

March 10, 1953

**The First Secretary at London (Ringwalt) to the
Department of State, 'Transmission of Summaries of
Report of Indian Agent at Lhasa for Periods from
October 16 to November 15 and November 16 to
December 15, 1952'**

Citation:

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Summary:

Reports of the Indian Mission to Lhasa from October-December 1952.

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH **MAR 11 1953**

FROM : **Amembassy, LONDON**

TO : **THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON**

REF :

OFFICE OF CHINESE AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 13 1953

DESP. NO. **4188**
Action Assigned to **March 10, 1953**

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SUBJECT: **Transmission of Summaries of Report of Indian Agent at Lhasa for the Periods from October 16 to November 15 and November 16 to December 15, 1952**

Name of Officer *Wor*
Direction to DC/R *file*

The period under review in the two reports of A. K. Sen, the Indian Consul General at Lhasa, summarized in the enclosures, shows a steady spread and consolidation of Chinese influence over Tibet, and a progressive weakening of the Tibetan will to resist, notwithstanding occasional efforts to stem the Chinese tide. The Chinese appear to have applied successfully a policy of pushing forward where no resistance is met and of recoiling temporarily in the face of opposition. A Tibetan version of the Sino-Soviet Friendship Association has been established and new Chinese schools are to be established. Efforts are being made to supervise and perhaps restrict travel of Tibetan merchants to India.

To the apparent dismay of Tibetan Elders, the Dalai Lama is taking extraordinary steps to increase his personal popularity.

The report of the Indian Agent (or Consul General as he is now called) for the period from September 16 to October 15, 1952, has not yet been shown to the Embassy.

It is requested that this despatch should be treated as Eyes Only - U. S. Officials material, and that copies of the despatch be forwarded to New Delhi and Calcutta.

STATE DEPT. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW
 Retain class'n Change/classify to _____
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NO 12958, 25X
IPS/CR/IR by *CLARK* - Date: *3/25/59*
BOURNE

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

- Enclosures:
- Summary of Report for Period from October 16 to November 15, 1952.
 - Summary of Report for Period from November 16 to December 15, 1952.

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MAR 24 1953

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REPORTER

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SUMMARY OF REPORT OF INDIAN AGENT AT LHASA
FOR PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 16 to NOVEMBER 15, 1952

1. The Tibetan good will mission (referred to in paragraph 2 of Enclosure 2 of Embassy's despatch 3154, January 9, 1953) has returned to Lhasa and has reported to the Tibetan Government on its interview with Mao Tse-tung. Mao assured the mission that China would not interfere in the internal affairs of Tibet. Tibetans, he said, would have the right to practice their religion without molestation, and the Chinese will assist the Tibetans in maintaining and promoting their religious institutions. With the removal of imperialistic restrictions hindering the establishment of close Chinese-Tibetan relations, China and Tibet have now been united in one great family. China will extend a friendly hand to the Tibetans in helping them become prosperous. They will assist in the promotion of education, health, and agriculture. Although agrarian reforms have been introduced successfully throughout China, including minority provinces, China will not force Tibet to carry out such reforms. This question will be left to the Tibetan people themselves to decide. Mao assured the mission that the proposed Chinese Military and Administrative Committee would not be established in Lhasa until the confidence of the people was fully gained. He regretted that the proposed functions of the Committee were viewed by the Tibetans with suspicion. He assured them that it would function only as an advisory body for the welfare of the Tibetan people.

2. The decision to postpone the establishment of the Committee was in conformity with assurances previously communicated to the Tibetan Government by General Chang Cheng-wu. The Chinese seem now to be resorting to more subtle methods to insure Chinese participation in Tibetan affairs. Chinese military officials stationed in the various districts of Tibet have formed local committees of selected head men, and all matters relating to Chinese as well as local interests are discussed by these committees under the guidance of the Chinese official concerned. The Tibetan district officers are degenerating into figureheads.

