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R 140727Z FEB 79
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7869
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 2267

E.O. 12065: RDS 2/14/85 (SHOESMITH, THOMAS P.) OR-M
TAGS: PEPR, CH, IN
SUBJECT: TIBETAN AFFAIRS

REF: NEW DELHI 1369 (NOTAL)

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT).

2. INDIAN COMMISSION FIRST SECRETARY (PROTECT) TOLD CONGENOFF
FEBRUARY 13 THAT A DELEGATION OF TIBETANS RESIDENT IN INDIA
WOULD DEPART WITHIN THE WEEK FOR A VISIT TO TIBET OF AT LEAST
TWO WEEKS. REFTTEL DESCRIBED INITIAL PLANNING FOR THIS
VISIT. THE INDIAN DIPLOMAT SAID ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE TRIP
WERE MADE WITH THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR IN NEW DELHI BY HIGH-
RANKING ADVISORS OF THE DALI LAMA. THE INDIAN BELIEVED THE
PRC HAD BEEN "SURPRISINGLY FORTHCOMING"IN PROMISING TO
ALLOW THE TIBETANS ACCESS TO A WIDE RANGE OF PLACES AND
INSTITUTIONS.

3. THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT BELIEVES (AND HOPES) THAT THE DALAI
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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Lahiguera, Senior Reviewer

LAMA IS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING RETURNING TO TIBET. THE
INDIAN FIRST SECRETARY NOTED THAT PEOPLE INSIDE
TIBET HAD COMMUNICATED WITH THE DALAI LAMA TO DISCOURAGE
HIM FROM GOING AHEAD WITH PLANS TO SEND THE ADVANCE
PARTY TO TIBET, ARGUING THAT CONDITIONS FOR TIBETANS
WERE NOT AS GOOD AS THEPRCCLAIMED. BUT THE DALAI
LAMA DECIDED IT WAS NECESSARY TO SEND A GROUP OF
REFUGEES TO SEE CONDITIONS THEMSELVES. THE FOURTEEN
MEMBER GROUP WILL INCLUDE YOUNG PEOPLE BORN IN INDIA
AS WELL AS SOME WHO CAN REMEMBER WHAT LIFE WAS LIKE IN

TIBET BEFORE 1959. THE DALAI LAMA'S REPRESENTATIVES REPORTEDLY WERE IMPRESSED THAT OFFICIALS AT THE CHINESE EMBASSY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT MISTAKES HAD BEEN MADE IN TREATING THE TIBETANS, ERRORS WHICH OF COURSE WERE ATTRIBUTED TO THE INFLUENCE OF LIN BIAO AND THE GANG OF FOUR.

4. THE DALAI LAMA'S ORGANIZATION REPORTEDLY HAS SUGGESTED TO THE PRC THAT AS A DEMONSTRATION OF THE FREEDOM NOW ENJOYED BY TIBETANS THE PRC SHOULD PERMIT THE PANCHEN LAMA TO VISIT THE REFUGEES IN INDIA. THE CHINESE REPLIED THAT SUCH A VISIT MIGHT NOT BE WELCOMED BY NEW DELHI. THE INDIAN FIRST SECRETARY COMMENTED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IN FACT WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION AT ALL TO A VISIT BY THE PANCHEN LAMA AND ASSUMED THE CHINESE FEARED WHAT HE MIGHT SAY OR DO WHEN HE WAS OUTSIDE THEIR CONTROL. THIS ISSUE WOULD BE ONE OF THE MAJOR TOPICS OF DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE CHINESE AND THE FOURTEEN MEMBER TIBETAN DELEGATION. SHOESMITH

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