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<b>Reference</b>	IOR/L/PS/12/236
<b>Title</b>	PZ 5708/37 'Claim for compensation in respect of losses sustained in the Great War: Mrs Aga Faruksha'
<b>Date(s)</b>	17 Jul 1937-4 May 1940 (CE, Gregorian)
<b>Written in</b>	English in Latin
<b>Extent and Format</b>	1 file (11 folios)
<b>Holding Institution</b>	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
<b>Copyright for document</b>	<a href="#">Unknown</a>

#### About this record

The file consists of correspondence concerning a compensation claim for the murder of Aga Farrukh Shah (also spelt Agha Farrukhshah) at Kerman during the First World War. Aga Farrukh Shah was supposedly working in the interest of the British Government at the time of his death, and the first claim made by Mrs Aga Faruksha in 1919 was for a pension from the Government of India. This being denied it was forwarded to prefer a claim on the Persian Government. Copies of the original claim are included. With no further answer, and following the death of Mrs Aga Faruksha, the claim was raised by her daughter Bibi Shah Sultana in 1937, and again in 1940.

Correspondents include: the Government of Bombay, Political and Services Department; the Government of Bombay, Political and Reforms Department; the Government of India, External Affairs Department; and A A Khan, Advocate, High Court, Poona.

The file includes a divider, which gives a list of correspondence references contained in the file by year. This is placed at the back of the correspondence.



Previous File.  
P. 2621/16.

10R1 L/PS/12/236

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL) DEPARTMENT.

P.Z.  
5708  
1937.

SUBJECT:

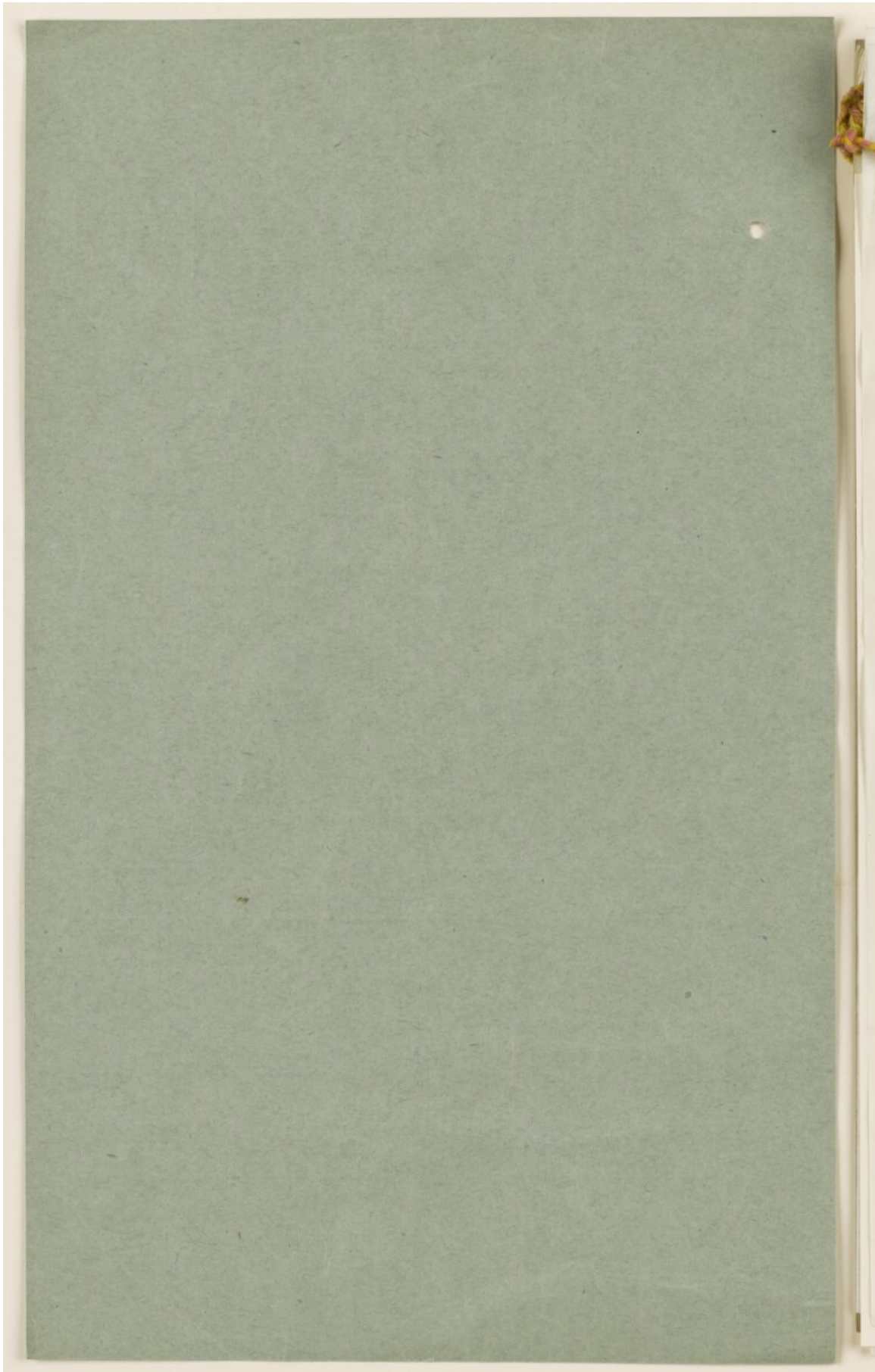
Claim for Compensation in respect  
of losses sustained in the Great  
War: Mrs Aga Faruksha

