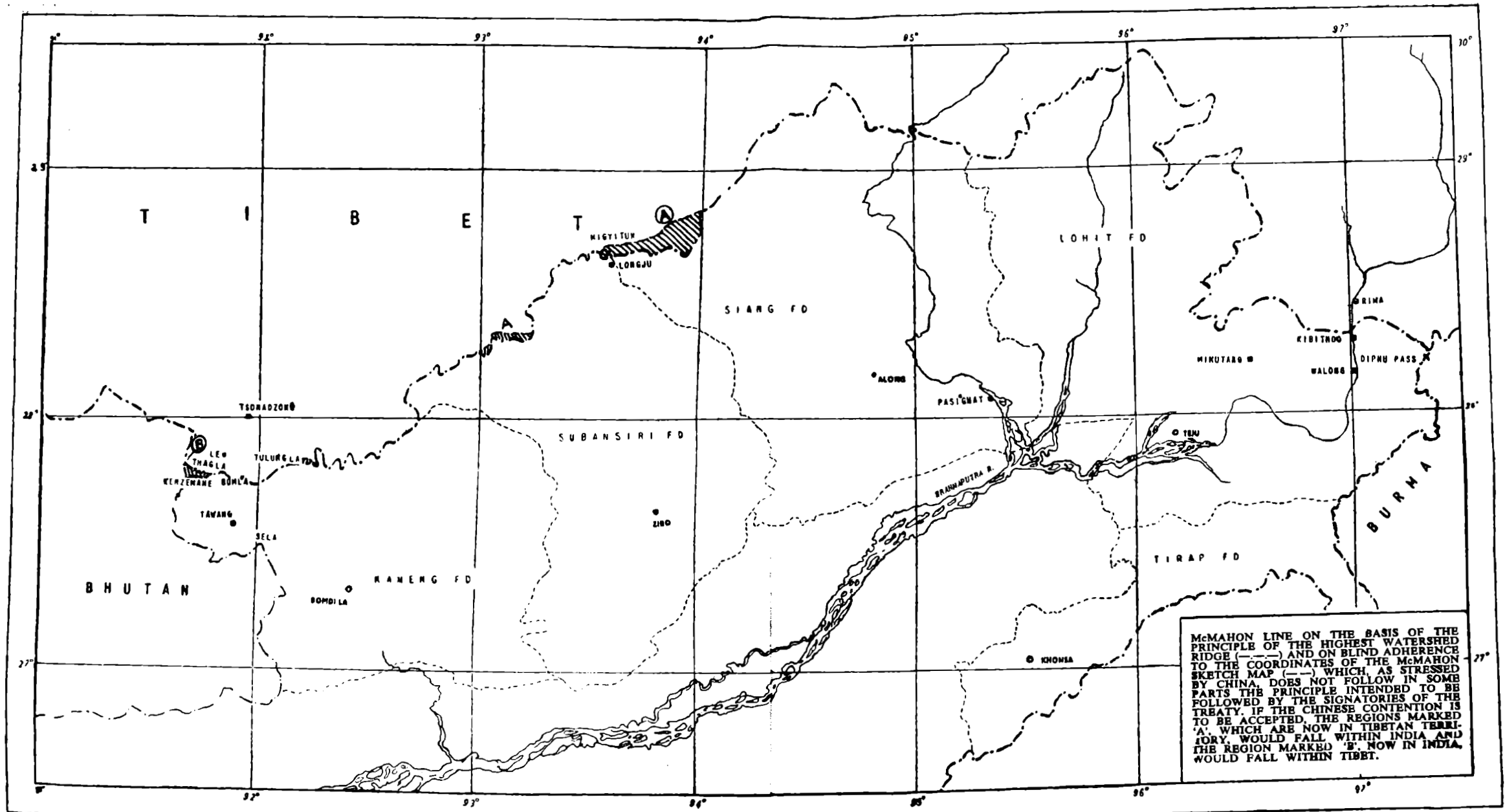


MAP 9
THE McMAHON LINE



This map brings out the difference between the highest Himalayan watershed line which the McMahon Line was intended to indicate, and the Line as actually drawn on the Simla Convention Map of 1914. The coordinates on that map do not tally at some points with the actual positions on the ground as shown by later and more scientific surveys. The Chinese want to have it both ways. They want to follow the coordinates of the 1914 map at the western extremity of the boundary, *i.e.*, the Bhutan-Tibet-India tri-junction. But they are not prepared to respect the coordinates of the 1914

map elsewhere along the line where adherence to them will mean that a good deal of territory now in Tibet would come to India.

The Chinese motive is obvious. They want to remain in command of the strategic passes leading into India (including the Thag La pass through which they launched the invasion on September 8, 1962). The withdrawal of Indian forces 20 kilometres to the south as envisaged by China (*see* Map 10), will leave the entire frontier defenceless and at the mercy of any fresh invasion.