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Reference	IOR/L/PS/12/56
Title	PZ 5369/32 'Persia: movements of George Woodward alias Leonid Tour-Pavlikovski'
Date(s)	13 Aug 1932-27 Oct 1932 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 file (13 folios)
Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Copyright for document	Unknown

About this record

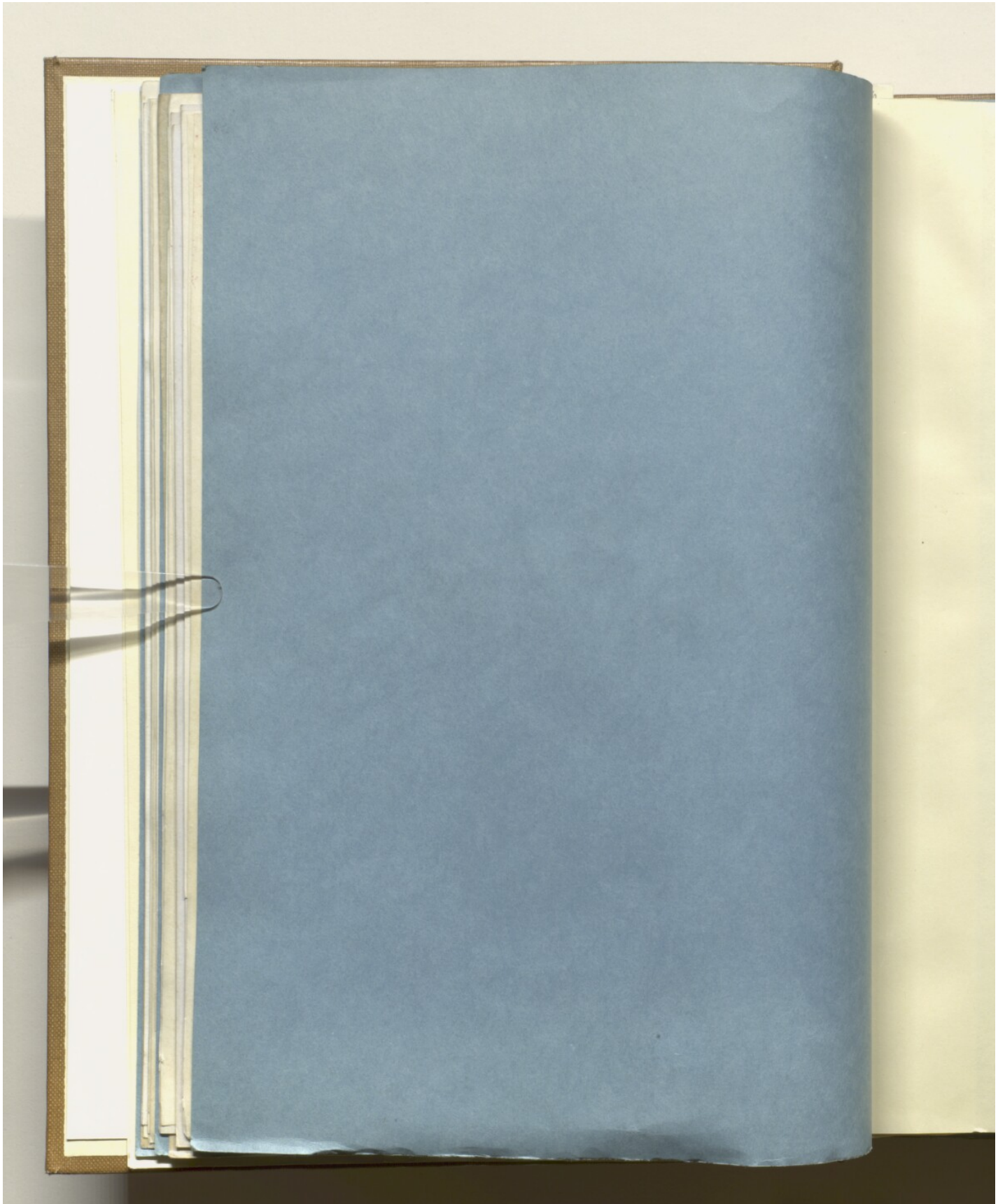
The file contains papers regarding Leonid Tour-Pavlikovsky, a Russian citizen travelling under a false Romanian passport with the name George Woodward.

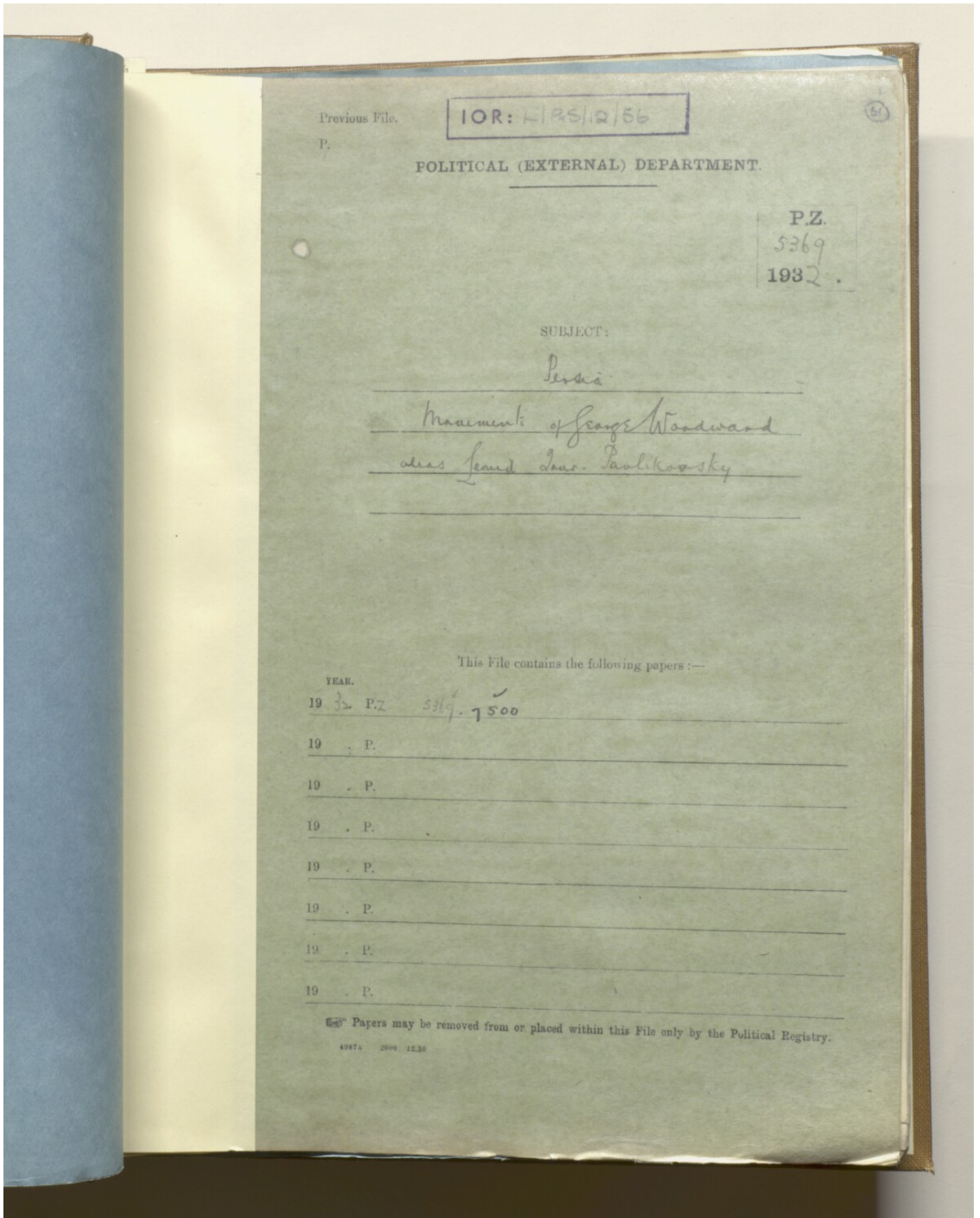
Much of the file consists of the subject's statement to Bombay police explaining how and why he obtained the passport and detailing his subsequent travels.

The remainder of the file includes a request from Herbert Aubrey Francis Metcalfe, Foreign Secretary in the Government of India, for verification of the subject's movements in Persia, and replies from the British Consulate, Shiraz, and Vice-Consulate, Mohammerah [Khorramshahr].



L/P&S/12/56









INDEXED

FILE COPY 18 DEC 1932

Fo (2)
mC

No. 219.

7500

British Legation,
Tehran.

Secret:

1932 27th October, 1932.

See pp. 569

My Lord,

In reply to Secret letter No. D.3097-N.32, of August 13th, I have the honour to enclose a copy of a letter from the Consulate at Shiraz regarding Leonid Tour Pavlikovski, alias Woodward, together with a copy of a letter from the Vice-Consulate at Mohammerah.

2. Nothing is known of the man at Ahwaz (under either name) or at the Soviet Embassy here, to whom a guarded and private enquiry was addressed.

3. It seems fairly evident, however, that he did tour through Persia, as his account of his journey is too accurate in details to have been invented.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

Sd/- R.H. Hore.

