

Cable from the MEA to Political Officer, Gangtok, and Consul General India, Lhasa¹

Your telegrams 131 and 340 of March 14. You will have seen our separate telegram to Consul General, Lhasa. In the present situation, it is highly important that there is no confusion in any instruction that may be issued to the Consul General. We suggest that you should not issue any instruction direct. We say this only by way of caution.

2. Prime Minister is quite clear in his mind that, if the Dalai Lama seeks protection in Indian territory, we should give him asylum. You should not, however, reveal this to anybody at this stage. As regards Tibetans seeking asylum in our territory, we have already issued instruction to you in our telegram 24306.

In a developing situation all possibilities cannot be foreseen and you have to exercise your best judgment. If in fact Tibetans come to India and ask for permission to make their case known to the world, we shall consider their representation at appropriate time.

Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of China to the Indian Ambassador²

We have received a report from our Foreign Affairs Bureau in Lhasa that they were going to meet the Indian Consul General in Lhasa and convey to

¹ Telegram, 15 March 1959. *Revolt in Tibet, Dalai Lama's Arrival in India 1959*, Government of India, Ministry of External Affairs, p. 13. Also available in JN Collection.

² Statement, 22 March 1959. Government of India, Ministry of External Affairs, *Notes, Memoranda and Letters Exchanged and Agreements Signed Between the Governments of India and China, 1954-1959. White Paper* (n.p., n.d.) [New Delhi, 1959], p. 67.

him following three points: -

1. The local Government in Tibet under instigation and support of the imperialists and foreign reactionary elements have torn up the agreement on the peaceful liberation of Tibet and begun armed revolt by attacking Government offices of the Central Government and the functionaries thereof and the Central Government troops. The Central Government of our country never permit such high treason of the local Government of Tibet and we are certain to put down this revolt. This is entirely an internal affair of China and we shall never permit interference from outside. Tibet is an integral part of China's territory and any intrigue aimed at splitting Tibet away from China is doomed to total failure.

2. We are willing to give protection to the functionaries of the Indian Consulate General at Lhasa and we hope that they will move into and live in the houses which we shall assign to them.

3. It is hoped that the Consul General of India in Lhasa will inform all Indian nationals in various parts of Tibet to abide by the Chinese laws and, as far as possible, to stay indoors where the revolt is taking place so that no accident may occur. Wherever we have our troops stationed we shall do our best to give protection to Indian nationals. It will be better for Indian nationals to move away from those centres where there are no Central Government troops.