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R 030815Z JUN 80
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9591
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
FBIS OKINAWA
AMCONSUL SHANGHAI
AIT TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 12065: GDS-3 6/3/86 (BROOKS, THOMAS S.) OR-P
TAGS: CH, PINT, ECON
SUBJ: (U) PARTY CENTER LAVISHES ATTENTION ON TIBET

REF: HONG KONG 8061

1. (C) SUMMARY: BY THE DISPATCH OF A HIGH-POWERED DELEGATION AND OTHER MOVES AND GESTURES, THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY CENTER HAS SHOWN MORE ATTENTION TO POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN TIBET THAN AT ANY TIME IN THE PAST TWENTY YEARS. IT WAS REVEALED IN PUBLICITY ABOUT THE DELEGATION'S VISIT THAT THE PARTY SECRETARIAT HELD A SERIES OF MEETINGS IN APRIL ABOUT TIBET. IN A MAJOR POLICY ADDRESS DELIVERED BEFORE 4,500 PARTY, GOVERNMENT AND PLA OFFICIALS AND CADRES
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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Lahiguera, Senior Reviewer

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AS WELL AS NON-PARTY UNITED FRONT FIGURES, PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY HU YAOBANG ANNOUNCED A SERIES OF ECONOMIC AND OTHER MEASURES TO LIGHTEN THE BURDEN ON TIBET'S POPULACE. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE WHIRLWIND TOUR BY HU AND OTHER TOP OFFICIALS WILL PRODUCE NOTICEABLE RESULTS OVER THE SHORT TERM GIVEN TIBET'S BACKWARD CONDITIONS, POOR RELATIONS BETWEEN HAN CHINESE AND THE LOCAL POPULACE, AND THE GENERAL DEMORALIZED STATE OF BOTH THE LOCAL POPULACE AND THE HAN CHINESE. NEVERTHELESS, THE HIGH STATURE OF THE DELEGATION, THE PREPARATION FOR THE VISIT

AND THE PROMISES LEFT BEHIND BY THE DELEGATION, TOGETHER WITH THE HIGH LEVEL OF CONCERN SHOWN IN THE PAST YEAR FOR WINNING BACK THE DALAI LAMA AND THE TIBETAN EXILE COMMUNITY, ALL SHOW THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME THE PARTY CENTER IS WILLING TO DEVOTE AN EXTRAORDINARY AMOUNT OF ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF TIBET. END SUMMARY.

2. (LOU) BY THE DISPATCH OF A HIGH-POWERED DELEGATION AND OTHER MOVES AND GESTURES, THE PARTY CENTER HAS SHOWN MORE ATTENTION TO POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN TIBET (XIZANG) THAN AT ANY TIME IN THE PAST TWENTY YEARS OR MORE. THE DELEGATION, WHICH ARRIVED IN TIBET ON MAY 22, WAS LED BY PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY HU YAOBANG, AND INCLUDED WAN LI, PARTY SECRETARY AND VICE PREMIER; NGAPOI NGAWANG-JIGME (OB TIBETAN NATIONALITY), VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS STANDING COMMITTEE AND CHAIRMAN OF THE XIZANG AUTONOMOUS REGION PEOPLE'S CONGRESS STANDING COMMITTEE; YANG JINGREN, VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (CPPCC) AND CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE NATIONALITIES COMMISSION; AND ZHAO ZHENQING, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE PARTY ORGANIZATION DEPARTMENT. (ZHAO'S APPARENT TASK, ACCORDING TO THE HONG KONG PRC-CONTROLLED DAGONGBAO, IS TO DEAL WITH PARTY CONFIDENTIAL

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CADRE QUESTIONS IN TIBET.) HU YAOBANG WAS BACK IN BEIJING BY JUNE 1, BUT IT IS PROBABLE THAT OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION ARE STILL AT WORK IN TIBET.