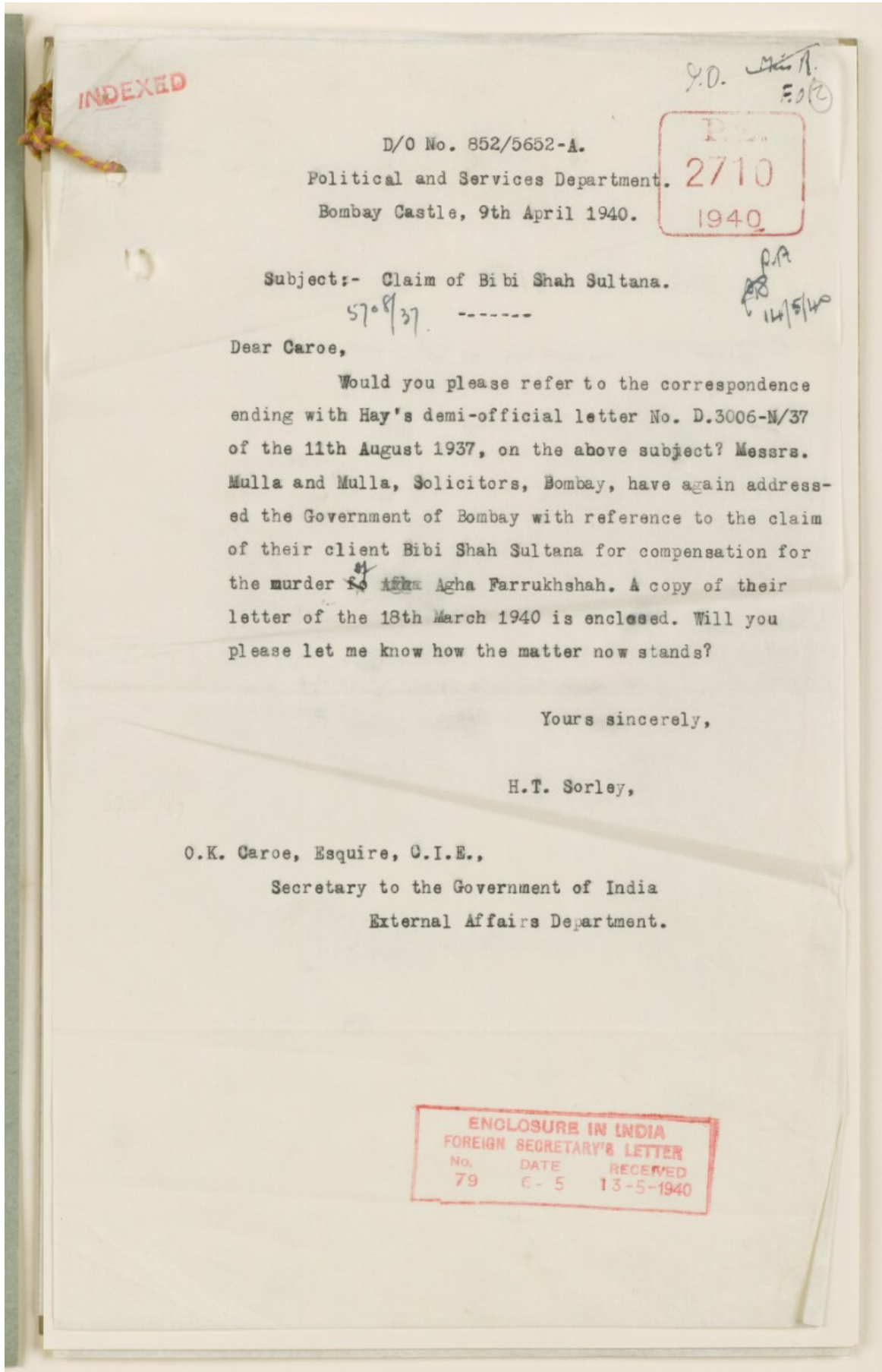
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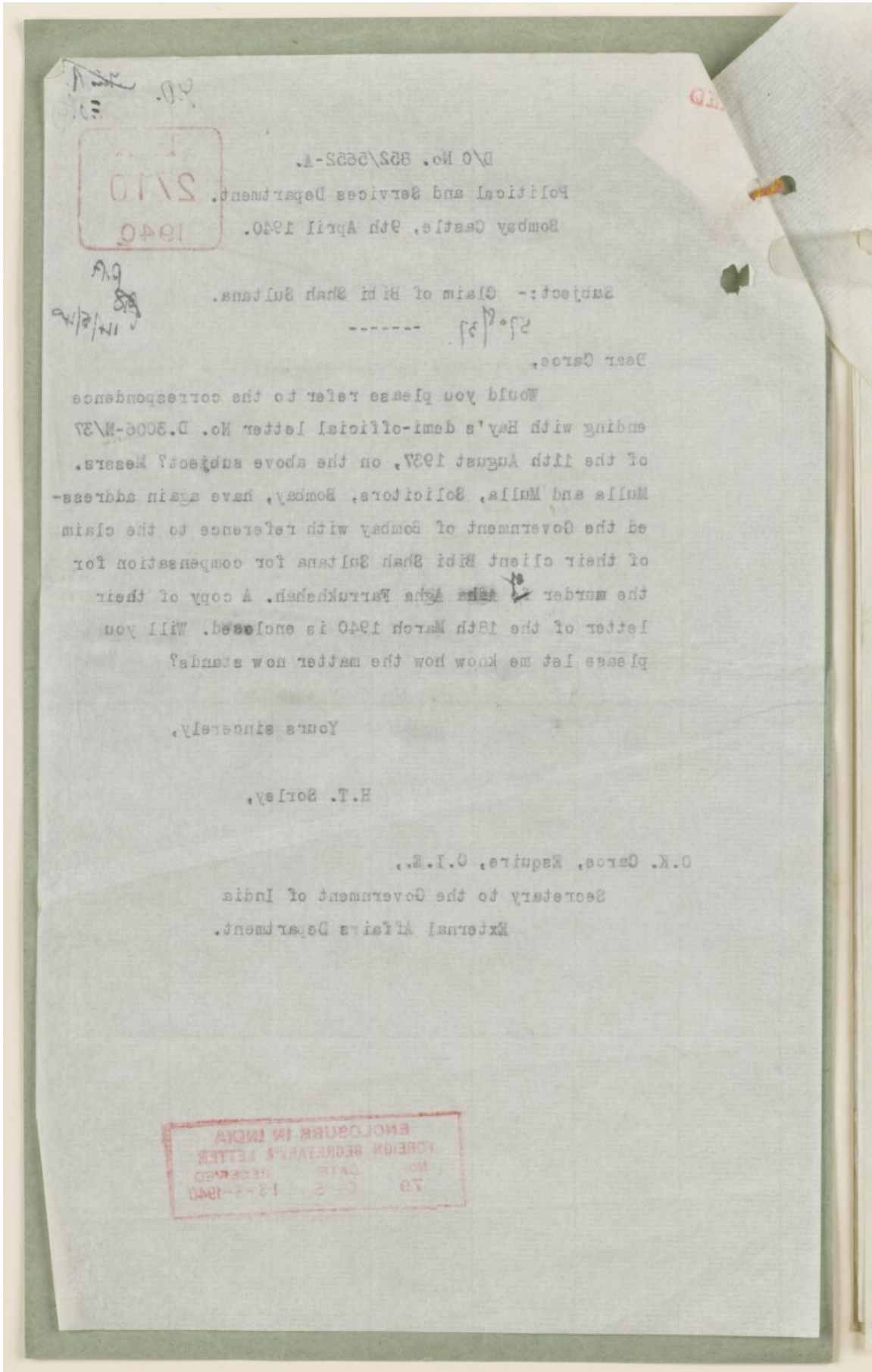
YEAR.	
1937	P.Z. 5708.
1940	P.Z. 2710.
19	P.
19	P.
19	P.
19	P.
19	P.
19	P.