Sec. P. J. (6)

To

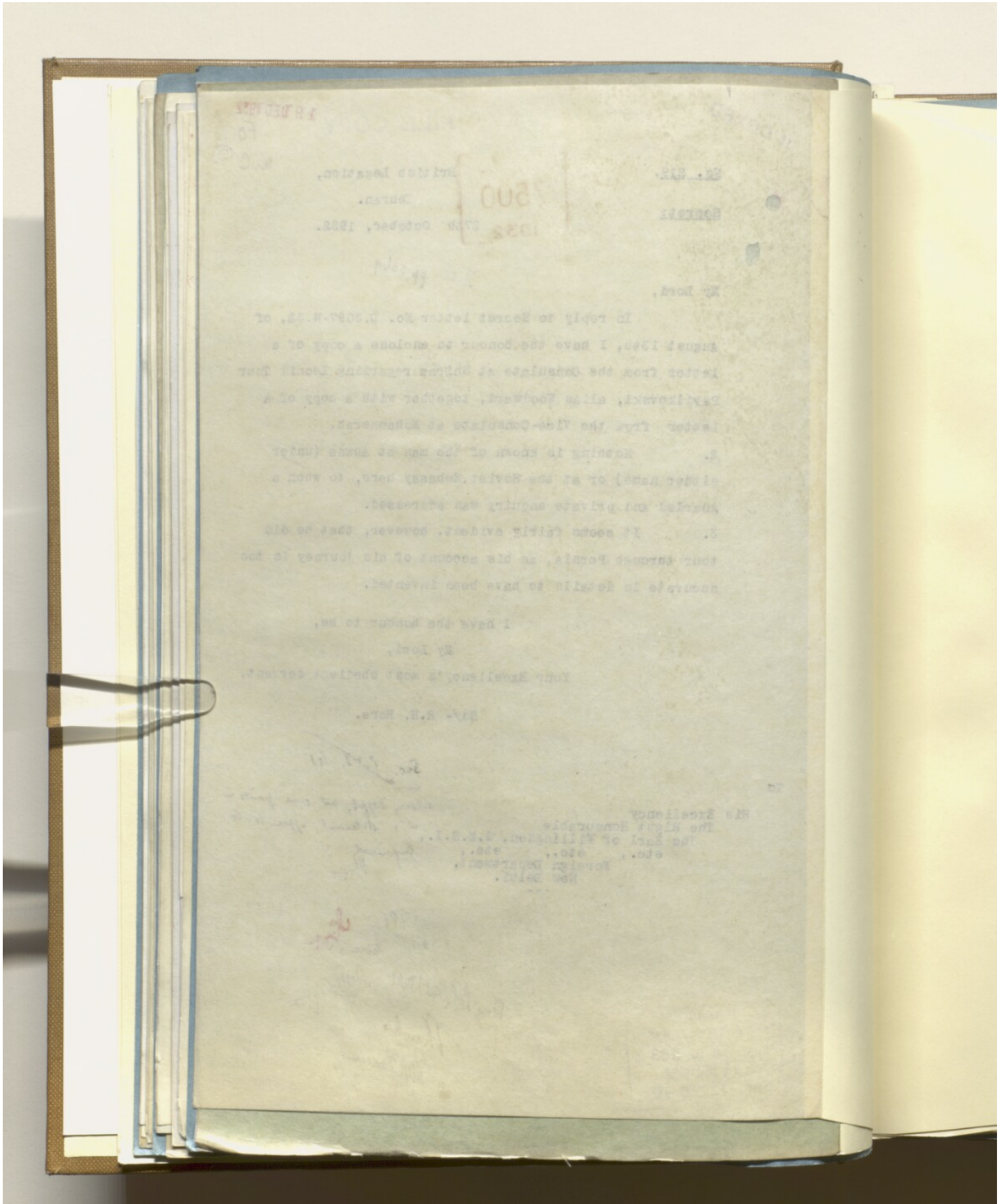
His Excellency
The Right Honourable
The Earl of Willington, G.M.S.I.,
etc., etc., etc.,
Foreign Department,
New Delhi.

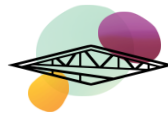
*Not very helpful, but some points in W's statement appear to be confirmed
11/12*

4843 191. *ch* 4833
6722. 31-

*Gray Pol (cont) Dist
Thanks
W. C. C. 30/12*

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1665
24 NOV 1932
12 DEC 1932





Enclosure No.1. in Tehran despatch No. 219 of 27th October, 1932.

No. 539/20.B.

British Consulate,
Shiraz.

September 13th, 1932.

Dear Chancery,

Your No. 29/8-1 of the 2nd.

There is in Shiraz a British Indian subject, J.F.F. Saldana who is locally known as "Johnny" to the motor fraternity. At the time of Woodward's alleged journey Saldana was partner in a spare-parts shop, subsequently abandoned, and one lorry. We have questioned Saldana who we think quite genuinely has no recollection of anyone corresponding to Woodward, for whom he arranged transport to Isfahan.

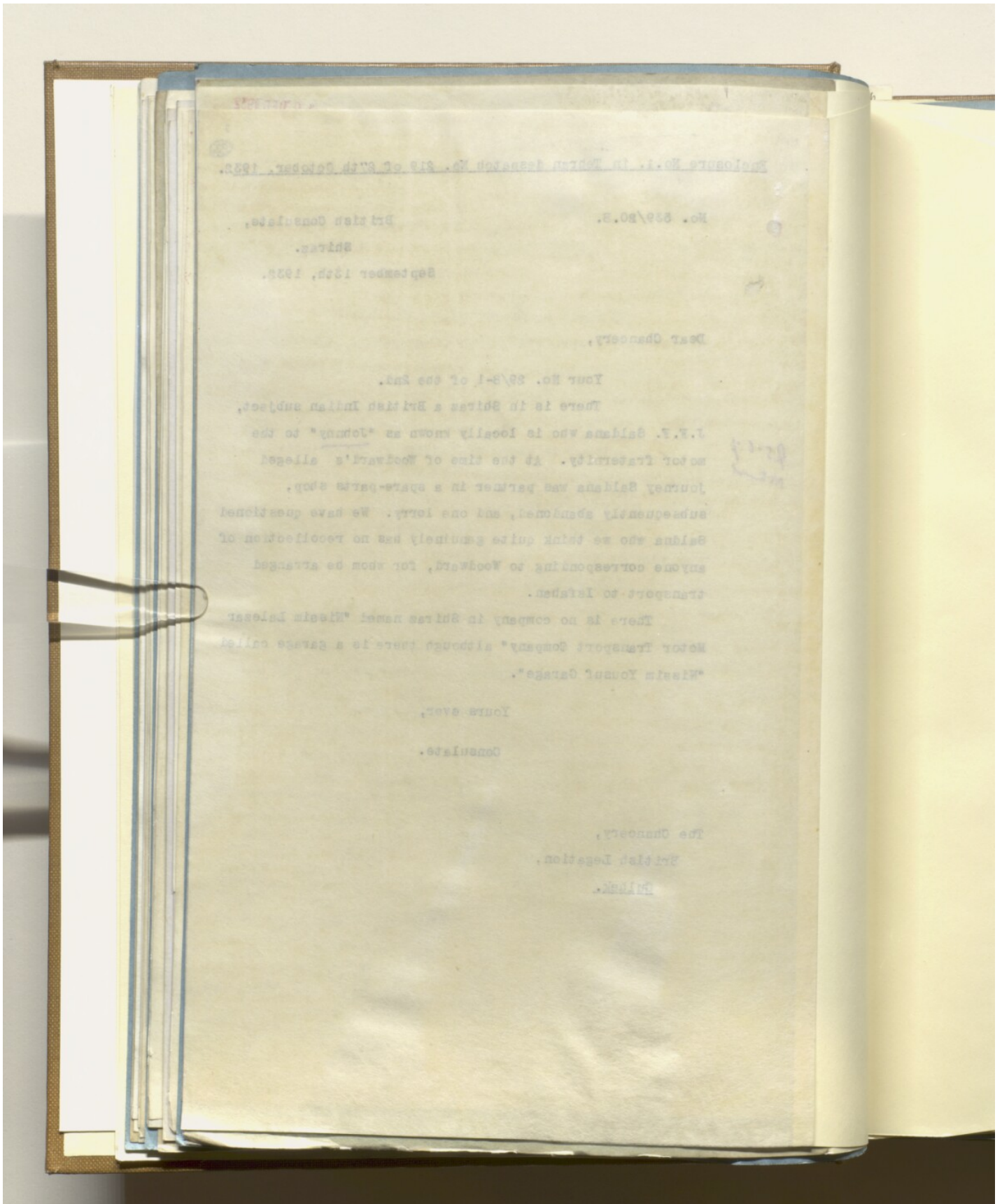
There is no company in Shiraz named "Nissim Lalezar Motor Transport Company" although there is a garage called "Nissim Yousuf Garage".

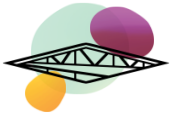
Yours ever,

Consulate.

The Chancery,
British Legation,
Gulhek.

*P.S. - 67
M. S. Saldana*





Enclosure No. 2. in Tehran despatch No. 219 of 27th October, 1932. (31)

No. 869.

British Vice-Consulate,
Mohammerah,
September 21, 1932.