3. (LOU) IN PUBLICITY ABOUT THE DELEGATION VISIT, IT WAS REVEALED THAT THE SECRETARIAT HELD A SERIES OF MEETINGS IN APRIL TO DEVISE NEW POLICIES FOR PARTY WORK IN TIBET. A CIRCULAR ENTITLED "SUMMARY OF PANEL DISCUSSIONS ON WORK IN XIZANG" WAS ISSUED BY THE DELEGATION ON RIVAL AND USED AS A BASIS FOR DISCUSSION DURING A SERIES OF MEETINGS THE DELEGATION HELD IN TIBET. HU YAOBANG AND OTHER DELEGATION MEMBERS MET WITH A BROAD RANGE OF XIZANG PARTY, GOVERNMENT, PLA AND NON-PARTY UNITED FRONT FIGURES INCLUDING MANY CADRES WHO ATTENDED AN ENLARGED MEETING OF THE REGIONAL PARTY COMMITTEE'S STANDING COMMITTEE WHICH WAS HELD CONCURRENTLY WITH THE DELEGATION'S VISIT. ON MAY 29 HU YAOBANG SPOKE TO ABOUT 4,500 PERSONS INCLUDING ALL THE DELEGATES TO THE REGIONAL PARTY STANDING COMMITTEE ENLARGED MEETING, HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OFFICES, AND PARTY, GOVERNMENT AND PLA CADRES IN LHASA MUNICIPALITY AS WELL AS MEMBERS OF THE XIZANG REGIONAL AND LHASA MUNICIPAL CPPCC COMMITTEES. IT WAS REPORTED THAT "COMRADE" AND FORMER TIBETAN PARTY FIRST SECRETARY REN RONG ALSO ATTENDED THE MAY WO MEETING.

4. (LOU) TIAN BAO, AN OLD CADRE OF TIBETAN NATIONALITY WHO IS CHAIRMAN (GOVERNOR) OF THE XIZANG AUTONOMOUS

REGION AND A PARTY SECRETARY, WAS APPARENTLY NOT IN TIBET DURING THE PERIOD OF THE DELEGATION VISIT. HE WENT TO BEIJING TO ATTEND THE LIU SHAOQI FUNERAL ON MAY 17 AND THERE HAS BEEN NO REPORT OF HIS RETURN TO TIBET. LIKE REN RONG, TIAN BAO IS A CULTURAL REVOLUTION SURVIVOR. UNLIKE REN AND TIAN, NGAPOI NGAWANG-JIGME HAS STAYED IN BEIJING FOR MANY YEARS AND HAS SERVED THE ROLE OF A TOKEN TIBETAN ON THE NPC STANDING COMMITTEE.

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5. (LOU) IN CRITICISM OF REN RONG'S STEWARDSHIP OF TIBET, HU YAOBANG SAID THAT "CERTAIN COMRADES" IN THE PAST FEW YEARS HAD FAILED TO UNDERSTAND THE INSTRUCTIONS AND DECISIONS OF THE PARTY CENTER AND, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE THIRD PLENUM, HAD BEEN SLOW IN MAKING CHANGES. HU EMPHASIZED TIBET'S EXTREME CONDITION OF POVERTY AND PLEDGED THAT THE PARTY WOULD WORK TOWARD THE GOAL OF REACHING

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AND SURPASSING, WITHIN THE NEXT FIVE OR SIX YEARS, THE HIGHER LIVING STANDARD FORMERLY ENJOYED IN TIBET. HU ANNOUNCED A SERIES OF ECONOMIC MEASURES DESIGNED TO LIGHTEN THE BURDEN ON THE TIBETAN PEOPLE, INCLUDING EXEMPTION FROM TAXES AND ROM TATE PURCHASE QUOTAS, STATE PURCHASE OF LOCAL PRODUCTS THROUGH NEGOTIATED PRICES AND BARTER ARRANGEMENTS, REDUCTION IN THE SIZE OF PRODUCTION TEAMS, MORE PRIVATE PLOTS AND LARGER PRIVATE LIVESTOCK HERDS, AND AUTONOMY FOR PEASANTS TO ECIDE WHAT CROPS THEY WISH TO RAISE. HE REVEALED THAT TIBETAN PEASANTS HAVE BEEN FORCED TO RAISE GRAINS FAVORED BY HAN CHINESE INSTEAD OF GRAINS TRADITIONALLY FAVOREDBY TIBETANS. IN SUMMARY, HU SAID THAT IN CARRYING OUT WORK IN TIBET, NATIONAL PARTY AND STATE "POLICY REQUIREMENTS SHOULD BE

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RELAXED, RELAXED AND RELAXED AGAIN." HU CLAIMED THAT THE STATE IN THE PAST HAD ALLOCATED MORE FUNDS FOR USE IN TIBET THAN FOR ANY OTHER PROVINCE OR REGION, BUT HE PROMISED THAT STATE DEVELOPMENT AID WOULD BE FURTHER INCREASED.

