

DEBEVOISE & PLIMPTON

03 MAR 25 PM 12:00

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Date March 25, 2003
To Tibet Justice Center
Attn Minnie Cancellaro
Fax 510-548-3785
Tel 510-486-0588
From Robert D. Sloane
Tel 212-909-6886

Facsimile

64 pages including cover page

Minnie:

Please pass these documents on to Rinchen. They may be helpful with the India research. Also, please give her a copy of Robbie's paper if she doesn't already have one. I think you have that already on file, but if not, I'll email it to you.

Thanks,



For assistance or confirmation please call 212 909 6407

This message is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient or an employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by telephone and return the original message to us by mail. Thank you.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW
UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION COURT
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Group M4

Mr. Lore
1424

-----X
IN THE MATTER OF

KAKU SEVO

A 77 570 897

IN REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS
-----X

Government's Submission of Evidence on Tibetan Asylum Claims

1. Letter from Bernadette Passade Cisse, UNHCR to Mark Curley, INS, March 17, 1998.
2. Unclassified cable no. 031511 from SECSTATE WASHDC to AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU (2/19/99).
3. Unclassified Cable No. 002730 from AMEMBASSY NEWDELHI to SECSTATE WASHDC. (4/8/99).
4. Unclassified Cable No. 000564 from AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU to SECSTATE WASHDC. (3/5/99).
5. Unclassified Cable No. 000448 from AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU to RUEHC/SECSTATE WASH (2/23/98).
6. Unclassified Cable No. 004443 from AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI to SECSTATE WASHDC. (4/22/96).
7. Unclassified Cable No. 012480 from AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI to SECSTATE WASHDC. (12/19/97).
8. Unclassified Cable No. 261108 from SECSTATE WASH to AMEMBASSY NEW DEHLI (12/24/96).
9. R. Lostumbo, 911 Tibetan Refugees in Nepal: From Established Settlements to Forcible Repatriation, Georgetown Immigration Law Journal (Fall 1995).
10. "New Tibetan Refugees," Office of the Reception Centers, Central Tibetan Administration of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, April 1997.
11. B.S. Chimni, Symposium on the Human Rights of Refugees, Journal of Refugees Studies, Vol. 7, No.4 (1994).
12. "Tibetan Refugees in Nepal," U.S. Department of State, August 1998.
13. "Tibetan Refugees in India," U.S. Department of State, August 1998.
14. E-mail from Ted Albers of INS HQRIC to John Shandorf of INS ZNY (1/29/98).
15. E-mail from John Evans of INS HQRIC to John Shandorf of INS ZNY (1/29/98).
16. Maps of Tibet, India and Nepal.

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing document was sent to:

in person

by placing the same in the regular mail this 9th day of March 2001 -2000.

W. L. Love W. LOVE

Assistant District Counsel

UNITED NATIONS
HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR REFUGEES



NATIONS UNIES
HAUT COMMISSARIAT
POUR LES REFUGIES

*Regional Office
for the United States of America &
the Caribbean*

1775 K Street, NW
Suite 300
Washington DC 20006

*Bureau Régional
pour les Etats-Unis d'Amérique et
Caraïbes*

Telephone: (202) 296-6191
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E-mail: USAWA@UNHCR.CH

17 March 1998

Mr. Mark Curley
U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service
26 Federal Plaza
District Counsel
Room 14-110
New York, NY 10278

Re: Tibetan Refugees in Nepal and India

Dear Mr. Curley:

Further to our 16 March 1998 telephone conversation and per your request for information regarding the above-mentioned from Mr. Buti Kale, UNHCR Legal Officer, please find below information currently available to this Office on the status of Tibetan refugees in Nepal and India. The Office of the UNHCR Chargé de Mission in New Delhi (hereinafter "UNHCR India") and the UNHCR Branch Office in Kathmandu (hereinafter "UNHCR Nepal") provided the information below in response to your query.

According to UNHCR India, India is not a party to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees nor does it have any refugee specific legislation. Thus, Tibetans, like any other refugees staying in India, are treated as foreigners and are allowed to remain in India temporarily. However, unlike other refugees, Tibetans are allowed to own property, maintain culturally specific schools, and can travel outside India for any specific reason. In order for Tibetans to travel outside India and return, they must obtain travel documents and a return visa which generally, according to UNHCR India, is not difficult to obtain. According to UNHCR India, there is good cooperation and understanding between the Office of the Dalai Lama and the Government of India. Our Office also specified that it is not aware of the Dalai Lama's Office 27, 2

As for movement within India, apart from certain prohibited areas, Tibetan refugees are free to move and settle anywhere. UNHCR India understands that the Government of India has provided land to Tibetan refugees for the establishment of camps and for use in cultivation. As

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for political rights, Tibetan refugees, like other foreigners, do not have any representation in the local or central legislature. Political activity or demonstrations in a peaceful manner are not prohibited.

Tibetans who were born before 1986 are entitled to Indian nationality, but UNHCR India understands that these Tibetans have not pursued Indian nationality. These Tibetans register with the Government of India as foreigners and regularly renew their Residential Permits as long as they remain in India. According to UNHCR India, there is no official repatriation of the Tibetan refugees in India.

According to our most recent information, Nepal is not a signatory to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. According to UNHCR Nepal, only Tibetans who sought refugee status before 31 December 1989 were recognized as refugees and allowed to remain in Nepal. His Majesty's Government of Nepal uses financial aid from UNHCR to provide these recognized refugees with identification cards and travel documents.

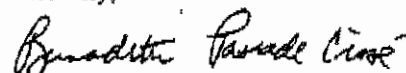
Tibetans who arrived after 31 December 1989 are only allowed to transit through Nepal. During their transit through Nepal, UNHCR assists these Tibetans through the Tibetan Refugee Welfare Office. If Tibetans return to Nepal after transiting through, they have no legal status and are undocumented. However, according to UNHCR Nepal, the Tibetan community is doing very well in Nepal and is likely taking care of undocumented Tibetans.

As for other issues relevant to your query regarding the status of Tibetan refugees in Nepal and India, I refer you to the following enclosed documents, including U.S. Government documents, which we discussed during our telephone conversation:

1. U.S. Department of State (DOS), Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (BDHRL), "Nepal country report on human rights practices for 1997," 30 January 1998.
2. DOS, BDHRL, "Nepal," 30 January 1997.
3. DOS, BDHRL, "India," 30 January 1997.
4. U.S. Committee for Refugees (USCR), World Refugee Survey (excerpt on India), 1997.
5. USCR, World Refugee Survey (excerpt on Nepal), 1997.
6. Amnesty International (AI), Report 1997 (excerpt on Nepal), 1997.
7. Talwar, "Building a regional consensus on asylum: the Indian perspective," 1996.
8. Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Documentation, Information and Research Branch (DIRB), "India: information on the status of a person born in India before 1986 if both parents are Tibetan refugees," 17 July 1996.
9. DIRB, "India: information on ... UNHCR-recognized refugees..." 16 February 1994.
10. Chimni, "The legal condition of refugees in India," Journal of Refugee Studies, vol. 7, no. 4 1994.
11. DIRB, "India: legal status of Tibetan refugees; rights of Tibetans to Indian nationality," 20 July 1992.
12. Excerpts from the national legislation of Nepal and India regarding nationality.

I hope that you find the information in this letter helpful. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact this Office again.

Sincerely,



Bernadette Passade Cissé

Legal Counselor

Printed By: Diana P Elby

ORIGIN DRL-02

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-00	ACDE-00	AID-00	AMAD-01	CA-02	CIAE-00
	DODE-00	SRPP-00	EAP-01	ES-00	UTED-00	R-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	INSE-00	IO-00	L-01	ADS-00	NEA-01	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OPIC-01	PPT-01	PRS-00	P-00	SP-00
	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	SA-01	PRM-01	G-00	SAS-00

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SOURCE: CLOUTCL8.005241

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APPROVED BY: DRL/ASY:WMBARTLETT

SA/INS:CSUCK SA/INS:RHAYNES

EAP/CM:RPATTERSON PRM:KRFIEDRICH

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FM SECRETATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 031511

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PHUM, CVIS, IN, NP

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: TIBETAN ASYLUM CLAIMS

1. SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. (U) THE NEW YORK INS OFFICE HAS SEEN A RECENT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF ETHNIC TIBETANS THAT ARE CLAIMING ASYLUM FROM TIBET, INDIA, AND NEPAL AFTER HAVING LIVED ALL OR MOST OF THEIR LIVES OUTSIDE OF TIBET. INS HAS COMPILED A LIST OF RECURRING THEMES/QUESTIONS WHICH FOLLOW. POSTS' RESPONSE TO THIS INQUIRY WILL PROVIDE INVALUABLE ASSISTANCE TO INS IN ADJUDICATING OVER 150 TIBETAN CLAIMS. POSTS' ASSISTANCE IS APPRECIATED.

