

Report on the entry of His Holiness the Dalai Lama into India.

PHASE II – LUMLA TO TAWANG

April 5, 1959

2nd April, 1959

The P.O. [Har Mander Singh] left Tawang at 10.30 a.m. and reached Lumla at 6.30 p.m.

The mother, sister and 12 years old brother of the Dalai Lama accompanied by 12 servants had reached Lumla from the other side a couple of hours ahead of us. They had 35 mules with them.

I called on the mother and assured her of Government's protection. Checked up security arrangements for her.

3rd April, 1959

The Dalai Lama arrived at Lumla about 12.30 p.m. I received him and took him to his room. We discussed (with Lhendup [Base Superintendent, Dirang, [one word missing] Interpreter throughout] interpreting) about his journey beyond Lumla.

Also met Chichyap Khempu and other officers on the personal staff of the Dalai Lama.

Two of the three Shapas (ministers) who are accompanying the Dalai Lama arrived in the afternoon. The third Shapa who is accompanied by his family and the two tutors of the Dalai Lama who rank next to the Dalai Lama in precedence, are travelling a stage behind. A couple of hours after their arrival the two Shapas sent word that they were coming over to see me. I got ready to go over and see them myself, but in the meantime they arrived accompanied by the Chichyap Khempu [Khempo]. The meeting turned out to

be a formal one. I have recorded a separate note on my discussion with the Shapes (Appendix 'A').

In the afternoon a messenger brought a letter for Yonzon [Base Superintendent, Lumla] from Dr. Karchung, [District Administrator] Lekhung of Tashigong in Bhutan. The letter acknowledged receipt of letter from OC PCP Pungchen/Chuthangmu and stated that the Lekhung was prepared to render [one word missing] up to the Dalai Lama to pass through Tashigong District on [one word missing] to Delhi.

It also stated that he had received instructions [one word missing] fifty persons of the Dalai Lama's entourage to pass through Bhutan and as there may be more than fifty persons in the party, he had referred the matter to his Government for instructions. I was rather taken aback to find that the OC PCP had apparently been in touch with the Bhutan authorities to obtain passage for the Dalai Lama through Tashigong when there had been no talk whatsoever of his going through that State. I shall be making further enquiries into this matter.

[Note in the margin from K.L. Mehta, Advisor to the Governor of Assam: He seems to have exceeded his authority and gone over the PO's/APO's heads, unless he had instruction from the officers (I.B.)]

4th April, 1959

A ceremony was organized in the morning where the Dalai Lama gave blessings to the people of Lumla area.

After the ceremony he took me to his room. While I was present there, the second Lekhung of Tashigong by the name of Kocha and two of his subordinates obtained permission to have audience with the Dalai Lama.

They said that they had come as Maharaja's messengers who had sent word that as the route through Bhutan is very difficult, it would be preferable if His Holiness would [one word missing] the Indian territory during his entire

journey. They [one word missing] the messengers to thank the Maharaja and inform him that he had already obtained Government of India's permission to pass through their territory and that he was having a comfortable journey.

(I also met the Lekhung separately. He expressed his thanks for the help which we had given in supplying vaccine when there was a small pox epidemic in Bhutan. He said that another epidemic of small had broken out in his area and that he may be needing further help. I told him that he should let us know his requirements and we shall be happy to do whatever we can.)

We left Lumla at about 8 a.m. and reached Thongleng at about 11 a.m.

During the journey the Dalai Lama asked questions about the tribes in the Division, the schools and the system of education, agriculture and self-sufficiency and medium of instructions to which I replied suitably.

After arrival in Thongleng area when I was alone with the Dalai Lama in his room he enquired as to what was the average number of Tibetans crossing over on either side in any one month I gave the figure. His Holiness said that although it was a delicate matter for India, he would like us to consider whether it was possible to give any kind of help to the Khampas and Tibetan troops fighting for the Tibetan cause. I said that we were always prepared to give First Aid to the injured and the sick at our checkposts. Similarly our Government was sympathetically inclined towards genuine refugees, particularly women and children seeking asylum in India. In regard to the armed rebels, his holiness would agree that it was rather difficult for us to allow entry to them for if armed rebels in any number enter our territory and or use it as a base for operations, it may easy to provide an excuse to the Chinese to violate our frontier to with them which would raise complications for us.

The Dalai Lama asked if we had passed his message to the Government that

he would like his brother, Gyalo Thondup, come down from Kalimpong and meet him in Tawang. We said that we had sent instructions to that effect from Chuthangmu and that I shall check up whether this had been [One word missing] on our arrival in Tawang.

The Dalai Lama said that he had decided to spend a couple of days in Tawang and that he would like to halt for a much longer period in Bomdi La to recuperate from the strain of his journey before going down to the plains. I said that I shall convey his wishes to the Government.

The Dalai Lama said that when he had some leisure, he would like to have a longer discussion with me about the circumstances under which he escaped from Lhasa.

Kusung Depon, [Phunsok Tashi Takla] Commandant of the Dalai Lama's bodyguard said that he had brought thirty men to guard the Dalai Lama. Twenty of them had been sent back from the frontier and three more would be sent back later leaving seven men with the Dalai Lama. He said that two Shaps, including the Shap in-charge of the armed forces of Tibet who had been left behind in Lhasa had, according to his information, been captured by the [Chinese].

When I went to call on the two [ministers] [one word missing] with us, they reiterated that their [one word missing] save the person of the Dalai Lama and was [one word missing] religious crusade. They had nothing to gain [one word missing] escape. The Chinese had been treating them and [one word missing] with courtesy and had been giving them good salaries but they could not tolerate the Chinese interference in the religious affairs of Tibet. If they had put up with this state of affairs, the future generations would have blamed them for conniving at the downfall of their religion in Tibet. They said that they expected not only sympathy but also active help from the Government of India in their cause.

5th April, 1959.

I called on the Dalai Lama in the morning. He asked me if I had listened in to the news. I said that I had.

He said that he had learnt from the radio that fighting had broken out between the Chinese and the Khampas some 60 miles South of Lhasa. This area was inaccessible to the mechanized transport and was ideal for guerilla type of warfare. He was, therefore, confident that the Chinese would not be able to over-power the Khampas in this area.

I mentioned to the Dalai Lama that the Tawang Monastery would be arranging a reception for him en route between Thongleng and Tawang and since Tawang was one of the largest monasteries in India, I shall be grateful if he could stop for a few minutes to attend the reception. He agreed to do so.

Before leaving, the Dalai Lama gave blessings to the villagers of Thongleng. The party left at 7 a.m., attended the reception arranged by the Tawang Monastery en route and arrived in Tawang at 12 noon.

After arrival, the Dalai Lama reminded me again to find out if any reply had been received about his request to permit his brother, Gyalo Dhondup, to come upto Tawang.

Sd/- Har Mander Singh

Political Officer

April 5, 1959