

Secret
Indian Trade Agency
Yatung, Tibet

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Express Letter

From Indagency Yatung
To Political Sikkim Gangtok

Reference paragraph 23 of our weekly report No. F3/60-S dated 20th January 1960. The local Chinese authorities in Yatung called all local Tibetans from upper and lower valleys at their headquarters on 16th January 1960. Besides giving them a treat of theatrical performance, a meeting was held and local Tibetans were explained of the latest policy of the Chinese Communist Government and stress was laid on the following points:

- 1- They were told that it might not be possible to provide them with free food and clothing for some time, until then they should make every effort to support themselves.
- 2- All of them should offer scarves to the photograph of Mao Tse-tung which will be displayed in the bazaar. It is no use to worship images in the monasteries which are of no use. Some images from the local monastery were thrown in the latrine or trampled down under their feet in the presence of the gathering.
- 3- There were told that "our military is fully equipped and well prepared for any eventualities. It is for this reason that India is seeking help from the USA. If UISA comes to India's military aid, whole of India will be lost to the USA".

- 4- The food supplied in India is of worst kind of rice, flour, etc. As it is a hot country, people mostly suffered from TB. So it is not suitable for the Tibetans and they should not try to escape into India.
- 5- From now onwards, nobody should utter any Hindi word and they should not speak of [to] India Office [Trade Agency] in any matter. They should address Indian merchants here as 'dogs'.
- 6- They should sow barley and other grains instead of potatoes from next sowing season because potatoes go to India.

2- It was further learnt that the Chinese authorities have recovered all the taxes or revenues from local people in cash (Chinese paper dollars) or kind (grains, etc.), which was left over since Chinese took over the administration. Local people have been told that in future every family will keep produce only sufficient for the family's use. Surplus or balance will have to be deposited with the Chinese authorities. So far, Tibetans were free to bring fire-wood and charcoal for the consumption or sale. Now they have been told to deposit five seers per maund of coal with the Chinese authorities.

3- The houses of Khongdis (headmen) of upper and lower valleys in Yatung bazaar have been allotted to the Sakung Khongdi, one of their (Chinese) chief Tibetan employees and pro-communist had also been taken over and given to the labourers. Sakung has to squeeze himself in two rooms.

4- When the general surrender of arms from the local Tibetans took place in May 1959, some of the Tibetans who were pro-Communists and were acting as their informants, were allowed to retain their arms. All the arms of these people have now been withdrawn because Chinese found that they were not of much help to them. In some cases, it was learnt, that some of them were

sent to chase the Tibetans escaping to India. The pursuers instead of chasing them escaped to India themselves.

5- The effects of the above announcement (paragraph 1) in the meeting is having adverse effect on the general local population and they are making every effort to escape into India. In order to convert Chinese paper currency into Indian currency, they have offered 10% discount over the prevailing rates and they are also secretly selling all they valuables much cheaper than the face value.

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Source: National Archives of India (MEA Files: Special Reports, Progs. Nos. 11-T, 1960, TIBET, 1960)