Convention between Great Britain and Russia
relating to Persia, Afghanistan and Tibet.
Signed at St. Petersburg) August 31st 1907

His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of
the British Dominions beyond the Seas, Emperor of India, and His Majesty the
Emperor of All the Russias, animated by the sincere desire to settle by mutual
agreement different questions concerning the interests of their States on the
Continent of Asia, have determined to conclude Agreements destined to prevent
all cause of misunderstanding between Great Britain and Russia as regard to the
questions referred to, and have nominated for this purpose their respective
Plenipotentiaries, to wit:
His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and England and of
the British Dominions beyond the Seas, Emperor of India, the Right Honourable
Sir Arthur Nicolson, His Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
to His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias;
His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias, the Master of his Court Alexander
liwoisky, Minister for Foreign Affairs;
Who, having communicated to each other their full powers, found in good and
due form, have agreed on the following:

Arrangement concerning Thibet

The Governments of Great Britain and Russia recognising the suzerain rights of
China in Thibet, and considering the fact that Great Britain, by reason of her
geographical position, has a special interest in the maintenance of the status quo
in the external relations of Thibet, have made the following arrangement:-

Article I
The two High Contracting Parties engage to respect the territorial integrity of
Thibet and to abstain from all interference in the internal administration.

Article II

In conformity with the admitted principle of the suzerainty of China over Thibet,
Great Britain and Russia engage not to enter into negotiations with Thibet except
through the intermediary of the Chinese Government. This engagement does not
exclude the direct relations between British Commercial Agents and the Thibetan
authorities provided for in Article V of the Convention between Great Britain and
Thibet of the 7th September 1904, and confirmed by the Convention between
Great Britain and China of the a7th April t906; nor does it modify the
engagements entered into by Great Britain and China in Article I of the said
Convention of 1906.
It is clearly understood that Buddhists, subjects of Great Britain or of Russia, may
enter into direct relations on strictly religious matters with the Dalai Lama and the
other representatives of Buddhism in Thibet the Governments of Great Britain
and Russia engage, as far as they are concerned, not to allow those relations to infringe the stipulations of the present arrangement.

Article III

The British and Russian Governments respectively engage not to send Representatives to Lhasa.

Article IV

The two High Contracting Parties engage neither to seek nor to obtain, whether for themselves or their subjects, any Concessions for railways, roads, telegraphs, and mines, or other rights in Thibet.

Article V

The two Governments agree that no part of the revenues of Thibet, whether in kind or in cash, shall be pledged or assigned to Great Britain or Russia or to any of their subjects.

Annexe to the arrangement between Great Britain and Russia concerning Thibet. Great Britain reaffirms the declaration, signed by His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India and appended to the ratification of the Convention of the 7th September 1904, to the effect that the occupation of the Chumbi Valley by British forces shall cease after the payment of three annual instalments of the indemnity of 25,00,000 rupees, provided that the trade marts mentioned in Article II of that Convention have been effectively opened for three years, and that in the meantime the Thibetan authorities have faithfully complied in all respects with the terms of the said Convention of 1904. It is clearly understood that if the occupation of the Chumbi Valley by the British forces has, for any reason, not been terminated at the time anticipated in the above Declaration, the British and Russian Governments will enter upon a friendly exchange of views on this subject.

The present Convention shall be ratified, and the ratification exchanged at St. Petersburgh as soon as possible.

In witness whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Convention and affixed thereto their seals.

Done in duplicate at St. Petersburgh, the 18th (31st) August 1907.

The Tibetans were never informed about the provisions of this treaty.