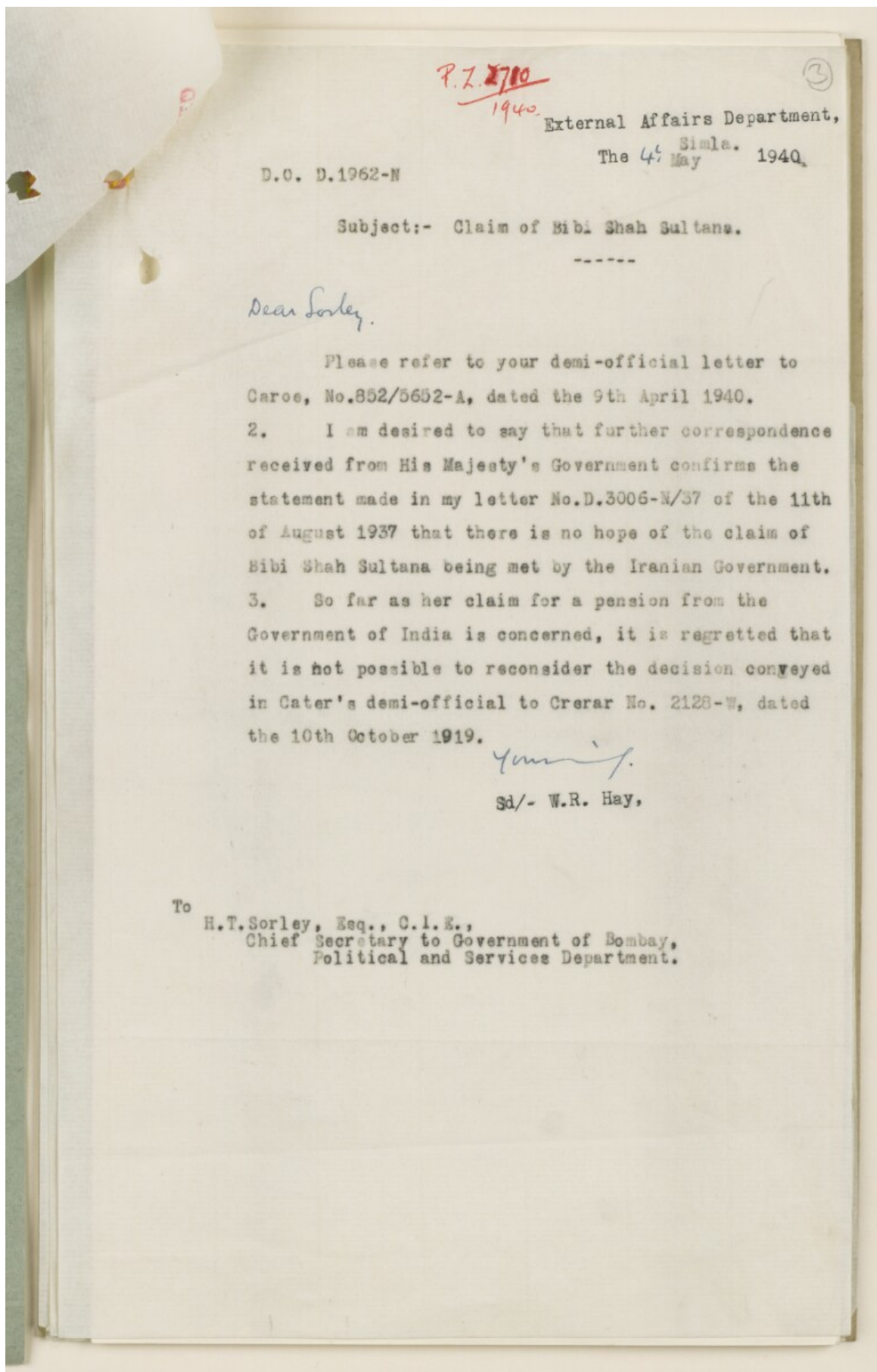
Papers may be removed from or placed within this File only by the Political Registry.

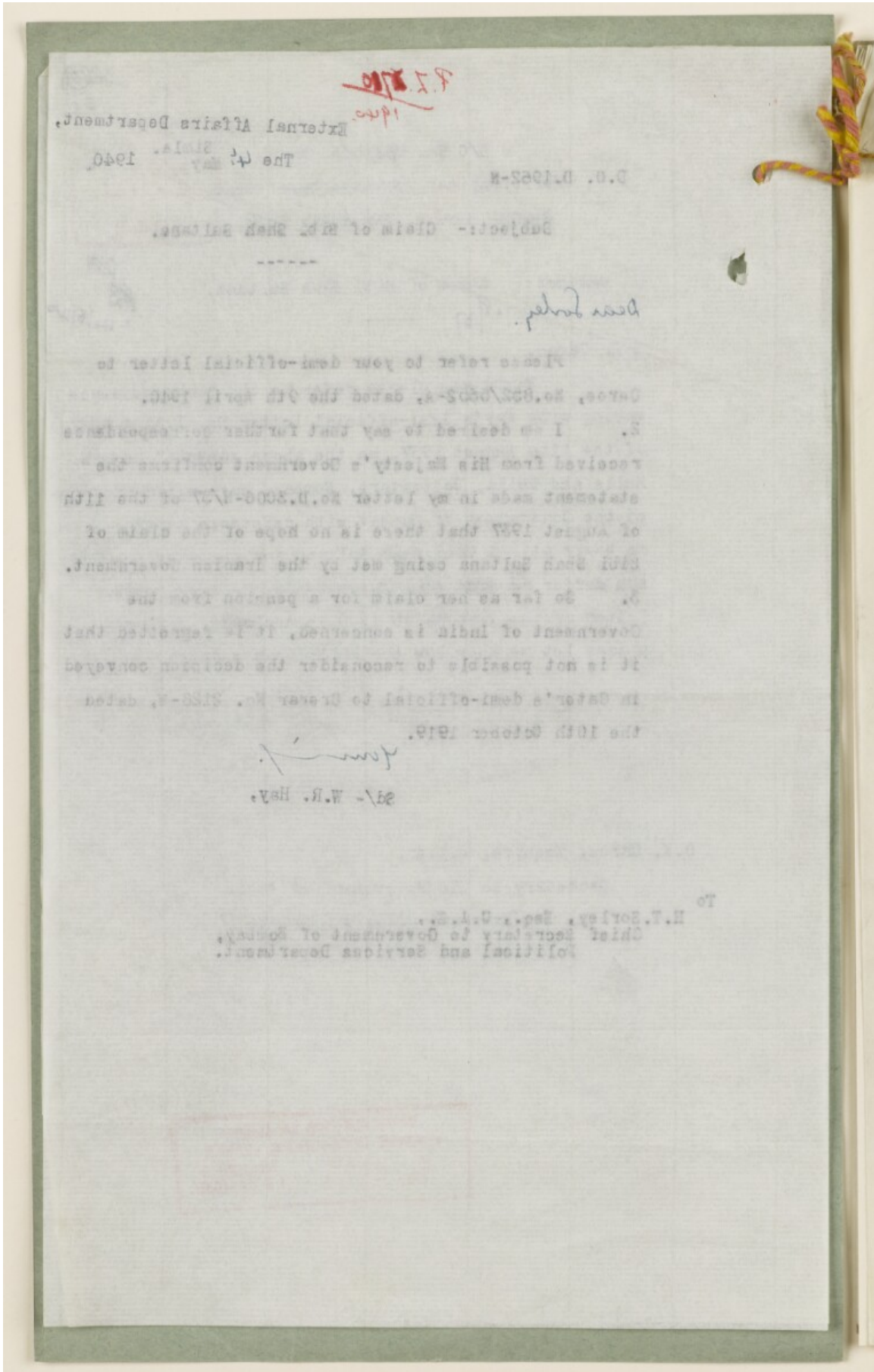
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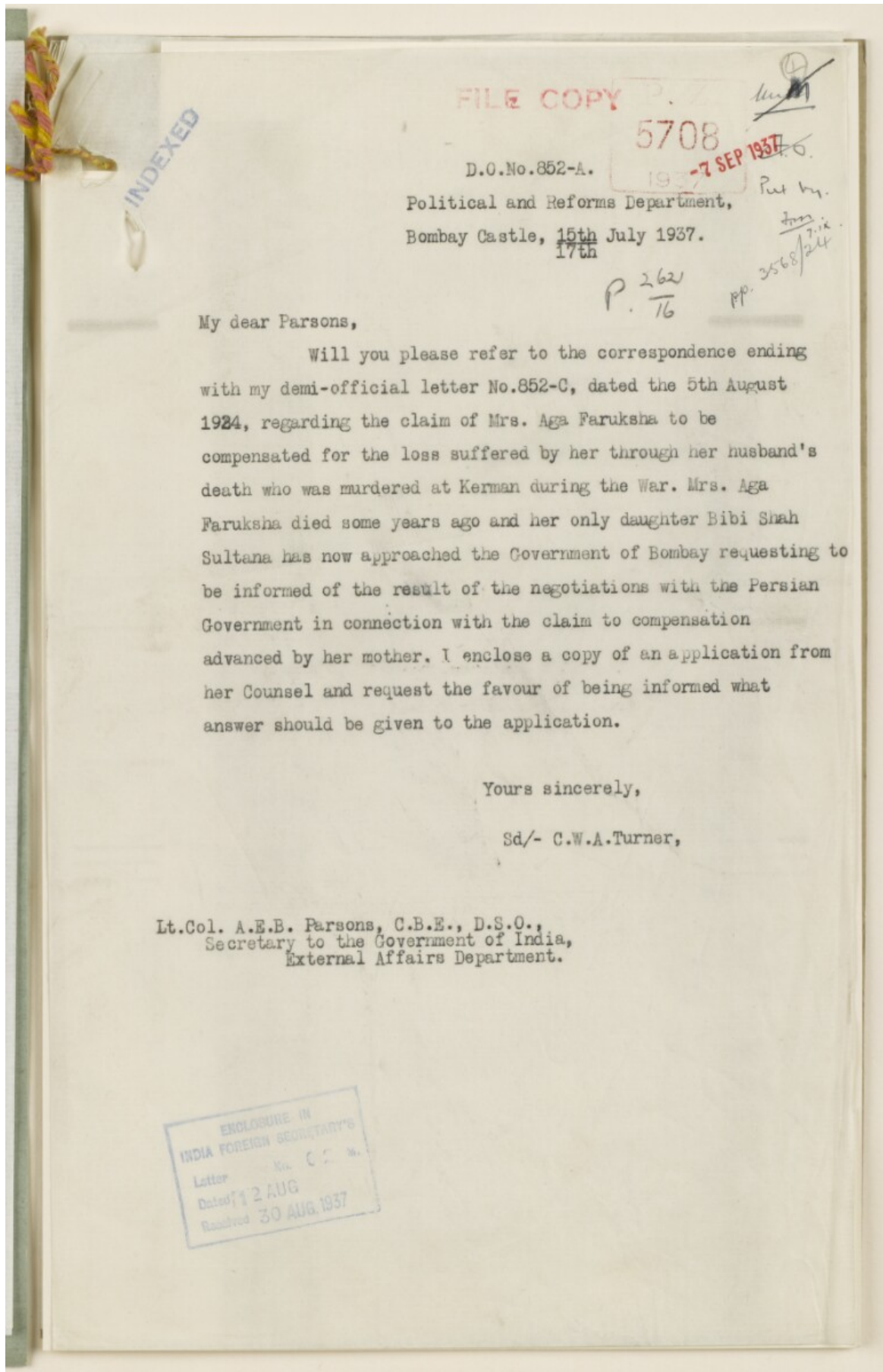












