

July 7, 1953

The First Secretary at London (Zimmerman) to the Department of State, 'Transmission of Summaries of Reports of Indian Consul General at Lhasa for the Periods February 16 to March 15, 1953; March 16 to April 15, 1953; April 16 to May 15, 1953'

Citation:

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Summary:

Reports of the Indian Mission to Lhasa from February-May 1953.

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TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON

July 7, 1953

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SUBJECT: Transmission of Summaries of Reports of Indian Consul General at Lhasa for the Periods February 16 to March 15, 1953; March 16 to April 15, 1953; April 16 to May 15, 1953

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There are transmitted herewith summaries of three monthly reports of the Indian Consul General in Lhasa, Mr. A. K. Sen, for the periods February 16 to March 15; March 16 to April 15; April 16 to May 15, 1953. It is important that this despatch and its enclosures be treated as Eyes Only - U.S. Officials material. The Embassy has recently encountered another period of reluctance on the part of the Foreign Office to make the reports available. It was only after representations were made at a fairly high level that the reports have again been shown to an Embassy official, and then only after repeated assurances that the material, together with the fact it was made available, would be treated with the utmost precaution. The three reports summarized herein represent the latest material received. Reports for the periods December 16, 1952, to January 15, 1953, and January 16 to February 15, 1953, not previously shown to the Embassy, are now being made available and summaries will be forwarded shortly.

The Foreign Office, in making these reports available, has offered no additional remarks on the Tibetan scene except to agree that much more by way of interpretive comment by Mr. Sen in his reporting of rumor and fact would be desirable as a basis for evaluation. Nevertheless, certain impressions of present day Tibet are imparted by his reports. The most striking of these impressions is that the Chinese Communist regime is treating Tibet with distinct caution and a soft touch. As a corollary, the Chinese administrators seem unsure of themselves or of their grip over the country. The picture is one of push and give on both sides, the limits of which are fairly closely calculated.

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Sparse though it is, there is certain evidence in this series of reports to support these conclusions. Landowners, for example, have refused to cooperate with the Government Procurement Board for grain, an organization on which the Chinese have direct representation. But more surprising still is the fact that this stubbornness has been rewarded, not with dire punishment, but with a change in regulations.

RWZimmermann/mr
REPORTER

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Page 2 of _____
Desp. No. 122 7/7/53
From London

~~SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION
(Classification)

Page _____ of _____
Encl. No. _____
Desp. No. _____
From _____

which permit the landowners to sell their accumulated stocks elsewhere.

In other fields, labor has been reluctant to work for the Chinese. Learned monks have refused to teach in Chinese schools, even at considerably higher rates of pay, and Tibetan parents have shown a marked hesitancy in sending their children to these same Chinese primary schools. Resistance to land reform has developed in the Shigatse area. While "cultural" organizations and delegations continue to be a major line of approach by the Chinese, it is only after considerable persuasion that certain monk officials have been induced to partake in one Haj or another to Peiping.

Perhaps as a result of many Tibetans failing to fall into the spirit of the moment, the Chinese apparently feel the need for exerting pressure on influential persons, or such would seem to be one explanation of a report that various officials have been required to write reports on the families of lay officials together with a detailed exposé of the life of a monk.

Overt resistance, while only a matter of isolated incidents, continues to have some expression. During the Monlam ceremonies, two stabbings of Chinese soldiers took place in Lhasa, a portrait of Mao was defiled, and priests openly denounced the propaganda content of dramatic productions. Perhaps as an acknowledgment of unrest in the country, reports continue of new barracks construction at various points, giving the impression not only of permanency but of a build-up of forces.

On the administrative side, too many details are lacking to permit any final conclusions. One of the few comments made by the Indian Consul General in his reports is, however, pertinent. In connection with the failure of the Grain Procurement Board to enforce compliance with its regulations, he makes the remark that official Tibetans may not be sorry to see this development and its consequences as it affords an opportunity to institute their own reforms.