QUESTIONS FOR NEW DELHI:

1. (U) ARE ETHNIC TIBETANS, BORN IN INDIA BETWEEN 1/25/50 AND THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE CITIZENSHIP ACT OF 1986, AFFORDED CITIZENSHIP AT BIRTH?
 - A. (U) WHAT ARE THE NATURALIZATION LAWS IN INDIA? INS INFORMATION SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT AFTER 10 YEARS IN INDIA, ANYONE CAN ACQUIRE PERMANENT RESIDENCE. DOES MARRIAGE TO A CITIZEN GIVE RISE TO STATUS?
 - B. (U) THE FULL TEXT OF THE LAW WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL.
2. (U) IS THE OFFICE OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA THE SAME AS THE OFFICE FOR THE TIBETAN FREEDOM MOVEMENT COMMITTEE? INS HAS HEARD IN COURT THAT BECAUSE THE NAME WAS "TOO POLITICAL," THE TFMC GOES UNDER THE "GUISE" OF THE DALAI LAMA.
 - A. (U) WHAT IS THE MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTION BOOKLET OF THE TIBETAN FREEDOM MOVEMENT FUND? WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS BOOKLET?
3. (U) CAN ETHNIC TIBETANS, WHOSE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS EXPIRE WHILE IN THE U.S., RETURN TO INDIA?
4. (U) CAN A PERSON WHO WAS BORN IN TIBET, BUT MOVED TO INDIA AS A MINOR AND RECEIVED NO DOCUMENTATION, RETURN TO

REPEATED

QUESTIONS

PETITION FOR THE RELEASE OF PANCHEN LAMA

SPRING/SUMMER 2002



Dear Secretary of State Powell,

Gendhun Choekyi Nyima was recognized as the 11th Panchen Lama by His Holiness the Dalai Lama in 1995. The six-year-old "disappeared" shortly thereafter, along with his family. The Chinese government proceeded to choose and install its own candidate. Gendhun Choekyi Nyima's whereabouts remain unknown to this day, and the Chinese government has denied the requests of international governments and the United Nations to see him. It is unacceptable for the Chinese government to hold this innocent child for political purposes.

Therefore, We the undersigned urge you to use your leadership to pressure the Chinese government to immediately release Gendhun Choekyi Nyima.

NAME (PRINT) SIGNATURE ADDRESS CITY STATE ZIP

Mail to: Secretary of State Colin Powell • US Department of State • Washington DC 20520

Please mail a copy of this petition to
Students for a Free Tibet
602 East 14th Street, 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10009
sft@igc.org

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Printed By: Diana P Elby

INDIA AFTER TRAVELLING ABROAD*

5. (U) WHAT SECURITY MEASURES, IF ANY, ARE TAKEN BY THE OFFICE OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DALAI LAMA WHEN ISSUING 'BIRTH CERTIFICATES' OR 'MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES' TO ENSURE THE INFORMATION THEREIN IS ACCURATE?

- QUESTIONS FOR KATHMANDU:

1. (U) PLEASE PROVIDE THE FULL TEXT OF THE NATURALIZATION LAW IN NEPAL.
2. (U) ARE ETHNIC TIBETANS PERMITTED TO ENGAGE IN ANY FORM OF PEACEFUL POLITICAL EXPRESSION IN NEPAL?
3. (U) CAN ETHNIC TIBETANS, WHOSE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS EXPIRE WHILE IN THE U.S., RETURN TO NEPAL?
4. (U) CAN YOU PROVIDE A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PROCEDURES IN PLACE FOR ACQUIRING A RESIDENCY CARD OR AN IDENTITY CERTIFICATE IN NEPAL?
5. (U) INS SEES MANY NEPALESE PASSEPORTS WITH VALID VISAS, WHICH APPLICANTS CLAIM TO HAVE OBTAINED FRAUDULENTLY. CAN YOU SHED ANY LIGHT ON THE PROCESS BY WHICH VALID PASSEPORTS ARE BEING OBTAINED "ON THE STREET"?
6. (U) CAN A PERSON WHO WAS BORN IN TIBET, BUT MOVED TO NEPAL AS A MINOR AND RECEIVED NO DOCUMENTATION, RETURN TO NEPAL AFTER TRAVELLING ABROAD?
7. (U) WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF A NEPALESE REFUGEE CERTIFICATE?
ALBRIGHT

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ACTION DRL-02

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-01 ACDE-00 AID-00 AMAD-01 CA-02 EB-00
 UTED-00 TEDE-00 INSE-00 L-01 ADS-00 NEA-01 NSAE-00
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R 060712Z APR 99
 FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2479
 INFO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
 AMCONSUL MUMBAI
 AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
 AMCONSUL CHENNAI

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 002730

DEPT ALSO PASS TO INS NEW YORK OFFICE

E.O. 12958: DECL: N/A
 TAGS: PHUM, CIVIS, IN
 SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: TIBETAN ASYLUM CLAIMS

REF: STATE 11511

THE FOLLOWING RESPONSES ARE KEYED TO REFTEL QUESTIONS
 ABOUT THE STATUS OF TIBETANS IN INDIA:

1. TIBETANS BORN TO TIBETAN (NON-INDIAN CITIZEN) REFUGEE
 PARENTS BETWEEN 1950 AND 1986 DO NOT AUTOMATICALLY
 RECEIVE CITIZENSHIP AT BIRTH. THEY ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY
 FOR CITIZENSHIP AFTER FIVE YEARS OF RESIDENCY IN INDIA.
 THE VAST MAJORITY OF TIBETANS CHOOSE NOT TO SEEK INDIAN
 CITIZENSHIP.

1.A. FIVE YEARS OF PHYSICAL RESIDENCE IN INDIA OR
 MARRIAGE TO AN INDIAN CITIZEN MAY BOTH BE USED AS A BASIS
 FOR APPLYING FOR INDIAN CITIZENSHIP. THE GOVERNMENT OF
 INDIA HAS STOPPED FORMALLY ADMITTING TIBETAN REFUGEES.
 RECENT REFUGEES HAVE NO LEGAL STATUS AND THEREFORE HAVE
 NO ABILITY TO SHOW FIVE YEARS OF LEGAL RESIDENCE IN INDIA
 TO QUALIFY FOR CITIZENSHIP.

1.B. POST HAS REQUESTED A COPY OF THE NATURALIZATION LAW
 WHICH IT WILL POUCH TO CONSULAR AFFAIRS/OFFICE OF
 INTERAGENCY LIAISON UPON RECEIPT.

2. NO, THE TIBETAN FREEDOM MOVEMENT COMMITTEE IS AN NGO
 AND THE OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE DALAI LAMA IN
 WASHINGTON IS (WITHIN THE STRUCTURE OF THE CENTRAL
 TIBETAN ADMINISTRATION) A GOVERNMENTAL UNIT SIMILAR TO AN
 EMBASSY. THERE ARE CERTAINLY LINKS BETWEEN THE TFMC AND
 THE GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE BUT THEY ARE UNOFFICIAL LINKS.

2.A. IF THE BOOKLET IS ISSUED BY THE TFMC IT WOULD NOT
 BE AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT OF THE CENTRAL TIBETAN
 ADMINISTRATION. NOTE THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DOES NOT
 RECOGNIZE THE CENTRAL TIBETAN ADMINISTRATION AS A
 GOVERNMENT.

3. ETHNIC TIBETANS WHOSE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS EXPIRE WHILE
 OVERSEAS CAN IN PRINCIPLE SEEK A TEMPORARY TRAVEL
 DOCUMENT THROUGH INDIAN EMBASSIES OR CONSULATES. ALL
 TIBETANS PLANNING TO RETURN TO INDIA MUST FIRST OBTAIN AN
 INDIAN RE-ENTRY VISA.

4. NO, THERE IS NO LEGAL BASIS FOR A TIBETAN WHO LIVED
 IN INDIA WITH NO DOCUMENTATION TO RETURN TO INDIA FROM

New Delhi Response

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ABROAD. IN PRACTICE, TIBETANS WITHOUT LEGAL STATUS IN INDIA REGULARLY TRAVEL BETWEEN THE POROUS BORDERS OF INDIA, NEPAL, BHUTAN AND TIBET. THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA HAS AN UNOFFICIAL POLICY OF ALLOWING NEW TIBETAN REFUGEES TO ENTER INDIA FROM NEIGHBORING STATES. THE GOI, HOWEVER, DOES NOT ACCORD THEM LEGAL STATUS.

5. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CENTRAL TIBETAN ADMINISTRATION ADMIT THAT THERE ARE NO HARD AND FAST REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A MARRIAGE LICENSE. A MARRIAGE LICENSE IS VIEWED AS ONLY A REQUIREMENT FOR TRAVEL ABROAD. MANY TIBETANS DO NOT REGISTER THEIR MARRIAGE WITH THE GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE. TIBETANS ARE ELIGIBLE TO REGISTER THEIR MARRIAGE THROUGH THE INDIAN COURTS SYSTEM. RECORDS FOR CHILDREN BORN IN INDIA ARE VERIFIED BY TIBETAN WELFARE OFFICERS. IN THE CASE OF TIBETANS BORN OUTSIDE OF INDIA, WELFARE OFFICERS MUST VERIFY BIRTH DETAILS THROUGH A REVIEW OF DOCUMENTS HELD BY THE GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE OR PRESENTED BY THE PETITIONER.