FILE COPY

5708

D.O.No.852-A.

Political and Reforms Department,  
Bombay Castle, 15th July 1937.  
17th

1937-7 SEP 1937

*Handwritten initials and a circled number 4*

*Put by*

*3568/24*

*P. 262 / 16*

INDEXED

My dear Parsons,

Will you please refer to the correspondence ending with my demi-official letter No.852-C, dated the 5th August 1924, regarding the claim of Mrs. Aga Faruksha to be compensated for the loss suffered by her through her husband's death who was murdered at Kerman during the War. Mrs. Aga Faruksha died some years ago and her only daughter Bibi Shah Sultana has now approached the Government of Bombay requesting to be informed of the result of the negotiations with the Persian Government in connection with the claim to compensation advanced by her mother. I enclose a copy of an application from her Counsel and request the favour of being informed what answer should be given to the application.

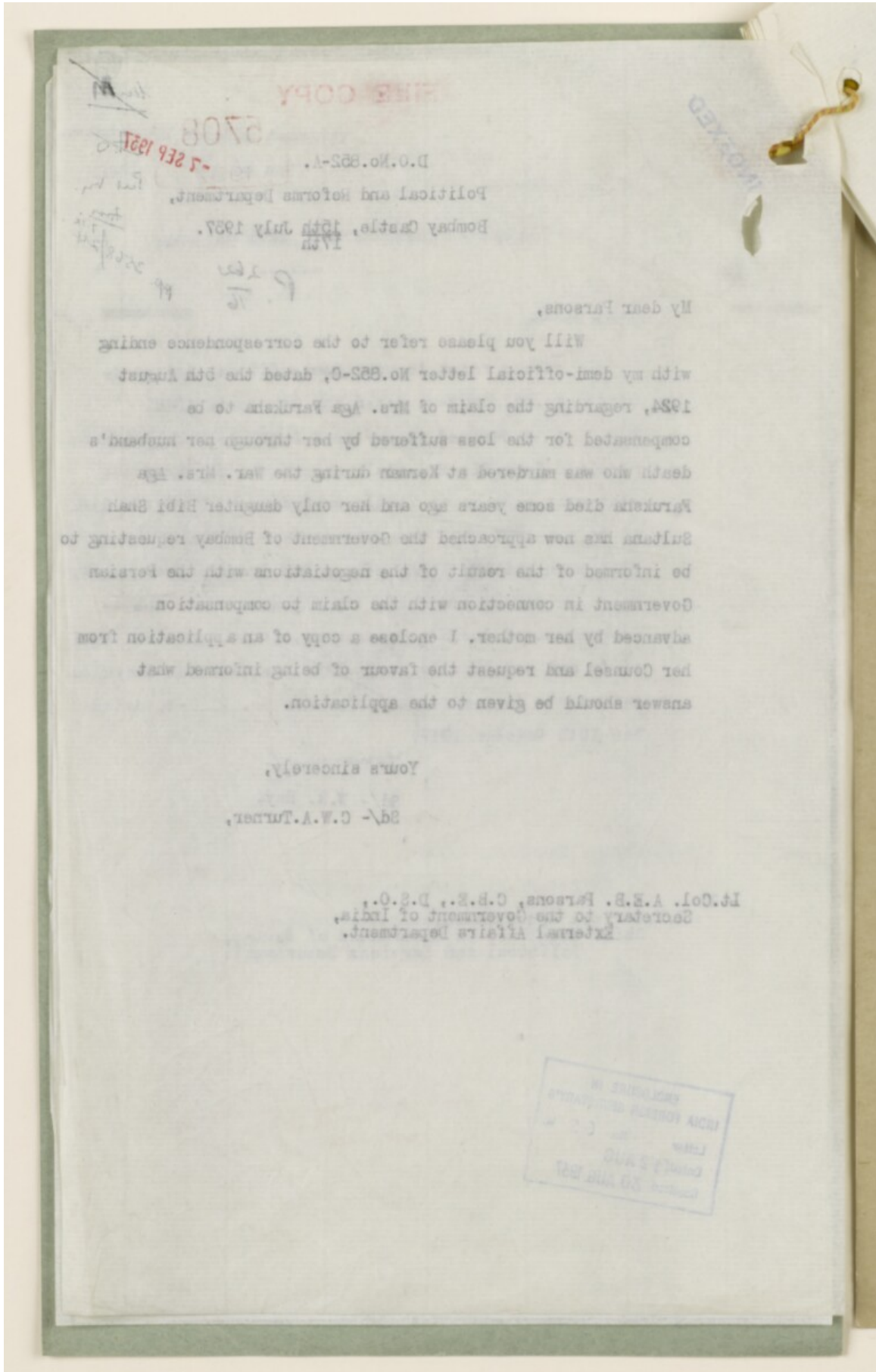
Yours sincerely,

Sd/- C.W.A.Turner,

Lt.Col. A.E.B. Parsons, C.B.E., D.S.O.,  
Secretary to the Government of India,  
External Affairs Department.