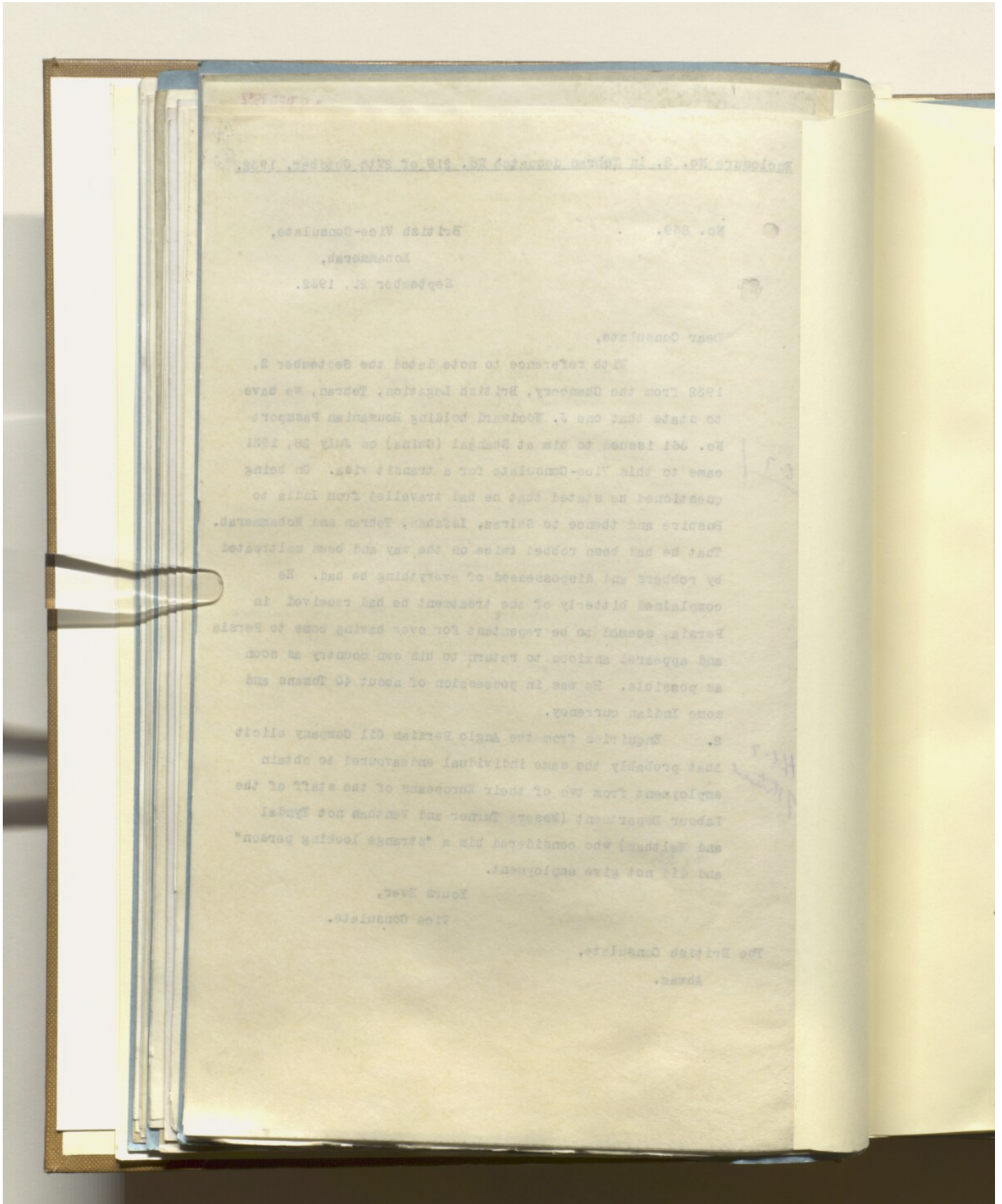
Dear Consulate,

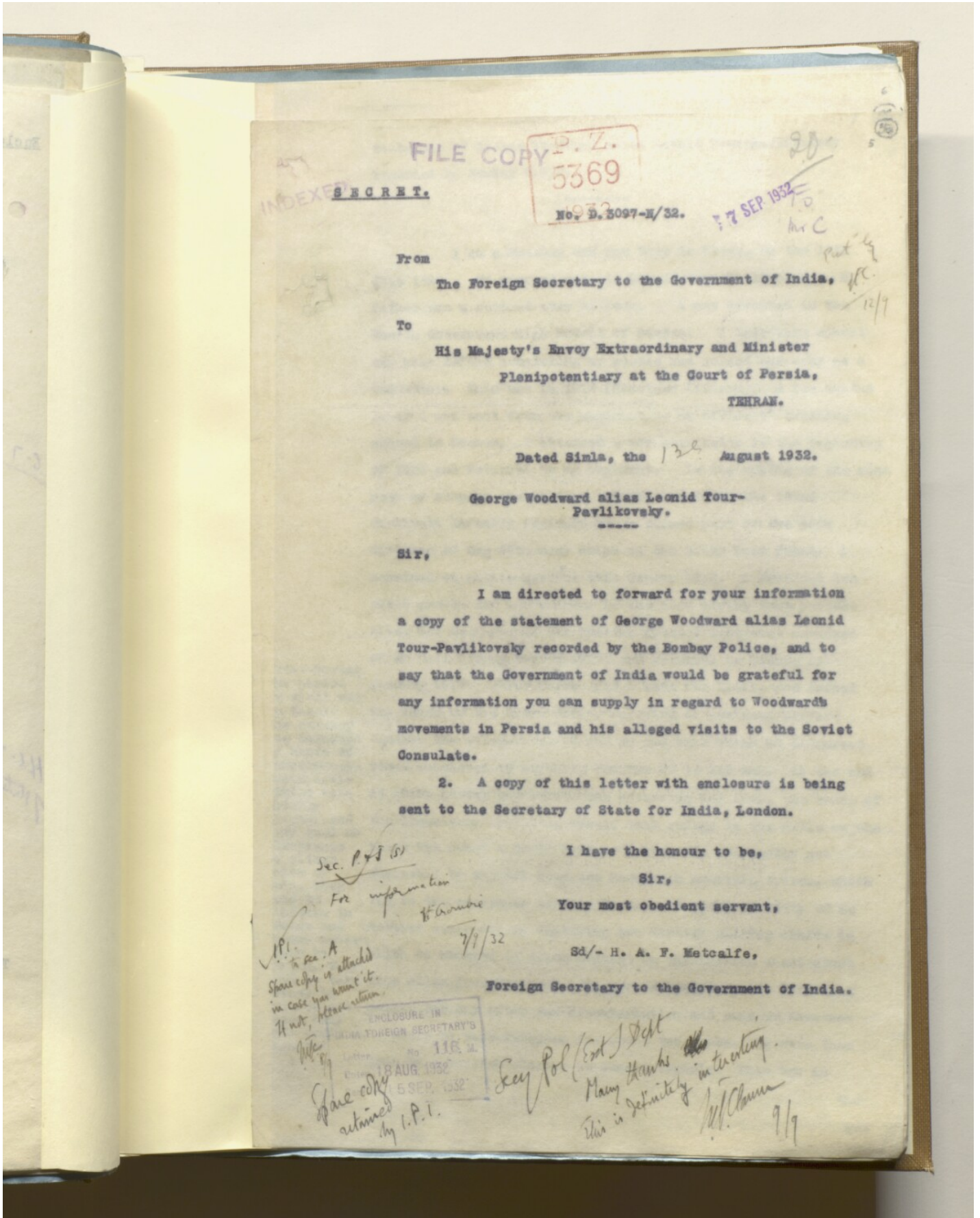
With reference to note dated the September 2, 1932 from the Chancery, British Legation, Tehran, we have to state that one J. Woodward holding Roumanian Passport No. 361 issued to him at Shanghai (China) on July 28, 1931 came to this Vice-Consulate for a transit visa. On being questioned he stated that he had travelled from India to Bushire and thence to Shiraz, Isfahan, Tehran and Mohammerah. That he had been robbed twice on the way and been maltreated by robbers and dispossessed of everything he had. He complained bitterly of the treatment he had received in Persia, seemed to be repentant for ever having come to Persia and appeared anxious to return to his own country as soon as possible. He was in possession of about 40 Tomans and some Indian currency.

2. Enquiries from the Anglo Persian Oil Company elicit that probably the same individual endeavoured to obtain employment from two of their Europeans of the staff of the Labour Department (Messrs Turner and Ventham not Tyndal and Waltham) who considered him a "strange looking person" and did not give employment.

Yours Ever,
Vice Consulate.

The British Consulate,
Ahwaz.





FILE COPY P.Z. 5369

INDEXED SECRET.

No. D. 3097-N/32.

20
7 SEP 1932
To
Mr C
Part 4
12/9

From
The Foreign Secretary to the Government of India,
To
His Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister
Plenipotentiary at the Court of Persia,
TEHRAN.

Dated Simla, the 13th August 1932.

George Woodward alias Leonid Tour-Pavlikovsky.

Sir,

I am directed to forward for your information a copy of the statement of George Woodward alias Leonid Tour-Pavlikovsky recorded by the Bombay Police, and to say that the Government of India would be grateful for any information you can supply in regard to Woodward's movements in Persia and his alleged visits to the Soviet Consulate.

2. A copy of this letter with enclosure is being sent to the Secretary of State for India, London.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Sd/- H. A. F. Metcalfe,

Foreign Secretary to the Government of India.