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ACTION DRL-02

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 AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
 AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J2/J3/J5//

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 KATHMANDU 000564

STATE FOR DRL, SA/INS, AND PRM
 GENEVA FOR REFUGEE AFFAIRS OFFICER
 LONDON FOR SUTPHIN
 E. O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: PREF, PHUM, NP
 SUBJECT: INFORMATION CONCERNING TIBETAN ASYLUM
 CLAIMS

KATHMANDU RESPONSE

REF: (A) STATE 31511

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

KATHMANDU 01 OF 02 564

(B) 99 KATHMANDU 00250
 (C) 98 KATHMANDU 00448

1. THE FOLLOWING RESPONSES ARE KEYED TO THE QUESTIONS IN REFTEL A.
2. KATHMANDU QUESTION 1: POST WILL POUCH THE FULL TEXT OF THE NATURALIZATION LAW IN NEPAL TO SA/INS.
3. KATHMANDU QUESTION 2: THE GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL HAS NO SPECIFIC LAW PROHIBITING ETHNIC TIBETANS FROM ENGAGING IN PEACEFUL POLITICAL EXPRESSION IN NEPAL. FURTHERMORE, NO TIBETANS IN NEPAL HAVE BEEN DEPORTED FOR ENGAGING IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL DISCOURAGES "FREE-TIBET" AND "ANTI-CHINA" ACTIVITIES AND, ON OCCASION, HAS ARRESTED AND DETAINED (FOR A FEW DAYS), BUT NOT CHARGED, ETHNIC TIBETAN PROTESTERS UNDER THE "PUBLIC OFFENSES ACT." ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE ARE FEW RESTRICTIONS ON OTHER TYPES OF POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION. TIBETANS REGULARLY DISPLAY THE DALAI LAMA'S PHOTO, PRACTICE TIBETAN BUDDHIST WORSHIP, AND PUBLICLY CELEBRATE EVENTS SUCH AS THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE DALAI LAMA'S RECEIPT OF THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE.
4. THE CENTRAL TIBETAN ADMINISTRATION (CTA -- THE DALAI LAMA'S GOVERNMENT IN EXILE), THROUGH ITS UNOFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN KATHMANDU, DISCOURAGES THE TIBETAN COMMUNITY IN NEPAL FROM

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ENGAGING IN PUBLIC POLITICAL EXPRESSION, ESPECIALLY REGARDING THE TIBET-CHINA ISSUE. THIS REFLECTS THE CTA'S SENSITIVITY TO PRESSURE NEPAL MAY FACE FROM CHINA TO EITHER PROHIBIT ALL TIBETAN POLITICAL EXPRESSION, OR BAR NEW TIBETAN REFUGEES FROM ENTERING NEPAL.

5. KATHMANDU QUESTION 3: ETHNIC TIBETANS WHOSE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS EXPIRE WHILE IN THE U.S. CAN RETURN TO NEPAL. TO DO SO, THEY WOULD HAVE TO GO TO THE NEPALESE EMBASSY OR CONSULATE TO OBTAIN A NEW TRAVEL DOCUMENT. IT IS FAIR TO ASSUME THAT THERE MAY BE BUREAUCRATIC DIFFICULTIES IN THE ISSUANCE OF A REPLACEMENT TRAVEL DOCUMENT, IN PART DUE TO THE UNCOMMON NATURE OF THE TASK. NEVERTHELESS, THIS WOULD BE THE APPROPRIATE WAY TO PROCEED.

6. KATHMANDU QUESTION 4: FOR NEPALESE CITIZENS, THE BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR OBTAINING AN IDENTITY CARD ARE OUTLINED IN "NEPAL CITIZENSHIP RULES, 1992," POINT 3, "ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES TO NEPALI CITIZENS." THE PROCESS INVOLVES SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION AND A RECOMMENDATION LETTER FROM VILLAGE, DISTRICT OR MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS TO THE CHIEF DISTRICT OFFICER OF THE APPLICANT'S PLACE OF RESIDENCE.

7. IN THE CASE OF TIBETAN REFUGEES, MOST WHO ARRIVED IN NEPAL BEFORE 1989 REGISTERED THEIR NAMES WITH CHIEF DISTRICT OR MUNICIPAL OFFICERS IN MID-1995 AND WERE SUBSEQUENTLY ISSUED A "REFUGEE IDENTITY CARD," IN THE FORM OF A SMALL BLUE BOOKLET. CHILDREN UNDER 16 WERE INCLUDED IN THEIR PARENTS' BOOKLETS. UNTIL RECENTLY, HOWEVER, THESE CHILDREN, AFTER TURNING 16, COULD NOT OBTAIN THEIR OWN REFUGEE IDENTITY CARDS (REFTEL B). ADDITIONALLY, ACCORDING TO THE TIBETAN COMMUNITY, ABOUT 4,000 ETHNIC TIBETANS WHO ARRIVED IN NEPAL BEFORE 1989 WERE NOT ISSUED ID CARDS DURING THE 1995 DISTRIBUTION (REFTEL C). RESPONDING TO POST'S URGING THAT IT RECTIFY THIS PROBLEM, THE GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL HAS TOLD POST THAT IT INTENDS TO CONDUCT ANOTHER ROUND OF ID CARD ISSUANCES THIS YEAR FOR THESE PEOPLE.

8. KATHMANDU QUESTION 5: "VALID" PASSPORTS ILLEGITIMATELY OBTAINED "ON THE STREET" ARE TYPICALLY PROCURED DIRECTLY (BUT ILLEGALLY) FROM THE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT ISSUING OFFICES. A PERSON NOT QUALIFIED TO POSSESS A NEPALESE PASSPORT, BUT

KATHMANDU 02 OF 02 564

SEEKING TO OBTAIN ONE, MIGHT GO IN PERSON, OR HAVE AN AGENT GO, TO A CHIEF DISTRICT OFFICE. THERE THEY WOULD PAY A BRIBE (REPORTS SAY APPROXIMATELY USD 200 IS SUFFICIENT) TO HAVE A PASSPORT ISSUED WITH THEIR PHOTO AND EITHER THEIR OWN OR AN ASSUMED NAME. ALTERNATIVES WOULD BE TO OBTAIN PASSPORTS THROUGH BROKERS IN NEPAL OR INDIA WHO MAY BE IN POSSESSION OF STOLEN ORIGINAL BLANK PASSPORTS.

9. KATHMANDU QUESTION 6: A PERSON BORN IN TIBET WHO CAME TO NEPAL AS A MINOR MAY HAVE RECEIVED NO DOCUMENTATION FOR ONE OF TWO REASONS: EITHER THEY CAME AFTER 1989 AND WERE NOT ENTITLED TO

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STAY IN NEPAL, OR THEY WERE AMONG THOSE PRE-1989 ARRIVALS WHO WERE ENTITLED TO STAY, BUT NEVER RECEIVED REFUGEE IDENTITY CARDS. PRE-1989 ARRIVALS WHO NEVER GOT A CARD IN THEORY SHOULD BE ENTITLED TO LEAVE AND RETURN TO NEPAL, BUT WOULD HAVE TO HAVE LEFT ON ILLICITLY OBTAINED DOCUMENTS. THEY COULD RETURN (AND MANY HAVE) ON THESE SAME DOCUMENTS. IF THEY WERE POST-1989 ARRIVALS TO NEPAL, THEY WERE NEVER ENTITLED TO STAY IN NEPAL IN THE FIRST PLACE, BUT WERE PROCESSED IN NEPAL FOR TRANSIT TO INDIA. IF THEY NEVER WENT TO INDIA, BUT LATER LEFT NEPAL FOR THE UNITED STATES, IT WAS SURELY WITH ILLICITLY OBTAINED DOCUMENTS. THEY WOULD NOT HAVE THE SAME THEORETICAL RIGHT TO RETURN TO NEPAL, BUT WOULD HAVE ROUGHLY THE SAME PRACTICAL ABILITY TO DO SO, AGAIN, USING THE SAME DOCUMENTS THEY LEFT ON.

10. KATHMANDU QUESTION 7: THE SIGNIFICANCE OF A GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL-ISSUED TIBETAN REFUGEE IDENTITY CARD: FIRST, IT INDICATES THAT THE BEARER IS ENTITLED TO RESIDE IN NEPAL. SECOND, IT SERVES THE BEARER AS A PIECE OF IDENTIFICATION THAT IS RECOGNIZED FOR SUCH TRANSACTIONS AS OBTAINING A TRAVEL DOCUMENT FOR TRAVEL ABROAD, OPENING A BANK ACCOUNT, REGISTERING A MOTOR VEHICLE, OR ENROLLING IN SCHOOL.
FRANK

8106897
ROUTINE

* UNCLASSIFIED *

Asylum
MAR 17 1998
HQASM DIVISION

RAAUZYUW RUEHKT0448 0540802-UUUU--RUEAWJF.
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 230802Z FEB 98 CCY TEXT ADX-1FBF4F WSC-5829
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7880
INFO RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 0160
BT
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 KATHMANDU 000448

C O R R E C T E D COPY(CHANGING CAPTION CA/EX TO CA/VO)

CA/VO FOR JILL ESPOSITO

CA/FPP FOR RUTH LINCOLN

DRL OFFICE OF ASYLUM AFFAIRS FOR JOHN BECKER

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, KFRD, PHUM, PREF, NP

SUBJECT: TIBETANS IN NEPAL: THE CONSULAR PERSPECTIVE

REFERENCES: A) SCHENSTED/ESPOSITO TELCON 2/12/98,
B) SECSTATE 30457

1. SUMMARY: TIBETANS LIVING IN NEPAL COMPOSE A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF EMBASSY KATHMANDU'S NON-IMMIGRANT VISA APPLICANT POOL. WITH ALMOST FORTY YEARS OF PRESENCE IN NEPAL, MANY ARE ECONOMICALLY AND SOCIALLY WELL-ESTABLISHED HERE. FOR VARIOUS REASONS, AN INCREASING NUMBER HAVE TIBETAN OR AMERICAN FRIENDS AND RELATIVES IN THE UNITED STATES. MANY QUALIFY FOR VISAS, DESPITE IDIOSYNCRASIES IN THE ISSUANCE OF IDENTITY AND TRAVEL DOCUMENTS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL. EMBASSY KATHMANDU THEREFORE REGARDS RECENT REQUESTS FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM BY TIBETANS IN THE UNITED STATES WITH SKEPTICISM.

TIBETANS' RESIDENTIAL STATUS IN NEPAL:

2. POPULATION AND DOCUMENTATION: THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 16,000-20,000 TIBETANS RESIDENT IN NEPAL.