ENCLOSURE IN  
INDIA FOREIGN SECRETARY'S  
Letter No. C.C. No.  
Dated 12 AUG  
Received 30 AUG 1937







832, Dastur Meher Road,  
Poona, 5th July 1937.

From

A. A. Khan, Esquire, M.A. LL.B.,  
Advocate, High Court,  
P O O N A.

To

The Secretary to Government,  
Political Department, Bombay.

Subject:- Petition for grant of pension.

Sir,

I am instructed by my client Bibi Shah Sultana daughter of the late Agha Farrukh Shah of Poona, to place the following facts, before you with a request that enquiries may be made into these facts, and the Government of India or the Secretary of State of India in Council, may kindly be moved to expedite a decision in the matter of the petition presented by her mother to H. E. the Governor of Bombay and to H. E. Viceroy and Governor General of India (copies of which petitions are enclosed herewith for reference).

Her father Agha Farrukh Shah belonged to the family of H.E. the Agha Khan and possessed great influence in Persia, owing to his family connections. The Great War broke out in 1914, and an expedition of the Germans, headed by one Capt. Niedmayer was organised in the autumn of the year 1914 and set out from Constantinople in December of that year with the object of spreading German influence in Mesopotamia, Persia, and Afghanistan. To counteract their influence and check their propaganda in Persia, Government of India were anxious to send some one in that country. Agha Farrukh Shah was selected as the right person for the work, and offered his services loyally to Government, though he knew fully that he was endangering his life, in doing so. He was given letters of introduction to the various British Counsels in Persia, and he left India in June  
or ...



From  
A. A. Khan, Esquire, M.A., LL.B.,  
Advocate, High Court,  
P O N A.

To  
The Secretary to Government,  
Political Department, Bombay.

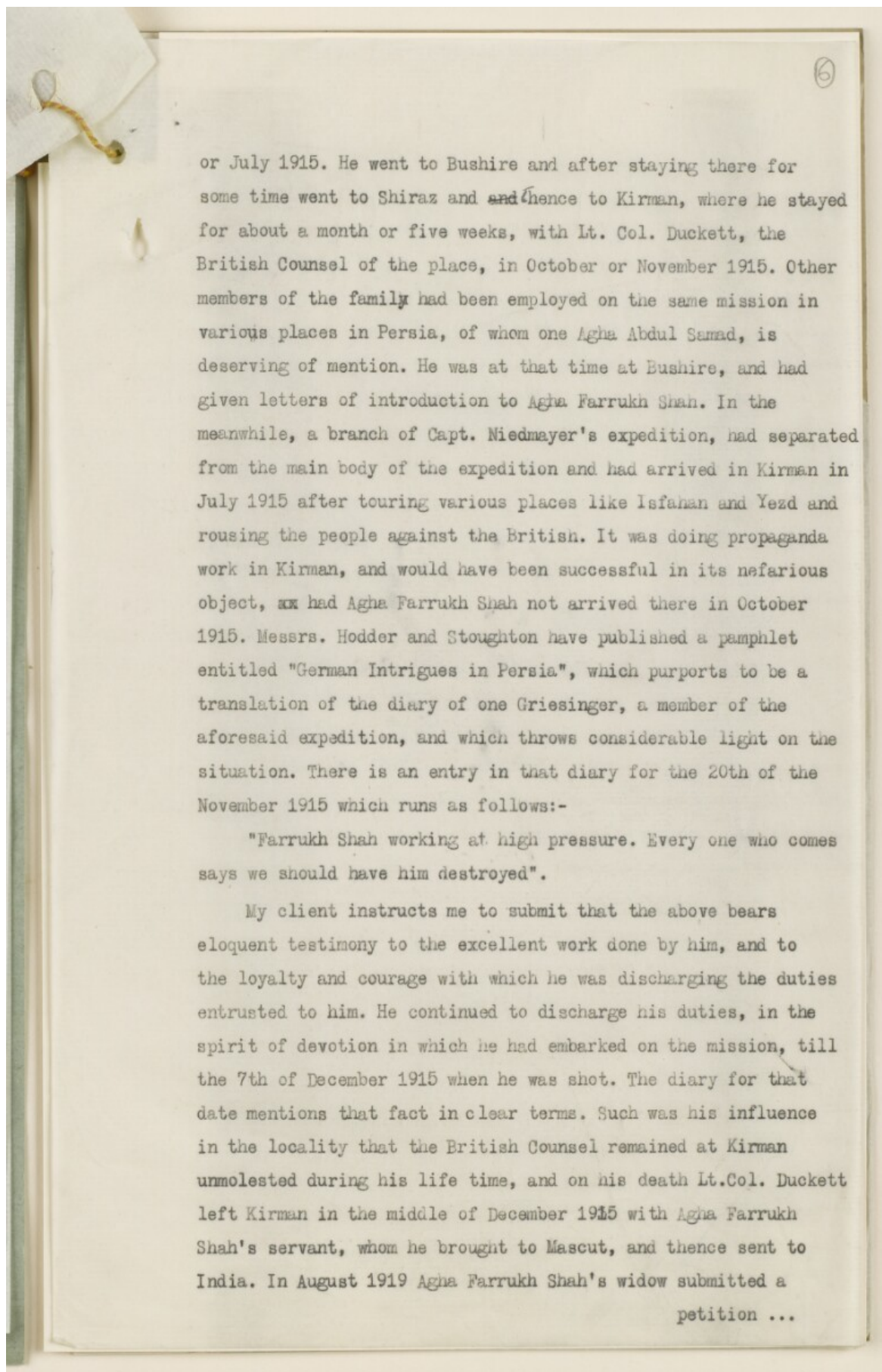
Subject:- Petition for grant of pension.

Sir,

I am instructed by my client Bibi Shah Sultan daughter of the late Aga Farukh Shah of Poona, to place the following facts before you with a request that enquiries may be made into these facts, and the Government of India or the Secretary of State of India in Council, may kindly be moved to expedite a decision in the matter of the petition presented by her mother to H. E. the Governor of Bombay and to H. E. Viceroy and Governor General of India (copies of which petitions are enclosed herewith for reference).

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... TO





or July 1915. He went to Bushire and after staying there for some time went to Shiraz and residence to Kirman, where he stayed for about a month or five weeks, with Lt. Col. Duckett, the British Counsel of the place, in October or November 1915. Other members of the family had been employed on the same mission in various places in Persia, of whom one Aga Faruksha, is deserving of mention. He was at that time at Bushire, and had given letters of introduction to Aga Faruksha. In the meanwhile, a branch of Capt. Wiedersperger's expedition, had separated from the main body of the expedition and had arrived in Kirman in July 1915 after touring various places like Isfahan and Yazd and rousing the people against the British. It was doing propaganda work in Kirman, and would have been successful in its relations object, as had Aga Faruksha had not arrived there in October 1915. Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton have published a pamphlet entitled "German Intrigues in Persia", which purports to be a translation of the diary of one Griseinger, a member of the above expedition, and which throws considerable light on the situation. There is an entry in that diary for the 20th of the November 1915 which runs as follows:-

"Faruksha Shah working at high pressure. Every one who comes says we should have him destroyed."

My client instructs me to submit that the above bears eloquent testimony to the excellent work done by him, and to the loyalty and courage with which he was discharging the duties entrusted to him. He continued to discharge his duties, in the spirit of devotion in which he had embarked on the mission, till the 7th of December 1915 when he was shot. The diary for that date mentions that fact in clear terms. Such was his influence in the locality that the British Counsel remained at Kirman unmolested during his life time, and on his death Lt. Col. Duckett left Kirman in the middle of December 1915 with Aga Faruksha Shah's servant, whom he brought to Mesopotamia, and thence sent to India. In August 1919 Aga Faruksha Shah's widow submitted a petition...



