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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SSO-00 /031 W  
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RELEASED IN PART B6

R 240047Z JUL 80  
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0468  
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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EXDIS **DECAPTIONED**

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E.O. 12065: RDS-2/4 7/23/10 (SHOESMITH, THOMAS P.) OR-M  
TAGS: PEPR SREF CH IN  
SUBJECT: (S) UNITED FRONT WORK DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON  
TIBETAN AFFAIRS

REF: (A) 79 HONG KONG 18993 (B) 79 HONG KONG 18706

1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY: [REDACTED] (STRICTLY PROTECT) OF  
EARLIER INFORMATION ABOUT PRC/TIBETAN EXILE COMMUNITY  
DISCUSSIONS IN 1979 HAS RECENTLY VISITED CHINA WHERE HE  
DISCUSSED THE TIBETAN QUESTION WITH UNITED FRONT WORK  
DEPARTMENT DEPUTY DIRECTOR XIONG XIANGHUI AND OTHER  
UNITED FRONT AND NATIONALITIES AFFAIRS OFFICIALS.

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**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Lahiguera, Senior Reviewer**

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THE SOURCE CARRIED AN ORAL MESSAGE FROM THE DALAI LAMA'S  
BROTHER GYALOTHONDUP TO THE EFFECT THAT THE DALAI LAMA  
FEELS UNDER A VARIETY OF POLITICAL PRESSURES AT PRESENT  
AND, THEREFORE, CANNOT NOW MOVE FORWARD AN DISCUSSIONS.  
XIONG DENIED THAT THE PRC IS PRESSURING THE DALAI  
LAMA TO MOVE INTO SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS. XIONG ALSO  
REJECTED COMPLETELY THE IDEA OF TIBET JOINING THE PRC IN

A FEDERAL ARRANGEMENT. END SUMMARY.

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3. [REDACTED] (STRICTLY PROTECT) VISITED CHINA IN LATE JUNE AND EARLY JULY AS A GUEST OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT. HIS IMMEDIATE HOST APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN THE ASSOCIATION FOR FRIENDSHIP WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES, BUT HE HAD LONG, SUBSTANTIVE MEETINGS ON TIBETAN POLICY WITH MEMBERS OF THE STATE COUNCIL NATIONALITIES AFFAIRS COMMISSION AND THE PARTY UNITED FRONT WORK DEPARTMENT.

4. BEFORE GOING TO CHINA, GYALOTHONDUP, THE DALAI LAMA'S BROTHER RESIDENT IN HONG KONG, ASKED THE SOURCE TO PASS A SHORT ORAL MESSAGE TO UNITED FRONT WORK DEPARTMENT DEPUTY DIRECTOR XIONG XIANGHUI. THE MESSAGE WAS: (1) THE REFORMS IN TIBET ARE ENCOURAGING BUT DO NOT GO FAR ENOUGH AND (2) IT IS VERY DIFFICULT AT PRESENT FOR THE DALAI LAMA TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE CHINESE BECAUSE, UNLIKE THE EARLIER SECRET STAGE, MATTERS ARE TOO OUT IN THE OPEN NOW AND THE DALAI LAMA IS UNDER PRESSURE FROM EXILE COMMUNITY ELEMENTS TO MOVE SLOWLY AND CAUTIOUSLY. THE SOURCE STATED THAT EXAMPLES OF PRESSURE WHICH GYALOTHONDUP CITED WERE OPPOSITION TO FURTHER MOVES COMING FROM MILITANT MEMBERS OF THE TIBETAN YOUTH CONGRESS AS WELL AS QUESTIONS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE FIRST GROUP (THE DALAI LAMA'S

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BROTHER LOBSANG SAMIEM, THREE KASHAG MEMBERS ANNSTWO YOUNG BUREAUCRATS) WHICH VISITED TIBET LAST YEAR AND CAME BACK WITH 60,000 LETTERS MOST OF WHICH URGED THE DALAI LAMA TO STAY ABROAD. ALSO CITED AS A PRESSURE WERE OVERTURES OF AN UNSPECIFIED NATURE FROM THE RUSSIANS.

5. IN HIS MEETING WITH THE SOURCE, XIONG WAS ACCOMPANIED BY JIANG SHAN, WHO WAS INTRODUCED AS THE TOP PERSON IN THE UNITED FRONT WORK DEPARTMENT IN CHARGE OF NATIONAL MINORITIES AFFAIRS. XIONG WAS DEFERENTIAL TOWARD JIANG. THE SOURCE STATED THAT XIONG APPEARED TO BE ANNOYED AT THE MESSAGE CONVEYED, QUITE POSSIBLY, GUESSED THE SOURCE, BECAUSE XIONG WAS UNEASY WITH HAVING

[REDACTED] THE SOURCE DESCRIBED XIONG AS ONE OF THE MEANEST, TOUGHEST CHINESE HE HAS EVER MET.

