
Local Government) to seize the opium if it is not
surrendered within a brief specified time.
Sd. E. N. Baker,
26-1-04.
H.M.
The course suggeted is quite proper from
Finance Department point of view but I doubt if
Foreign Department will think it advisable to pursue
it in present circumstances. They may perhaps think
at A
it necessary to limit action to that suggested, in the
office note dated 25-1-04.
Sd. E. FG. L
6.1.04
Foreign Deptt. U. O

ED
8
Notes in the Foreign Deptt.
I think it will be better not to have any direct
dealings with Ghulam Mohi-ud-din.
We had better ask
the Envoy to call, explain the whole question to him,
(giving him copies of any of the correspondence that
it is desirable he should have) so that he may have
no excuse for saying that what happened in the past
was before his appth, and that consequently he knows
nothing about it, and then, after pointing out that
and
Ghulam Mohi--ud-din, by importing or possessing the
opium without a pass, is liable to prosecution, and

that we only desist from ordering this course on the present occasion out of regard for the Amir,- proceed as suggested in the part marked A at the end of the Finance Deppt's office note of 25th January 1904. We can make it quite clear that confiscation is the only alternative to this course.

2. The question of addressing the Amir once more can be deferred until we hear what the Envoy has to say on the subject.

3. We may fairly assume that the present Amir is not ignorant of the earlier correspondence referred to in the previous notes. I have noticed in His Highness' letters to us that his office people have an excellent system of keeping their State papers and that they are

are never at a loss to referus to old cases, when it suits their purpose.

I agree.

Sd. E. H. S. Clarke.

27-1-04.

Sd. L. W. Dane.

28-1-04.

I am afraid that I do not understand the course proposed. I agree with Mr. Clarke as far as B in his note but why we should assist in the disposal of this illegally and clandestinely imported opium, I do not see. I should have thought that the thing to do was to insist upon this opium being handed over to the Board of Revenue here (as the only alternative to prosecuting the importer) and to leave it there pending an explanation or request from the Amir. that

This seems to me the utmost, real courtesy or policy demands.
(Sd).
C(URZON).
28-1-04.

Page - 12
By special messenger.
Wo
The Envoy came to the office today, and I showed him the vernacular copies of the correspondence which took place with the Amir, and am sending him copies of the correspondence which we had with the present Envoy's predecessor. I then conveyed to him the decision laid down in H.E.the Viceroy's note of the 28th January 1904. He has promised to bring the opium to the F.D. on Monday and we will then send the Monday,
man who brings it to the Board of Revenue where the opium will be kept until further orders, i.e."pending an explanation or request from the Amir".
2. Will the Finance Department kindly make the necessary communication to the Board of Revenue ? I presume it should issue from that Department, as the matter concerns opium.
Deptt. of Finance U.O.

(sd) E.H.S.Clarke,
30-1-04.
Send the d.o. below to Mr. Lyon at the Board of Revenue, and draft to Bengal.
(sd)
(Sa)
R.A.Mant.
R.A.Mant. 1-2-04.

Page - 13

11
No. 753-S.R.
Finance and Commerce Department
Calcutta, the 1st February
1904
Dear Mr. Lyon,
One of the Amir's Agents, Ghulam Mohayuddin,
has brought ten seers of opium from Afghanistan to
Calcutta without a pass. He has been instructed to ma
make over the opium to the Board of Revenue, and
we are issuing orders on the subject to the Government
of Bengal. It may take some little time for the
orders to reach you, and meanwhile the opium will
probably be brought to the office of the Board. So
I write to let you know how the case stands and to
ask you to take over the opium pending official
instructions.
Yours truly,
(sd) R.A.Mant,
P. C. Lyon, Esq., I. C. S.,
Board of Revenue.

Page - 14
12
Scr
The d.o. to the Board of Revenue has issued. A
draft to Bengal is submitted for approval.
BB.
1.2.04
I have warned the Board of Revenue d.o. to be
prepared for this opium, and the official draft
may now issue. I suppose we may assume that the
opium will be delivered up to the Board, and it is
not necessary to ask Bengal to seize it in case this
is not done.
Secy.
(sa) R.A.Mant, 1-2-04.
No; but we should ask the Board to let us

know after a short time whether it has beendelivered
up.
(sd) E.N.Baker, 1-2-04.
I have added a para to the draft. Issue.
(Sa) R.A.Mant. 1-2-04.
To the Govt of Bengal to 759 52.
It 1-2-04
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Page - 17
FINANCE AND COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.
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No. 26.
Correspondence.
Pro. for
February 190.
No..
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To. 2 474/77
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Page - 18
(I'
Translation of a letter from Ghulam Muhyiddin Khan
16
Kabuli, Calcutta, Kolutola, No.24 Ram Mohan Ghoshe's Lane, to
the Foreign Secretary, dated 6th January 1904.
AC
His Highness the Amir of Afghanistan has given me 10
seers of opium as a sample for sale and a written order. I
beg to send herewith a copy of that order for perusal.
A pass
may be given to me, so that when I may show it to the mercantile
people of India in Bombay etc., the Government officials may not
interfere with me.