(7)

petition to H.E. the Governor General of India praying for the grant of a pension to her. By Farrukh Shah's death, the allowance which H.H. the Agha Khan made to him ceased and his widow had to incur debts to maintain herself and her daughter. The mother and daughter had to incur debts to live in the state to which they had been accustomed in anticipation of the grant of a pension by Government. These expectations did not materialise, and the widow was informed that no pension could be given to her from the Indian revenues or the British Exchequer and that her petition had been forwarded to the Secretary of State for India in Council for perfering a claim on the Persian Government. The following letters were received by her from time to time on the subject and ~~A~~ ~~XX~~ are quoted for reference:-

9th July 1920	No. S.D.640 from Secretary Political Department.	
18th January 1921.	No. 214 W.	-do-
29th August 1921	No.2060 W.	-do-
29th March <sup>1922</sup> <del>1922</del>	No.2555	-do-
23rd July 1923.	No.852-C	-do-

After this the correspondence on the subject ceased, and nothing has been heard of in the matter. My client's mother died some years ago and has left heavy debts which she had to incur, as stated above, and which my client is anxious to pay off. She has no means of support and is unable to earn her livelihood. I have therefore to request you, on her behalf, to kindly make enquiries, and inform me as to what has been done in the matter. If the Persian Government has refused to give compensation my client would like to approach His Majesty the King Emperor and His Government with a prayer for pension, and has therefore instructed me to address this letter to you for information on the subject and she will be grateful to you if <sup>you</sup> will be pleased to let her know the result of the negotiations with the Persian Govt.

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

Sd/- A.A.Khan,  
Advocate, High Court.



petition to H.E. the Governor General of India praying for the grant of a pension to her. By Faruksha Khan's death, the allowance which H.H. the Aga Khan made to him ceased and his widow had to incur debts to maintain herself and her daughter. The mother and daughter had to incur debts to live in the state to which they had been accustomed in anticipation of the grant of a pension by Government. These expectations did not materialize, and the widow was informed that no pension could be given to her from the Indian revenues or the British Exchequer and that her petition had been forwarded to the Secretary of State for India in Council for performing a claim on the Persian Government. The following letters were received by her from time to time on the subject and are quoted for reference:-

No. 214 W.	18th January 1921	29th July 1920
No. 2060 W.	29th August 1921	No. 2.D.649 from Secretary Political Department.
No. 2556	29th March 1922	
No. 882-C	29th July 1923	

After this the correspondence on the subject ceased, and nothing has been heard of in the matter. My client's mother died some years ago and has left heavy debts which she had to incur, as stated above, and which my client is anxious to pay off. She has no means of support and is unable to earn her livelihood. I have therefore to request you, on her behalf, to kindly make enquiries, and inform me as to what has been done in the matter. If the Persian Government has refused to give compensation my client would like to approach His Majesty the King Emperor and His Government with a prayer for pension, and has therefore instructed me to address this letter to you for information on the subject and she will be grateful to you if it will be pleased to let her know the result of the negotiations with the Persian Govt.

I have the honour to be,  
 Sir,  
 Your most obedient servant,  
 24/- A.A. Khan,  
 Advocate, High Court.



To

His Excellency the Right Hon. Frederick John Napier  
Thesiger Baron Chelmsford, P.C., G.M.S.I., G.M.I.E.,  
G.C.M.O., Viceroy and Governor-General of India.

The humble petition of Malek Sultan, widow of Aga  
Farrukh Shah, Showeth,

(1) that your petitioner's husband, Aga Farrukh Shah, though not officially employed by the Government of India, started for Persia in November 1915 with the approval of the Government of Bombay and worked in the interests of the British Government and the Government of India in Persia during the war:-

(2) that Aga Farrukh Shah, though warned that he was risking his life by going to Kerman, insisted on continuing the journey in the interests of the Government.

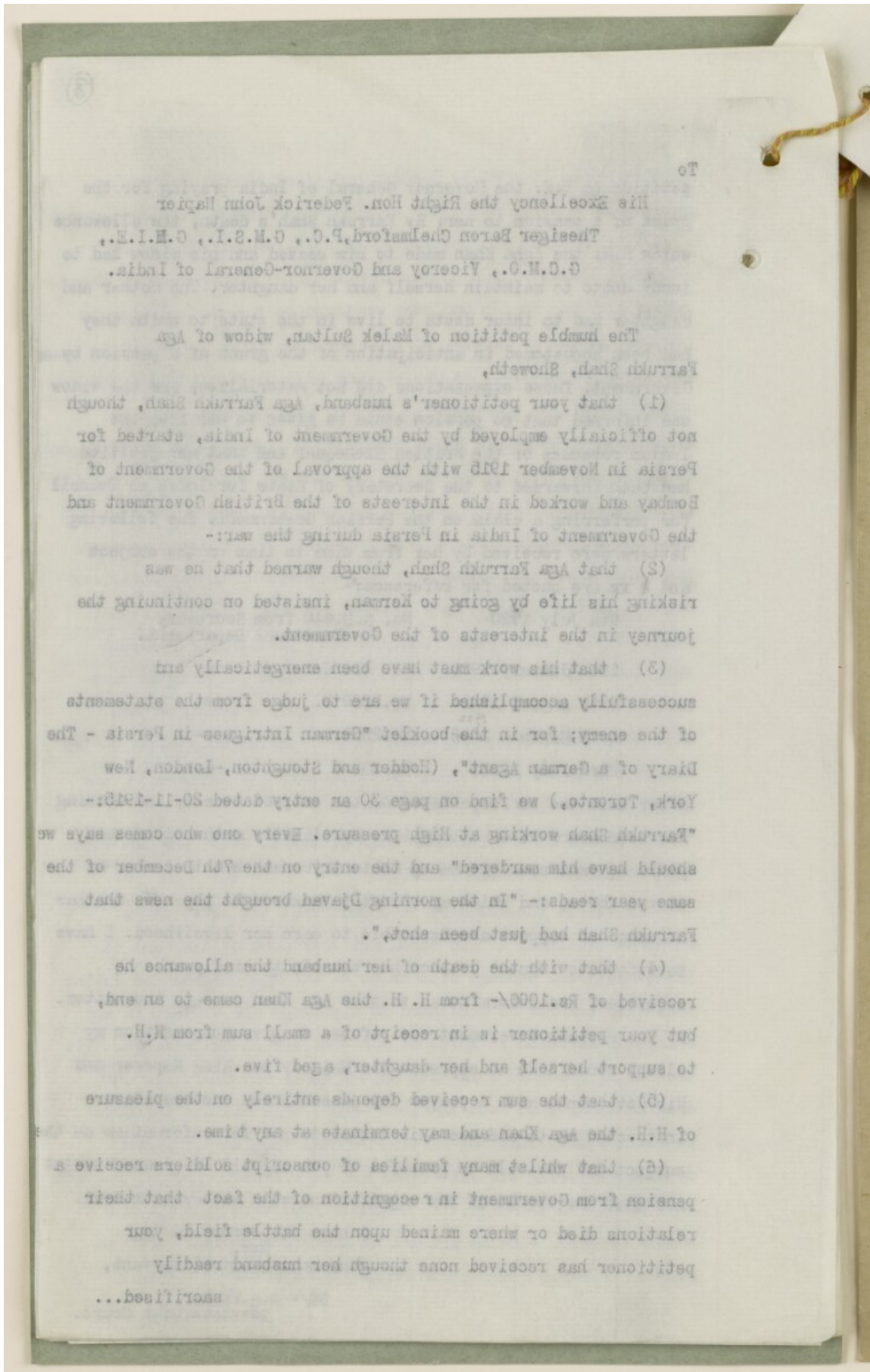
(3) that his work must have been energetically and successfully accomplished if we are to judge from the statements of the enemy; for in the booklet "German Intrigues in Persia - The Diary of a German Agent", (Hodder and Stoughton, London, New York, Toronto,) we find on page 30 an entry dated 20-11-1915:- "Farrukh Shah working at High pressure. Every one who comes says we should have him murdered" and the entry on the 7th December of the same year reads:- "In the morning Djavad brought the news that Farrukh Shah had just been shot,".