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6. READING FROM HIS NOTES, THE SOURCE SAID THAT IN ANSWER TO THE POINT ABOUT REFORMS, XIONG STATED THAT "THE REFORMS IN TIBET ARE FOR THE PEOPLE OF TIBET AND HAVE ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO WITH THE DALAI LAMA."

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XIONG PREDICTED THAT THE TIBETAN ECONOMY WILL BE SHOWING  
QUICK RESULTS UNDER RECENTLY ANNOUNCED REFORM POLICIES.  
ON THE QUESTION OF PRESSURES ON THE DALAI LAMA, XIONG  
SAID THAT THE CHINESE ARE NOT PUTTING ANY PRESSURE ON  
THE TIBET LEADER. XIONG STATED THAT THERE ARE NO  
NEGOTIATIONS GOING ON AND CHANGES TO DATE HAVE ALL BEEN  
UNILATERALLY DECIDED UPON BY THE CHINESE. XIONG SAID THE  
TIBETAN DELEGATIONS HAVE NOT PROPOSED CONCRETE CHANGES,  
BUT HAVE MERELY COME AND COMPLAINED.

7. THE SOURCE RAISED THE IDEA, WHICH HE TOLD XIONG  
WAS A PERSONAL VIEW, OF HAVING TIVET JOINED TO CHINA IN  
A FEDERAL UNION. (SOURCE STATED TO CONGENOFF THAT THIS  
IDEA WAS, IN FACT, FATHERED BY GYALOTHONDUP. HOWEVER,  
THE SOURCE IS PERSONALLY CONVINCED THAT A FEDERAL FORM  
OF GOVERNMENT FOR CHINA WOULD ALLOW FOR GREATER PROVINCIAL

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AUTONOMY, A TREND WHICH HE SEES DEVELOPING.) XIONG  
RESPONDED THAT THE IDEA OF A FEDERAL FORM OF GOVERNMENT  
IS COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE. QUOTING SUN YATSEN WITHOUT  
ATTRIBUTION, XIONG SAID THAT CHINA IS LIKE A LOOSE PAN  
OF SAND. IN ANSWER TO THE SOURCE'S QUESTION ABOUT WHETHER  
A SOLUTION TO THE TIBETAN QUESTION MIGHT NOT HAVE  
REPERCUSSIONS FOR TAIWAN, XIONG STATED EMPHATICALLY

THAT THE TIBET AND TAIWAN PROBLEMS ARE TWO COMPLETELY SEPARATE QUESTIONS. WHEN THE SOURCE SUGGESTED THAT THE TIBETAN MINORITY AUTONOMOUS AREAS IN GANSU, SICHUAN, QINGHAI AND YUNNAN SHOULD BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SELF-DETERMINATION TO DECIDE WHETHER THEY WOULD LIKE TO BE POLITICALLY REUNITED WITH TIBET, XIONG REJECTED THE IDEA STATING THAT "IF ALL AUTONOMOUS ZHOU AND XIAN HAD A CHOICE, THEY WOULD OPT OUT OF CHINA."

8. AFTER RETURNING TO HONG KONG THE SOURCE WAS TOLD BY GYALOTHONDUP THAT HE HAD RECENTLY SUBMITTED A TEN POINT DETAILED CRITICISM OF CHINESE POLICY TOWARD TIBET TO THE CHINESE. ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE, GYALOTHONDUP WILL BE LEAVING HONG KONG JULY 23 FOR A 45-DAY TRIP AROUND INNER CHINA BUT NOT INTO TIBET. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED AT LEAST AS FAR AS BEIJING BY NCNA HONG KONG DEPUTY DIRECTOR LI JUSHENG

9. COMMENT: THE SOURCE IS PERSONALLY CONVINCED THAT, IN FACT, THERE ARE NO ONGOING SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE CHINESE AND THE DALAI LAMA CONCERNING THE RETURN OF HIS HOLINESS TO CHINA.

10. IN AN INTERESTING ASIDE, AN OFFICIAL OF THE NATIONALITIES AFFAIRS COMMISSION TOLD THE SOURCE WITH A GOOD DEAL OF PIQUE THAT CHINA'S TINY JEWISH MINORITY  
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HAS STUBBORNLY REFUSED TO PETITION TO BECOME A NATIONAL MINORITY. ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL, THERE ARE STILL SEVERAL HUNDRED CHINESE IN KAIFENG WHO FOLLOW RITUALS WHICH ARE OF JEWISH ORIGIN. THE OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE JEWISH MINORITY WOULD STAND TO GAIN EASIER ADMISSION TO UNIVERSITIES AND OTHER ADVANTAGES GIVEN TO CERTIFIED MINORITIES IF THE COMMUNITY WOULD ONLY PETITION FOR MINORITY STATUS.  
SHOESMITH

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