

# Surveillance Policy Of The Colonial Governments Upon the Political Suspects: A study On Chandernagore

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## Abstract:

During the swadeshi period the youths of Bengal formed different societies and groups in the various parts of the province. These types of society merely show their political activities publicly. The intelligence department were strongly noticed their activities. Amongst them these societies at Chandernagore were also took a crucial part against the colonial government. As Chandernagore was the French colony, so they have some advantages to take the French Law. Though the British Government was so much conscious about the political suspects of Chandernagore and took the connection with the French Administration about their activities. In this article we will try to locate the policy of the both Government towards the political suspects of Chandernagore through the different confidential and intelligence report.

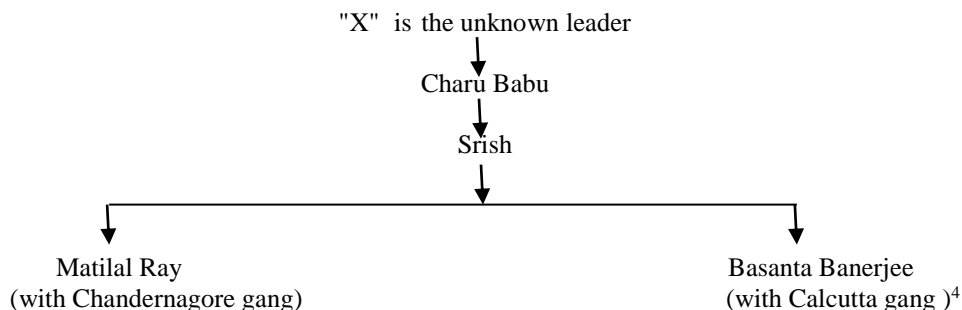
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## Full Paper:

The youths of Bengal were formed different societies and groups in the various parts of the provinces during the *Swadeshi* movement. Like the other parts of Bengal, Chandernagore were also actively participated to the anti- British as well as anti-colonial movement .They formed various types of societies to united the people, like that, *Club for physical activities* , *drama club* ,*debating club* , '*swadeshi bhandar*' (to sale the indigenous products) etc. The youths of Chandernagore prepared themselves within this organization to the broader movement against the colonial rulers.

At the same time the British intelligence department was also aware of their activities. They named the workers of the Chandannagar as 'Chandernagore Group' or ' Chandernagore Party'<sup>1</sup>.An intelligence report said that, " Our attention was first drawn in Chandernagore in 1907 in consequences of certain disturbances which took place there and information was at the same time received of the connection of Bengal revolutionaries with the Chandernagore Party."<sup>2</sup>

Charuchandra Roy, the leader of the Chandernagore Party, was formed a society named 'Sathpathabalamby *Sampradaya*'<sup>3</sup>, the member of which took the path of honesty. Matilal Roy was the active soldier of that society. The British intelligence report depicted that Matilal Roy was the leader of the Boraichanditala section (southern part of the city) of the '*Sathpathabalamby Sampradaya*'. During the investigation of the Dalhoussie Square Bomb Case the British Police has sketched diagrams of the Chandernagore revolutionary party. They knew about the detail from the two main accused of that Bomb Case, those were Narendranath Banerjee and Nanigopal Mukherjee. The structure of the Chandernagore revolutionary party was as sketched by the intelligence department as follow:



In this regard we can state here the details about 32 persons connected with the Chandernagore Revolutionary party. The information which were collected from the records of the Intelligence Branch has shown below: <sup>5</sup>