6. (LOU) ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS, HU SAID THAT "ON THE PREMISE THAT THE SOCIALIST ORIENTATION IS UPHELD," "WORLD REKNOWNED ANCIENT TIBETAN CULTURE INCLUDING FINE BUDDHISM, GRACEFUL MUSIC AND DANCE AS WELL AS MEDICINE AND OPERA" SHOULD BE STUDIED AND DEVELOPED. HU ORDERED ALL HAN CHINESE CADRES TO TAKE UP TIBETAN LANGUAGE STUDY. HE SAID THAT WITHIN TWO OR THREE YEARS FULL-TIME CADRES OF TIBETAN NATIONALITY SHOULD ACCOUNT FOR MORE THAN TWO-THIRDS OF ALL GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONARIES, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF DOCTORS, TEACHERS AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCHERS SINCE THE GOAL WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO REACH FOR THE LATTER THREE CATEGORIES AND TIBET NEEDED ALL THE DOCTORS AND TEACHERS IT COULD GET. IN A SIGN THAT THE PARTY WILL ONLY GO SO FAR IN RELAXING ITS CONTROL, HU SAID THAT "FULL PLAY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE RIGHTS OF REGIONAL AUTONOMY OF THE MINORITY NATIONALITIES UNDER THE UNIFIED LEADERSHIP OF THE PARTY CENTRL COMMITTEE."

7. (U) IN A MAY 31 COMMENTARY ON THE DELEGATION VISIT, HONG KONG'S DAGONGBAO POINTED OUT THAT THE NEW TIBET PARTY "ACTING FIRST SECRETARY," YIN FATANG, ALTHOUGH A HAN CHINESE, HAS SPENT MANY YEARS IN TIBET AND CAN SPEAK TIBETAN. THE COMMENTARY SPECULATED THAT YIN FATANG'S APPOINTMENT AS "ACTING FIRST SECRETARY" SIGNIFIES THAT THE PARTY CENTER PLANS TO REPLACE YIN AT SOME POINT WITH SOMEONE OF TIBETAN NATIONALITY. DAGONGBAO DREW THE LINEK BETWEEN NEW POLICIES AIMED AT STIMULATING THE TIBETAN ECONOMY AND CHINA'S DIPLOMATIC GOAL OF WINNING OVER THE DALAI

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LAMA.

8. (C) COMMENT: IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE WHIRLWIND TOUR OF HU YAOBANG AND OTHER TOP CENTRAL FIGURES WILL PRODUCE NOTICEABLE RESULTS OVER THE SHORT TERM GIVEN TIBET'S BACKWARD CONDITIONS, POOR RELATIONS BETWEEN HAN CHINESE PARTY AND GOVERNMENT CADRES, AND THE LOCAL POPULACE, AND THE GENERAL DEMORALIZED STATE OF BOTH THE LOCAL POPULACE AND THE HAN CHINESE. NEVERTHELESS, THE HIGH STATURE OF THE DELEGATION, THE PREPARATION WHICH WENT BEFORE THE DELEGATION, AND THE PROMISES THE DELEGATION LEFT BEHIND, TOGETHER WITH THE HIGH LEVEL OF CONCERN SHOWN IN THE PAST YEAR FOR WINNING BACK THE DALAI LAMA AND THE TIBETAN EXILE COMMUNITY, ALL SHOW THAT THE COMMUNIST PARTY CENTER IS WILLING TO DEVOTE FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER AN EXTRAORDINARY AMOUNT OF ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF TIBET. THE PREPARATION FOR THE DELEGATION, INCLUDING THE MEETINGS HELD BY THE SECRETARIAT ON TIBETAN AFFAIRS IN APRIL, SHOW THAT HU YAOBANG HAS CHOSEN CONCENTRATION ON TIBETAN MATTERS AS ONE OF HIS FIRST MAJOR ACTS AS PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY.
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