DELIVER TO:

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ABOUT HALF LIVE IN THIRTEEN DISTINCT REFUGEE SETTLEMENTS; THOSE LIVING INDEPENDENTLY RESIDE PRIMARILY IN LARGE TIBETAN COMMUNITIES IN THE KATHMANDU AREA. ALL TIBETANS LIVING IN CAMPS HAVE BEEN ISSUED REFUGEE IDENTIFICATION CARDS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL. HOWEVER, ONLY ABOUT HALF OF THOSE NOT IN CAMPS HAVE BEEN ISSUED REFUGEE CARDS. THE GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL (GON) SUSPENDED ISSUANCE OF THE CARDS BEFORE COMPLETING THE JOB, LEAVING AN ESTIMATED 4,000 TIBETANS WITHOUT DOCUMENTS. CONSEQUENTLY, MANY OF THESE HAVE ILLICITLY PURCHASED NEPALESE IDENTIFICATION CARDS AND PASSPORTS FROM DOCUMENT VENDORS AND CORRUPT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

3. POLITICAL REPRESENTATION IN NEPAL: THE OFFICE OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA (THE "OFFICE OF TIBET") IN KATHMANDU ACTS AS A LIAISON TO THE GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL, UNHCR, FOREIGN EMBASSIES AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES. IT ISSUES MARRIAGE AND BIRTH CERTIFICATES TO TIBETANS RESIDENT IN NEPAL. IT ALSO PROVIDES SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES, ESPECIALLY TO THE ROUGHLY 2,000 YEARLY NEW ARRIVALS FROM TIBET, AND FACILITATES THEIR ONWARD TRAVEL TO INDIA.

4. TIBETANS IN NEPAL ARE AFFORDED MANY OF THE SAME RIGHTS ENJOYED BY NEPALESE CITIZENS. THEY LIVE AND TRAVEL FREELY THROUGHOUT THE KINGDOM. THEY OWN LAND AND PROPERTY, MAINTAIN BANK ACCOUNTS, AND CONDUCT BUSINESS. THEY PARTICIPATE OPENLY IN RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES. THEY CAN OBTAIN AN EDUCATION, OFTEN ATTENDING TIBETAN SCHOOLS WHICH TEACH TIBETAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE. MANY YOUNG PEOPLE LEARN ENGLISH WELL, AND TIBETAN STUDENTS PASS THE SCHOOL LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAM (LOTH GRADE EQUIVALENT) AT A HIGHER RATE THAN NEPALESE STUDENTS DO. HOWEVER, TIBETANS ARE PROHIBITED FROM POLITICAL ACTIVISM AND THEY ARE NOT PERMITTED TO VOTE IN NEPAL'S ELECTIONS. ALTHOUGH NOT BROADLY TARGETED, TIBETANS, ESPECIALLY NEW ARRIVALS, ARE OCCASIONALLY VICTIMS OF EXTORTION OR HARASSMENT BY POLICE OR IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES. MOREOVER, DESPITE THEIR LONG-TERM PRESENCE IN NEPAL, MANY EXPRESS ANXIETY THAT THE GON COULD EXPEL THEM AT ANY TIME.

TIBETAN NIV APPLICANTS:

5. CONSULAR STATISTICS: TIBETANS COMPRISE ROUGHLY A QUARTER OF EMBASSY KATHMANDU'S NIV APPLICANT POOL. THEIR REFUSAL RATE IS SOMEWHAT HIGHER THAN THAT OF THE POOL AS A WHOLE. IN JANUARY, 1998, FOR EXAMPLE, TIBETANS COMPRISED APPROXIMATELY 14PERCENT OF THE APPLICANTS AND 10 PERCENT OF

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THE ISSUANCES. THEIR REFUSAL RATE THAT MONTH WAS 57PERCENT, COMPARED TO 37PERCENT FOR THE POOL AS A WHOLE. WE HAVE NO STATISTICS REGARDING TIBETAN OVERSTAYS IN THE US, BUT OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT THEY OVERSTAY AND/OR WORK ILLEGALLY IN PERCENTAGES COMPARABLE TO THAT OF THE VISA-RECIPIENT POOL AS A WHOLE.

6. WHO ARE THE TIBETAN NONIMMIGRANT VISA APPLICANTS? MANY APPLICANTS HAVE A RELATIVE OR CLOSE FAMILY FRIEND IN THE UNITED STATES WHOM THEY WISH TO VISIT. MANY OF THESE FRIENDS AND RELATIVES RESETTLED IN THE UNITED STATES AS PART OF THE "TRANSITION PROGRAM FOR DISPLACED TIBETANS" (PART OF THE 1990 IMMIGRATION ACT), AND ARE NOW ESTABLISHED ENOUGH TO SPONSOR OR OTHERWISE CONTRIBUTE TO THE COST OF A VISIT. OTHER APPLICANTS HAVE AMERICAN ESTABLISHED ENOUGH TO SPONSOR OR OTHERWISE CONTRIBUTE TO THE COST OF A VISIT. OTHER APPLICANTS HAVE AMERICAN FRIENDS, OFTEN BUDDHIST "DHARMA STUDENTS," OR TOURISTS, WHOM THEY MET IN NEPAL AND WHOM THEY WISH TO VISIT. TIBETAN CARPET MANUFACTURERS AND ANTIQUE DEALERS OFTEN
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TOR:261459Z FEB 98 * U N C L A S S I F I E D *

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R 230802Z FEB 98 CCY TEXT ADX-1FD3E8 WSC-5942
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7881
INFO RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 0161
BT
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 KATHMANDU 000448

C O R R E C T E D COPY(CHANGIN CAPTION CA/EX TO CA/VO)

CA/VO FOR JILL ESPOSITO

CA/FPP FOR RUTH LINCOLN

DRL OFFICE OF ASYLUM AFFAIRS FOR JOHN BECKER

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: CVIS, KFRD, PHUM, PREF, NP
SUBJECT: TIBETANS IN NEPAL: THE CONSULAR PERSPECTIVE

SEEK ENTRY TO THE UNITED STATES TO PROMOTE EXPORT OF THEIR PRODUCTS, TO NEGOTIATE WITH CUSTOMERS, OR TO ATTEND TRADE FAIRS SUCH AS THE ANNUAL ORIENTAL RUG MART ATLANTA. TIBETAN MONKS AND NUNS ARE FREQUENTLY INVITED BY BUDDHIST CONGREGATIONS IN THE U.S. TO TEACH OR PERFORM CERTAIN SPECIALIZED RITUALS. AS IS THE CASE WITH OUR NEPALESE APPLICANT POOL, MANY APPLICANTS ARE UNDOUBTEDLY INTENDING IMMIGRANTS WHO HOPE TO WORK ILLEGALLY IN CHILD CARE, HOTEL HOUSE-KEEPING, AND FOOD SERVICE JOBS.

7. WHICH TIBETAN APPLICANTS GET VISAS? TIBETAN FAMILY TIES ARE GENERALLY STRONG; SOME CARPET MANUFACTURERS AND ANTIQUE DEALERS HAVE BECOME QUITE WEALTHY; MANY APPLICANTS COME WELL PREPARED WITH BIRTH AND MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES, PROPERTY AND BANK DOCUMENTS, AND LETTERS AND AFFIDAVITS OF SUPPORT FROM THEIR CONTACTS IN THE UNITED STATES. SOME TYPICAL VISA RECIPIENTS WOULD BE A 47-YEAR-OLD FATHER OF THREE AND OWNER OF A CARPET WEAVING FACTORY WITH PRIOR BUSINESS TRAVEL TO GERMANY AND

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CONTACTS IN MANHATTAN; A 28-YEAR OLD MOTHER OF TWO WHO TEACHES AT A TIBETAN SCHOOL AND WISHES TO VISIT A GREEN CARD-HOLDING BROTHER IN THE U.S. DURING HER SCHOOL VACATION; AND A 32 YEAR-OLD MONK FROM A BUDDHIST MONASTERY WITH AN INVITATION LETTER TO TEACH AT A BUDDHIST CENTER IN SANTA BARBARA.

8. TIBETANS' IDENTITY AND TRAVEL DOCUMENTATION: TIBETANS WHO HOLD GON-ISSUED REFUGEE IDENTITY CARDS ARE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A SIMPLE ONE-PAGE TRAVEL DOCUMENT FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OF THE GON. THIS TRAVEL DOCUMENT IS USABLE FOR TRAVEL TO THE HOLDER'S INTENDED DESTINATION AND FOR RETURN TO NEPAL, AND IS VALID FOR ONE-YEAR FROM THE DATE OF ISSUANCE. ALTHOUGH NOT SOPHISTICATED, THIS RICE-PAPER FORM WITH HAND-WRITTEN FILL-IN-THE-BLANK DATA MEETS THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT'S STANDARD FOR A TRAVEL DOCUMENT. THIS DOCUMENT IS ALSO ISSUED TO NEPALESE ORPHANS AND CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF FIVE TRAVELING WITHOUT THEIR PARENTS, AS WELL AS TO TIBETAN REFUGEE IMMIGRANTS UNDER THE DISPLACED TIBETAN PROGRAM. EMBASSY KATHMANDU ROUTINELY AFFIXES MACHINE READABLE VISAS TO THE BACK SIDE OF THE NIV-RECIPIENT'S TRAVEL DOCUMENT. POST HAS CONSIDERED AUGMENTING THE SECURITY OF THE DOCUMENT, PERHAPS THROUGH THE USE OF AN IMPRESSION SEAL OR COUNTERFOIL, AND WELCOMES CA/FPP'S ADVICE ON THIS MATTER.