Sec. P & J (S)

For information
H. Chamberlain

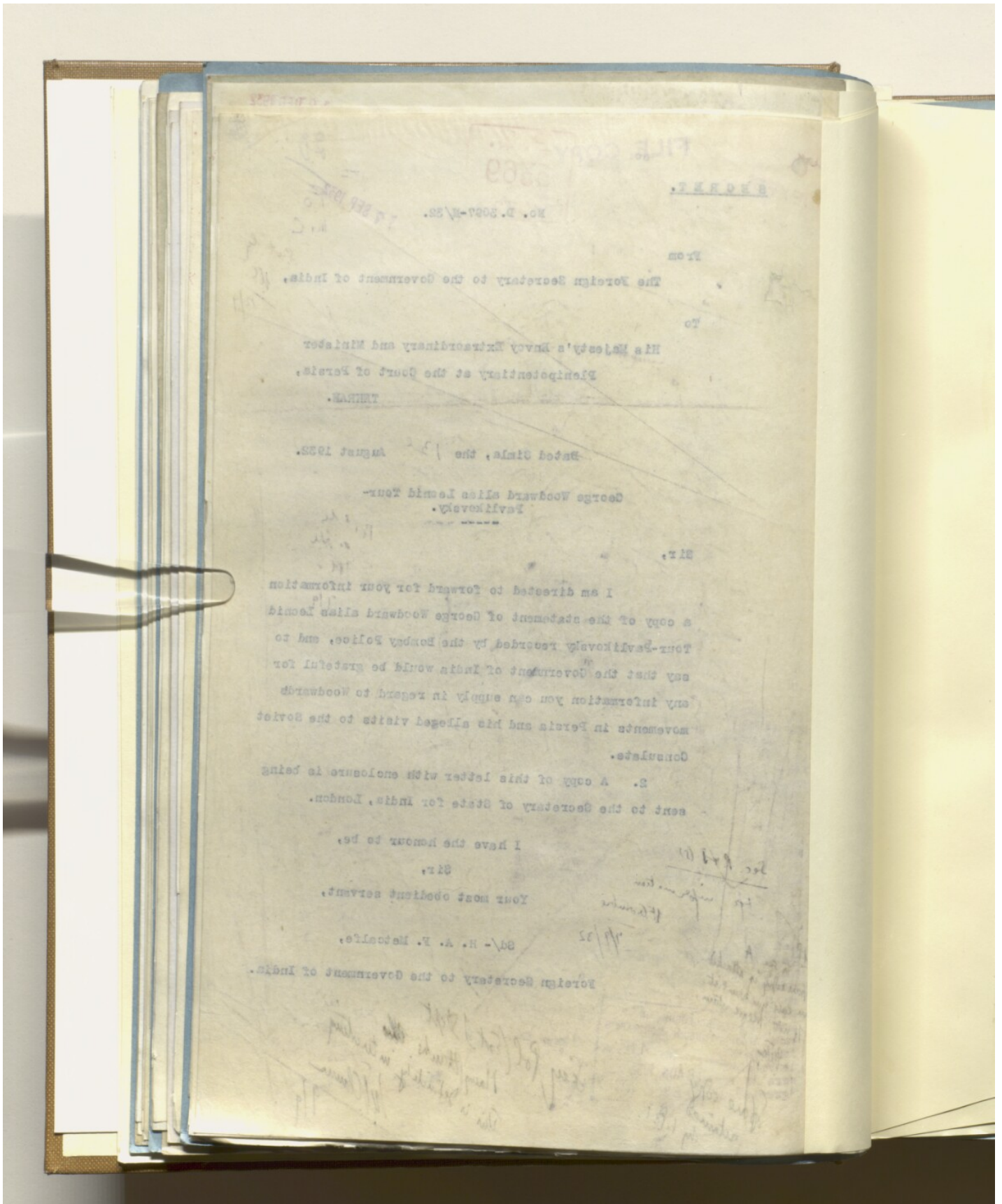
7/9/32

V.P.I.
in sec. A
Spare copy is attached
in case you want it.
If not, please return.

ENCLOSURE IN
INDIA FOREIGN SECRETARY'S
Letter No. 1162
Dated 18 AUG 1932
5 SEP 1932

Spare copy
returned
by I.P.I.

Secy Pol (Ext) Dept
Many thanks
This is definitely interesting.
W. Chamberlain
9/9





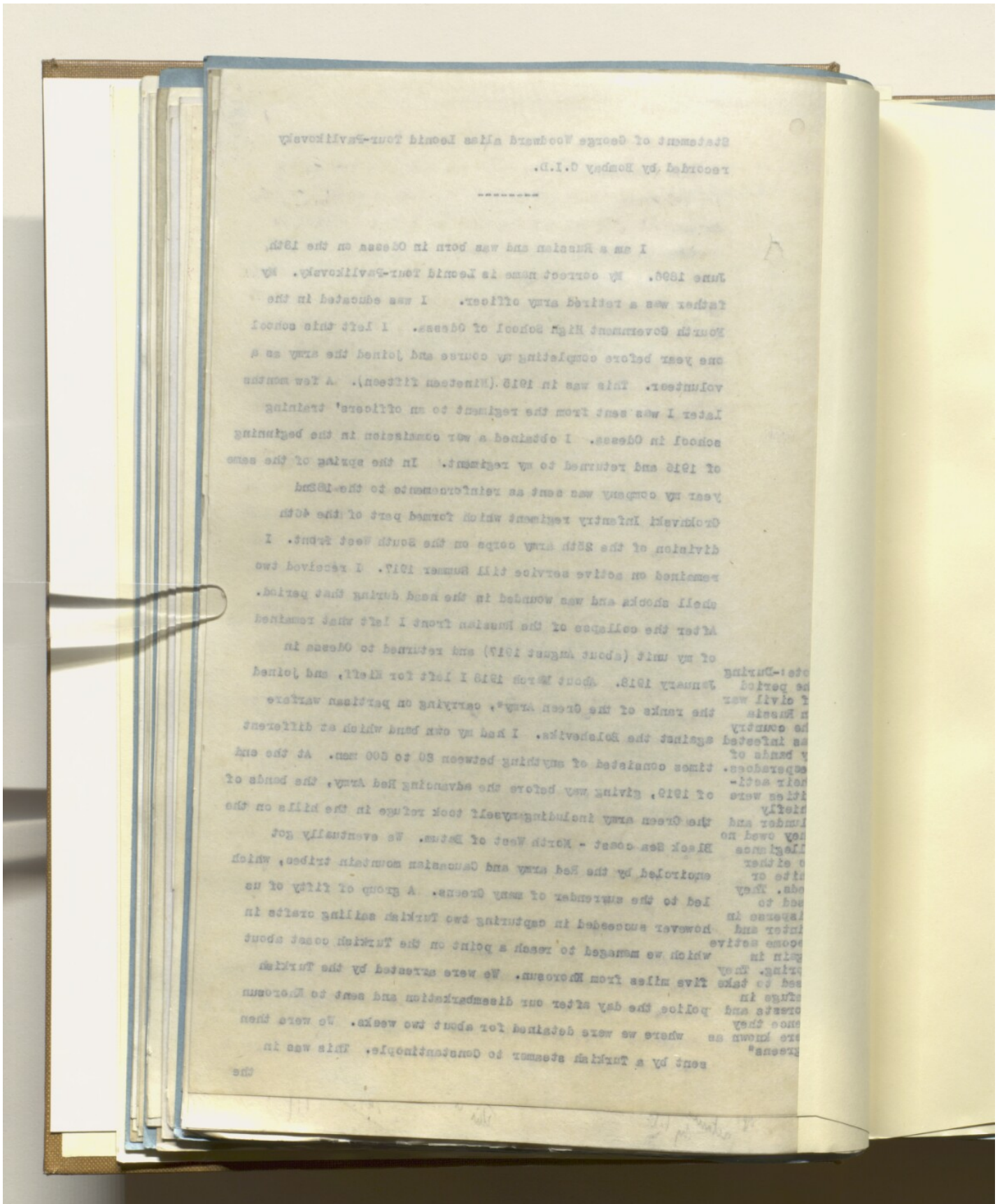
Statement of George Woodward alias Leonid Tour-Pavlikovsky
recorded by Bombay C.I.D.

I am a Russian and was born in Odessa on the 13th June 1896. My correct name is Leonid Tour-Pavlikovsky. My father was a retired army officer. I was educated in the Fourth Government High School of Odessa. I left this school one year before completing my course and joined the army as a volunteer. This was in 1915 (Nineteen fifteen). A few months later I was sent from the regiment to an officers' training school in Odessa. I obtained a war commission in the beginning of 1916 and returned to my regiment. In the spring of the same year my company was sent as reinforcements to the 182nd Grokhvski Infantry regiment which formed part of the 46th division of the 25th army corps on the South West front. I remained on active service till Summer 1917. I received two shell shocks and was wounded in the head during that period. After the collapse of the Russian front I left what remained of my unit (about August 1917) and returned to Odessa in

*Note:-During the period of civil war in Russia the country was infested by bands of desperadoes. Their activities were chiefly plunder and they owed no allegiance to either White or Reds. They used to disperse in winter and become active again in spring. They used to take refuge in forests and hence they were known as "greens"

January 1918. About March 1918 I left for Kieff, and joined the ranks of the Green Army*, carrying on partisan warfare against the Bolsheviki. I had my own band which at different times consisted of anything between 30 to 600 men. At the end of 1919, giving way before the advancing Red Army, the bands of the Green army including myself took refuge in the hills on the Black Sea coast - North West of Batum. We eventually got encircled by the Red army and Caucasian mountain tribes, which led to the surrender of many Greens. A group of fifty of us however succeeded in capturing two Turkish sailing crafts in which we managed to reach a point on the Turkish coast about five miles from Khorosun. We were arrested by the Turkish police the day after our disembarkation and sent to Khorosun where we were detained for about two weeks. We were then sent by a Turkish steamer to Constantinople. This was in

the
not



Statement of George Woodward alias Leonid Tour-Pavlikovski
recorded by Humphrey G.I.D.