1 Sl. No.	2 Name and father's Name	3 Dist. Residence and Police stn.	4 Remarks
1	Basanta Kumar Banerjee, S/o Rajandra Nath Banerjee, age 24 yrs. Married. Clerk in office of K. Mukherjee & Co., Contractors. No.1, Pallock street, Calcutta.	Gondalpara, French Chandarnagore and No. 63-1, Prem Chand Boral Street, Calcutta.	Member of the Maniktala garden gang and also of the French Chandarnagore gang of anarchists. Visited Charu Roy and other under trial prisoners in the Alipur Jail and suspected of having had a hand in the smuggling in at the revolver with which the approver, Noren Goswami, was shot was employed as 2 <sup>nd</sup> Master in the Ballavpur High English school, but removed on account of this political tendencies. Is on many intimate terms with Narandra Nath Banerjee and Harihar De.
2.	Birendra Nath Banerjee S/o Harendra Nath Banerjee, age 28 yrs. Employed as clerk in Gondalpara Jute Mill.	Akalposh, Kalna, Burdwan and Mazumder-ghor, Chandarnagore.	Was one of the strikers in the Burn & Co. strike in 1907. Printer of the Yugantar convicted and sentenced on 18 <sup>th</sup> Aug., 1908 to three years rigorous imprisonment, under sec. 124A. Indian Penal code (Yugantar 6 <sup>th</sup> prosecution). His name was mentioned in exhibit No. 755 of the Alipur bomb case. Is a member of the French Chandarnagore gang of anarchists. Arrested in connection with Talbona robbery case but was not sent up for want of evidence. His associates are Kiran Mukherjee
3.	Gopendra Nath Banerji, S/o Ramanath Banerjee, age 31 years employed in East Indian Railway office, Howrah.	Gondalpara, French Chandarnagore and No. 33, Bosepara Lane, Calcutta.	Ex-Sub-Inspector of Police. Brother of Upendra Banerjee, convicted in the Alipur Bomb Case. A great friend of Charu Ch. Ray was suspected of writing sedition in the Swadhin Bharat leaflets. Member of the French Chandarnagore gang of anarchists History Sheet No.- 607 .
4.	Khettra Banarji @ Dasu, S/o Tinkari Banarje, age 32 Yrs. Clerk in East Indian Railway office, Fairlie Place, Calcutta.	Gondalpara, French Chandranagore	Mentioned by an informer as being a member of the French Chandarnagore gang of anarchists.
5.	Manmatha Banerjee @ Bulbul, S/o Aghor Nath Banerjee, age 19 yrs.	Gondalpara, French Chandranagore.	Mentioned by an informer as being a member of the French Chandarnagore gang of anarchists.
6.	Narendra Nath Banerjee S/o the late Nitya Gopal Banerjee age 30yrs. Was a stationary shop at Barasat.	Gondlpara, French Chandarnagore And No. 401, Sri Gopal Mallick's lane, Calcutta.	A member of the French Chandarnagore gang of anarchists. Arrested in connection with the Dolhousie square bomb case, but discharged for want of evidence, Is on very intimate terms with Basanta Banerjee.
7.	Narendra Nath Banerjee S/o Rama nather Nath Banerjee, age 30 yrs. Works in office of Williamson Magor & Co., Calcutta.	Gondalpara French Chandarnagore and No. 61-3, Hiliram Banerjee Lane, Calcutta.	Brother of Upendra Banerjee, Mentioned by an informer as a member of the French Chandarnagore gang of anarchists. Was a friend of Kanailal Dutta.
8.	Surendra Nath Banerjee, S/o Rama Nath Banerjee, age 28 yrs. Clerk in Arsenal section, military accounts office, Esplanade, Calcutta.	Gondalpara, French Chandarnagore and No. 258-6, upper circular Rd. Calcutta.	Brother of Upendra Banerjee Mentioned by an informer as being a member of the French chandarnagore gang of anarchists. Was in touch with the Maniktala garden gang and visited some of the accused in the Alipur bomb case shortly before the murder of approver Noren Goswami.

