

January 9, 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
June 16 to July 15, and July 16 to August 15, 1952'**

Citation:

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Summary:

Reports of the Indian Mission to Lhasa for June-August 1952.

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

JAN 13 1953

FROM : Amembassy, London

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DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

January 9, 1953

DATE

REF :

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SUBJECT: Transmission of Summaries of Report of Indian Agent at Lhasa for Periods from June 16 to July 15, and July 16 to August 15, 1952.

There are enclosed summaries of two reports prepared by the Indian Agent at Lhasa covering the periods June 16 to July 15, 1952, and July 16 to August 15, 1952, respectively. Perhaps an explanation is due the Department why these summaries have not been forthcoming more regularly. The last despatch, dealing with the periods April 16 to May 15 and from May 16 to June 15, was dated September 3rd. Since that time there seemed to be some reluctance on the part of the officer in the China-Korea Department concerned to show the latest reports to the Embassy representatives. They were finally produced on January 7th and the Embassy was permitted to take rather full notes from them. These notes are incorporated in the enclosures.

A perusal of the enclosures will reveal that the reports themselves are less full and less interesting than many of the earlier ones. This may be accounted for by the likelihood that Sinha, the Indian Agent who drafted them, had himself lost interest in his work in the knowledge that he was about to be transferred. Both Sinha and Sen, his successor, had served with Panikkar in China and both are obviously competent observers. Sinha is considered by officers in the Foreign Office to be no great admirer of the Chinese Communists. Sen, while perhaps equally competent, is thought to be less inclined to be critical of their activities.

As to the reports under review, the most striking thing about them is that they were written with tongue in cheek. Sinha pokes a good deal of sly fun at the "altruism" of the Chinese and the "love" of the Tibetans for their Chinese "motherland", the failure of the Tibetan landlords to make grain available to the Food Procurement Bureau at less than market price, etc. The reports indicate considerable progress in road-building and reconstruction. Irritation is exhibited over rather clumsy efforts of the Chinese to wean the Tibetans away from India. Attention is also paid to persecution of Nepalese residents, and there appears to be confirmation of the rumor that Dr. K. I. Singh who, it will be recalled, led an abortive insurrection in Nepal a year ago and subsequently fled to Tibet, has been brought to Peiping (presumably in order to prepare him for possible use as a puppet ruler of Nepal whenever the Chinese Communists feel in a position to move in

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Page _____ of
Encl. No. _____
Desp. No. _____
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there).

The two reports dealt with here are the last such reports to have been received by the Commonwealth Relations Office. It had been assumed that the passes from Tibet might have been obstructed by the weather, but an examination of the files has now revealed that in previous years there had been no interruption and that the reports had been regularly received. The British High Commissioner in New Delhi has accordingly been instructed to make discreet inquiries why these reports are not coming through.

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.

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

Enclosures: *att*

- ✓ 1. Summary of Report of Indian Agent at Lhasa for Period from June 16 to July 15, 1952.
- ✓ 2. Summary of Report of Indian Agent at Lhasa for Period from July 16 to August 15, 1952.

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Page 1 of 2Encl. No. 1Desp. No. 3154From London

Summary of Report of Indian Agent at Lhasa for Period from June 16 to July 15, 1952.

1. The Chinese Communists can be justly proud of their recent progress in road building in Tibet. The road from Giamda to Lhasa is now nearing completion and on the last stretch of this road they have employed 10,000 workmen, mostly members of the Liberation Army. Chinese Communist planes are dropping supplies for these workmen from the air at Giamda and these planes may eventually land in Lhasa itself when refueling arrangements are available. Their next major road construction effort will be the road from Phari to Gyantze, this road is now being surveyed and depots erected. Muleteers in the area are being instructed to carry only supplies for the Chinese workmen.

2. The Food Procurement Bureau has finally been established under two Tibetan dignitaries. The delay has been due to Tibetan agitation demanding a withdrawal of at least a portion of the Chinese Communist troops from Tibet in order to relieve the deteriorating economic situation. This Bureau will purchase supplies of grain and sell it to the public at lower than market prices. It will also engage in the Chinese tea trade and later on other commodities as well.

3. Despite the altruistic Chinese aims in Tibet, there remains a small minority who do not appreciate what is being done for them, for example, the sewage system, the reconstruction of which has cost the Chinese Communists considerable sums of money, has been wrecked by saboteurs.

4. Judgement has been rendered against six people's representatives by a Chinese Special Tribunal. The representatives had been arrested for submitting a petition asking for the withdrawal from Tibet of a portion of the Chinese troops. The judgement took the view that the agitators represented only a small minority of the Tibetan people who had been led astray by foreign agents. They had no right whatsoever to submit unlawful demands to the Government and such actions should not be repeated.

5. The latest Chinese Communist experiment in mass indoctrination takes the form of public discussions, reproducing "speak Bitterness" meetings held elsewhere in China. The proceedings begin with a series of questions from a Chinese spokesman, answers to which are supplied by Tibetans who have been previously coached. At one meeting, the Chinese spokesman asked why relations between India and Tibet were so unfriendly despite the ancient ties between the two countries and the fact that Tibet got its religion and culture from India. The answer was that relations between India and Tibet were of no importance; the only important fact was that Tibet had returned to the Great Family of China. In reply to another question why the Tibetans are not contributing to Chinese periodicals it was stated

~~SECRET~~ SECURITY INFORMATION

SECURITY INFORMATION

~~SECRET~~
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Page 1 of 1
Encl. No. 2
Desp. No. 3154
From London

Summary of Report of Indian Agent at Lhasa for Period from July 16 to August 15, 1952.

1. The cumulative effect of Chinese Communist policy toward Tibet is becoming readily discernible. There is a somewhat immodest change in the attitude of many Tibetans verging on adulation. There is a greater Tibetan-Chinese cooperation and a growing identity of interests. Separatist tendencies are being submerged by the larger patriotism of the mother land. The severity of the Chinese Communist doctrine has been watered down and made compatible to the majority whose fears of Chinese domination have changed to servile appreciation and keenness to imitate the Chinese -- to dress, talk, and even sing like them. Mao's portrait is everywhere in evidence.

2. The Tibet authorities have decided to send three missions to China.

- (a) There will be an indoctrination mission of 18 persons which will proceed overland and participate in the October 1st celebration at Peiping.
- (b) A second mission will travel to China via Calcutta bearing gifts from the Dalai Ama to Mao and other leaders. It will offer Tibet homage to the Chinese Communist Government and it also will be present at the October 1st meeting.
- (c) A group of 3 lay and 13 ecclesiastical officials will proceed to Peiping to establish a liason office.

The traffic is not by any means only one way. Chinese of all descriptions are swarming into Tibet.

3. A Chinese School for Tibetan children was opened on August 15. Some 675 students marched in procession at the school building where they were received by the Chinese authorities.

4. The Food Procurement Bureau has not met with the desired success. Certain members of the Board who were large land owners and who promised to make grain available at fixed prices have not lived up to their commitments.

5. It has been confirmed that Dr. Singh has definitely been escorted to Peiping.

6. Indian Agent Sinha has been placed by A. K. Sen.

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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Page 2 of 2

Encl. No. 1

Desp. No. 3154

From London

that Tibetans should of course do so, but their minds had been poisoned by piffle appearing in the Kalinpong press.

6. There are rumors that Dr. K. I. Singh is to be marched off to Peiping. The persecution of non-Moslem Nepalese persists. Many such tenants have been threatened with evacuation from their homes and the Chinese have asked Tibet merchants not to trade with the Nepalese.

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