

C 47924

Ottawa, 8th November, 1922.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to Colonial Office despatch No. 341 dated the 10th of July last, and despatch No. 508, dated the 19th of October last, the first of which covered a copy of a letter from His Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout, upon the subject of the propriety of cancelling the Naturalization Certificate issued to Abraham Nicola Elrahy at Vancouver in 1892.

The letter of the Consul-General does not appear to contain a sufficient statement of facts to enable the Department to pass upon the question of the revocation of the Certificate in question. Moreover, it would appear to be arbitrary to revoke a Naturalization Certificate upon a mere statement made by an authority, however, important. The rights and interests involved in questions of nationality are far-reaching, extending not only to the person in question but to the members of his family. Moreover, the Consul-General in this case may not be aware of all the facts. It may be very difficult and very costly to ascertain all the facts connected with such a case. Mr. Elrahy should also be at liberty to make his own statement in connection with the revocation. This appears to create a situation of difficulty which requires further consideration after a further statement from His Majesty's consul-General.

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

(sgd) Thomas Mulvey,

Under-Secretary of State.

The Under-Secretary of State
for External Affairs,
Ottawa.

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