B.N.C.
&&&&&&
&c&c&c&c&c&c

Page - 19
17
Translation of a copy of a firman from His Highness the Amir of Afghanistan and its Dependencies, dated 13th Rabiul Awal 1321-H., corresponding to 10th June 1903.
Ghulam Muhyiddin Khan Kabuli is originally a subject of the God-granted Government of Afghanistan. He is employed to work as a broker, and for that reason I have made over to him certain articles the produce of these dominions as a sample, so that he may take them for sale to the towns and cities wherever he thinks it necessary, and may settle the price of each article, so that if I find that my Government would be profited by trading with the articles mentioned, I shall establish the trade, please God, through him. The following is a list of the articles, the samples of which he has with him and which I have given him:-
Uncut ruby---
80 miskals:-
Treated with acid----
40 miskals,
Untreated with acid----
40 miskals.
Polished rubies, 283 pieces-- 30 miskals.
Uncut "Lals" (rubies of
brilliant lustre)---------
-- 40 miskals.
Durr-i-Naj of stone (crystals)- 1 charak.
Lapis lazuli, seer
Vinegar.White stone powder seer

Page - 20
M.M.C.
Vinegar, 5 sorts--

5 bottles.
"Karakul" skins--
- 6
Opium, 2 sorts-
18
Walnut wood, 3 kinds--
5 charaks.
3 pieces.
The said Ghulam Muhyiddin Khan has taken leave of me and is starting for India, and has with him samples of the articles mentioned above. As the articles belang to my Government by way of samples with a view to ascertain their prices he will visit the places which he will find necessary to do. I have considered it necessary to write out this firman giving a list of the articles mentioned above and which are the property of this Government, together with the particulars as to how he should act, so that the said firman may remain with him as a "Sanad".
Sd/ R.H.
7-1-04.

(エ)
19
No.159-F.A.
Government of India.
FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.
Calcutta, the 12th January 1904.
From.
..Calcutta,
TELEGRAM.
From..
Foreign,
To...
..Peshawar,
To...
.Chief Commissioner.
No.159-F.A. Ghulam Mohiuddin, one of Amir's trade agents writes that he has brought to Calcutta ten seers

of Afghan opium as sample for sale. Did he obtain any special pass from you?

Page - 22
TELEGRAM.
From.... ...Peshawar,
From..
..N. W. F.,
To...
...Calcutta,
To...
.Foreign.
Dated 19th January 1904.
20
Your telegram 159-A. No pass was issued to Ghulam Mohoyuddin to export ten seers afghan opium to Calcutta or elsewhere.

Page - 23
File
From
To
Sir,
No.759-8.R.
Government of India.
FINANCE AND COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.
Calcutta, the February 1904.
lak
R. A. Mant, Esq., I.C.S.,
Under Secy.to the Govt. of India,
21 6
10. 74
The Secretary to the Government of Bengal,
Financial Department.
I am directed to forward for the information of the
1. Translation of a letter,. dated 6-1-04, from Ghulam Muhyuddin Khan, Kabuli, Calcutta, to the Foreign Secy.

to the Govt. of India with translation of its enclosure
2. Telegram, dated 12-1-04, from the Foreign Deptt.
to the Agent to the Governor General and Chief
Commissioner, North West Frontier Province.
3. Telegram, dated 19-1-04, from the Agent to the
Governor General and Chief Commissioner, North West
Prontier Province to the Foreign Department.
Government of
Bengal a copy
of the corres-
pondence cited
on the margin
regarding the importation without a pass by Chulam Muhiuddin Khan, a trade agent of the Amir of Afghanistan, of 10 seers of Afghan opium as a sample for sale in India.
2.
The Government of India have decided that this opium shall be handed over by the importer without delay to the Board of Revenue, and that it shall be kept in the custody of the Board pending the receipt of an explanation or request from the Amir in regard to its disposal. This decision has been communicated to the Amir's envoy with the Government of India, and it is probable that the opium in question will shortly be presented at the office of the Board of Revenue I am to request that, with the permission of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, instructions may be issued to the Board to receive the opium and to retain it until further orders. I am also to ask

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24
22
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ask that the Government of India may be informed within a week or ten days whether the opium has been made over to the Board.
I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient servant,
tion.
B.N.C.
Sd. R. A. Mant.
Under Secy.to the Govt. of India.
Copy forwarded to the Foreign Department for informa-
By order, etc.,
Under Secy.to the Govt. of India.