I am a Russian and was born in Odessa on the 12th
June 1896. My correct name is Leonid Tour-Pavlikovski. My
father was a retired army officer. I was educated in the
Kornik Government High School of Odessa. I left this school
one year before completing my course and joined the army as a
volunteer. This was in 1915 (Nineteen fifteen). A few months
later I was sent from the regiment to an officers' training
school in Odessa. I obtained a war commission in the beginning
of 1916 and returned to my regiment. In the spring of the same
year my company was sent as reinforcements to the 40th
Grodzki Infantry Regiment which formed part of the 40th
division of the 23rd Army Corps on the South West front. I
remained on active service till summer 1917. I received two
shell shocks and was wounded in the head during that period.
After the collapse of the Russian front I left and remained
of my unit (about August 1917) and returned to Odessa in
January 1918. About March 1918 I left for Berlin and joined
the ranks of the Green Army, carrying on partisan warfare
against the Bolsheviks. I had my own band which at different
times consisted of anything between 50 to 500 men. At the end
of 1918, giving way before the advancing Red Army, the bands of
the Green Army individually took refuge in the hills on the
Black Sea coast - North West of Baku. We eventually got
employed by the Red Army and Caucasian mountain tribes, which
led to the surrender of many Greens. A group of fifty of us
however succeeded in capturing two Turkish sailing craft in
which we managed to reach a point on the Turkish coast about
fifty miles from Baku. We were arrested by the Turkish
state and police the day after our disembarkation and sent to Baku
where we were detained for about two weeks. We were then
sent by a Turkish steamer to Constantinople. This was in



the Summer of 1921. I was given shelter in the premises of Russian Embassy, a part of which was converted into a home for refugees. I do not remember the name of anybody on the Embassy's staff, but remember that the Embassy building was situated on the right side of Pera Road if one goes up from Galata. I remained in Constantinople for about six weeks and then decided to go to France as I could not secure employment in Constantinople. I made several attempts to stow away to Marseilles but was discovered and put ashore before the boat sailed on every occasion. I eventually succeeded in working my passage to Piraeus. I stopped for about a month in Athens and then sailed for Marseilles, working my passage on a French steamer. I do not remember the name of the Steamers by which I travelled. I had no passport but produced to the police on arrival in Marseilles my army identity papers and was allowed to land. The Russian Consul in Marseilles assisted me with my fare to Paris. I worked in the Renault factory for about eight months and then in the Citroen factory for about two years. I used to travel occasionally for a change to Brussels and Antwerp, using my French identity card as a passport on the Frontier. In 1926-27 I worked for eleven months in the chemical research laboratory of the Lloyd Royal Belge Company in Antwerp. In 1927 I went to Algiers via Marseilles as I felt tired of my life in France. I visited many places in Algiers including Tunis and then went to Casablanca in Morocco. There I worked for several months as a Port Overseer. When I got tired of that work I went to Mazagaon and joined a Dutch ship as a fireman. I do not remember the name of the ship. I worked on board for about two months and then deserted in Genoa. I visited Rome and Brindisi (in the latter place I was arrested by the Police and detained for three days) and then returned to Genoa where I embarked on a steamer bound for China. I did not buy a ticket but paid 110 Italian Liras to the crew. This was about 1929. I reached Shanghai in December 1929. I lived there in the French Concession but do not



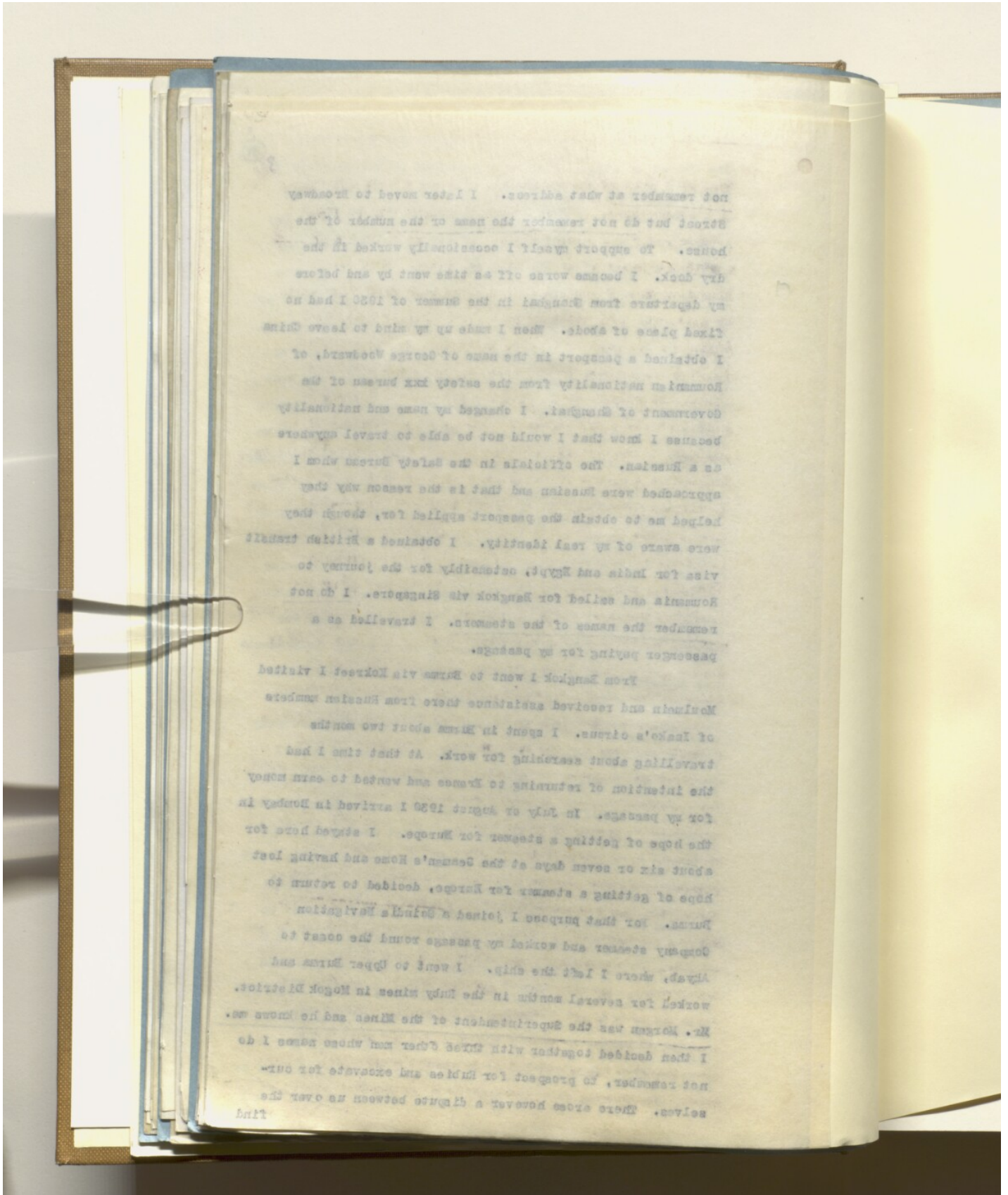
the summer of 1921. I was given shelter in the premises of
Kustan Embassy, a part of which was converted into a home
for refugees. I do not remember the name of anybody on the
Embassy's staff, but remember that the Embassy building was
situated on the right side of Park Road if one goes up from
Gaza. I remained in Constantinople for about six weeks and
then decided to go to France as I could not secure employment
in Constantinople. I made several attempts to row away to
Marseilles but was discovered and put ashore before the boat
called on every occasion. I eventually succeeded in working
my passage to France. I stopped for about a month in Athens
and then sailed for Marseilles, working my passage on a French
steamer. I do not remember the name of the steamer by which
I travelled. I had no passport but produced to the police on
arrival in Marseilles my own identity papers and was allowed
to land. The Prætor Consul in Marseilles assisted me with
my fare to Paris. I worked in the Renault factory for about
eight months and then in the Citroën factory for about two
years. I used to travel occasionally for a change to Brussels
and Antwerp, using my French identity card as a passport on
the frontier. In 1922-23 I worked for eleven months in the
chemical research laboratory of the High Royal Belg Company
in Antwerp. In 1923 I went to Algeria via Marseilles as I
felt tired of my life in France. I visited many places in
Algeria including Tunis and then went to Casablanca in Morocco.
There I worked for several months as a Port Overseer. When
I got tired of that work I went to Morocco and joined a Dutch
ship as a fireman. I do not remember the name of the ship.
I worked on board for about two months and then deserted in
Geneva. I visited Rome and Brindisi (in the latter place I
was arrested by the Police and detained for three days) and
then returned to Geneva where I embarked on a steamer bound for
Gaza. I did not buy a ticket but paid 110 Belgian francs to
the crew. This was about 1923. I reached Shanghai in
December 1923. I lived there in the French Concession but do
not



3 (58)

not remember at what address. I later moved to Broadway Street but do not remember the name or the number of the house. To support myself I occasionally worked in the dry dock. I became worse off as time went by and before my departure from Shanghai in the Summer of 1930 I had no fixed place of abode. When I made up my mind to leave China I obtained a passport in the name of George Woodward, of Roumanian nationality from the safety bureau of the Government of Shanghai. I changed my name and nationality because I know that I would not be able to travel anywhere as a Russian. The officials in the Safety Bureau whom I approached were Russian and that is the reason why they helped me to obtain the passport applied for, though they were aware of my real identity. I obtained a British transit visa for India and Egypt, ostensibly for the journey to Roumania and sailed for Bangkok via Singapore. I do not remember the names of the steamers. I travelled as a passenger paying for my passage.