3. Determined efforts are being made toward consolidation in educational and cultural fields. The Dalai Lama has contributed a substantial sum to the support of the Chinese primary school in Lhasa. The establishment of similar schools at Gyantse and Shigatse are under contemplation. In an excess of zeal, the Abbot of Gyantse attempted to recruit children for the proposed school. On the basis of an ensuing protest by local Tibetan dignitaries, who said they preferred their children to have Tibetan education, the Abbot was overruled, the Chinese stating that they did not wish to compel compliance.

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4. The nucleus of what may be a Sino-Soviet friendship association has been formed in Lhasa. The Chinese authorities summoned all high Tibetan officials and told them of the success of Chou En-lai's recent visit to Moscow. It was impressed on them how close was the friendship of the Chinese and Soviet people, how prosperous and powerful their countries have become, and how bright were the prospects for future collaboration. An appropriate celebration marked the Soviet National Day.

5. The lifting of rice over the Nathula Pass is proceeding satisfactorily.

6. A branch of the Bank of China has been opened at Gyantse.

7. The Chinese authorities are considering the issuance of travel documents to Tibetans and have tentatively asked the Tibetan authorities to discontinue the issuance of identity certificates for travel to India, insisting that Tibetan officials bear Chinese passports. However, due apparently to administrative difficulties, this system has not yet come into force. In Chinese eyes, the Indian visa regulations are discriminatory, as Tibetans can enter India without passports, whereas Chinese applications for Indian visas must be referred to the Indian Government, a procedure which takes a month. The Chinese move, then, may be aimed at removing privileges given by the Indian Government only to Tibetans.

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SUMMARY OF REPORT OF INDIAN AGENT AT LHASA
FOR PERIOD FROM NOVEMBER 16 TO DECEMBER 15, 1952

1. As surmised in last month's report, the equivalent of a Sino-Soviet friendship association has been established under the name of the Tibetan-Russian Welfare Board under the chairmanship of Ngapho Shape. At the inaugural meeting, he spoke of the wonderful achievements of the Chinese due to their having followed Soviet precepts. In contrast, the Tibetans have been laggard, due to the nefarious policies of other external governments. The object of the Board, he said, was to familiarize the Tibetans with Russian thought so that it could be applied to their own country. China would continue to hold a liberal attitude toward the Tibetan faith in their own institutions, and the Tibetans would themselves in due course come to realize the benefits to be derived from close association with China.

2. The first group of Tibetan traders to return from China held a meeting under the chairmanship of the Chinese authorities to apprise the Tibetan people of the proceedings of the recent Peiping Peace Conference. Their spokesman, Gosham-pa, made a lengthy exposition of their experiences, praising everything Chinese and stating that Tibetans needed only to use the Chinese magic wand to transform their country into a region of prosperity. (Gosham-pa had previously been dismissed from his position with the Tibetan Government, and apparently is attempting to regain authority through association with the Chinese.)

3. The Chinese school in Lhasa continues to be showered with gifts from Tibetan officials. Its popularity has not quite been in proportion to the lavishness of its material gifts.

4. The Kantse-Chando road is now open to vehicular traffic.

5. A caravan of 5,000 camels laden with flour is said to be en route from China.

6. Three hundred Chinese women workers are reported to be coming to Tibet to install wool carding machinery and machinery for the manufacture of matches, and to teach local Tibetans in their use.

7. Preliminary steps are being taken to establish an elected Advisory Council of 25 to 30 members to advise the Dalai Lama on administrative matters. The approval of the Chinese authorities was obtained in advance.

8. The Dalai Lama has taken extraordinary steps to increase his personal popularity. Instead of traveling by sedan chair, he

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now uses his motor car whenever possible and does not draw its curtains. He blesses devotees frequently by touching their hands with his own bare hand, instead of the customary flick of a tassel. What is more, he smiles on them frequently. The elder monks are especially concerned over this evidence of unusual mental activity as an indication that his life will be shortened thereby.

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