Page - 25
From
To
Sir,
Copy.
No.
496
F. A.
25
23
10.75
The Assistant Secretary to the Government of India
in the Foreign Department,
The Secretary to the Board of Revenue,
Lower Provinces.
322
Dated Fort William, the 3 February, 1904.
With reference to the accompanying copy of the
letter marked in the margin, I am
about
directed to send herewith/the ten
From the Government of India in
the Department of Finance and
Commerce to Secretary to the
Government of Bengal, Financial
Department, No. 759-S. R., dated
the 1st February 1904.
seers of Afghan opium, which was
imported without a pass, by Ghulam

Muhiuddin Khan, a trade Agent of His Highness the Amir of Afghanistan.
2.
An acknowledgment is requested.
I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
Sd/- E. H. S. Clarke,
Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

SNO (TV)
No.
498
F. A.
2
b
24
A copy of the foregoing letter is forwarded to the Department of Finance and Commerce, for information, with reference to their letter to the address of the Secretary to the Government of Bengal (Financial Department), No. 759-S. R., dated the 1st February 1904.
By order, etc.,
7
Assistant Secretary to the Govt. of India.
Foreign Department,
Fort William;
The 32 February, 1904.
AND
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RECEIVED
3-EB. 1904
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400 286 000 g s age
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0.90 Enc. of 4.2.04

From
To
(Copy)
Board of Revenue, L.P.
Misc. Revenue
Department.
Excise Branch.
No. 1121 B.
27
(H)
II) 25%
Lo.76
J.H. Kerr, Esquire,
Officiating Secretary to the Board of Revenue L.P.
The Assistant Secretary to the Government of India,
Foreign Department.
Dated Calcutta, the 4th February 1904.
The Hon'ble Mr.C.E. Buckland,
C.I.E.
Member in charge.
Sir,
SNO I
With reference to your letter No. 496 F.A., dated
the 3rd instant, I am directed to acknowledge the receipt
A tin containing 161 tolas of Opium (including tin box)
A cloth bag containing 584 tolas of opium
Total 746 tolas
of the
quantity of
Opium
D
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forwarded therewith, as detailed in the margin, which was
imported without a pass, by Ghulam Muhiuddin Khan, a trade
Agent of His Highness the Amir of Afghanistan.
Excise

COMME
RECEIVED
10 FEB. 1904
No. f... 112 Exc
NH
280 GE5 000 906
I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
Offg:
(sa.) J.H. Kerr,
Secretary.

Page - 28
No. 616- F.A.
28
26
A copy
of the foregoing letter is forwarded to the Finance Department for information in continuation of the endorsement from the Foreign Department No. 498-F.A., dated the 3rd February 1904.
FOREIGN DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM,
The 9th
February
190 4.
By order, etc.,
Forklarer
Assistant
Secy. to the Govt. of India.
From the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, L.P., No. 1121-B,
dated the 4th February 1904.
G. I. C. P. O.-- No. 1382 F. D.- 14 12.1903.-500.-J. W. G.
H

Page - 29
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No.993-S.R.
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GOVERNMENT
OF BENGAL.
Financial Department.
Separate Revenue Branch.
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Calcutta, the 1. February 1904.
From
L. P. Shirres, Esq., I.C.S.,
Secretary to the Government of Bengal,
To
Sir,
The Secretary to the Government of India,
Finance and Commerce Department.
With reference to Mr. Mant's letter No.759-S.R., dated the 1st February 1904, I am directed to say that the quantity (about ten seers) of Afghan opium, which was imported without a pass by Ghulam Muhiuddin Khan, a trade Agent of His Highness the Amir of Afghanistan, has been received by the Board of Revenue, L. P., through the Foreign Department.

2. The opium in question will be retained in the Presidency Opium Godowns pending receipt of further orders from the Government of India.

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I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
IMshines
Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

METADATA

Bundle Barcode	NAIDLB00113029
File Barcode	NAIDLF02585863
Location	NAI-Delhi
Identifier	NAIDLF02585863
Category	Public Records
Status of digitization	Digitized Document
Document Title	Illicit import by Ghulam Mahiuddin Khan a trade agent of the Amir of Afghanistan of 10 seea of Afghan opium as a sample for sale in India.
Keywords	Opium, Department, Foreign, Board, Government, Revenue, India, Agent, Calcutta, Letter
Scale	
Ministry/Department/Residency	Finance Department
Branch	separate revenue proceedings B
From Year-Date(mm-dd-yyyy)	1904
To year-Date(mm-dd-yyyy)	1904
Geographical references	/
File No/Reference No/Sheet No	Progs. Nos 74-77; February 1904
Part No	
Physical condition of the record.	
Document last date of repair	
Series	
Source Organization	National Archives of India
Record Contains	
Language	English
Microfilm Roll Number	
Relation	

Copyrights	
Call Number	
Publisher	
Subject	Illicit import by Ghulam Mahiuddin Khan a trade agent of the Amir of Afghanistan of 10 seea of Afghan opium as a sample for sale in India.
Creator	
Accesion Number	
Year of publication/ (YYYY-MM-DD)	
ERA	
Bundle no.	1391
No. of pages	29