

April 8, 1954

The Second Secretary at London (Zimmerman) to the Department of State, 'Availability of Reports on Tibet from the Indian Consul General at Lhasa'

Citation:

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Contributed by Charles Kraus.

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Summary:

Robert Zimmerman explains why the US Embassy has stopped receiving copies of the reports from the Indian Mission in Lhasa.

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English

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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	4-12	CIA-7	Action Office Symbol CA

SUBJECT: Availability of Reports on Tibet from the Indian Consul General at Lhasa

As the Department is aware, the last monthly report by A. K. SEN, the Indian Consul General at Lhasa, transmitted by the Embassy (Embdes 717, August 12, 1953) covered the period May 16 to June 15, 1953. Since that date the Embassy has from time to time inquired at the Foreign Office as to the receipt of subsequent reports. The Foreign Office has consistently stated that the report referred to above is the latest that it has received; consequently, the Tibetan desk officer has made several informal inquiries at the Commonwealth Relations Office, which up to now have yielded little by way of explanation. (The Commonwealth Relations Office is the original recipient of these reports in London and, of course, receives them from the United Kingdom High Commissioner in New Delhi.) Occasionally it was suggested that there was a break in the reports because of Mr. Sen's consultations in New Delhi in the fall of 1953 preparatory to the Indian-Chinese Communist talks on Tibet, but this could not explain the complete absence of reports since June 15 of last year.

In March of this year, however, the Foreign Office formally queried the Commonwealth Relations Office on the matter and has now received a reply which states that the stoppage coincided with a change of officials in the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi. The CRO comments that the original stoppage thus probably occurred only due to an oversight, but that the Ministry has now "taken refuge" in a protracted search for the original arrangements for passing on the reports. The CRO adds that the Sino-Indian talks in Peiping or some other factor has possibly influenced the present attitude, and that the United Kingdom High Commissioner will continue to press for a resumption of the transmittal of these reports.

For the Ambassador:

Robert W. Zimmermann
Second Secretary of Embassy

Approved: Arthur R. Ringwalt
First Secretary of Embassy
cc: New Delhi, Calcutta
RWZimmermann/mr
REPORTER

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