With reference to recent action by the newly created Advisory Council, this sentiment might be expanded. Established to advise the Dalai Lama on administrative matters and operating under orders to consider relief for indebted peasants, curtailment of free transport and the abolition of forced labor, it has now come forth with a number of decrees already approved by the Dalai Lama and a second list of reforms, passed by the National Assembly (which was called by the Advisory Council) is now awaiting approval. These reforms, covering land measures, interest and debt control, among other matters, are precisely those that might be expected to be forced through by the Chinese.

~~SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION

Page 3 of _____
 Desp. No. 122 7/7/53
 From London

~~SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION
 (Classification)

Page _____ of _____
 Encl. No. _____
 Desp. No. _____
 From _____

One interpretation of these rather far-reaching reforms might be either that the Dalai Lama has taken a long step forward to increase his personal power and popularity (undoubtedly with concurrent risks to his person) and/or is engaged in a concerted effort to show a degree of independence, at least on internal matters, and to rob the Chinese Communists of much of the initiative in these fields.

The possibility is always open, of course, that the whole arrangement is a subtle means of reaching the Chinese goals, and it is true that two of the leading lights in the Council are among the more open sympathizers with the Chinese. On the other hand, it will be remembered that in reporting the preliminary steps leading to the establishment of the Advisory Council, the Indian Consul General gave no hint that it was Chinese-inspired, but only that Chinese approval was obtained beforehand. Further, a condition to its establishment might well have been the inclusion in its membership of these two individuals, Ngapho Shape and Dzasa Liushar. But it is far from certain that their influence, even if voluntarily wielded, could be decisive in a membership as large as thirty. Certainly, if the Council is not Communist-inspired, the Chinese can hardly object to the type of action so far taken, and the credit will remain with the Tibetans.

A final indication of the velvet glove approach by the Chinese is perhaps the failure to interfere seriously with Indo-Tibetan relations. While certainly there are a quantity of possible explanations for this, the fact remains that it is the one instance, and an instance involving foreign relations, in which an integral part of China (in the Chinese view) is permitted outside contact independent of Peiping. Further, there is indication in one of the reports that the Tibetans recognize the value of this association and attempt to facilitate relations in any way possible.

While none of the above can be interpreted as anything like a serious challenge or even setback to Chinese plans, it does indicate that all is not going as smoothly as the Communists might wish and that their efforts must be tempered with considerable caution and subtlety.

Miscellaneous highlights in the reports are as follows:

The cost of living is continuing to rise and the status of the poor is becoming worse.

Progress on the Chamdo-Lhasa road, previously the subject of optimistic reports, is now considered to be far from satisfactory. The route between Chamdo and Giamba has not yet been decided upon by the Chinese, but desperate attempts will be made to complete the project by the end of 1953. Road construction has reportedly begun between Yatung and Phari.

~~SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION

Page 4 of _____
Desp. No. 122 7/7/53
From London

~~SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION
(Classification)

Page _____ of _____
Encl. No. _____
Desp. No. _____
From _____

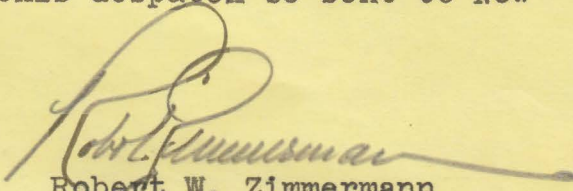
Some reports indicate that landing strips are being constructed at Dechen and Hobgyethang.

The Chinese may well be experiencing special difficulties in the Kham area. The Tibetan Government has allegedly requested the Chinese to transfer the administration of the area to Tibetans, but the Communists refused on the ground that the local chieftains resent Tibetan misrule and stated that the province would be restored only "after the people are prepared for administrative changes and their livelihood is improved." One implication is that the Chinese have encountered extra resistance in this region, and that **only** after firm control is established over the people will the area be returned to the Tibetans, if at all.