9. SOME TIBETANS LEGITIMATELY HOLD NEPALESE PASSPORTS, HOWEVER THE CONSULAR SECTION'S AWARENESS THAT AS MANY AS 4,000 TIBETANS WERE EXCLUDED DURING THE LAST ROUND OF ISSUANCE OF REFUGEE IDENTIFICATION CARDS FORCES US TO CAREFULLY SCRUTINIZE NEPALESE PASSPORTS PRESENTED BY TIBETANS. TYPICALLY, A TIBETAN WITH A FALSE NEPALESE PASSPORT TRIES TO PASS HIMSELF AS A SHERPA, A TAMANG, OR A MEMBER OF ANOTHER OF NEPAL'S MANY TIBETO-BURMAN ETHNIC GROUPS. TESTING THE APPLICANT'S FACILITY IN SPOKEN NEPALI AND KNOWLEDGE OF NEPALESE GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY IS USUALLY AN EFFECTIVE -- BUT NOT FOOLPROOF -- METHOD OF IDENTIFYING MALAFIDE APPLICANTS. SEVERAL ARE TURNED AWAY EACH DAY.

10. COMMENT: IN ORDER TO QUALIFY, TIBETANS WHO RECEIVED NONIMMIGRANT VISAS IN NEPAL CONVINCED THE INTERVIEWING CONSULAR OFFICERS THAT THEY HAVE A RESIDENCE ABROAD TO WHICH THEY INTEND TO RETURN. POST THEREFORE VIEWS ANY ASYLUM REQUESTS BY THESE TIBETANS TO BE INHERENTLY UNFOUNDED. TIBETANS WHO HAVE RECENTLY RETURNED FROM THE UNITED STATES RECOUNT INSTANCES OF BEING OFFERED THE CHANCE TO OBTAIN A GREEN CARD -- PRESUMABLY THROUGH AN

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ASYLUM REQUEST -- FOR \$500. THESE OFFERS WERE REPORTEDLY
MADE BY A TIBETAN LPR LIVING IN NEW YORK CITY. THE
TIMING OF THESE REPORTS COINCIDES WITH THE TIMING OF THE
RECENT SPATE OF ASYLUM REQUESTS, SUGGESTING THAT THOSE
CLAIMS ARE DRIVEN MORE BY IMMIGRATION THAN POLITICAL
CONCERNS.

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TIBET

UNCLASSIFIED Department of State

INCOMING TELEGRAM

PAGE 01 REV DE 04443 08 OF 02 221220Z ACTION SA-00

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REV DE 04443 08 OF 02 221220Z ARRESTED AND CONVICTED OF DISTURBING THE PUBLIC ORDER.

SHC0:

INFO LOC-00 AID-00 AMAD-01 CA-02 CIAE-00 SMEG-00 OASY-00 DODE-00 DOEE-00 SRPP-00 EB-00 OIGC-01 FBIE-00 R-01 TEDE-00 INR-00 IO-00 L-00 ADS-00 M-00 NEA-00 KSAE-00 KSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-00 PM-00 PRS-00 P-00 SCT-00 SP-00 SS-00 STR-00 TRSE-00 USIE-00 VO-02 PMS-00 PRM-10 PRM-01 DRL-03 G-00 /035V

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P 221217Z APR 96 FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 716Z

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 004443

DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR CA/VOIT/P

E.O. 12958: N/A TAGS: PHUM, PREF, PREL, CIVIS, CH, IN SUBJECT: TIBETAN ASYLEES IN INDIA

REF: STATE 76090

1. IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL QUERY, POLOFFS CONTACTED UNHCR AND JAMPAL CHOSANG, SECRETARY AT THE DALAI LAMA'S NEW DELHI BUREAU AND LONG-TIME RESIDENT OF INDIA. THE CONSULAR SECTION ALSO CAME UP WITH A SAMPLE OF THE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS INDIA PROVIDES TO TIBETANS.

2. ACCORDING TO UNHCR AND CHOSANG, TIBETANS RESIDENT IN INDIA RECEIVE FROM THE INDIAN MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS A "REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE," ON A SINGLE SHEET OF PAPER, WHICH PERMITS THEM TO RESIDE IN INDIA. IF A TIBETAN RESIDENT OF INDIA TRAVELS OUTSIDE INDIA, HE MUST FIRST OBTAIN AN "IDENTITY CERTIFICATE," A PASSPORT-LIKE BOOK ISSUED BY THE PASSPORT OFFICE OF THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. THE COVER OF THIS CERTIFICATE IS IMPRINTED WITH THE INDIAN NATIONAL SYMBOL, THE LION CAPITAL OF THE ASHOKA PILLAR, LIKE AN INDIAN PASSPORT, BUT IS YELLOW IN COLOR INSTEAD OF DARK BLUE. THIS IDENTITY CERTIFICATE SERVES IN LIEU OF A PASSPORT FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL AND RETURN TO INDIA.

3. AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN THE "IDENTITY CERTIFICATE" IS A "NO OBJECTION OF RETURN TO INDIA" (NORI) STAMP PLACED IN THE CERTIFICATE BY THE PASSPORT OFFICE, PROBABLY SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE HOME MINISTRY. CHOSANG HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THE HOME MINISTRY ISSUED THE CERTIFICATES AND PLACED THE NORI STAMPS IN THEM BUT THE SAMPLE WE HAVE SEEN CLEARLY INDICATES THAT THE MEA PASSPORT OFFICE IS THE ISSUING AGENCY. THE NORI STAMP STATES "NOT A VISA (UNDERLINE) NO OBJECTION TO RETURN TO INDIA PROVIDED A VISA IS OBTAINED WITHIN TWO YEARS OF DATE HERE OF. PERMITTED TO STAY UP TO ONE YEAR FROM THE DATE OF RETURN TO INDIA." A TIBETAN RESIDENT OF INDIA MAY TRAVEL OUTSIDE INDIA WITHOUT A NORI STAMP BUT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RETURN TO INDIA WITHOUT IT. WE DO NOT AS A RULE PLACE A U.S. VISA IN AN "IDENTITY CERTIFICATE" UNLESS A NORI STAMP APPEARS IN IT.

4. NORI STAMPS ARE OCCASIONALLY WITHHELD BY THE INDIAN AUTHORITIES, ACCORDING TO CHOSANG, USUALLY IN CASES WHERE THE TIBETAN HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF COMMITTING UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES. ASKED IF "UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES" INCLUDED POLITICAL ACTIVITIES, CHOSANG SAID "YES." HE CITED THE EXAMPLE OF TIBETANS WHO MAY HAVE DEMONSTRATED IN FRONT OF THE CHINESE EMBASSY IN NEW DELHI, BEEN

5. REGARDING THE STATEMENT OF REFTEL ASYLUM SEEKER, IT IS NOT OUR SENSE THE "GENERAL POPULATION" OF INDIA RESENTS THE PRESENCE OF THE ROUGHLY 100,000 TIBETANS IN THEIR COUNTRY. THE INDIAN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND SEVERAL STATE GOVERNMENTS HAVE PROVIDED LAND FOR TIBETAN REFUGEES FLEEING COMMUNIST CHINESE OPPRESSION IN 1959 AND THE TIBETANS HAVE RESIDED MORE OR LESS WITHOUT INCIDENT IN INDIA SINCE THEN. THERE WAS A RECENT INCIDENT OF COMMUNAL TENSION BETWEEN THE TIBETAN AND INDIAN COMMUNITIES IN THE NORTHERN INDIAN CITY OF DHARAMSALA, SITE OF THE DALAI LAMA'S HOME IN EXILE, IN EARLY 1994. TENSION IN THIS CASE WAS OCCASIONED BY AN ISOLATED INCIDENT OF VIOLENCE BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS. ALTHOUGH LOCAL POLITICIANS ATTEMPTED BRIEFLY AND ULTIMATELY UNSUCCESSFULLY TO USE THE INCIDENT TO STIR UP PASSIONS, MOST OF THE POPULACE IN BOTH COMMUNITIES QUICKLY ALLOWED THE INCIDENT TO FADE AND NO PERMANENT REPERCUSSIONS WERE FELT.

6. THE ASYLUM SEEKER IS CORRECT TO ASSERT, HOWEVER, THAT INDIAN AUTHORITIES PROHIBIT TIBETANS FROM ENGAGING IN OVERT POLITICAL AGITATION, PARTICULARLY IF IT IS

ANTI-CHINESE. THE PRESENCE OF THE DALAI LAMA AND THOUSANDS OF HIS SUPPORTERS IN INDIA HAS LONG BEEN A NEURALGIC ISSUE FOR CHINA AND A PERENNIAL BONE OF CONTENTION IN THE SINO-INDIAN POLITICAL AGENDA. AS SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS HAVE IMPROVED OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, BOTH NEW DELHI AND BEIJING HAVE MADE CONSCIOUS EFFORTS NOT TO ALLOW THE DALAI LAMA'S PRESENCE TO CAST A SHADOW OVER THE BROADER RELATIONSHIP. NONETHELESS, THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT HAS CIRCUMSPECTLY TRIED TO AVOID GIVING BEIJING THE IMPRESSION THAT THE ISSUE IS POLITICAL RATHER THAN HUMANITARIAN AND THAT THE DALAI LAMA IS A POLITICAL LEADER RATHER THAN A RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL FIGURE. NEW DELHI IS NOT ALWAYS SUCCESSFUL IN PERSUADING BEIJING WHEN, FOR EXAMPLE, TIBETAN EXILES ASSEMBLE IN DHARAMSALA TO BEAR THE DALAI LAMA'S ANNUAL MARCH TO ADDRESS ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF HIS 1959 FLIGHT INTO EXILE OR WHEN TIBETANS PROTEST CHINESE POLICIES IN SMALL STREET DEMONSTRATIONS. ON SUCH OCCASIONS, INDIAN AUTHORITIES GENERALLY CITE THE "MESSINESS" OF DEMOCRACIES AND IGNORE CHINESE PROTESTS AS BEST THEY CAN. NEW DELHI CAN, HOWEVER, AND HAS IN THE PAST, ARRESTED TIBETAN DEMONSTRATORS IN ORDER TO PREVENT THEM FROM ENGAGING IN "POLITICAL ACTIVITIES" AS A MEANS TO

PLACATE BEIJING AND MAINTAIN NORMALCY IN ITS RELATIONS WITH CHINA.

