

February 6, 1952

**The Second Secretary at London (Marvin) to the
Department of State, 'Report of Indian Agent at
Lhasa; November 16-December 15, 1951'**

Citation:

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Summary:

Reports of the Indian Mission in Lhasa for November-December 1951.

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

AIR POUCH
PRIORITY

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SECURITY INFORMATION
(Security Classification)

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

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FROM : AMEMBASSY LONDON

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DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

February 6, 1952
DATE

REF : Embassy's Despatch 3264

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January 25, 1952
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SUBJECT: Report of Indian Agent at Lhasa; November 18 - December 15, 1951

OFFICE OF CHINESE AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FEB 14 1952

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There is enclosed a summary of the political report of the Indian Agent at Lhasa for the period November 16 - December 15, 1951. This is based on a copy of the report which an Embassy officer was permitted by the Foreign Office to read.

For the reasons stated in the Embassy's despatch under reference it is requested that this despatch receive limited distribution.

STATE DEPT. DECLASSIFICATION
 Retain classification
 Declassify after CONSIDERANCE OF IND
EO 12958, 25X (1)(6)
IPS/CR/IR by CLARK - Bourne Date: 3/25/99

David K. Marwin
David K. Marwin
Second Secretary of Embassy

Enclosure:

Summary of Report from Indian Agent

Approved:

Arthur R. Ringwalt
Arthur R. Ringwalt
First Secretary of Embassy

Action Assigned to CA

Action Taken Airg to London & Calcutta

Date of Action 2/22/52

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Name of Officer msj

Direction to DC/R plc

cc: New Delhi

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.8

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Encl. No. 1
Desp. No. 3453
From London

SUMMARY OF REPORT FROM INDIAN AGENT, LHASA

November 16 - December 15, 1951

Sino-Tibetan relations continued to improve day by day, at least on the official level. The arrival of large numbers of Chinese troops has shaken the local economy. However, the Kutras (official families) are doing well through the services which they provided for the Chinese. The Chinese officials have been incredibly overgenerous, especially since they came to Tibet ill-prepared for winter. In order to obtain lodgings, food, etc., in a short time they have spent prodigal sums. Thus far at least twelve houses belonging to important families have been rented to the Chinese at very high pates.

The boorish Chan Kuo-hua has led the Chinese in entertaining Tibetans, having given several magnificent banquets. There is a great deal of entertainment of various sorts, which is proving pretty effective with the simple Tibetans. The Chinese performed dances when the Dalai Lama entertained their high officials, and they have not neglected the general public. Movies have been provided for the troops and police as well as the populace.

A free medical dispensary, staffed by very courteous personnel, has been opened in Lhasa by the Chinese. In the first five days of operation it deprived the Indian hospital of half its patients. It is understood that the Chinese plan to open a hospital near Lhasa, as well as a bank in the city. The latter is intended no doubt to combat the operations of Nepalese money lenders, which have caused the Tibetan currency to depreciate markedly.

All fallow and grazing land in or near Lhasa has been turned over to the Chinese army for cultivation. It is said that this will be done everywhere in Tibet. The Tibetan peasant views this process with envy and distrust. He sees the Chinese taking by force what the Tibetan aristocracy had never permitted him to have.

For a time the Kutras were alarmed over the number of Chinese troops entering Tibet. They inquired of the Chinese about this, and were told that the original plan was to bring in 50 thousand troops. However, this plan had been altered because of supply shortages. For security reasons the Chinese did not want to reveal the size of their forces in various parts of the country, but they did say that there were still a number of frontier posts to be manned.

Some troops which have entered the country are said to be equipped with mountain guns. The general public in Lhasa has been greatly intrigued by the arrival of three Chinese Army jeeps.

On November/ _____

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From _____ London _____

On November 25th and 26th the National Assembly met to debate whether or not the Dalai Lama should accept a Chinese offer to become chairman of the Chinese Administrative and Military Committees in Lhasa. Chan Kuo-hua and the Panchan Rimpoche (Panchan Lama) had already been nominated by the Chinese as Vice-Presidents of these Committees. The Tibetans feared that the Dalai Lama would be simply a figure head, but their fears were countered by the veiled Chinese threat that if the Dalai Lama hesitated to accept, the Panchan Rimpoche would be glad to take up office. After a debate the assembly adopted a resolution that the Dalai Lama might accept, but should not personally attend office. However, the Dalai Lama has sent no final reply to the Chinese proposal, despite pressure from them to do so.

The Panchan Lama was expected to arrive in Lhasa in February. Some of his advisors have already arrived. He would be none too welcome in Lhasa, if the songs about him now being sung in the streets of Lhasa were any indication.

At the request of the Chinese, the Tibetan Government has agreed to supply grain to the Chinese in Tibet for a period of one year. Grain collectors have been appointed to fulfill this commitment. Prices were rising again in Lhasa after a moderate decline in November.

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