The second paragraph of the last report is not clear, but presumably refers to paragraph one of that report concerning a dispute over the status of Tsang province, a matter which apparently has kept alive the element of strain in the relations between Tashilunpo and Lhasa.

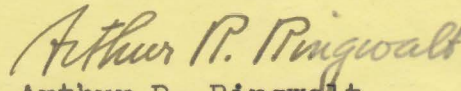
ACTION REQUESTED:

It is requested that copies of this despatch be sent to New Delhi and Calcutta.


Robert W. Zimmermann
Second Secretary of Embassy

- ✓ Enclosures: *att.*
- ✓ 1. Summary of report, 2/16/53 - 3/15/53.
 - ✓ 2. Summary of report, 3/16/53 - 4/15/53.
 - ✓ 3. Summary of report, 4/16/53 - 5/15/53.

Approved:


Arthur R. Ringwalt
First Secretary of Embassy

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~~SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION

Page _____ of
Desp. No. _____
From _____~~SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION
(Classification)Page 1 of
Encl. No. 1
Desp. No. 122 7/7/53
From LondonSUMMARY OF REPORT OF INDIAN CONSUL GENERAL
AT LHASA FOR PERIOD FROM FEBRUARY 16 TO MARCH 15, 1953China-Tibet

There was a prolonged period of festivities from February 14 to March 12 on the occasion of the Monlam. The Chinese joined wholeheartedly in the celebrations and offered lavish entertainment to virtually all important Tibetan officials, both monks and lay. In Lhasa the Chinese Military and Administrative Departments distributed money for monks, together with pamphlets reporting the speeches of Dzasa Liushar and others in China. The monks largely ignored the propaganda. Posters were prominent depicting the march of "New China" in various fields of industry, machine production, railways, and river projects. Despite hilarious parties where wine flowed in profusion - a state of affairs viewed with alarm and distaste by the monk officials - there were unpleasant incidents. In Lhasa a Chinese soldier was stabbed and another killed. In Gyantse there was a series of arrests following the defiling of a picture of Mao and uncomplimentary wall writing. Kyipup Se was branded as a traitor by dissident elements, and there were occasions of priests interrupting dramatic performances to denounce propaganda contents. However, at Yatung Chinese authorities received scarves and greetings from the Tibetan trade agents representing head men and all half-cast Chinese.

Dislike for the Chinese appeared at Gyantse through the refusal of common Tibetans to accept Chinese employment. In Lhasa learned Tibetans declined Chinese offers to teach in schools at high salaries. Again in Gyantse, dole contributions by the Chinese authorities were viewed with suspicion by the poor, who feared that strings were attached. It was only after repeated assurances by the authorities that there were no conditions that the money was accepted.

The Youth League in Lhasa has been renamed The Patriotic League. Forty members of the League left for Peiping on March 3. Headed by Surkhang Khenchung (Surkhang III), the delegation included men from Gyantse, Shigatse, and Western Tibet. The transportation charges for the delegation were paid by the Chinese, and tinned rations were supplied for that part of the journey up to Chamdo. On its departure, the group was guarded by 60 Chinese soldiers.

Women's Day in Lhasa was celebrated on March 14 by a gathering of 350 leading Tibetan ladies and various Chinese women. The occasion was marked by teas, cinema shows, dances, and the distribution of propaganda pamphlets on "progressive ideas, creation of happier homes, production of better children, and wishes of a long life for Chairman Mao, the Dalai Lama, and the Panchen Lama." The Kundeling Rimpoche was reportedly not able to shake off the onerous task of

~~SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION

Page _____ of
Desp. No. _____
From _____

~~SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION
(Classification)

Page 2 of _____
Encl. No. 1
Desp. No. 122 7/7/53
From London

leading a forthcoming monks delegation to Peiping. The Dalai Lama gave his approval to the Chinese proposal for the delegation, which will leave in April.

