

September 10, 1954

**The Second Secretary at London (Zimmerman) to
the Department of State, 'Transmittal of Indian
Summary of Tibetan Reports Covering Period
January to April 1954'**

Citation:

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Summary:

A summary of the report of the Indian Mission to Lhasa covering January-April 1954.

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English

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ATR POUCH
PRIORITY

SECRET
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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : Amembassy LONDON

706
DESP. NO.

793600/92957
Action Taken None

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WASHINGTON

September 10, 1954
DATE

REF : Embdes 4090 June 21, 1954

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.	Name of Officer
	REC'D	OTHER	
	FE-4	OC/R-2	OC/R-5
	9-13	CIA-5	ARMY-4 NAUY-3

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Indian Summary of Tibetan Reports Covering Period January to April 1954.

The despatch under reference reported that the Indian authorities in New Delhi had agreed to pass to the British government in the future summaries of the monthly reports on Tibet received from the Indian Consul General at Lhasa. The monthly reports, it will be remembered, are no longer being made available to the British.

The first of the new summaries has now been received by the Foreign Office and covers the period from January to April 1954. In forwarding the summary, the British High Commissioner in New Delhi commented that it was almost worthless. He was not certain, however, whether the inadequacy of the summary was a result of overwork in the Indian Ministry of External Affairs or whether it was a matter of deliberate policy, although he suspected the latter. The High Commissioner further suggested that it was just possible that the Indians may have thought the material to be so out of date as not to warrant a careful job. (It will be noted that in the following paraphrase of the summary, there is no information on Chinese troop movements and barrack construction or on the progress of road construction as occasionally appeared in the old monthly reports). In any case, the High Commissioner does not intend to enter a complaint until a few more of the summaries have been received. The summaries are made available to the Embassy on the same proviso which applied to the monthly reports, i.e. that the information be treated as U. S. Officials - Eyes Only. The Indian summary reported the following:

1) The Patriotic Cultural Youth League, with the approval of the Dalai Lama, established a Womens League in Lhasa with a membership of about 160 persons. Its activities to date have consisted principally of sports and social meetings. At one meeting of the League, General Chang Ching-wu spoke of the need of improving the social and economic conditions of the Tibetan people. No permanent office holders were elected but Yapshi Samukusho (the Dalai Lama's sister), Taring Lhachom and Mrs. Chang Ching-wu were appointed to approach the Dalai Lama, the Kashag and the Chinese authorities respectively, whenever necessary.

2) The

RWZimmermann/dtr
REPORTER

SECRET

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2) The Tibetan New Year was celebrated by the Chinese over a period of several days with the usual lavish entertainment of all Tibetan officials. Thousands of monks received Rs. 4/8/- each from the Chinese.

3) During Monlam, the city administration in Lhasa was taken over by monk executive officials. A committee was formed, however, of Chinese, monk and lay officials to deal with any incidents that might develop, but the period passed without untoward incidents. The Chinese gave cash presents to the monks and expressed great respect for the culture of the country and noted the progress that had been made in agriculture production and in raising living conditions. The celebration ended on February 27. The Dalai Lama resumed his duties after a period of meditation lasting three weeks. Thousands of Tibetan nomads poured into the city to receive his blessing.

4) A new five-sangs silver coin (about Rs. -/14/-) has been minted recently for introduction in Lhasa. The first issue is to be made to about 20,000 monks at the rate of 50 sangs each.

5) Construction on the new palace in Norbulingka, the summer home of the Dalai Lama, was resumed after the Monlam.

6) The Dzongpons (District officials) henceforth are to be paid in kind out of revenue collected from the District. The rest of the District income is to be credited to the Government. This is in contrast to past practice whereby the District officials had only to deposit certain amounts in the Treasury and could appropriate the balance as their personal remuneration.

For the Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.:

Robert W. Zimmermann
Robert W. Zimmermann
Second Secretary of Embassy

Approved:

Evan M. Wilson
Evan M. Wilson
First Secretary of Embassy

cc: New Delhi
Calcutta

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