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PAGE 01 BEIJIN 03291 130242Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ADS-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 HA-05
RP-10 /083 W

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R 110121Z APR 80
FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
INFO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIJING 3291

E.O. 12065: GDS 4/10/86 (WOODCOCK, LEONARD) OR-M
TAGS: PINT, SREF, CH
SUBJECT: (U) TALKS BETWEEN TIBETAN EXILES AND CHINESE GOVERNMENT

REF: (A) STATE 081280; (B) KATHMANDU 1845

1. (U) XUE JIANHUA, MEMBER NATIONAL COMMISSION OF NATIONALITIES AFFAIRS, VERIFIED IN MEETING WITH EMBASSY OFFICER THAT A FIVE MAN DELEGATION OF TIBETAN EXILES SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH VISITED CHINA LAST YEAR WAS PROBABLY COMING IN MAY. ACCEPTABLE TOPICS OF DISCUSSIONS AND THE ITINERARY WOULD BE AGREED UPON ONCE THE GROUP REACHED BEIJING. IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT AFTER REACHING TIBET, THE GROUP WOULD WANT TO VISIT OTHER PROVINCES.

2. (C) XUE SAID THAT THERE WOULD BE MORE SUCH VISITS. EXILE REPRESENTATIVES WOULD BE WELCOME AT ANY TIME. HE INSISTED THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THE OFFICIAL CHINESE ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE DALAI LAMA WHO WOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Lahiguera, Senior Reviewer

PAGE 02 BEIJIN 03291 130242Z

WELCOMED AND FREE TO LEAVE AT ANY TIME. IT WAS PREMATURE TO DISCUSS CONDITIONS FOR HIS PERMANENT RETURN. HOWEVER, HE COULD RESIDE IN BEIJING OR TIBET, AS HE WISHED. FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT THIS WAS A MINOR PROBLEM. IT WAS TRUE THAT THERE HAS BEEN SOME FAVORABLE CHANGE OF ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF THE DALAI LAMA. IN THE PAST, HE HAD RIGIDLY INSISTED ON TIBETAN INDEPENDENCE, WHICH HAD LEFT NO BASIS FOR TALKS SINCE THE PRIMARY CONDITION POSED BY CHINA FOR HIS RETURN IS HIS

ADMISSION THAT TIBET IS A PART OF THE PRC. AT TIMES, SAID XUE, HE STILL MAKES STATEMENTS WHICH ARE NOT GOOD; SOME OF THESE ARE BELIEVED BY THE CHINESE TO REPRESENT HIS OWN VIEWS; SOME ARE REVISIONS MADE BY NEWSPAPER REPORTS. THE MAJOR CONCERN OF CHINA IS THOSE STATEMENTS BEARING ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER HE CONSIDERS TIBET A PART OF THE PRC. STATEMENTS ON OTHER, MINOR ISSUES, ARE OF NO GREAT CONCERN AND POSE NO OBSTACLE TO RECONCILIATION.

3. (U) XUE SAID THERE ARE DIFFERENCES OF VIEW AMONG TIBETAN EXILE GROUPS. YOUNGER ONES PREFER INDEPENDENCE, WHILE THE OLDER ONES WISH TO RETURN ABOVE ALL ELSE. THE DALAI LAMA AT PRESENT WAVERS BETWEEN THE POSITIONS OF THESE TWO GROUPS. THE POLICY OF CHINA IS TO WIN OVER THE DALAI LAMA, AND THIS POLICY WILL NOT CHANGE, XUE SAID IN CONCLUSION.
WOODCOCK

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