The Chamdo-Lhasa road construction project has progressed "10 stages" toward Lhasa, according to Ragashar Shape, who believes that the route will be completed inside one year. Ngapho Shape, not as optimistic, thinks this estimate is exaggerated. The latter points to difficult passes yet to be negotiated and believes a two-year minimum will be necessary for completion. However, there is a general feeling that progress has been good.

Sining horse traders arriving in Lhasa told of the erection of rest houses of some sort for Chinese officials along the route. These inns are also open to others for refreshments.

All available accommodations in Nagchuka are said to be taken up by Chinese troops, whose total number is estimated at 1,300. These soldiers are possibly in transit to other parts of Tibet. One thousand women, the wives of army personnel trained to undertake various "odd jobs", arrived in Lhasa. Among them were women workers reportedly coming to set up wool and match factories.

A report from Gyantse states that the Chinese are intensively collecting foodstuffs at any price, leaving practically nothing for the poor. Fodder has become scarce in the locality, and there is a fear of famine conditions soon. Another Gyantse report states that land distribution has been halted in the Tashilhumpo estates by order of the Panchen Lama. The Panchen Lama's advisor, Che Jigme, is in favor of land reform, but it is believed that monk officials view the action as too drastic. Cultural activities at Gyantse have been augmented by the circulation of The Tibetan News Summary, following the Lhasa model. The Chinese primary school is now making progress after initial difficulties caused by the refusal of Tibetans to send their children to this institution.

India-China-Tibet

Chinese troops at Yatung Bazar ~~shifted~~ shifted to a village 300 yards away from Bazar toward Nathula. Accommodation has been arranged in temporary sheds and tents.

Nepal-China-Tibet

The Nepalese traders were entertained by the Chinese Procurement Department. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ The Nepali Chamber of Commerce felt obliged to return the compliment.

Public opinion continues to resent the activities of the Grain Procurement Board. The feeling is general that there has been no

~~SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION

Page _____ of
Desp. No. _____
From _____

~~SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION
(Classification)

Page 3 of
Encl. No. 1
Desp. No. 122 7/7/53
From London

Improvement in the food situation, and the Board is currently considering ways and means to compel grain hoarders to divest themselves of their stocks.

Miscellaneous

Chinese flags were half-masted in memory of Stalin. The action was taken one day late.

~~SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION

Page _____ of
Desp. No. _____
From _____

~~SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION
(Classification)

Page 1 of _____
Encl. No. 2
Desp. No. 122 7/7/53
From London

SUMMARY OF REPORT OF INDIAN CONSUL GENERAL
AT LHASA FOR PERIOD FROM MARCH 16 TO APRIL 15, 1953

EXTERNAL

China-Tibet

The amalgamation of the co-existent Tibet and Chinese Foreign Bureaus is to be effected after the return from China of Dzasa Liushar, the monk Foreign Secretary for the Tibetan Government. It is not known whether Mr. Yang Kung-su, Assistant-in-Charge of the Chinese Foreign Bureau will in the future act jointly with the monk Secretary to run the combined office or whether he will relegate the monk to a subordinate position. It is clear, however, that the bulk of the work of issuing identity certificates to Tibetans needing clarification of nationality will continue to be handled by Tibetan officials.

Speculation concerning the early completion of the Chamdo-Lhasa road has been set at rest by the news that the route from Chamdo to Giamda is still under consideration by the Chinese Government. Engineers and surveyors recommend a new route via Poyul and Pome, whereas Peiping prefers the old trade route through Gyalam. Progress on the Giamda-Lhasa road is far from satisfactory. Desperate attempts will now be made to complete the route by the end of 1953. The Tibetan Government has been ordered to conscript a labor force of 10,000 men and 40 lacs of Chinese silver dollars ~~has~~^{have} been "sanctioned" by the Chinese for this purpose. All surplus Chinese soldiers, not doing agricultural work in or around Lhasa, will also be used.

