

NORTH EAST FRONTIER AGENCY

From: Political Officer
Kameng Frontier Division.

Camp Tawang, the 7th April, 1959.

DO No. C/TWG/35

My dear Shri Mehta,

This has reference to my Do No. C/TWG/34 of date.

My comments, if I may presume to offer them, on some of the points raised by Shri Surkhang are as follows:

Sub-para (a)

It may be best for the party to leave a junior member of the entourage in Chuthangmu to identify the stragglers who should be told to leave the Division for the plains of India as soon possible.

Sub-Para (b)

These Officers too could be identified by the Liaison Officer left behind. In fact a "clerk" of the Dalai Lama is already in Chuthangmu for this purpose.

Sub – para (c)

The Political Officers have been given some discretion in permitting entry of unarmed Tibetans seeking asylum in India under the recent policy directive of the Government.

Sub-para (e)

We have already been told that Kameng Division would not be suitable for a meeting of this nature.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely

Sd/- Har Mander Singh

To Shri K.L. Mehta, ICS.

Adviser to the Governor of Assam,

SHILLONG.

Appendix B

His Excellency
The Prime Minister of India.
New Delhi, India.

Sir,

I received your message dated the 6th April through the Political Officer Mr. Har Mander Singh just on my arrival here and I am deeply glad as if to see your Excellency personally.

I am more grateful to receive the welcome & greetings from your Excellency & Colleagues.

The Chinese Communist government treat the Tibetan Government and people of Tibet with such power & force that I have some truth appeal which I can only apply to the government of India, therefore, I am coming down to New Delhi with few parties and shall see your Excellency & Colleagues personally.

Thanking you so much,

Yours faithfully,

The Dalai Lama

NORTH EAST FRONTIER AGENCY

From: Political Officer,
Kameng Frontier Division.

Camp Tawang, the 7th April, 1959.
Do. No. C/TWG/34.

My dear Shri Mehta,

This is in continuation of my Do No. C/TWG/17, dated the 6th April, 1959.

The members of the Kashag sent word this morning that they would like to speak about some important matters to me. We decided to meet in the Additional Political Officer's office after the Dalai Lama's visit to the Tawang Gompa, at 1 p.m. Those who attended the meeting were Kalong Wangchin Gyelok Surkhang, Senior Minister, Kalong Thupten Therpa Lyouhsia, Monk Foreign Minister and Chikyap Khempo Lobsang Rinchen, Monk Secretary – Minister. Shri Murty, Additional Political Officer, Tawang, was also present. Shri Surkhang acted as the spokesman and referred to the prepared notes while speaking. He raised the following points:

- (a) According to their information, four members of the Dalai Lama's entourage namely Kundling Jasa, Khenchung Thupta Jampo, Khenchung Tara and Galong Khenchung had not yet been able to reach the Indian territory. It was their request that these officers should be allowed to come in when they reached the frontier.
- (b) They had reasons to believe that there may be several other officers who may seek entry into our territory to escape from the Chinese. They realized that it was difficult for the Government of India to grant a general permission in such cases but they would like to suggest that such persons should be allowed to come upto

Go [word missing] Chorten, one stage inside our frontier [word missing] and wait there pending their identification.

(c) It was their earnest request that Kham fighters escaping from the Chinese should be granted asylum. At the time of entry, they would surrender their arms at the checkpost. It was, of course, understood that after seeking asylum the Khampas would not go back to fight with the Chinese as such a course may well create complications for India.

(d) The Dalai Lama wanted to maintain touch with the Tibetan forces fighting with the Chinese through special messengers. If they were to carry Government of India's travel permits, it was possible that the facilities given by the Government of India in the matter may become known in the event of their capture which would not be desirable. It was, therefore, proposed that such messengers should carry papers bearing special identity marks to be devised by the Tibetan authorities, specimens of which could be made available to the Government of India for use of the checkposts.

(e) The Dalai Lama had informed them that it would be embarrassing for the Government [word missing] permit his brother, Gyalo Dhondup, to meet [word missing] Division. In 1958, under pressure from [word missing], following officers were dismissed [word missing] Tibetan Government by a general proclamation:

Gyalo Dhondup

Shagapa [Shakabpa]

Khenchung Lobsang Kyalsen

Likhang

Champa Tsindu

Champa Wangdi

Thupten Nyinche

Alu Chonje

Takche Rinpoche [Takse Rinpoche, the Dalai Lama's brother]

It was their request that the first three of these officers should be given facilities to meet them and discuss various matters of interest with the Dalai Lama in Bomdi La, Delhi or any other suitable place selected by the Government.

(f) They wanted that after a brief rest in Bomdi La, the Dalai Lama should be given facilities to proceed straight to Delhi to confer with the Indian Prime Minister. The party accompanying him would consist of the following:

Three Shapes

Chichyap Khempo

Ta Lama

Three officers on the personal staff of the Dalai Lama

Dronyu Chempu's Assistant

Kusung Deibun (Commandant of the Body Guard)

Rimshi Surkhang

A clerk (preferably Khenchung Tara, if he joins the party by then)

One personal servant of the Dalai Lama

Six other servants

(g) The other members of the party namely the tutors members of the Dalai Lama and other officials could proceed straight to Darjeeling or Kalimpong upon their choice of the place.

They may find it necessary to take some interpreters from Kalimpong with them to Delhi.

After raising the above points, the Senior Minister mentioned that the Dalai Lama had prepared a reply to the Prime Minister's message welcoming him

to India and wanted me to arrange its onward despatch. Having said so, he handed over the Tibetan text of the message (Appendix 'A') along with its English translation done by a member of the entourage (Appendix 'B'). I am enclosing these documents in original.

The Senior Minister then said that they had prepared a note giving a brief resume of the circumstances under which they had escaped from Tibet and declaring that Tibet had been an independent nation for the last 2000 years and was determined to remain so. Their intention was that copies of this note should be circulated by them among all friendly countries, except communists countries, so that the "facts" could be published the press and become widely known. They, however, wanted the Government of India's advice in this matter. Having said so, he [word missing] Tibetan text of the note to me. I am enclosing it in [word missing] along with its translation done by us (Appendix 'D')

I asked as to how soon after their [word missing] would they like to leave for the Capital in case the [word missing] to proceed to Delhi is acceded to. They said that the [word missing] in Bomdi La for some three days and would like to move to Delhi thereafter as soon as the Government can make arrangements for them.

The Senior Minister said that they had some 15 pistols and revolvers and enquired whether any licence would be necessary for them. I said that I shall arrange to have the licences issued from Bomdi La.

Replying to the points raised, I said that, I could give decision only on the first one about the entry of the four Tibetan officers of the Dalai Lama's entourage who had been left behind. I shall be issuing instructions that they should be permitted to come in but we shall have to arrange their proper identification at some suitable place.

In regard to the other points raised by the Senior Minister, I said that I presumed that their intention was that I should convey their requests to the Government. They said that this was so.

I said that I shall pass them on by the quickest possible means, to the Government and if any reply is received from them, I shall I pass it on to the Kashag.

The Senior Minister said that they were particularly anxious to establish contact with the Tibetan forces through messengers and would like to have the Government of India's approval to the arrangement for identification, suggested by them. I said that I shall convey this request to the Government.

The meeting concluded after this.

I am arranging to send this report by special officer couriers by relays and I expect that it will reach you by 3 p.m. on the 10th. The Dalai Lama is expected to reach Bomdi La on the 12th and if it is so decided, it may be possible to convey the Government's reaction to the points raised while he reached in Bomdi La.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/- Har Mander Singh