SECRET

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INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SSO-00 /026 W ------099588 272216Z /21

R 260648Z JUN 79 FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1528 INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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EXDIS **DECAPTIONED**

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E.O. 12065: RDS 2&4 6/26/99 (BELLOCCHI, NATALE H.) OR-M TAGS: PEPR, SREF, IN, CH, US SUBJ: VISIT TT THE U.S. BY THE DALAI LAMA

REF: A. NEW DELHI 6113, B. STATE 80347

1. (SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. A BROTHER OF THE DALAI LAMA, LOBSANG SAMTEN, RECENTLY TOLD WHO HAS CLOSE TIES TO THE TIBETAN EXILE LEADERS THAT THE DALAI LAMA HOPES DURING HIS VISIT TO THE U.S. THIS FALL TO MEET WITH AMERICANS WHO MAY BE ABLE TO INTERCEDE WITH THE PRC TO OBTAIN FOR THE TIBETANS MORE FAVORABLE TERMS FOR THE DALAI'S EVENTUAL RETURN TO TIBET. SAMTEN MENTIONED SENATORS KENNEDY AND JACKSON AS PERSONS WHOM THE DALAI LAMA MAY HOPE TO CONTACT.

3. COMMENT: REFTEL A INDICATES THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DALAI LAMA PREDICTABLY DID NOT MENTION SEEKING INTERMEDIARIES WITH BEIJING AS ONE OF HIS HOLINESS' SECRET

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Lahiguera, Senior Reviewer

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OBJECTIVES WHILE IN THE U.S. IN VIEW OF THE BYZANTINE FACTIONALISM OF THE TIBETAN REFUGEE COMMUNITY, IT IS DIFFICULT FROM HERE TO JUDGE WHETHER SAMTEN'S REMARKS REFLECT THE INTENTIONS OF HIS BROTHER AND/OR THOSE WHO WILL ACCOMPANY HIM OR MERELY SAMTEN'S OWN HOPES FOR THE DALAI'S TRIP. SAMTEN'S ACTIVITIES INDICATE THAT HE IS AMONG THOSE IN THE EXILE COMMUNITY WHO SEEK IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EXILEES AND BEIJING.

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