9.	Upendra Nath Banerjee S/O Ramanath, age 37 yrs.	Gondalpara., French Chandarnagore.	Member of the Maniktala gang of conspirators. Sent up in the Alipur bomb case and sentenced on 23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov, 1909 to transportation for life.
10.	Satish Ch. Chakraborty, s/o Haripada, age 27 yrs passed out of Campbell Modical School and has started a dispensary at Gondalpara and another at Talinipara.	Gondalpara French Chandarnagore and No. 61 Mirzapur Street, Calcutta	Is reported to be a desperate character and to have kept a Bande Mataram club and a library of seditious literature in company with Surendra Nath Banerjee was suspected in the attempted bomb outrage in chandarnagore in 1908. Used to sell the Yugantar.
11.	Anath Nath Chatarjee, S/o Ramanath, age 30 yrs. Employed in East Indian Railway office, Fairlie place, Calcutta	Gondalpara, French Chandarnagore.	Mentioned by an informer as a members of the French Chandarnagar gang of anarchists Reported to be a desperate character and a close friend of Khetra Banarjee.
12.	Manik Chatarji @ Neroo, S/o Naba Kumar age 19 yrs.	Gondalpara, French Chandarnagore.	Mentioned by an informer as a member of the French Chandarnagore gang of anarchists.
13.	Manohar Chatarji, S/O Naba Krista Chatarji, age 25 yrs. Employed as signaler on Eastern Bengal State Railway at Goalundo.	Gondalpara, French Chandarnagore.	Member of the Gondalpara Sanjit Samaj, mentioned by an informer as a member of the French Chandarnagore gang of anarchists.
14.	Sarat Chatarji @ Jholu, S/o Lakshmi Narayan Chatarji, age 25 yrs. Employed with Cartwright & Co. No.1-B, Clive Street. Cal.	Gondalpara, French Chandarnagore.	Mentioned by an informer as a member of the French Chandarnagore gang of anarehists.
15.	Benode Lal Datta, S/o Taraprasad, age 32yrs. Muharrir to a pleader in Chinsura Court	Halkhola, French Chandarnagore	Mentioned by an informer as a member of the French Chandarnagore gang of anarehists.
16.	Bolai Chand De, S/o Shari Lal, age 27 Yrs. Head clerk with steiners, Ld, No.8, Canning Street. Cal.	Sarishapara, French Chandarnagore and 88-6 Chorebagan 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lane, Calcutta	Mentioned by an informer as a member of the French Chandarnagore gang of aharehists. Is a great friend of Manindra Naik.
17.	Harihar De, S/o Gopal Ch. De, age 29 yrs. B.L. Student, University Law College.	Hatkhola, French Chandarnagore and No. 162 Bow Bazar street. Calcutta.	Mentioned by an informer as a member of the French Chandarnagore gang of anarchists. Used to visit the Idleys' Association and is a holly friendly terms with Nagen Ghosh, Noren Banerjee and Mati Lal Ray.
18.	Nani Lal De, S/o Shasilal, age 22 yrs.	Sarisha para, French Chandarnagore	Brother of Bolai Chand De. Was a school master in the Duplex College and the Bhadreswar school. Mentioned by informer as a member of the French Chandarnagore gang of anarchists.
19.	Purna Chandra De, S/o Shasi Lal De, age 30 yrs. Teacher, Chinsura Training Academy.	Sarisha para, French Chandarnagore	Mentioned by an informer as a member of the French Chandarnagore gang of anarchists. Visited Kanai Lal Dutta in the Alipur Jail shortly before the murder of the approver, Noren Goswami.
20.	Nagendra Nath Ghosh, S/o Nilambar, age 27 yrs. Has dispensary in his house.	Hatkhola, French Chandarnagore	Mentioned by an informer as a member of the French Chandarnagore gang of anarchists. Associates with members of chandarnagore gang.
21	Santi Ghosh @ Phani, S/o the	French Chandernagore	Member of the Maniktala gang of conspirators

	late Jadu Nath Ghosh, age 30 yrs.	at present residing at Berhampur, Murshidabad and No. 167, Cornwallis Street, Cal.	and of the Anushilon Samiti and a great friend of Sisir Basu.
22.	Srish Ch. Ghosh S/o Dhiraj Kuista, age 29 years.	Subaldaha, Raina, Burdwan and Fatakgora, French Chandarnagore.	Member of the Maniktala gang of conspirators suspected to have a hand in the smuggling in of the revolver into the Alipur Jail with which the approver, Noren Goswami, was shot. Member of the French Chandarnagore gang of anarchists arrested in the Dalhousie square bomb case, but released for want of residence. Is related to Rash Behari Basu, absconding in the Delhi conspiracy case. Associates with chandarnagore gang.
23.	Satya Mistri S/o Nilmani age 31 yrs.	Borai, Chanditola, French Chandarnagore.	Mentioned by an informer as being a member of the French Chandarnagore gang of anarchists Reported to have also supplied the Maniktala garden gang with arms and to have been a friend of Kanai Lal Dutta.
24.	Amar Mitra, S/o Ambika Mitra, age 26 years. Is a broker.	Gondalpara, French Chandarnagore and No. 74-2A, Shampukur street. Cal.	Mentioned by an informer as being a member of the French Chandarnagore gang of anarchists.
25.	Jnanendra Mitra @ Muni Babu, age about 43 years.	Bankipur, Patna; at present Barabazar, French Chandarnagore.	Extremist and agitator. Was the editor of the Motherland (defunct). Suspected of joining with other sadhu and preaching and spreading disaffection. Believed to be in touch with the members of the Chandarnagore gang of anarchists.
26.	Manmatha Nath Mukherjee, @ Thakur, S/o the Late Motilal Mukherjee, age 44 yrs.	Hatkhola, French Chandarnagore and No.S1, Ram Bagan Lane, Cal.	One of the genius of the Jubak Mandali Sarathi gang and a close associate of Jogen Thakur. Is said to be at the head of a band of militant sadhus.
27.	Manindra Naik, S/o Bama Charan, age 28 yrs. Is a student in the Sibpur Engineering college and university Law College.	Ghorapukur, French Chandarnagore.	Mentioned by an informer as being a member of the French Chandarnagore gang of anarchists.
28.	Ashutosh Neogi, S/o Beni Madhab Neogi, age 26 yrs. Has a goldsmith shop at Kanknarra, 24 pgs.	Hatkhola, French Chandarnagore.	Mentioned by an informer as a member of the French Chandarnagore gang of anarchists. Known how to prepare bombs and gave some arms to Noren Banerjee to keep Barin Ghosh the convict in the Alipur bomb care
29.	Charu Ch. Ray, S/o the late Doyal Ch., age 47 yrs. An M.A. of the Calcutta university.	Bagbazar French Chandranagore.	Deputy Director of the Dupleix College. Mmember of the Maniktala gang. Was arrested in the Alipur bomb case, but released on political grounds. Reported to be the leader of the French Chandarnagore gang of anarchists. Noren Goswami, the approver in the Alipur bomb case, states that Charu Roy organized the attempt on the life of the Mayor of Chandarnagore. It may safely be said that he is the most influential man in French Chandarnagore.

