

December 27, 1951

Letter, Fraser Wilkins to Evan M. Wilson

Citation:

"Letter, Fraser Wilkins to Evan M. Wilson", December 27, 1951, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Record Group 84, India, Calcutta Consulate General, Classified and Top Secret General Records pertaining to Tibet, 1950-1955, Box 1, T.S. Tibet Jun-August '51, National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, Maryland. Obtained by Charles Kraus. <https://wilson-center.drivingcreative.com/document/176386>

Summary:

American diplomat Fraser Wilkins rebuts claims made by Prince Peter of Greece and Princess Irene.

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan



THE FOREIGN SERVICE

OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA
CALCUTTA, INDIA

REC'D JAN 5 - 1952

TOP SECRET

Ans'd

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO

SECURITY INFORMATION

AMERICAN EMBASSY

New Delhi, December 27, 1951

OFFICIAL - INFORMAL
TOP SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

Dear Evan:

Since returning from South India I have received your letter of December 10 regarding my trips to Kalimpong and Princess Irene, as well as a copy of your letter of December 10 to Troy Perkins regarding Tibet.

I certainly am interested in the Princess Irene's comments. As you may recall I made three trips to Kalimpong (Despatches No. 2891, May 25, No. 3030, June 14 and No. 260 August 2) and two to Calcutta (Despatch No. 2615, May 26 and one toward the end of June concerning which no despatch was necessary).

During all of these journeys I saw Prince Peter and the Princess Irene on only one occasion, and never had any conversations with them other than the incident of the photograph. With regard to the latter, I was in front of the Himalayan Hotel taking a picture of Harrer on July 24, the day of my departure, when the Princess Irene drove up in her car. While stepping out of it and as I involuntarily turned because of the commotion she was making, she remarked, "No photographs, please." I was somewhat taken aback and remarked to the effect that I had no intention of photographing her. I did not report this incident to the Department because it was of no importance. It is now difficult for me to see how the Princess could conclude that one of my reports "contained everything she had said to Wilkins, including the fact that she did not wish her photograph taken."

With respect to Princess Irene's statement that Prince Peter "was shown" the complete report of my visit to Kalimpong, I am at a loss to know what she is talking about and assume that her statement may be as inaccurate as that regarding the photographs. I myself did not see Prince Peter in Delhi in 1951. I did meet him, however, in Delhi in December 1950, several months before I ever went to Kalimpong.

Evan M. Wilson
American Consul General,
Calcutta

-2-

With respect to Tharchin, you are correct in referring to the document mentioned in Despatch No. 3030. I have no doubt that Tharchin told Prince Peter and the Princess Irene he had shown it to me. As a matter of fact Tharchin was quite frank at that time in telling me he had received the report from Prince Peter.

In any event, all of the foregoing shows how unreliable these people are and how they take simple facts, speculate upon them and distort them in subsequent conversations. If opportunity for conversation with them should arise in the future I should certainly confine my remarks to the weather in the hill stations of India.

With respect to the photographs of the Dalai Lama's mother and brother, the despatch to which reference is made was No. 260, August 2 rather than October 2. Enclosure (1) of this despatch, page 2, indicated we forwarded copies of the photographs to the Department. A notation on the photographs themselves requested copies for Calcutta and the Embassy.

It was pleasant to hear your voice on the phone the other morning. We hope you and your family had a happy Christmas and that we will meet soon again.

Sincerely,

Fraser

Fraser Wilkins

TOP SECRET

SECURITY INFORMATION

By Anne + I met Simon + Mrs. Brewster at the Bowles bar night. Both Brewsters remarkes what a nice time they had with you in Calcutta.

Fraser

it was evening