7. IF THE ASYLUM SEEKER'S STATEMENT THAT HE IS WELL-KNOWN TO INDIAN AUTHORITIES FOR ENGAGING IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES FOR TIBETAN INDEPENDENCE IS TRUE, IT IS

CREDIBLE THAT HE MAY BE BARRED FROM REENTERING INDIA. NONE OF OUR SOURCES ARE AWARE OF THE PRACTICE OF PLACING ANY ENDORSEMENT OR MARKING IN AN IDENTITY CERTIFICATE THAT WOULD INVALIDATE THE NORI STAMP. IT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING, HOWEVER, IF THE NAMES OF PERCEIVED "TROUBLE MAKERS" WERE INCLUDED ON WATCH LISTS CONSULTED BY INDIAN EMBASSIES IN ISSUING VISAS OR BY IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES AT POINTS OF ENTRY

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Printed By: Margaret L. Tams

ACTION DRL-04

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-08 ACDE-00 AID-00 AMAD-01 CA-02 CIAE-00
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NSAE-00 SA-01 PRM-10 NFAT-00 /027W
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P 190652Z DEC 97
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0442
INFO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU PRIORITY
AMCONSUL CHENNAI PRIORITY
AMCONSUL MUMBAI PRIORITY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA PRIORITY

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 012480

SENSITIVE

FOR DRL/ASY - JOHN BECKER

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PEF, PHUM, IN
SUBJECT: DALAI LAMA REP ON SITUATION OF TIBETANS IN
INDIA

REF: BECKER-LEININGER E-MAILS

1. SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED (SBU)
2. POLOFF ON DECEMBER 18 MET WITH JAMPAL CHOSANG, SECRETARY OF THE DALAI LAMA'S OFFICE IN NEW DELHI, AND USED THE OCCASION TO DISCUSS THE STATUS OF TIBETANS IN INDIA, IN LIGHT OF A SPATE OF ASYLUM REQUESTS IN THE U.S. FROM INDIA-BASED TIBETANS.
3. CHOSANG SAID TIBETANS IN INDIA EXPERIENCE "NO PARTICULAR DIFFICULTIES." ACCORDING TO CHOSANG, TIBETANS WHO ARRIVED IN INDIA DURING THE LATE 1950'S AND 1960'S HAVE HAD NO DIFFICULTY ACQUIRING A RESIDENTIAL CERTIFICATE (RC), ESSENTIALLY GRANTING THEM PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS. THOUGH THE GOI HAS GENERALLY REFUSED TO ISSUE RECENT ARRIVALS RC'S (CHOSANG SAID THAT THE GOI DOES NOT CONSIDER THOSE NOW ARRIVING TO BE REFUGEES), ONCE IN INDIA EVEN RECENT, UNDOCUMENTED ARRIVALS "DO NOT FACE MUCH PROBLEM." AS LONG AS THEY LAY LOW AND DO NOT ADVERTISE THEIR PRESENCE TO THE AUTHORITIES, NO ONE BOTHERS THEM.
4. WHEN ASKED, IN LIGHT OF HIS COMMENTS, HOW HE WOULD EXPLAIN THE RECENT UPSURGE IN TIBETAN ASYLUM CLAIMS IN THE U.S., CHOSANG SAID THAT IN HIS VIEW, "THESE CASES ARE NOT GENUINE, ESPECIALLY THOSE (WHO HAVE BEEN) RESIDING IN INDIA FOR TEN YEARS OR MORE." (NOTE: RC'S ARE ISSUED ONLY TO TIBETANS MEETING THE TEN-YEAR RESIDENCY TEST, AND ARE REQUIRED BY THE GOI BEFORE IT ISSUES TRAVEL DOCUMENTS IN THE FORM OF CERTIFICATES OF IDENTITY. THUS ANY TIBETAN WHO HAS BEEN ISSUED A VISA IN A CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY WOULD MEET CHOSANG'S DEFINITION OF A "NOT GENUINE" ASYLEE.) CELESTE

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Department of State

OUTGOING
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PAGE 01 OF 03 STATE 261188 241684Z
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INFO LOG-88 ACDA-18 ACDE-88 AID-88 CIAE-88 OAS-88 DODE-88
SRPP-88 EAP-88 OIGD-81 UTEB-88 HBS-81 TEBE-88 INR-88
IC-88 ADS-88 NEA-88 NSAE-88 OES-81 OIG-82 SA-88
ORL-88 /#87A

CONCENTRATION, 36,888 REFUGEES, IS IN SOUTH INDIA. THERE ARE 24,465 "NEW" REFUGEES - THOSE WHO HAVE ARRIVED WITHIN THE PAST TEN YEARS - WITH 1,588 ARRIVING DURING THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF 1986.

261188
SOURCE: WANGGATE, 827819
DRAFTED BY: PRK/ENSA: PLTAMS
APPROVED BY: PRK/ENSA: AGJURY,
SA/IRS: CFUKVIGHI
EAP/CM: CM

WHEN THE FIRST INFUX OF TIBETANS ARRIVED NEARLY FORTY YEARS AGO, THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (591) DESIGNATED VARIOUS AREAS FOR RESETTLEMENT AND DONATED ONE ACRE TO EACH ADULT. REFUGEES ARRIVING IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS DID NOT RECEIVE OFFICIAL REFUGEE STATUS AND WERE NOT PROVIDED GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE. THIS GROUP INCLUDES 11,848 REFUGEES WHO ARRIVED IN INDIA BEFORE 1979. THEY DEPEND ON THE TIBETAN COMMUNITY FOR HOUSING AND BECAUSE THEY HAVE NO LAND OF THEIR OWN, HAVE FEWER OPPORTUNITIES TO EARN A LIVELIHOOD.

R 241682Z DEC 86
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL MADRAS
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

REFUGEE SETTLEMENTS

UNCLAS STATE 261188

3. PRM PROGRAM OFFICER VISITED THE REFUGEE SETTLEMENTS AT BUNSUR AND BYLAKUPPE. THE BUNSUR SETTLEMENT, ESTABLISHED IN 1974, IS HOME TO 464 HOUSEHOLDS (A TOTAL POPULATION OF 3,188) LIVING IN 16 VILLAGES. THE

E.O. 12958: R/A
TAGS: PEF PRM IN CH
SUBJECT: VISIT OF PRM PROGRAM OFFICER TO TIBETAN REFUGEE CAMPS IN INDIA

SETTLEMENT ORIGINALLY HOUSED 2,828 INDIVIDUALS, BUT WITH NATURAL GROWTH, THE POPULATION HAS NEARLY DOUBLED. THE BYLAKUPPE SETTLEMENT, ONE OF THE LARGEST, IS HOME TO 34,612 RESIDENTS. NEARLY 25% OF THE BYLAKUPPE POPULATION ARE MONKS LIVING IN FIVE TRADITIONAL LEARNING CENTERS (GIMASTERIES) IN THE BYLAKUPPE AREA.

1. SUMMARY: BUREAU OF POPULATION, REFUGEES AND MIGRATION (PRM) PROGRAM OFFICER MARGARET TANS RECENTLY

CONDUCTED A MONITORING VISIT TO TWO PRM-FUNDED TIBETAN REFUGEE CAMPS IN SOUTHERN INDIA. IN 1986, PRM PROVIDED \$858,888 TO SUPPORT THREE RECEPTION CENTERS FOR NEW REFUGEES; A MULTI-FACETED HEALTH PROGRAM; A CHILDREN'S SCHOOL; A VOCATIONAL CENTER AND MONTHLY STIPENDS FOR MONASTIC STUDENTS.

EACH VILLAGE HOUSES 32 FAMILIES WHOSE DUPLEX DWELLING UNITS WERE CONSTRUCTED IN THE EARLY 1960S BY A LOCAL NGO. THE ORIGINAL RESIDENTS WHO ARRIVED BETWEEN 1958-1979 ARE NOW LIVING WITH THEIR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN IN OVERCROWDED HOUSING SINCE NO NEW UNITS HAVE BEEN ADDED AFTER THE ORIGINAL ONES WERE BUILT AND THE UNITS, DESIGNED TO HOUSE FIVE INDIVIDUALS, NOW HOLD AN AVERAGE OF EIGHT. HOUSES ARE WELL CONSTRUCTED WITH THICK MASONRY WALLS AND FLOORS AND RED TILE ROOFS SIMILAR TO THOSE IN NEARBY INDIAN VILLAGES. THE SETTLEMENTS HAVE THE APPEARANCE OF WELL-CARED FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES WITH KITCHEN GARDENS, AND ANIMAL SHEDS ADJACENT TO THE UNITS.