30.	Mati Lal Roy, S/o Behari Lal Roy, age 31 yrs.	Borai Chanditola French Chandarnagore.	Was member of the Sathpa thabalambi Sampradaya. He was a friend of Kanai Lal Dutta, the assassin and there was good reason to believe that he was a member of the Maniktala gang. Mentioned by an informer as an active member of the French Chandarnagore gang anarchists. Is reported to be in correspondence with Arabinda Ghosh and in Dec. 1911 went to Pondicherry, where, it is believed, he visited Arabinda and the Bengali party there. Went there again in November 1913.
31.	Sirish ch. Sen, S/o Siva Prasanna Sen (deceased), Deputy Magistrate, age 36 years. Employed in soap factory of Brajendra Nath Sen, Calcutta.	Fatakgora, French Chanda-Rnagore.	Member of the anarchist party of French Chandarnagore. Associates with Srish Ghosh.
32.	Bhuto Tanti, @ Mani, S/o Ananda Tanti, age 32 years employed with the planters' stores are Agency, No.11, Clive Street, Calcutta.	Gondalpara, French Chandarnagore.	Mentioned by an informer as a member of the French Chandarnagore gang of anarchists.

In an official letter from C. J. Stevenson Moore, the Chief Secretary to the Governor of Bengal wrote to the Administrator, de, Colonies. Chandernagore, ".....In conclusion I am to invite your attention to the need for the exercise of very special vigilance over all political suspects resident in Chandernagore just before and during the visit of their Majesties to Calcutta. The Lieutenant Governor-in Council feels sure that he can rely on your hearty cooperation to keep these persons under close observation on that important occasion."<sup>6</sup>

The list of persons mentioned in that file is as follows: <sup>7</sup>

1. Naren Banerji(No-1) – Son of Nriya Gopal Banerji of Gondolpara.
2. Surendra Banerji--Gondolpara.
3. Narendra Banerji(No-II)—Son of Rama Nath Banerji of Gondolpara.
4. Jhallo Chatterji (alias Sarat Chatterji) son of Lakhmi Narayan Chatterji of Gondolpara.
5. Neroo alias Manik Chatterji of Gondolpara.
6. Bulbul/ Monmotho Banerji – son of Agnee Nath Banerji of Gondolpara.
7. Monohor chatterji of Gondolpara.
8. Amar Mitter of Gondolpara.
9. Khetra Banerji—Son of Tincowri Banerji of Gondolpara.
10. Jogeswar Mukherji—Son of Nilmoni Mukherji of Gondolpara.
11. Anath Chatterji—Son of Ram Nath Chatterji of Gondolpara.
12. Binode Dutt— is a pleeder's muharrir of Chinsurah, Hooghly, Hatkhola of Chandernagore
13. Harihar De—Son of Gopal Chandra De of Hatkhola.
14. Asutosh Neogi—Son of Nepin Neogi of Hatkhola.
15. Nonlal De—Son of Sasi Lal De, Ganja of French Chandernagore.
16. Balai Chandra De Of ganja.
17. Purna Chandra De—Son of Sasi Lal De of Ganja.
18. Bhoota Tanti(Das)- alias Haridas De, Son of Ananda De of Lal Bazar, Hatkhola.
19. Sarat Chandra Dutt—Son of Moti Lal Dutt of Hatkhola.
20. Moti Lal Roy—Son of Bhari Lal Roy of Gondolpara.
21. Satya Mistry of Gondolpara.
22. Manindar Naik of Ganja.
23. Charu Chandra Roy of Hatkhola.
24. Srish Chandra ghosh alias Khuro of Gondolpara.
25. Satish Chandra Chakraborty –son of Haripada Chakraborty of French Chandernagore,
26. Nagendra Nath Ghosh – son Of Nilambar Ghosh of Gondolpara.
27. Jyotish Chandra Ghosh—Son of Late Pramatha Nath Ghosh of Kulingram, P.S- Jamalpur, Burdwan, Residing in Kansiali, Hooghly.
28. Basanta Kumar Banerji—son of Rajendra Nath Banerji of Gondolpara.

