

**Ministry of External Affairs Annual Report for the Year 1959-60,
March 1960 (Extracts)**

During the year under review, our relations with China suffered a serious setback. It will be recalled that in the middle of March 1959 there was a sudden uprising in Lhasa leading to the outbreak of hostilities between the Tibetans and the Chinese forces and, as a consequence, the Dalai Lama, with a small entourage, left Lhasa on 17 March 1959. In view of the age-old cultural and religious relationship between Tibet and India, there was a spontaneous outburst of sympathy with the Tibetan people when the news of the disturbances was published in India. The Government of India made it clear that while they sympathised with the Tibetans in their aspirations for autonomy, they fully recognized the suzerainty of China and could not, in any way, intervene in the developments inside Tibet. When, however, the Dalai Lama sought refuge in India, the Government of India, in exercise of their sovereign right, agreed to grant asylum to him and to afford to the Dalai Lama the courtesy which befitted his recognized spiritual position. But even while evincing natural concern at the developments in Tibet, the Government of India categorically repudiated the Chinese suggestion that Indian territory was used by the Tibetan rebels as the directing centre for the uprising against the Chinese or indeed for any purpose prejudicial to Chinese interests.

During the month following the Tibetan disturbances, it was noted with surprise and concern that normal facilities and courtesies expected in international relations and specifically embodied in the 1954 Agreement between India and China were being denied to the Indian representatives and Indian nationals in Tibet. Trade was adversely affected because of new currency regulations and restrictions imposed by the Chinese authorities on border type of trade. Chinese official propaganda challenged the bona fides

of India's policies. The Government of India, in various notes, protested to the Chinese Government against their unfriendly attitude and against the manifold difficulties of her representatives and her nationals, but continued to affirm her faith in the importance of continuing friendly relations between the two countries.

In the wake of the Dalai Lama, nearly 14,000-Tibetan refugees entered into India through passes in NEFA, Bhutan, Sikkim and the UP...

The anxiety of the Indian people over the developments in Tibet had hardly abated when a number of incidents occurred, which clearly indicated that Chinese troops in considerable strength had spread themselves along the common border and at some points even intruded into Indian territory. In July, an Indian Police party, which was proceeding on a reconnaissance tour towards Khlirnak, was taken into custody by Chinese troops in Indian territory to the Spanggur area, Ladakh in August, a strong detachment of Chinese forces pushed back our defence pickets in Khinzemane area of the Kameng Frontier Division. At the end of August, a large Chinese detachment actually attacked and overwhelmed the Indian border post at Longju resulting in the death of 3 Indian personnel and the withdrawal of the picket further south. The Government of India strongly protested against these border violations. In Khinzemane, the Indian picket re-established itself on the McMahon Line, but in the case of Longju the Government of India asked, through normal diplomatic channel, for the immediate withdrawal of the Chinese detachment...

Public indignation at the action of China was further intensified by the attack on an Indian Police rescue party in the Chang Chenmo Valley in Ladakh on 21 October 1959. Nine members of the Police party were killed and 10 unlawfully taken into custody by the Chinese troops at a point which is 40 miles within Indian territory...

Early in the year, India had sent 4 students to China under the Students Exchange Scheme. China, however, sent only one student. Two official delegations, one for studying Chinese Minor Irrigation Projects, and one for studying Chinese Small Scale Industries, visited China during the early part of 1959. China also sent a last minute, invitation to India to participate in her Decennial Celebrations on the Chinese National Day. This invitation was declined. In supersession of an earlier decision, however, China decision to participate in the World Agricultural Fair in New Delhi which is being organised by a non-official body called the Farmers Forum.