WHILE THE GENERAL STANDARD OF LIVING FOR THE 186,888 TIBETAN REFUGEES SETTLED IN INDIA IS COMPARABLE TO THAT OF INDIANS IN SURROUNDING RURAL COMMUNITIES, MANY PROBLEMS PERSIST IN SPITE OF THE NEARLY \$6.8 MILLION IN USG ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1981. THESE INCLUDE HEALTH PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY TB, WHICH ARE EXACERBATED BY OVERCROWDED HOUSING; FEW VIABLE INCOME-GENERATING OPPORTUNITIES; LACK OF WATER AND IRRIGATION SYSTEMS RESULTING IN POOR HARVESTS IN THIS DROUGHT-PRONE REGION; INADEQUATE SANITATION FACILITIES; FEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION WHICH COULD PROVIDE SKILLS NEEDED BY THE COMMUNITY TO BECOME MORE COMPETITIVE IN THE MODERN WORLD; LACK OF PRACTICAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AND A GROWING POPULATION OF MONASTIC STUDENTS WHO DEPEND ON THE REFUGEE COMMUNITY FOR SUSTENANCE. THESE ARE CHRONIC PROBLEMS WHICH DO NOT APPEAR TO BE MOVING TOWARDS SOLUTION. GIVEN USG INTEREST IN SUPPORTING THIS REFUGEES POPULATION, PRM COULD CHANNEL FUNDING INTO SOLVING SOME OF THE ABOVE PROBLEMS, THEREBY INCREASING THE POTENTIAL THAT THE TIBETAN REFUGEE COMMUNITY COULD ACHIEVE A BETTER STANDARD OF LIVING AND GREATER SELF-SUFFICIENCY. END SUMMARY.

WATER AND SANITATION

BACKGROUND

2. IN 1959, FOLLOWING THE CHINESE OCCUPATION OF TIBET, THOUSANDS OF TIBETANS SOUGHT ASYLUM IN INDIA, NEPAL AND BHUTAN. AT THE PRESENT TIME THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 130,888 TIBETAN REFUGEES LIVING IN 47 SETTLEMENTS AND SCATTERED COMMUNITIES, MOST IN INDIA. THE LARGEST

4. LACK OF ADEQUATE WATER AND INADEQUATE SANITATION APPEAR TO BE THE MAJOR HOUSING-RELATED NEEDS. JUST OVER HALF THE HOUSES IN THE BUNSUR SETTLEMENT HAVE TOILETS, CONSTRUCTED IN 1983 BY A LOCAL NGO. THE SITUATION IS SOMEWHAT BETTER IN BYLAKUPPE WITH TOILET FACILITIES IN 75% OF THE HOUSES. FAMILIES WERE REQUIRED TO PAY HALF THE COST OF INSTALLATION AND THOSE FAMILIES WHO WERE UNABLE

TO PAY DO NOT HAVE TOILETS. THESE FAMILIES USE NEARBY FIELDS TO RELIEVE THEMSELVES.

EACH VILLAGE HAS A BORE WELL, HAND PUMP AND OVERHEAD WATER TANK. TWO VILLAGES HAVE WINDMILLS WHICH GENERATE ELECTRICITY USED TO PUMP WATER. WATER IS RATIONED TO TWO HOURS PER DAY AND IS AVAILABLE FOR DRINKING ONLY. SETTLEMENT OFFICIALS REPORT THAT WATER PIPES ARE OLD AND NEED TO BE REPLACED. IN 1986 \$54,388 IN PRM FUNDS WERE USED TO PROVIDE SAFE DRINKING WATER AND SANITARY FACILITIES IN SIX SETTLEMENTS, BENEFITTING 4,653 INDIVIDUALS.

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INCOME PRODUCING ACTIVITIES

5. COMMUNITY LEADERS WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE INCOME-GENERATING ACTIVITIES AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN MECHANICS AND OTHER TRADES, IN PART AS A WAY TO KEEP YOUNG PEOPLE - VIRTUALLY ALL OF WHOM WERE BORN IN INDIA - IN THE SETTLEMENTS. COMMUNITY ELDERS FEAR AN EVENTUAL EROSION OF THE TRADITIONAL TIBETAN CULTURE.

FARMING

FARMING IS THE CHIEF INCOME-PRODUCING ACTIVITY IN THE SETTLEMENTS. IN ADDITION, EACH FAMILY TYPICALLY HAS ONE COV USED FOR MILK. ALL FAMILIES ARE INVOLVED IN GROWING MAIZ, THE SETTLEMENTS' ONLY CROP. THE SOIL IS DEPLETED

DUE TO MONOCULTURE FARMING WITH LACK OF IRRIGATION LIMITING THE EFFORT TO GROW OTHER CROPS. WHILE THE HARVEST IS VARIABLE AS THE REGION IS PRONE TO DROUGHT, IN A GOOD YEAR A TYPICAL FAMILY WITH SIX ACRES CAN GENERATE 15,000 RUPEES (ABOUT \$300).

A BUSY FARMER'S COOP PURCHASES SEED AND FERTILIZER, SELLING IT TO FARMERS ON CREDIT. AT HARVEST TIME, COOP OFFICIALS AND FARMERS AGREE ON A PRICE THE COOP WILL PAY FOR THE CROP WHICH IS THEN STORED AND SOLD ON THE OPEN MARKET WHEN PRICES ARE HIGH. THE COOP ALSO GENERATES INCOME BY LEASING TRACTORS TO THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES.

SWEATER SELLING

TO SUPPLEMENT THEIR INCOME, MOST ADULTS SPEND THE THREE MONTHS AFTER THE SEPTEMBER HARVEST SELLING SWEATERS. LOANS OF UP TO 20,000 RUPEES (\$500) ARE MADE BY A LOCAL BANK ("GUARANTEED" BY THE TIBETAN FARMER'S COOPERATIVE) AT AN 18% ANNUAL INTEREST RATE. WITH THE FUNDS, INDIVIDUALS PURCHASE MACHINE-MADE SWEATERS IN NORTHERN INDIA AND THEN FAN OUT OVER THE COUNTRY, SELLING THEM AS SIDEWALK VENDORS. GENERALLY SEVERAL PEOPLE WILL GO TO ONE CITY AND RENT A SMALL ROOM TOGETHER. WHEN ASKED IF THIS WAS A PROFITABLE ACTIVITY, THE TIBETANS SAID IT WAS MARGINAL BUT WITH ENOUGH EARNINGS TO MAKE IT WORTHWHILE. IN THE MEANTIME, CHILDREN REMAIN IN THE SETTLEMENT CARED FOR BY OLDER RELATIVES. MANY YOUNG PEOPLE OPT TO BE SWEATER SELLERS RATHER THAN FARMERS.

OTHER INCOME-GENERATING ACTIVITIES

OTHER ACTIVITIES ARE MARGINAL AT BEST. SOME RESIDENTS MAKE CARPETS WHICH SELL FOR APPROXIMATELY \$60.00 EACH. WHILE A FULL-TIME WEAVER CAN MAKE TWO CARPETS PER MONTH, MATERIAL COSTS AND POOR SALES DUE TO LACK OF MARKETING MAKE THIS BUSINESS UNPROFITABLE.

SALES ARE ALSO MARGINAL FOR A SMALL BAKERY WHICH PRODUCES 500 LOAVES PER DAY. BREAD IS SOLD FOR \$.12 PER LOAF, ABOUT THREE TIMES MORE THAN IT COSTS TO MAKE AT HOME.

A SMALL DETERGENT-MAKING OPERATION PROVIDES EMPLOYMENT FOR TWO PERSONS. THE DETERGENT IS SOLD ON THE MARKET AT \$.50 PER KILO, ABOUT HALF THE COST OF "BRAND" NAMES. HOWEVER, THE PRODUCT IS NOT POPULAR BECAUSE IT SMELLS BAD.

APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY

6. THERE ARE THREE PROJECTS USING APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY IN THE HUNSUR SETTLEMENT, ALL FUNDED BY EUROPEAN NGOS. THE FIRST IS A SMALL-SCALE BIO-GAS PROJECT IN WHICH CATTLE DUNG IS CONVERTED TO GAS AND THEN PIPED TO A KITCHEN BURNER TO BE USED FOR COOKING. THE SECOND IS A SOLAR-POWERED ELECTRIFIED FENCE, 15KM IN LENGTH, BUILT AT THE PERIMETER OF A VILLAGE ON THE EDGE OF THE SETTLEMENT

AND DESIGNED TO KEEP ELEPHANTS FROM DESTROYING THE CORNFIELDS. A DEEP DITCH WAS CONSTRUCTED BETWEEN THE FOREST AND THE FENCE IN ORDER TO FURTHER DETER ELEPHANT TRAFFIC. ACCORDING TO RESIDENTS, THE DITCH/FENCE HAS BEEN LARGELY SUCCESSFUL IN PROTECTING SETTLEMENT CROPS FROM DESTRUCTION. THE THIRD PROJECT CONSISTS OF TWO WINDMILLS WHICH GENERATE ENOUGH ELECTRICITY TO PUMP WATER INTO OVERHEAD STORAGE TANKS. THE PUMPING PROCESS IS SLOW, TAKING UP TO TEN HOURS TO FILL THE TANK AND THE COMMUNITY WAS UNABLE TO AFFORD THE HIGH COST OF ELECTRICITY. THE WINDMILLS HAVE MADE IT POSSIBLE TO STORE EXTRA WATER IN THIS ARID REGION.

EDUCATION

7. CHILDREN FROM AGES TWO TO FIVE ATTEND NURSERY SCHOOLS SUPPORTED BY GRANTS FROM SOS, A BRITISH NGO. VOLUNTEERS FROM LINK, A SCOTTISH NGO, SERVE AS ENGLISH TEACHERS IN THE LOCAL TIBETAN SCHOOLS. CHILDREN ATTEND CENTRAL GOVERNMENT-RUN SCHOOLS FROM GRADES K-10. THE SCHOOLS OFFER INSTRUCTION IN THE NATIVE TIBETAN LANGUAGE FROM GRADES K-5 AFTER WHICH INSTRUCTION IS GIVEN IN ENGLISH. THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS HAVE A STANDARDIZED CURRICULUM AND GENERALLY PROVIDE A BETTER EDUCATION THAN LOCAL SCHOOLS RUN BY THE STATES. AFTER GRADE 10, THE FEW STUDENTS WHO CONTINUE WITH SCHOOL ATTEND HIGH SCHOOL IN NEARBY COMMUNITIES OR IN BOARDING SCHOOLS IN OTHER CITIES. THERE ARE VERY LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE FOR PROFESSIONAL STUDY AND MOST SETTLEMENT RESIDENTS FIND

HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIALLY OUT OF THEIR REACH. FOR INSTANCE, THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT PROVIDES A SCHOLARSHIP FOR TWO STUDENTS EACH YEAR FROM THE TIBETAN COMMUNITY TO STUDY MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY. THOSE WHO WIN THE COVETED SPOTS AGREE TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY FOR THREE YEARS AFTER THEY GRADUATE.