Though the above mentioned two lists has made in different times, but a good number of suspects shown as common. During the conversation by official letters the British Government did not forget to remind the French officials to the incident



which occurred with Mousieur Tardival, the ex- Mayor of Chandernagore. They wrote, “ ..... it is known to the French authorities that the attempt that was made on for life of Mousieur Tardival in 1908 at Chandernagore by means of a bomb was the work of the revolutionary party:”<sup>8</sup>

The British Intelligence Department emphasized that, “The attack made on Mousieur Tardival in 1908 is sufficient evidence—if evidence were needed—that the activities of the revolutionists are not likely to be confused in attacks on British authority, but are directed against all foreign domination as such. The Lieutenant Governor-in Council therefore has to doubt that you will readily agree that measures of control are urgently called for-----.”<sup>9</sup>

The activities of these political suspects to the British Government were so anxious that they offered to the French Government about the solution of dual surveillance regarding this matter. According to their observation, “.....In the first phase it has been arranged that members of the revolutionary Gang, if they appear in the British territory, are to be watched by the British Police and their movements reported. It is desirable for the proper working of this scheme that a strict surveillance should be exercised over the revolutionists while in Chandernagore. ----- In the second phase, in order that the French and British officers may be thronging and regularly acquainted with the doings of the gang in Bengal and Chandernagore. -----the provisions of the Indian foreigners act, 1864 which empowers them to remove from British territory—that is in effect to confine in Chandernagore—French subjects residing in Chandernagore whose entry into British territory may be thought undesirable-----”<sup>10</sup>

In reply to the letter of British government, M.H. GUIZONNIER, the Administrator of Chandernagore wrote to the Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal on the subject of certain persons whom the British Government suspect to be connected with anarchical associations. He admitted, “.....but I never adjusted that in my opinion either anarchists or revolutionaries existed in Chandernagore.”<sup>11</sup> In accordance to the incident regarding Mousieur Tardival, the Administrator mentioned in his letter, “It is unfortunately correct that in 1908 a bomb was thrown at the late M.Tardival, ex- Mayor, but it was never discovered whether this criminal attempt was a private act of vengeance on the work of the Bengalis appeared to be suffering from temporary excitement due to the ‘swadeshi’ movement in Calcutta.”<sup>12</sup>

Indeed this kind of statement, he assured to the British Government regarding the visit of their Majesties to Calcutta, “..... I am convinced that on this important occasion all Frenchman and French subjects in India will heartily join their enthusiastic acclamations to those of the inhabitants of British India, and that the entire population of Chandernagore will not far an instant forget the mutual sympathy which exists between our two great nations, nor the deep friendship which unites them.”<sup>13</sup>

The surveillance scheme did not apply not only within the Chandernagore, but in Calcutta also. In support of the statement we can quote a relevant portion of Government record, “The members of the Chandernagore Gang, seven or eight in number reside in Calcutta and being carefully noticed, but beyond the fact that some ----- attaches in the very frequent visits of Nagendra Ghosh and Satish Chakraborty to a house at 32 Harrisan Road -----.”<sup>14</sup>

So, the thorough supervision and surveillance over the revolutionary gang of Chandernagore was taken place by both the colonial rulers through different ways. To protect this kind of surveillance the members of the Chandernagore Gang has to take different defensive policy. As the ‘Chandernagore Gang’ was so organized and strong in its nature, they managed to abandoned the planning of the Government in different times and was able to continue their revolutionary activities throughout the Bengal and other parts of country.

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