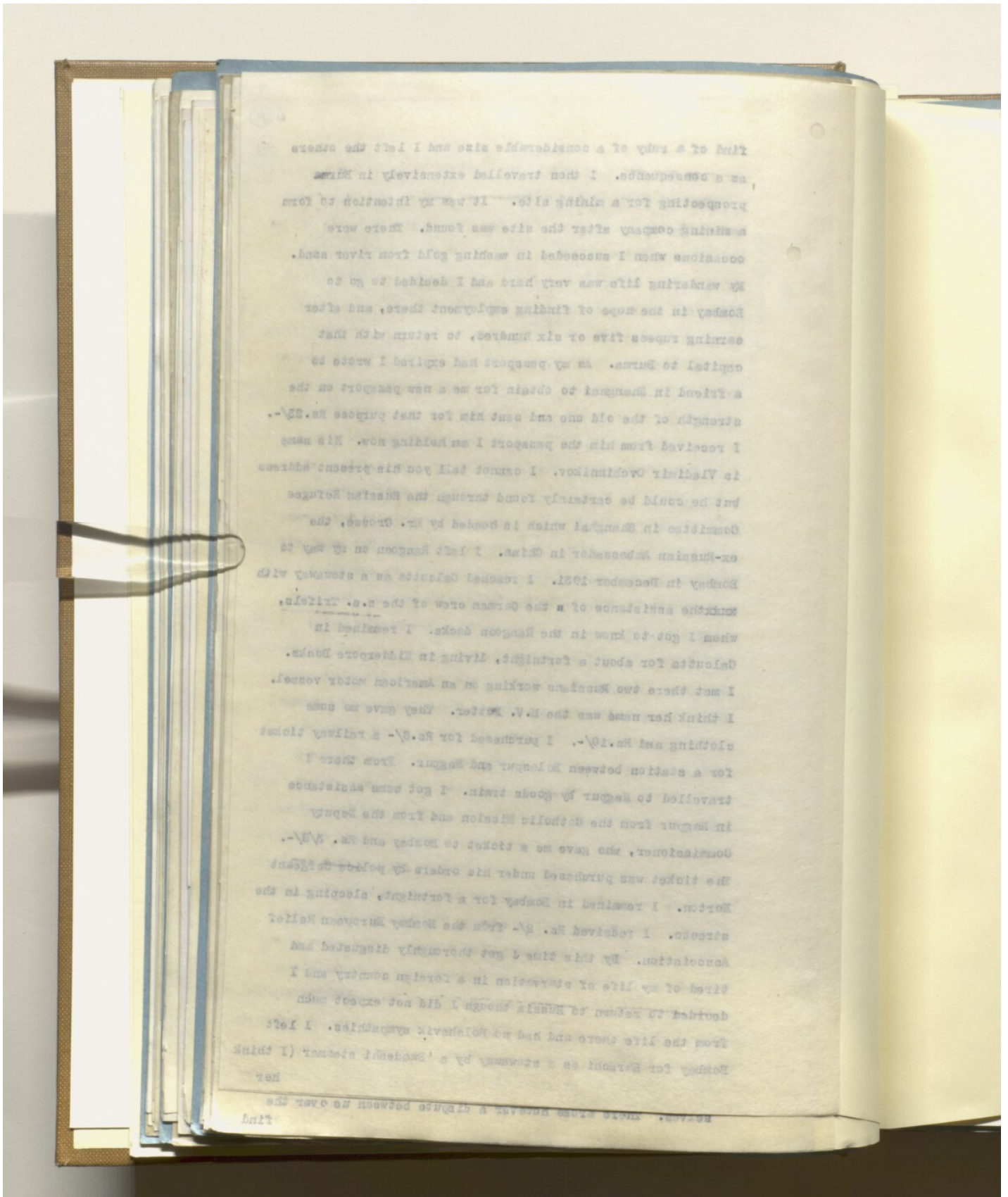
From Bangkok I went to Burma via Kokreet I visited Moulmein and received assistance there from Russian members of Isako's circus. I spent in Burma about two months travelling about searching for work. At that time I had the intention of returning to France and wanted to earn money for my passage. In July or August 1930 I arrived in Bombay in the hope of getting a steamer for Europe. I stayed here for about six or seven days at the Seaman's Home and having lost hope of getting a steamer for Europe, decided to return to Burma. For that purpose I joined a Scindia Navigation Company steamer and worked my passage round the coast to Akyab, where I left the ship. I went to Upper Burma and worked for several months in the Ruby mines in Mogok District. Mr. Morgan was the Superintendent of the Mines and he knows me. I then decided together with three other men whose names I do not remember, to prospect for Rubies and excavate for ourselves. There arose however a dispute between us over the find





9
4 (39)

find of a ruby of a considerable size and I left the others as a consequence. I then travelled extensively in Burma prospecting for a mining site. It was my intention to form a mining company after the site was found. There were occasions when I succeeded in washing gold from river sand. My wandering life was very hard and I decided to go to Bombay in the hope of finding employment there, and after earning rupees five or six hundred, to return with that capital to Burma. As my passport had expired I wrote to a friend in Shanghai to obtain for me a new passport on the strength of the old one and sent him for that purpose Rs.23/-. I received from him the passport I am holding now. His name is Vladimir Orchinikov. I cannot tell you his present address but he could be certainly found through the Russian Refugee Committee in Shanghai which is headed by Mr. Grosse, the ex-Russian Ambassador in China. I left Rangoon on my way to Bombay in December 1931. I reached Calcutta as a stowaway with ~~with~~the assistance of ~~the~~ the German crew of the s.s. Trifels, whom I got to know in the Rangoon docks. I remained in Calcutta for about a fortnight, living in Kidderpore Docks. I met there two Russians working on an American motor vessel. I think her name was the M.V. Potter. They gave me some clothing and Rs.10/-. I purchased for Rs.8/- a railway ticket for a station between Belaspur and Nagpur. From there I travelled to Nagpur by goods train. I got some assistance in Nagpur from the Catholic Mission and from the Deputy Commissioner, who gave me a ticket to Bombay and Rs. 3/8/-. The ticket was purchased under his orders by police Sergeant Norton. I remained in Bombay for a fortnight, sleeping in the streets. I received Rs. 2/- from the Bombay European Relief Association. By this time I got thoroughly disgusted and tired of my life of starvation in a foreign country and I decided to return to Russia though I did not expect much from the life there and had no Bolshevik sympathies. I left Bombay for Karachi as a stowaway by a Swadeshi steamer (I think
her

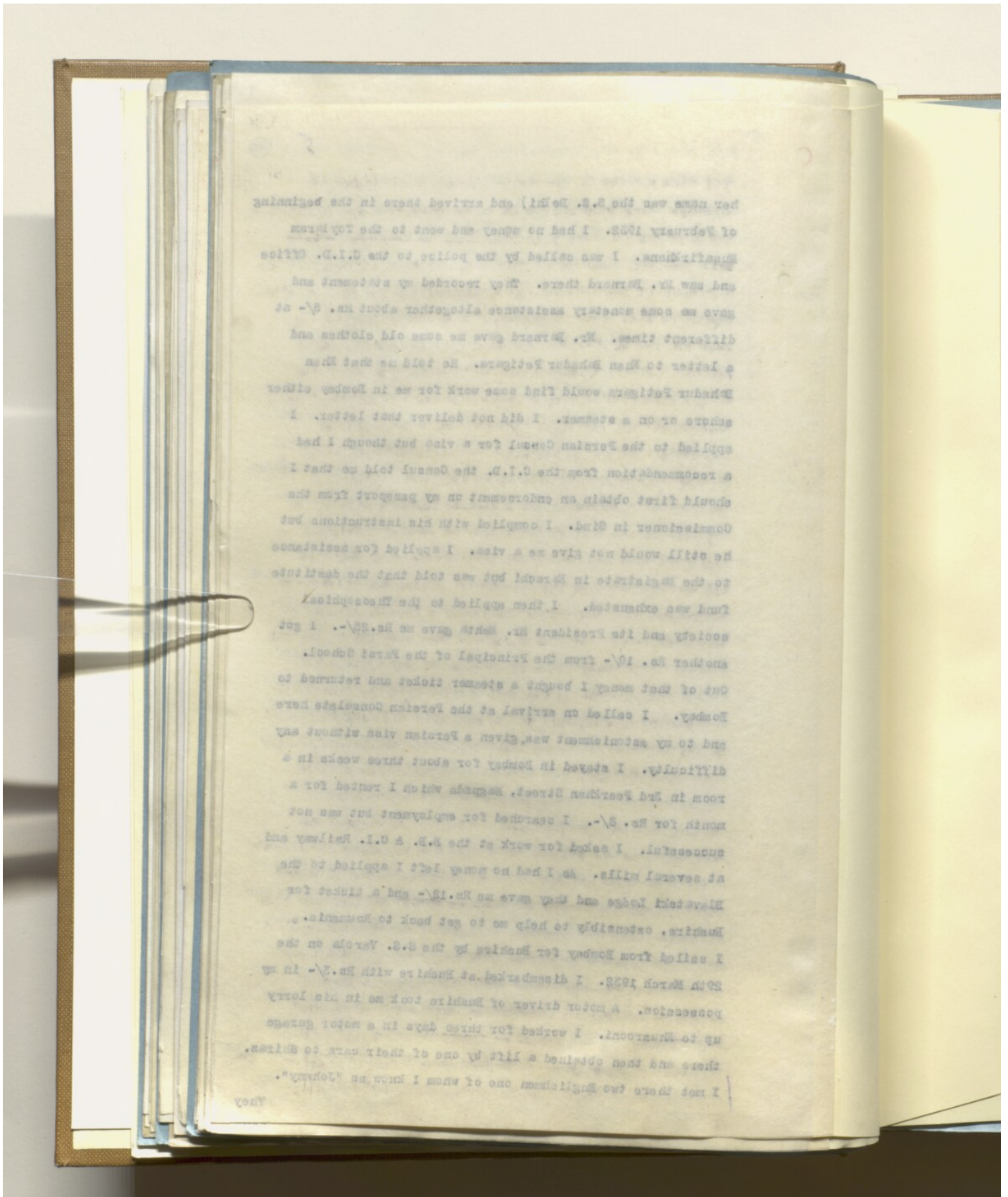




5 (40)