There has been considerable recent activity in building more houses and barracks. The Military Area Headquarters at Maga Sapa in Lhasa is to be expanded. One building is almost complete, and 10 others are planned. A barrack for 150 soldiers has been built on the main road near the Ganden Monastery, two days' journey east of Lhasa. The agreement of the Tibetan Government has been obtained to build barracks for both Tibetan and Chinese soldiers near Trapachi (the Tibetan mint) in Lhasa. Most of the cost is to be borne by the Chinese.

Work has begun on a smallpox vaccine institute and a veterinary hospital, also near Trapachi. The Chinese Staff School (formerly known as the Language School) has now moved to new hutments in the eastern suburbs of Lhasa.

A camp started in Nortyo Lingka, five miles south of Lhasa, about one year ago is developing fast, with greater stress on

~~SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION

Page _____ of
Desp. No. _____
From _____

~~SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION
(Classification)

Page 2 of _____
Encl. No. 2
Desp. No. 122 7/7/53
From London

agricultural production. A wireless station, a branch of the Chinese Bank, and a small department store have also been established. It is understood that a scheme to electrify the place is under consideration.

A party of about 2,000 Chinese artisans, including carpenters, masons, etc., has arrived at Nagchuka on their way to Lhasa. With them are 7,000 camelloads of flour; each camelload equals about 5 maunds. The camels are being sent back from Nagchuka.

About 11 learned monks representing the Sera, Drepung, Ganden, Tsubu, Drihhung Kundeling, Mindoling, Gyu to Med, Tashilhunpo, Sakya, and Droji Tra Monasteries left for Peiping on April 3 under the leadership of Kundeling Rimpoche. The monks, not very happy about the trip, were given farewell parties by the Chinese who had insisted on the selection of Geshes (learned monks) of pure Tibetan race only, a requirement that necessitated some last minute changes in the composition of the delegation. The purpose of the delegation is to attend a Buddhist religious conference in Peiping on May 20. The conference is alleged to have been convened at the suggestion of Geshe Sherab, a high Buddhist priest in Shanghai, and Dzasa Liushar during his sojourn in China. The conference will also be attended by about 150 delegates from Tibet, Sikang, Sining, Kansu, and other provinces of China.

The Patriotic Cultural Youth League (the Lhasa Youth League) met on April 8 to draw up a detailed program for the celebration of May Day. Subcommittees were appointed for games and sports, publicity and public relations, education and politics, and other entertainments. The membership of this organization at present is said to include 100 Tibetans, 100 Chinese, 80 Hospalingpas (Chinese Muslims), and 20 Lhasa Muslims. Permanent organizational quarters are contemplated, and the house of Dzasa Ngawang will probably be purchased by the Chinese for this purpose.

For motives as yet unknown, General Chang Ching-wu has commissioned three monks (Demo Rimpoche, Khenchung Thumpten Lingmyo, and Trungyik Chempo) to produce a pamphlet describing the life of a monk, his discipline, religious studies, etc. Two lay officials (Theiji Kapshopa and Kunsangt se Dzana) have also been asked to write about all the families of lay officials. Demo Rimpoche is thinking of retiring to India for a while to avoid this and other "impositions" on him.

With reference to the death of Stalin, not only did the Chinese insist that the Dalai Lama and the Panchen Lama send messages of condolence to the Government of the U.S.S.R., via Peiping of course, but also ceremonies were held at the cathedral during which the Dalai Lama prayed for the departed leader.

~~SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION

Page _____ of
Desp. No. _____
From _____

~~SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION
(Classification)

Page 3 of _____
Encl. No. 2
Desp. No. 122 7/7/53
From London

Some oil and coal are said to have been found by the Chinese at Draya, three days' journey southeast of Chamdo.

India-China-Tibet

Many Lhasa Muslims propose to go on Haj shortly. Among them will be some Sining Muslims.