HEALTH

8. IN 1996, PRM PROVIDED \$265,400 TO SUPPORT PRIMARY HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS FOR TIBETAN REFUGEES. THE CENTRAL TIBETAN AUTHORITY'S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERSEEING ALL HEALTH CARE PLANNING FOR TIBETAN REFUGEES IN INDIA. THE DOR FOLLOWS THE WHO GUIDELINES FOR PRIMARY HEALTH CARE WHICH IS SUPPLEMENTED WITH TRADITIONAL TIBETAN MEDICINE OPERATING IN SEPARATE CLINICS. THERE ARE 65 PHC CENTERS AND EIGHT HOSPITALS WITH A STAFF OF 224 HEALTH WORKERS. IN ADDITION THERE ARE 37 TRADITIONAL TIBETAN MEDICINE CLINICS. THESE CLINICS DO NOT RECEIVE PRM FUNDING. PRM ALSO FUNDS HOSPITALIZATION EXPENSES FOR THE VULNERABLE REFUGEE POPULATION. IN 1996, 39 PATIENTS RECEIVED THIS SERVICE.

THE HOSPITAL IN HUNSUR HAS 37 BEDS. FACILITIES INCLUDE A

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SEPARATE TB ISOLATION WARD OPENED IN DECEMBER 1996, AN X-RAY ROOM, DENTAL CLINIC, DISPENSARY AND A LABORATORY FOR TAKING BLOOD AND SPUTUM CULTURES. OUTPATIENTS PAY 5 RUPEES (1.15) PER VISIT AND ARE PROVIDED WITH MEDICINE AT COST. INPATIENTS PAY THE EQUIVALENT OF \$.35 PER DAY FOR ROOM AND BOARD.

APPROXIMATELY 30 PATIENTS PER DAY COME TO THE HUNSUR HOSPITAL FOR TREATMENT. THE PHYSICIAN REPORTS THAT THE GENERAL HEALTH OF SETTLEMENT RESIDENTS HAS IMPROVED OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS. PREVIOUSLY MOST PEOPLE WERE TREATED FOR AILMENTS THAT RESULTED FROM POOR SANITATION BUT TODAY THEY ARE MORE APT TO BE TREATED FOR CANCER AND OTHER "MODERN" DISEASES. ADJACENT TO THE HOSPITAL IS THE TRADITIONAL MEDICINE CENTER, WITH A PATIENT LOAD AVERAGING 15 PATIENTS PER DAY. ILLNESSES INVOLVING THE IMMUNE SYSTEM ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE TREATED WITH TRADITIONAL TIBETAN MEDICINE.

IN ADDITION TO A FULL-TIME PHYSICIAN, THERE ARE TWO NURSES AND SIX COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS WHO VISIT LOCAL VILLAGES TO ASSESS COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS, FOLLOW UP ON MEDICATION REGIMENS AND SEE THAT CHILDREN COME TO THE HOSPITAL FOR IMMUNIZATIONS. COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS GIVE FAMILY PLANNING AND AIDS PREVENTION INFORMATION AS PART OF THEIR REGULAR VISITS. CHWS REPORT THE YOUNGER GENERATION IS MORE RECEPTIVE TO FAMILY PLANNING INFORMATION THAN ARE THEIR PARENTS. CHWS ATTEND ONE MONTH REFRESHER COURSES ON A ROTATING BASIS, WITH 20 WORKERS PARTICIPATING IN 1996.

OVERCROWDED HOUSING EXACERBATES A SERIOUS TB PROBLEM. DOCTORS DESCRIBE TB AS THE WORST HEALTH PROBLEM FOR THE REFUGEE COMMUNITY WITH 548 ACTIVE CASES REGISTERED IN 1996. DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS AN AVERAGE OF 24 TB PATIENTS ARE IN TREATMENT AT THE HUNSUR HOSPITAL.

BYLEKUPPE HAS A TEN BED HOSPITAL WITH FACILITIES INCLUDING A DENTAL CLINIC LIMITED TO EXTRACTIONS AS IT HAS NO DRILL, AN XRAY MACHINE THAT IS NOT YET OPERATIONAL, A PHARMACY, A LABORATORY AND A GERMAN-SPONSORED EYE CLINIC WITH EQUIPMENT FOR PERFORMING CATARACT SURGERY AND TREATING GLAUCOMA AND OTHER EYE DISORDERS. IN ADDITION TO A FULL-TIME DOCTOR, THE HOSPITAL HAS 22 SUPPORT STAFF INCLUDING TWO NURSES AND 11 COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS. OF THE 94 BIRTHS IN 1996, HALF WERE ASSISTED BY A DOCTOR OR NURSE AT THE HOSPITAL AND THE REMAINDER WERE BORN AT HOME (SOME ASSISTED BY ONE OF TWO TRAINED MIDWIVES). HALF OF THE NEWBORNS RECEIVE VACCINATIONS. WHILE THREE CHILDREN DIED DURING DELIVERY IN 1996, THERE HAS BEEN ONLY ONE CASE OF MATERNAL MORTALITY DURING THE PAST FOUR YEARS. MOTHERS ATTEND ANTENATAL CLINICS AND CHILDREN RECEIVE FOLLOW-UP CARE UP TO THE AGE OF FIVE.

TRADITIONAL LEARNING CENTERS

9. IN 1996 PRM PROVIDED \$158,000 TO SUPPORT 5,900 STUDENTS IN 200 MONASTERIES (TRADITIONAL LEARNING CENTERS). OF THE 24,465 REFUGEES ARRIVING SINCE 1986, 60% ARE MONASTERY STUDENTS. ALL 1996 ARRIVALS TO SOUTHERN INDIA HAVE ENROLLED IN THE MONASTERIES. IN HUNSUR, THE MONASTERY HOUSES 500 STUDENTS. THIS YEAR 250 NEW STUDENTS ARRIVED BRINGING THE MONASTERY CLOSE TO FULL CAPACITY. THE MONASTERY IN BYLEKUPPE, ONE OF THE LARGEST, HAS A POPULATION OF 3,000 MONKS. STUDENTS STUDY

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ENGLISH AND OTHER ACADEMIC SUBJECTS (TAUGHT IN TIBETAN) FOR SEVEN HOURS PER DAY. THEY SPEND AN ADDITIONAL FIVE HOURS IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES. A TYPICAL COURSE OF STUDY FOR A MONASTIC STUDENT LASTS ELEVEN YEARS.

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MONASTERY HOUSING IS IDENTICAL TO OTHER SETTLEMENT DWELLINGS WITH FOUR STUDENTS PER UNIT (CONSIDERABLY FEWER PEOPLE PER DWELLING THAN THE EIGHT FOUND IN THE AVERAGE SETTLEMENT HOUSE). BECAUSE OF THEIR RELIGIOUS VOCATION, MONKS ARE NOT ENGAGED IN INCOME-GENERATING ACTIVITIES AND RELY ON DONATIONS FROM SETTLEMENT RESIDENTS AND OUTSIDE SOURCES FOR THEIR BASIC LIVING EXPENSES. PRM SUPPORT PROVIDES EACH ASSISTED STUDENTS WITH A STIPEND OF \$2.39 PER MONTH. WHILE OTHER NEEDY STUDENTS ARE SPONSORED BY INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS, THE TIBET FUND ESTIMATES THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 3,000 STUDENTS WHO HAVE NO ASSISTANCE. UNLIKE THE MONTHLY STIPEND PRM FUNDING PROVIDES FOR SIX MONTHS TO REFUGEES WHO ARRIVE AT RECEPTION CENTERS IN NEW DELHI AND DHARMSALA, MONASTERY STUDENTS RECEIVE AN INDEFINITE STIPEND.

RECOMMENDATIONS

10. PRM SUPPORT FOR HEALTH AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND SHORT-TERM SUPPORT FOR NEW TRANSIT CENTER ARRIVALS ACCOUNT FOR 81% OF TOTAL FUNDING IN 1996. THESE FUNDS HAVE PROVIDED A SUBSTANTIAL BENEFIT TO THE REFUGEE COMMUNITY IN TERMS OF IMPROVED HEALTH, VOCATIONAL TRAINING, IMPROVED WATER AND SANITATION AND CHILDREN'S

EDUCATION. THERE ARE MANY UNMET NEEDS IN THESE AREAS AND ONGOING ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED AND WILL BE PUT TO GOOD USE. HOWEVER, PRM SUPPORT FOR MONASTIC STUDENTS (\$158,000 IN 1996) WILL NOT, DUE TO THEIR VOCATION, LEAD TO ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND AMOUNTS ESSENTIALLY TO AN ONGOING DOLE. THIS FUNDING COULD BE BETTER USED TO SUPPORT ACTIVITIES WHICH WILL PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LONG RANGE SELF-SUFFICIENCY FOR THE COMMUNITY.

PRM WILL MEET WITH TIBET FUND REPRESENTATIVES PRIOR TO THEIR SUBMISSION OF A NEW FUNDING REQUEST FOR 1997, IN ORDER TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF FUNDING INCOME-GENERATING PROJECTS AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTAL ACTIVITIES IN LIEU OF SUPPORT FOR MONASTIC STUDENTS.

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