her name was the S.S. Delhi) and arrived there in the beginning of February 1932. I had no money and went to the Toylaram Musafirkhana. I was called by the police to the C.I.D. Office and saw Mr. Barnard there. They recorded my statement and gave me some monetary assistance altogether about Rs. 5/- at different times. Mr. Barnard gave me some old clothes and a letter to Khan Bahadur Petigara. He told me that Khan Bahadur Petigara would find some work for me in Bombay either ashore or on a steamer. I did not deliver that letter. I applied to the Persian Consul for a visa but though I had a recommendation from the C.I.D. the Consul told me that I should first obtain an endorsement on my passport from the Commissioner in Sind. I complied with his instructions but he still would not give me a visa. I applied for assistance to the Magistrate in Karachi but was told that the destitute fund was exhausted. I then applied to the Theosophical society and its President Mr. Mahta gave me Rs.25/-. I got another Rs. 10/- from the Principal of the Parsi School. Out of that money I bought a steamer ticket and returned to Bombay. I called on arrival at the Persian Consulate here and to my astonishment was given a Persian visa without any difficulty. I stayed in Bombay for about three weeks in a room in 3rd Peer Khan Street, Nagpada which I rented for a month for Rs. 8/-. I searched for employment but was not successful. I asked for work at the B.B. & C.I. Railway and at several mills. As I had no money left I applied to the Elavatski Lodge and they gave me Rs.12/- and a ticket for Bushire, ostensibly to help me to get back to Roumania. I sailed from Bombay for Bushire by the S.S. Varola on the 29th March 1932. I disembarked at Bushire with Rs.3/- in my possession. A motor driver of Bushire took me in his lorry up to Khuzrooni. I worked for three days in a motor garage there and then obtained a lift by one of their cars to Shiraz. I met there two Englishmen one of whom I know as "Johnny".

They



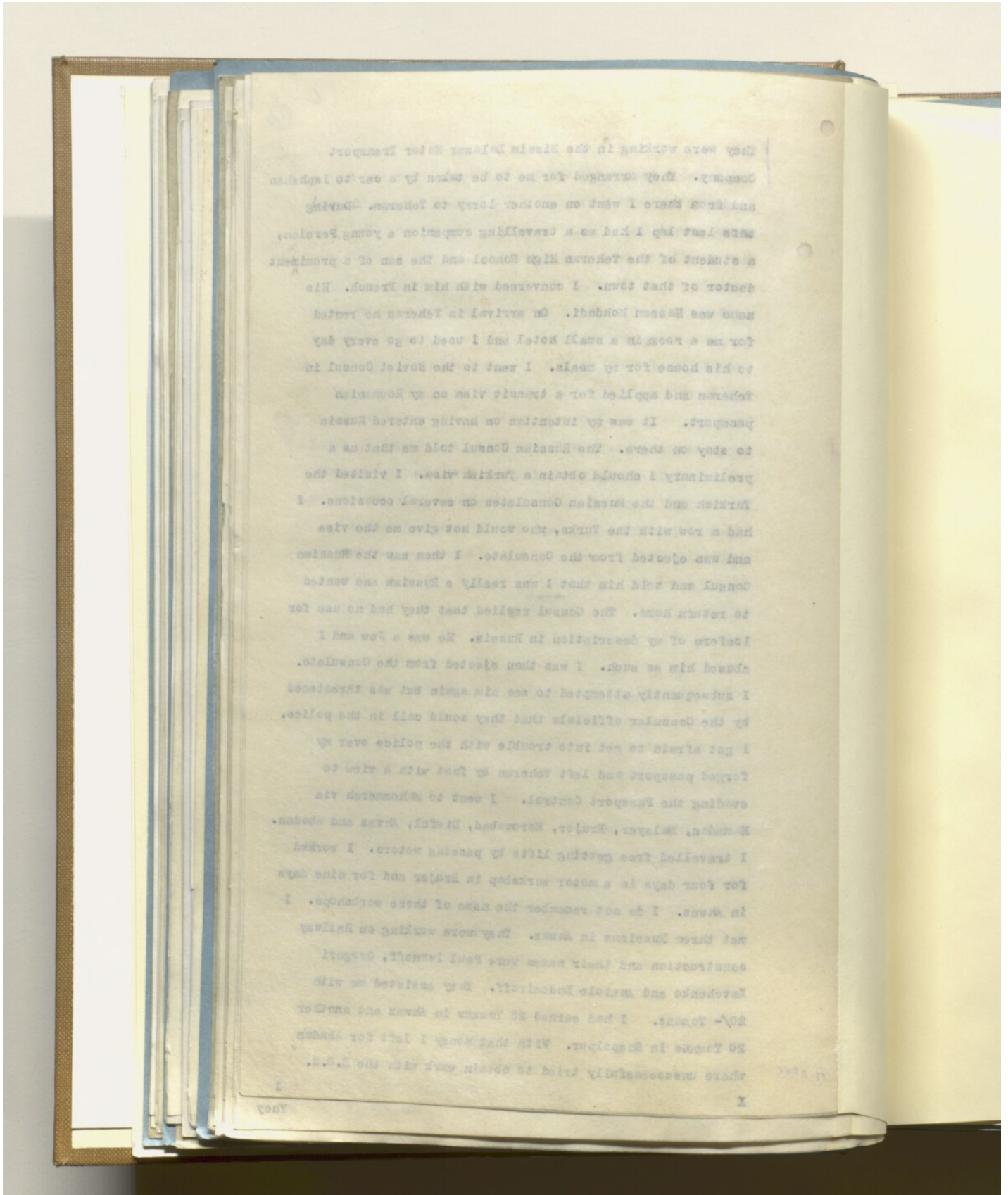


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41

They were working in the Nissim Lalazar Motor Transport Company. They arranged for me to be taken by a car to Isphahan and from there I went on another lorry to Teheran. During this last lap I had as a travelling companion a young Persian, a student of the Teheran High School and the son of a prominent doctor of that town. I conversed with him in French. His name was Hassan Mohdadi. On arrival in Teheran he rented for me a room in a small hotel and I used to go every day to his house for my meals. I went to the Soviet Consul in Teheran and applied for a transit visa on my Roumanian passport. It was my intention on having entered Russia to stay on there. The Russian Consul told me that as a preliminary I should obtain a Turkish visa. I visited the Turkish and the Russian Consulates on several occasions. I had a row with the Turks, who would not give me the visa and was ejected from the Consulate. I then saw the Russian Consul and told him that I was really a Russian and wanted to return home. The Consul replied that they had no use for loafers of my description in Russia. He was a Jew and I abused him as such. I was then ejected from the Consulate. I subsequently attempted to see him again but was threatened by the Consular officials that they would call in the police. I got afraid to get into trouble with the police over my forged passport and left Teheran by foot with a view to evading the Passport Control. I went to Mahommerah via Hamadan, Malayer, Brujer, Koromobad, Dizful, Ahwaz and Abadan. I travelled free getting lifts by passing motors. I worked for four days in a motor workshop in Brujer and for nine days in Ahwaz. I do not remember the name of those workshops. I met three Russians in Ahwaz. They were working on Railway construction and their names were Paul Ivanoff, Gregori Zavehenko and Anatole Ludomiroff. They assisted me with 20/- Tomans. I had earned 25 Tomans in Ahwaz and another 20 Tomans in Shapalpur. With that money I left for Abadan where unsuccessfully tried to obtain work with the B.O.C.

* is. A.P.O.C.