The recent introduction of passport control over all foreigners (other than Tibetans, Bhutanese, and Nepalese) in Sikkim was followed by stricter supervision of entry by persons of doubtful Tibetan nationality, especially Khampas and Amdowas from Tibet. The action has evoked local complaints, but there have been no serious repercussions in Lhasa as yet.

INTERNAL

The Dalai Lama's Advisory Council has started functioning. A select committee of about 15 members of the Council opened an office last February. The members are: Ngapho Shape, Kundeling Dzasa, Makchi Khenchung (the monk c.-in-c.), four Trungyik Chempas, three Tshipons, three representatives of the Sera, Drepung, and Ganden Monasteries, and a few other monk and lay officials. Under orders of the Dalai Lama, the following reform measures are being considered by the committee: (1) Relief for peasants heavily indebted to the Tibetan Government, Labrang (monastic authorities), officials, landlords, and traders; (2) abolition or reduction of free transport rights enjoyed by certain privileged Government departments, institutions, and individuals; (3) abolition of forced labor demanded by Tibetan officials and landlords.

The Advisory Council has already issued orders fixing the rate of interest on loans of grain given to villagers by landlords and Labrang during 1951-52. The new rates are much lower than those customary in the past. The Tibetan ryotz have also been informed that the matter of repayment of loans made prior to 1951-52 is under the consideration of the Council. Tibetan officials have been ordered to discontinue the practice of demanding free supplies and cash payments while on tour.

The Grain Production Board is not operating satisfactorily. The Chinese representative on the Board has reported to the Tibetan Government the Board's difficulty in forcing grain owners to produce the full quota of grain previously promised. He has asked the Tibetan Government to mete out severe punishment should the defaulters fail to fulfill their quotas in the near future. The question is now under consideration by the Government of Tibet.

Four Tibetan members of the Board have been granted the following ranks by the Tibetan Government under the direction and

~~SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION

Page _____ of
Desp. No. _____
From _____

~~SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION
(Classification)

Page 4 of
Encl. No. 2
Desp. No. 122 7/7/53
From London

recommendation of the Chinese:

- Ex-Shape Kapshopa - Theiji
- Changlochen - Theiji
- Kunphela - Rimshi
- Pangdatsang Surpa - Rimshi

A new house is being built for the Dalai Lama at Norbulingka and particularly a Durbar hall for receiving foreign notables. The felling of trees in the neighborhood of Norbulingka is going on at a fairly good rate.

Miscellaneous

The cost of living in Lhasa is going up. A bag of rice (30 seers) costs 17 to 20 Dotses (About Rs. 155 to Rs. 180). Other items, viz., barley flour, meat, butter, fire wood, milk, eggs, etc., are now selling at much higher prices. In spite of high transport charges from India to Lhasa, the Tibetans are resorting more and more to tinned supplies like milk, mustard oil, vegetable ghee, etc. The plight of the poor is miserable indeed.

~~SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION

Page _____ of
 Desp. No. _____
 From _____

~~SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION
 (Classification)

Page 1 of _____
 Encl. No. 3
 Desp. No. 122 7/7/53
 From London

SUMMARY OF REPORT OF INDIAN CONSUL GENERAL
 AT LHASA FOR PERIOD FROM APRIL 16 TO MAY 15, 1953

EXTERNAL

Tibet-China

In representations to Peiping, the Panchen Lama has raised the question of restoring independent status to the Tsang province - a status alleged to have been enjoyed by it in the past. The Tibetan Government was informed of this move by the local Chinese authorities and was asked to take up the matter "for early settlement." The move appears to be Chinese-inspired since, as it will be remembered, General Fan Min, the Vice Political Commissar, visited the Tashilhunpo estate before he accompanied General Chang Kuo-Hua to Peiping last February.