(4) that with the death of her husband the allowance he received of Rs.1000/- from H. H. the Aga Khan came to an end, but your petitioner is in receipt of a small sum from H.H. to support herself and her daughter, aged five.

(5) that the sum received depends entirely on the pleasure of H.H. the Aga Khan and may terminate at any time.

(6) that whilst many families of conscript soldiers receive a pension from Government in recognition of the fact that their relations died or were maimed upon the battle field, your petitioner has received none though her husband readily sacrificed...







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sacrificed his life and the means of support of his family in the interests of the Government he voluntarily served.

(7) that your petitioner did not apply earlier because ~~that~~ he waited for the glorious termination of the war by the British and was confident that, without asking, a pension would be conferred on her.

(8) with these circumstances before His Excellency, the Viceroy of India, your petitioner has every hope that a suitable pension will be allowed to the widow and the child of one who sacrificed himself in the endeavour to keep Persia friendly during the war thus to avert ~~disturbances~~ disturbances and, perhaps, disaster in an India denuded of soldiers at the time.

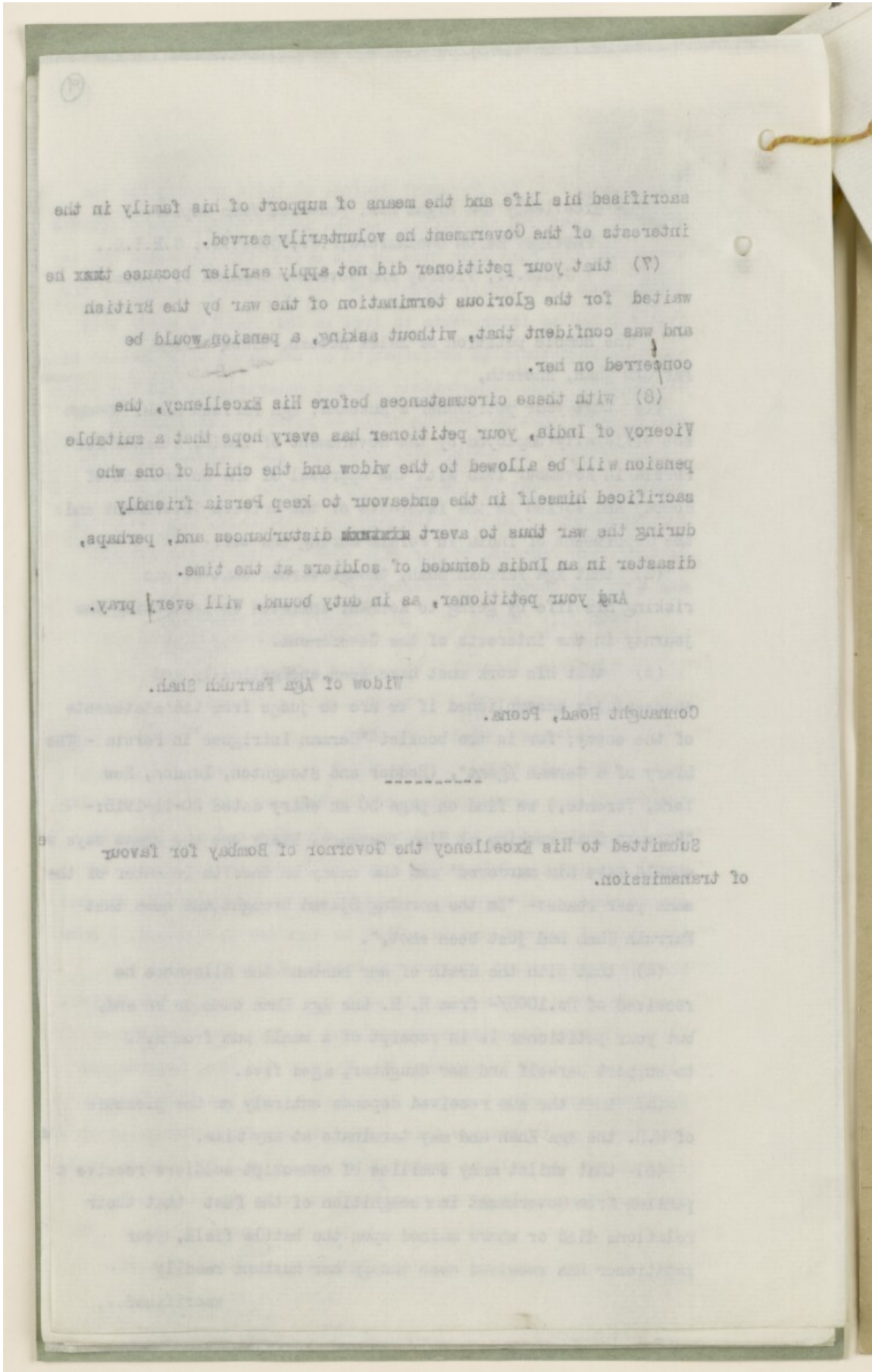
And your petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Widow of Aga Farrukh Shah.

Connaught Road, Poona.

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Submitted to His Excellency the Governor of Bombay for favour of transmission.





To

H. E. the Governor in Council.

~~Farrukhshah~~

The humble petition of Malek Sultan widow of Aga Farrukhsha Showeth,

(1) that your petitioner's husband, Aga Farrukh Shah, though not officially employed by the Government of India, worked in the interests of the British Government and the Government of India in Persia during the war.

(2) that Aga Farrukhshah, though warned that he was risking his life by going to Kerman, insisted on continuing the journey in the interest of the Government.

(3) that his work must have been engergetically and successfully accomplished if we are to judge from the statements of the enemy; for in the booklet "German Intrigues in Persia - The Diary of a German Agent" (Hodder and Stoughton, London, New York, Toronto,) we find on page 30 an entry dated 20-11-1915 :- "Farrukhshah working at high pressure. Every one who comes says we should have him murdered", and the entry on the 7th December of the same year reads: "In the morning Dijavad brought the news that Farrukhshah had just been shot",

(4) that with the death of her husband the allowance of Rs.1000/- he received from H.H. the Aga Khan came to an end, but your petitioner is in receipt of a small sum from H.H. to support herself and her daughter.

(5) that the sum received depends entirely on the pleasure of H.H. the Aga Khan and will terminate if H.H. the Aga Khan (which God forbid) should die.

(6) that whilst many families of conscript soldiers receive a pension from Government in recognition of the fact that their relations died or were mained upon the battle-field, your petitioner has received none though her husband readily sacrificed his life and the means of support of his family in the interest  
of ..