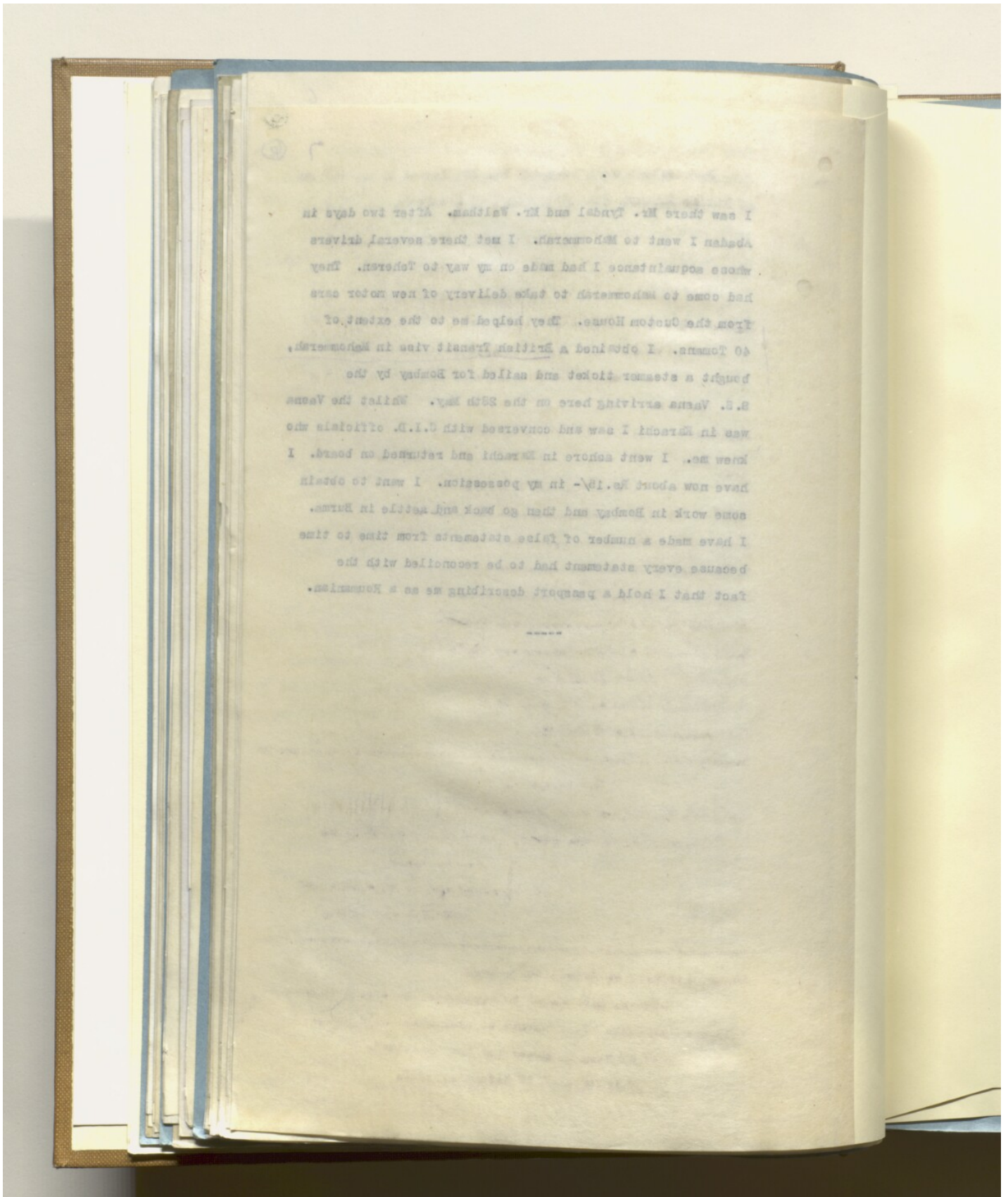
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12
7 (12)

I saw there Mr. Tyndal and Mr. Waltham. After two days in Abadan I went to Mahommerah. I met there several drivers whose acquaintance I had made on my way to Teheran. They had come to Mahommerah to take delivery of new motor cars from the Custom House. They helped me to the extent of 40 Tomans. I obtained a British Transit visa in Mahommerah, bought a steamer ticket and sailed for Bombay by the S.S. Vasna arriving here on the 28th May. Whilst the Vasna was in Karachi I saw and conversed with G.I.D. officials who knew me. I went ashore in Karachi and returned on board. I have now about Rs.15/- in my possession. I want to obtain some work in Bombay and then go back and settle in Burma. I have made a number of false statements from time to time because every statement had to be reconciled with the fact that I hold a passport describing me as a Roumanian.





13
Particulars of a passport No. 361 issued by the Bureau
of Public Safety, City Government of Shanghai.

Sd/- Chen Hsitseng (Rubber stamp)
Commissioner of Public Safety
City Government of Shanghai.

Name....Mr. G.Woodward....A Roumanian Subject.... born at
Akkerman.... aged 28.... residing at Shanghai....
who is proceeding to Roumania.... via India, Persia,
Turkey.

Dated.... Shanghai the 23th July 1931.

Valid for twelve months from date of issue.

Personal Description.

Date of birth..... 18/6/1903.
Place of birth..... Akkerman, Roumania.
Height..... 5 feet 4 inches.
Distinguishing marks..... Nil.
Present occupation..... Seaman.
Last place of residence..... Shanghai.
Object of present journey..
Probable duration of his stay in -
Wife..... Bachelor.

Endorsements.

1. Seen. The holder is a foreign subject proceeding to a
foreign country and does not require a British visa.

Sd.....

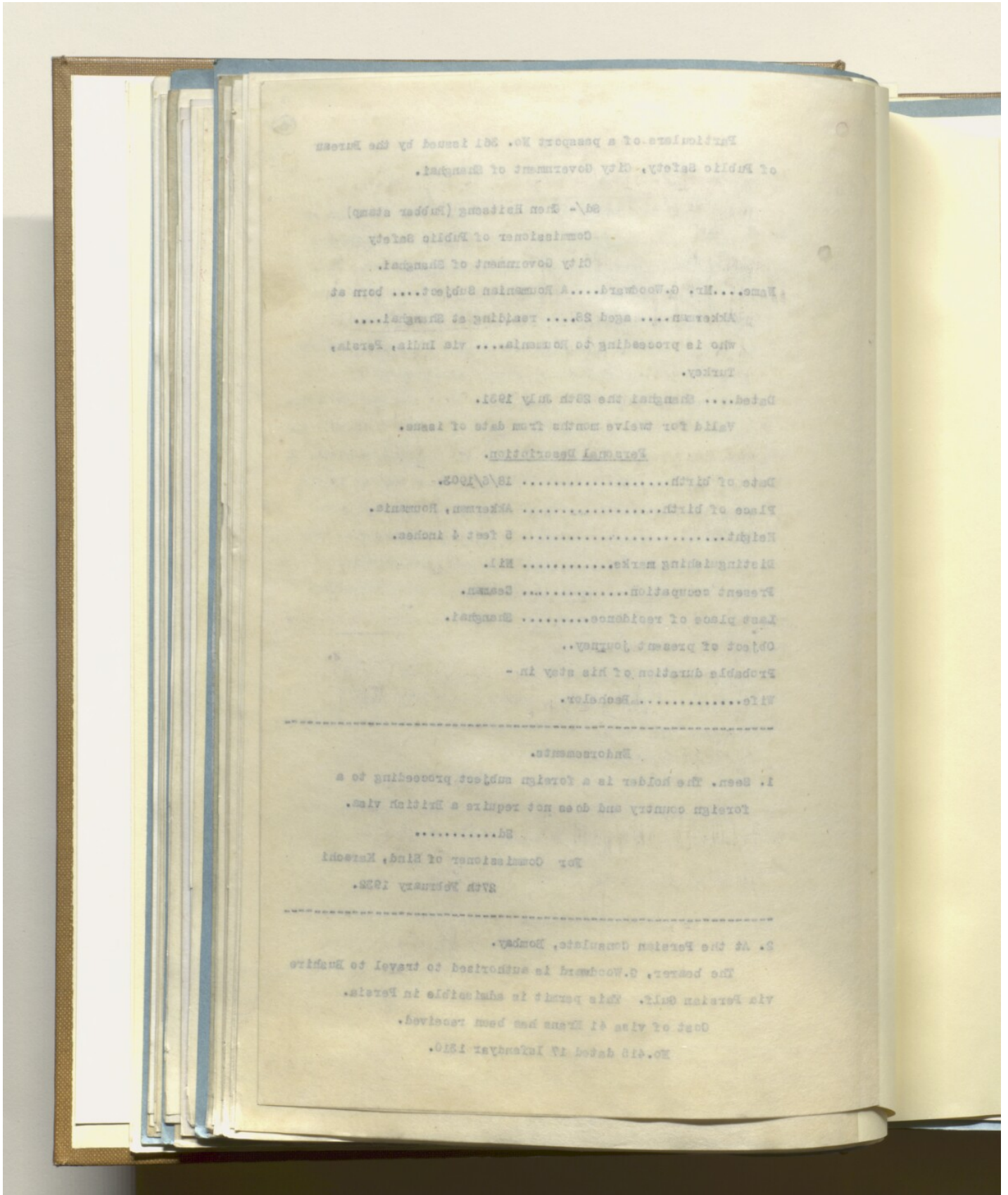
For Commissioner of Sind, Karachi
27th February 1932.

2. At the Persian Consulate, Bombay.

The bearer, G.Woodward is authorised to travel to Bushire
via Persian Gulf. This permit is admissible in Persia.

Cost of visa 41 Krans has been received.

No.415 dated 17 Isfandiyar 1310.





Endorsements.

3. The Customs authorities at Bushire examined this passport on arrival on 10/1/11.

Sd/- Ali Shaukat (in pencil)

4. Visa No. 111 dated 7/1/1931 to Woodward, the holder of this passport No. 341 dated 20/11/1928 for the purpose of going out of the Persian territory via Mahommerah is granted.

Cost of visa is Gratis
Teheran, dated 23/1/1311

5. Visa No. 957 dated 13/4/11 to Woodward the holder of this passport No. 341 dated 28th July for going out from the Persian territory via Mahommerah is granted.

Cost of Visa is gratis.
Mahommerah dated 29/2/1311.

6. Legation De France En Persee.

Mr. G. Woodward. Visa A transit No. 50 dated 11/4/32.
Validity one month and one journey. Good for transit through Syria and Liban.
Dated Teheran, 11/4/32.

Sd/- for the Minister.

7. No. 468 dated May 19th 1932 H.E.M. Vice Consulate, Mahommerah.

Good for the journey to India in transit.

Sd/- -----

H.E.M. Vice Consul,
Mahommerah.