The Tibetan Government has issued orders to Tashilhunpo to send its officials, Dzasa Che Jigme and Talama, to Lhasa with documentary evidence substantiating "their claims." Neither of the officials has appeared so far despite reminders from the Tibetan Government. Meanwhile, special officers have been directed by the Government of Tibet to prepare the case. These officers are currently busy delving into old records relating to the installation of the first Panchen Lama during the reign of the fifth Dalai Lama. Relations between the Tashilhunpo authorities and the Tibetan Government continue strained. Che Jigme is said to have "forbidden Tibetan subjects not to take orders from the latter."

General Chang Ching-wu, at a condolence meeting at the time of the death of Stalin advised the Dalai Lama, the Panchen Lama, and the people of Tibet to unite under the leadership of Mao and the Chinese People's Government. They were told to join with the Liberation Army in protecting ancestral boundaries and guarding against disruptions and spreading of harmful propaganda by secret agents of foreign despotic governments in Tibet.

The Chinese practice of issuing grain loans to Tibetans, to be repaid in kind, is meeting with the opposition of farmers, although the terms are favorable compared to last year. The object of the scheme is really to buy grain in advance. The farmers desire to repay in cash as they no doubt expect higher prices when the crops are harvested. The matter is now under the consideration of the Tibetan Government and the Chinese authorities in Lhasa.

The Yatung-Phari road construction project has begun, according to one Yatung report. Allegedly, over 1,000 Chinese troops are being

~~SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION

Page _____ of
Desp. No. _____
From _____

~~SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION
(Classification)

Page 2 of _____
Encl. No. 3
Desp. No. 122 7/7/53
From London

used on the project, and six Chinese engineers are reported to have arrived at Yatung from Lhasa.

Detailed orders have been issued by the Tibetan Government to all Dzongpons for the conscription of Tibetan labor to complete the Giamda-Lhasa road. Landlords are to provide laborers (men and women between the ages of 18 and 40) at a daily wage of 27 sangs 9 shokangs (Rs. 5/1/2). Of this, 15 sangs are to go to the landlords as compensation for supplying a daily ration of Tsampa, and 12 sangs 9 shokangs go to the laborers in cash.

It is believed that the Tibetan Government has referred to the Chinese the question of transferring the administration of the Kham area between Dri Chu (Yangtze) and Lhari Guo, at present directly under Chinese control, to the Tibetans. The Chinese have replied that such a move at the present time would be imprudent as the Khamas of the locality resent bitterly the misrule by Tibetan officials but stated that the administration would be restored "sooner or later" after the people are prepared for administrative changes and their livelihood is improved.

May Day celebrations were held between May 1 and 6 with the usual pomp and show. About 3,500 Tibetan masons, painters, carpenters, etc., were given cash presents up to two Chinese dollars each. There were long speeches exhorting honest and useful work but pointing out that craftsmen or painters producing religious objects were not useful workmen and were the subject of ridicule. The parents of Chinese primary school students were entertained at singing and dancing performances and received packets of sweets.

Youth League Day was celebrated with speeches enjoining everyone to work hard for social, cultural, and educational progress. Dramatic shows described various Chinese achievements, and games and sports took a prominent place on the program. Many Tibetans participated, both men and women.

According to some reports, the Chinese are preparing landing strips at Dechen, one stage east of Lhasa, and Hobgyethang, near Rigya, about five miles east of Lhasa.

The new Foreign Bureau will be designated "Chhi-drel Lekhung," i.e., Office of External Relations or Affairs. The Tibetan Government has furnished the Chinese a list of Tibetan officials serving with the Tibetan Foreign Bureau, together with a history of their services and details of salary. It is believed that the Chinese intend to fix the salary scale of Tibetan officials who may be retained in the new organization. Present indications are that Mr. Yang Kung-su, the Foreign Affairs Assistant to General Chang Ching-wu, will be in charge of the office with Dzasa Liushar working under him.