To  
H. E. the Governor in Council.  
The humble petition of Hafeez Sultan widow of Aga Faruksha  
Shows,  
(1) that your petitioner's husband, Aga Faruksha Khan, though  
not officially employed by the Government of India, worked in the  
interests of the British Government and the Government of India  
in Persia during the war.  
(2) that Aga Faruksha Khan, though warned that he was risking his  
life by going to Germany, insisted on continuing the journey in the  
interest of the Government.  
(3) that his work must have been energetically and successfully  
accomplished if we are to judge from the statements of the enemy;  
for in the booklet "German Intrigues in Persia - The Diary of a  
German Agent" (Hodder and Stoughton, London, New York, Toronto,  
we find on page 30 an entry dated 30-11-1918 :- "Faruksha Khan  
working at high pressure. Every one who comes says we should have  
him murdered", and the entry on the 7th December of the same year  
reads: "In the morning Djalal brought the news that Faruksha Khan  
had just been shot".  
(4) that with the death of her husband the allowance of  
Rs.1000/- he received from H.H. the Aga Khan came to an end, but  
your petitioner is in receipt of a small sum from H.H. to support  
herself and her daughter.  
(5) that the sum received depends entirely on the pleasure of  
H.H. the Aga Khan and will terminate if H.H. the Aga Khan (which  
God forbid) should die.  
(6) that whilst many families of conscript soldiers receive  
a pension from Government in recognition of the fact that their  
relations died or were maimed upon the battle-field, your  
petitioner has received none though her husband readily sacrificed  
his life and the means of support of his family in the interest  
of ..



~~of his family in the interest~~ of the Government he voluntarily served.

(7) With these circumstances before His Excellency the Governor in Council, your petitioner has every hope that a suitable pension will be allowed to the widow and the child of one who sacrificed himself in the endeavour to keep Persia friendly during the war thus to avert disturbances and perhaps disaster in an India demuded of soldiers at the time.

And your petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

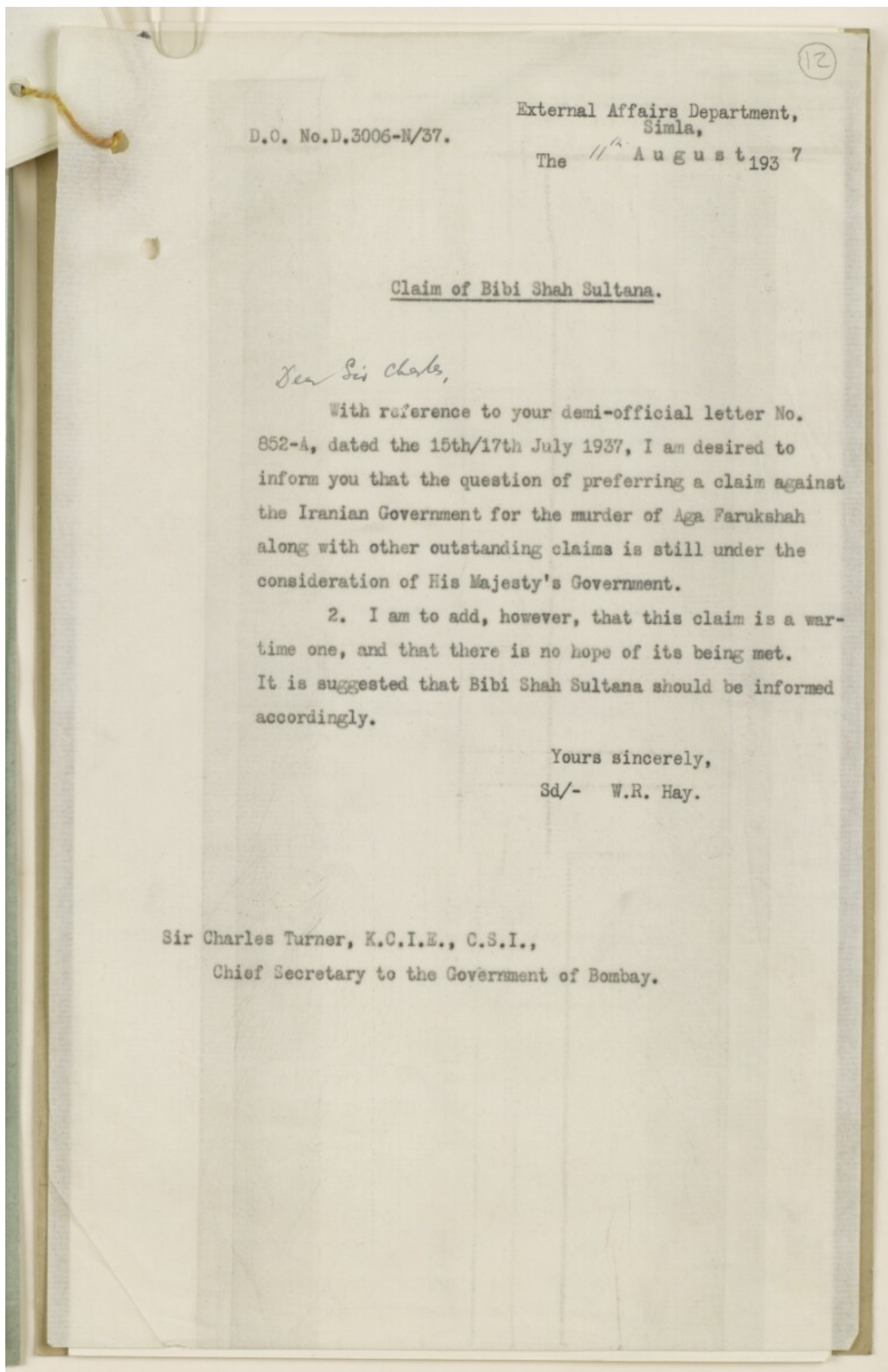
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True copies,

Sd/- Illegible,

for Superintendent.



of his family in the interest of the Government he  
voluntarily served.  
(7) With these circumstances before His Excellency the  
Governor in Council, your petitioner has every hope that a  
suitable pension will be allowed to the widow and the  
of one who sacrificed himself in the endeavour to keep Persia  
friendly during the war thus to avert disturbances and  
perhaps disaster in an India demanded of soldiers at the time.  
And your petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever be  
in Persia during the war.  
-----  
interest of the Government, copies,  
(8) That his work is of a highly important and scientific  
nature and is of great value to the Government of the country  
for in the Persian language in Persia - The Ministry of  
Governments (British and American, French, Russian, etc.)  
we find on page 25 an entry dated 10-11-1915 -  
copy of his papers. Your petitioner has every hope that  
his services, and the work on the Persian language of the same year  
would be in the hands of the Government and the Ministry of  
and your petitioner.  
(9) That with the view of her husband the Government of  
the country has been very kind to the Government of the country  
your petitioner in the matter of a pension and that you  
herself will be benefited.  
(10) That she has received separate notice on the subject of  
the pension and will continue to do so for the time being  
and that she should die.  
(11) That she will ever be a loyal and devoted subject  
of the Government in recognition of the fact that  
the Government has ever been kind to her husband, your  
petitioner, and that she will ever be a loyal and devoted  
subject of the Government in recognition of the fact that  
she and the members of her family are ever



D.O. No.D.3006-N/37.

External Affairs Department,  
Simla,

The 11<sup>th</sup> August 1937

Claim of Bibi Shah Sultana.

*Dear Sir Charles,*

With reference to your demi-official letter No. 852-A, dated the 15th/17th July 1937, I am desired to inform you that the question of preferring a claim against the Iranian Government for the murder of Aga Farukshah along with other outstanding claims is still under the consideration of His Majesty's Government.

2. I am to add, however, that this claim is a war-time one, and that there is no hope of its being met. It is suggested that Bibi Shah Sultana should be informed accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/- W.R. Hay.

Sir Charles Turner, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.,

Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay.



