

September 23, 1952

**The US Counselor at New Delhi (Drumright) to the
Department of State, 'Nepalese Report on Tibet'**

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Summary:

Dispatches from the Nepalese representative in Lhasa from June-August 1952.

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SUBJECT: Nepalese Reports on Tibet

SEP 30 1952

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Transmitted herewith are copies of recent secret reports on developments in Tibet received by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal, originating from their Nepalese representative in Lhasa. These latest reports were made available by the Nepalese Embassy in New Delhi. They deal with events covering the period late June to the middle of August, 1952.

These reports include reference to rumors that K. I. Singh and a few of his followers have been taken by the Chinese to Peiping. It is also revealed that Nepalese attempts to extradite K. I. Singh continue to be unsuccessful.

It is reported that the Chinese authorities in Digarcha are attempting to compel Nepalese traders with Kalimpong and Calcutta to deposit their funds with a Chinese bank at Digarcha. This bank, it is indicated, has a branch established in Calcutta. The Nepalese representative has also learned that Nepalese traders are unable to obtain Hundis (bills of exchange) in any currency but Chinese Dhayan.

Mention is also made in these reports of the Chinese decreasing their garrison at Khem, and of Chinese road-building activities.

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From New Delhi

REPORT FROM LHASSA

Ashad 11, 2009 (June 24, 1952).

On Ashad 10, 2009, Rambha Kazi together with Kunsangtre officer and Sethasyakuso proceed to Digarcha as Tibetan Representatives for the installation of the Tashi-Lama.

(Br. No. 55).

Ashad 18, 2009 (July 1, 1952).

Our representative had a talk with the Kazis about the Communists. The Kazis said that a Khamba had come from Khem. According to him the number of the Chinese there was decreasing and it was rumoured that many Chinese were going back to China.

The Kazis asked our Representative whether there was any proposal to establish a Nepalese diplomatic Mission in China. He replied that he had not heard any thing about it. The Kazis said that they had heard recently that a Chinese soldier had been arrested by the Government of Nepal, and enquired where he was at present and what he was doing. The Representative replied that he had heard only that a Chinese soldier had been arrested.
(Br. 57).

Ashad 21, 2009 (July 4, 1952).

According to a report K. I. Singh will be shifted to the garden of Kazi Rikye-Mani Fukany within the next few days from the house of Pandechhang. This garden is about two and half mile east from Lhasa.

On Ashad 20, two Chinese and a Tibetan Drungkar visited the Tibetan school of the Nepalese legation at Lhasa. They told the teacher that they wanted to see the school, and that they would come the next day. The Representative instructed the teacher to show them the school and its work if they came.

Ashad 23, 2009 (July 6, 1952). Report from Digarcha.

In report Br. No. 14 it was stated that the Chinese were going to make a road towards Phari, but it is now learnt that they are not going towards Phari but towards Tingri; Kuti, Kerong and Dyonggly. The Chinese march during the night, and so it is difficult to obtain exact information about their movements.

On Ashad 21, Our Representative called on the new Chinese officer at Digarcha according to custom. The Chinese officer however did not meet him that on a plea of lack of leisure that day, and told him that he would give an appointment of some other day.

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REPORT FROM DIGARCHA

Shrawan 4, 2009 (July 19, 1952).

On Ashad 32, two Chinese came and asked our Representative to meet them the next day at 12 noon at their house with the Nepalese merchants who go to Calcutta or Kalimpong in connection with their business. Our Representative did not feel well that day and told them that he would not be able to attend the meeting the next day. They insisted however that he should come, if necessary on horse back.

Our Representative summoned the merchants and the Thakalis to find out why they had called. From their report it appeared that the Chinese wanted to compel them to place their money in the Chinese Bank established at Digarcha. The next day some Nepalese merchants accompanied by our Representative called on the Chinese Bank Manager. There they were told by the Manager, that they had already established a branch of their Bank at Calcutta and the others were to be opened at Digarcha and Lhasa. He added that Nepalese merchants would deposit money in the Bank, and conveniently and safely draw their money with their cheques at Calcutta or Kalimpong. The interest would be at the rate of two percent on the deposits.

It was learnt that merchants could not obtain Hundis in Indian and Tibetan currencies but only in Dhayan the Chinese currency. The present exchange rate for one Dhayan is Rs. 3/-. Our merchants agreed to make the deposits if they got the Dhayan. The Bank Manager said that merchants could remit money in Tibetan currency in the Bank at Digarcha. The Bank could draw up Hundis for gold and silver, and would also allot clothes to merchants who had no stocks. The limit for Hundis in Dhayan was fixed from five or six hundred to two lakhs. For large amounts two or three Hundis could be arranged. The Manager promised to give more details regarding the rules and regulations of the Bank after further correspondences with the branches at Calcutta and Lhasa. Our merchants asked whether it was possible to remit money to Nepal and Banaras. The Manager said that this was a point to be clarified after correspondences with their branches at Lhasa and Calcutta.

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REPORT FROM LHASA

Shravana 31, 2009.

August 15, 1952

Our Representative tried to obtain an expeditious reply regarding K.I. Singh from the Kashag through the Officer of Garsib. The Kashag gave an assurance that they were trying to reach a final decision without delay.

It seemed to our Representative that K.I. Singh's case was being kept secret, for the Kazis did not wish to meet and talk about this matter. Therefore the representative tried to get information from other sources. According to a rumor current in Lhasa, the Chinese had already taken Mr. Singh accompanied by his twenty or twentyfive followers, to Peking, leaving only a few of his followers at Lhasa. Mr. Sinha of the Indian Mission at Lhasa informed our Representative that he had also heard that K.I. Singh and his followers were being moved to Peking via Nakahu. Subba Youdha Gambhir told Mr. Sinha that nobody had witnessed Singh's departure but there was a wide spread rumor in Lhasa that K.I. Singh had been recently sent to Peking.

It is learnt that the nephew of the Tibetan Representative, Rambha Kazi in China, together with a man named Phum Kam-se and an Officer, Ahu-Phutang, who had come with General Tanchi-wu to Tibet have left for Peking via Chamdo from Lhasa. Chinese soldiers followed them for a mile or two. But the officer Shetya-se is going with his family to Peking, via India. It is also learnt that some members of Tibetan political parties intended to go to China.

(Br. No. 72)

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