~~SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION

Page _____ of
Desp. No. _____
From _____

~~SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION
(Classification)

Page 3 of _____
Encl. No. 3
Desp. No. 122 7/7/53
From London

The much delayed opening of the Chinese school at Gyantse was celebrated on April 26, as a result of slight concessions to the local inhabitants. Thus the school is officially described as "the Tibetan school" and provision has been made for feeding poor children. The last concession effectively broke down earlier local resistance and the school started with 140 students.

India-China-Tibet

Indian relations with the Tibetan Government continue friendly. As an example, in arranging certain matters concerning the supply of fodder to the Indian trade agency at Gyantse the Kashag showed special consideration and stressed in orders to their officials at Gyantse the necessity of maintaining good and cordial relations with Indian officials.

INTERNAL

The following orders have been passed by the Tibetan Government upon recommendation of the Advisory Council: (1) Rates of interest on loans granted by monastic authorities should not exceed 1 bo for every 5 bos as at present; that on loans granted by officials, landlords, and other private individuals should be refixed at 1 bo to every 7 bos. (1 bo equals 12 seers) (2) Outstanding loans granted prior to 1952 should be "investigated" for settlement with due regard to the financial status of both creditors and debtors. In no case should the debtor be forced to pay interest over 100 percent of the principle. (3) All permanent Lamyiks granted to ~~several~~ Government departments, Ladakh Lopchak (Lopchak mission), Duk Lopchak (the Bhutanese agent in Lhasa) and others have been cancelled. They have been informed that applications for transport should be made as and when required and consideration would be on the merits of each case.

Further measures affecting the income of officials and monasteries have been discussed in the National Assembly, convened by the Advisory Council, and the following recommendations have been submitted to the Dalai Lama for orders: (1) All land holdings over and above those granted in the past by the Government to lay Tibetan officials in lieu of remuneration are to be confiscated. Landed property held by official families without any members serving in the Government at the present time should be taken over by the Government after a careful examination of the circumstances which permitted families to continue in possession of property even though no person was actually serving in the Government. (Formerly, the practice was that such a family contributed to the Government Treasury a sum of cash in lieu of rendering service.) (2) All estates granted to monasteries should be examined to insure that endowments are actually utilized for the religious institution concerned; any portion of estates in excess of actual requirements should be surrendered to the

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SECURITY INFORMATION

Page _____ of
Desp. No. _____
From _____

~~SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION
(Classification)

Page 4 of _____
Encl. No. 3
Desp. No. 122 7/7/53
From London

Government. The previous practice of giving monastic estates on lease to friends and relatives by monastic authorities should be stopped forthwith. (3) With the exception of appointments in the Kashag, the household establishment of the Dalai Lama and a few other important departments, all posts are to be filled in strict rotation according to seniority for a tenure of not more than three years. All posts are to be held jointly by two officials hereafter - one monk and one lay. (4) Adequate rates of pay, in cash and kind (grain), should be fixed for both lay and monk officials. All revenues collected in their respective districts should be credited to the Government. Monk officials holding estates as remuneration for Government services will relinquish their holdings. Incumbents of certain posts involving considerable financial loss will be granted sufficient funds to meet such expenses. No official is to indulge in the prevailing predatory practice of forcibly selling goods to Tibetan subjects at an exorbitant price. (5) All expenses of official parties will hereafter be borne by the Government and financial burdens hitherto imposed on officials will be relieved.

The Grain Procurement Board has reported to the Tibetan Government its failure to control the price of tsampa and has suggested that the Government order requiring the sale of tsampa by land owners only to the Board should be rescinded. This recommendation has been accepted and the Board will now concentrate on better procurement methods and will sell tsampa at competitive prices with the help of a Government subsidy. It would appear that the Tibetan Government is not sorry to see the failure of the Board's activities as further discontent is thus engendered in the Tibetan masses affected by the high cost of living. The reason appears to be that the Tibetan Government itself is contemplating various reforms to meliorate the people's hardships.

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