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-----125654 110633Z /20

R 090914Z MAY 79
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9320
INFO AMEMBASSY BIEJING
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 8034

E.O. 12065: GDS 4/9/85 (GIBNEY, JON M.) OR-P
TAGS: PEPR, SREF, CH, IN
SUBJECT: TIBETAN REFUGEES TO VISIT PRC THIS SUMMER

REF: (A) HONG KONG 5195 (B) HONG KONG 2267 (C) NEW DELHI 6129
(ALL NOTAL)

1. C ENTIRE TEXT.

2. DURING DINNER AT CHINESE EMBASSY ON MAY 9, EMBOFF WAS INFORMED BY SECOND SECRETARY (POLITICAL) SHAO CHUN-CHU THAT THE GROUP OF FIFTEEN TIBETAN REFUGEES MENTIONED IN REFTELS C AND D HAS RECEIVED VISA'S AND WILL TRAVEL TO THE PRC (TIBET) OVERLAND VIA SIKKIM IN JUNE OR JULY. SHAO SAID THAT ONE MEMBER OF THE GROUP IS AN OFFICIAL OF THE DALAI LAMA'S, WHICH THE CHINESE DO NOT MIND SINCE THEY KNOW THAT THE GROUP IS GOING AT THE DALAI LAMA'S
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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Lahiguera, Senior Reviewer

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BEHEST TO INVESTIGATE CONDITIONS IN TIBET.

3. SHAO VOLUNTEERED THAT THE DALAI LAMA'S ELDER BROTHER GALOTHUNDOP HAD RECENTLY VISITED PEKING AND TALKED WITH CHINESE LEADERS (REFTEL A). HE FELT THAT GALO MUST HAVE GIVEN SOME "POSITIVE IMPRESSION" OF THE CHINESE TO HIS BROTHER, WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR THE FACT THAT GROUP OF FIFTEEN IS NOW PREPARED TO GO TO TIBET. SHAO ADDED THAT CHINA WOULD BE VERY HAPPY IF THE TIBETAN REFUGEE COMMUNITY WOULD RETURN HOME,

ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT HAVE BEEN TRAINED ABROAD AND
COULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF TIBET. HE
SAID THAT THEIR RETURN WOULD ALSO REMOVE AN "IRRITANT"
IN SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS. HE ATTRIBUTED IMPROVING
RELATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND THE REFUGEES TO A CHANGE
IN POLICY TOWARD THEM INITIATED BY DENG XIO-PING.
THIS, HE SAID, IS ALL TO THE GOOD. HE EXPRESSED THE
VIEW THAT THE DALAI LAMA WANTED TO GO BACK, BUT NEEDS
TO BE REASSURED ABOUT THE SITUATION IN TIBET BEFORE
MAKING ANY DECISION. GOHEEN

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