



August 1998

TIBETAN REFUGEES IN NEPAL

Roughly 20,000 long-term Tibetan refugees reside in Nepal. Many went to Nepal with the Dalai Lama in 1959-60 and are well-integrated into local communities. About one-third remain in or near camps in Kathmandu and Pokhara. Those living independently live mainly in the Kathmandu area. There are 13 Tibetan refugee settlements in Nepal. The United States Government contributes to UNHCR for the support of a Tibetan reception center for newly arrived refugees as well as for health and education programs in Nepal.

The Government of Nepal has issued refugee identification cards to all Tibetans living in camps, but suspended this project while approximately 4,000 refugees outside the camps were still without an identification document. The reason for the suspension remains unclear. Some of those without documents have illicitly purchased Nepalese identification cards and passports from document vendors and corrupt government officials. A few Tibetans legitimately hold Nepalese passports.

Nepal stopped accepting Tibetan refugees as of the end of 1989. Since that time, Tibetans arriving in Nepal from Tibet have no status in Nepal and are expected to proceed to India for settlement. In 1997, 3261 Tibetan refugees passed through Nepal en route to India, compared with 2839 in 1996 and 2448 in 1995. In April/May 1995, the Nepal Government (then headed by the Communist Party of Nepal United Marxist-Leninist Government) instructed border officials to return to Tibet all Tibetans intercepted as they attempted to enter Nepal. A change of government in September 1995 resulted in a reversal of this policy. There have been no reports of Tibetan refugees being returned since that time.

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 (tenth 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.

Tibetans who hold refugee identity cards are eligible to receive a simple one-page travel document from the foreign ministry. This travel document, valid for one year from the date of issuance, is usable for travel to the holder's intended destination and for return to Nepal. 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. Embassy Kathmandu routinely affixes machine readable visas to the back of this travel document.

List of New Refugees sent to various institutions- 1997

Institutions\Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
TCV Schools	44	27	2	73
Tibetan Homes Foundation, Mussoorie	26	13	2	41
Bir TCV School, Suja	27	18	6	51
Tibetan Transit School, Khanyara	39	20	19	78
Sera Monastery	18	1	12	31
Gaden Monastery	17	4	1	22
Drepung Monastery	22	13	11	46
Sakya Monastery	13	2		15
Chokling Gon, Bir			1	1
Dakpo Sheldup Ling Gon, M.P.	1			1
Zongsar Gon, Bir	1	2	2	5
Gatsal Ling Gon, Clementtown			1	1
Sherab Ling Gon, Bir	1			1
Namdoling Gon, Bylakuppe	4	1		5
Menri Bhongon,	1		2	3
Gyutoe Monastery, Bhomdila	1		1	2
Kriti Gon, Dharamsala	2			2
Namgyal Monastery, Dharamsala	1		1	2
Gyume Monastery, Hunsur	19	1	2	22
Dhondupling Kagon, Clementtown	3			3
Palchen Ling Gon, Gangtok		1		1
Jangchupling Gon,		1	1	2
Sekar Gon, Kalimpong		1		1
Sakya Nunnery,	3			3
Shugsab Nunnery, Dharamsala	1	3		4
Namdoling Nunnery, Bylakuppe	7	4		11
Drikung Jangchupling Nunnery, Rajpur			1	1
Dupgyu Choling Nunnery, Clementtown			1	1
Jangchupling Nunnery, Karnataka		2	1	3
Returned to Tibet	599	155	42	796
Temporarily Staying with friends & relatives	84	70	22	176
Total	934	339	131	1404

716  
 176  
 972 of 1404  
 returned to Tibet  
 or are staying  
 w/ friends + rels

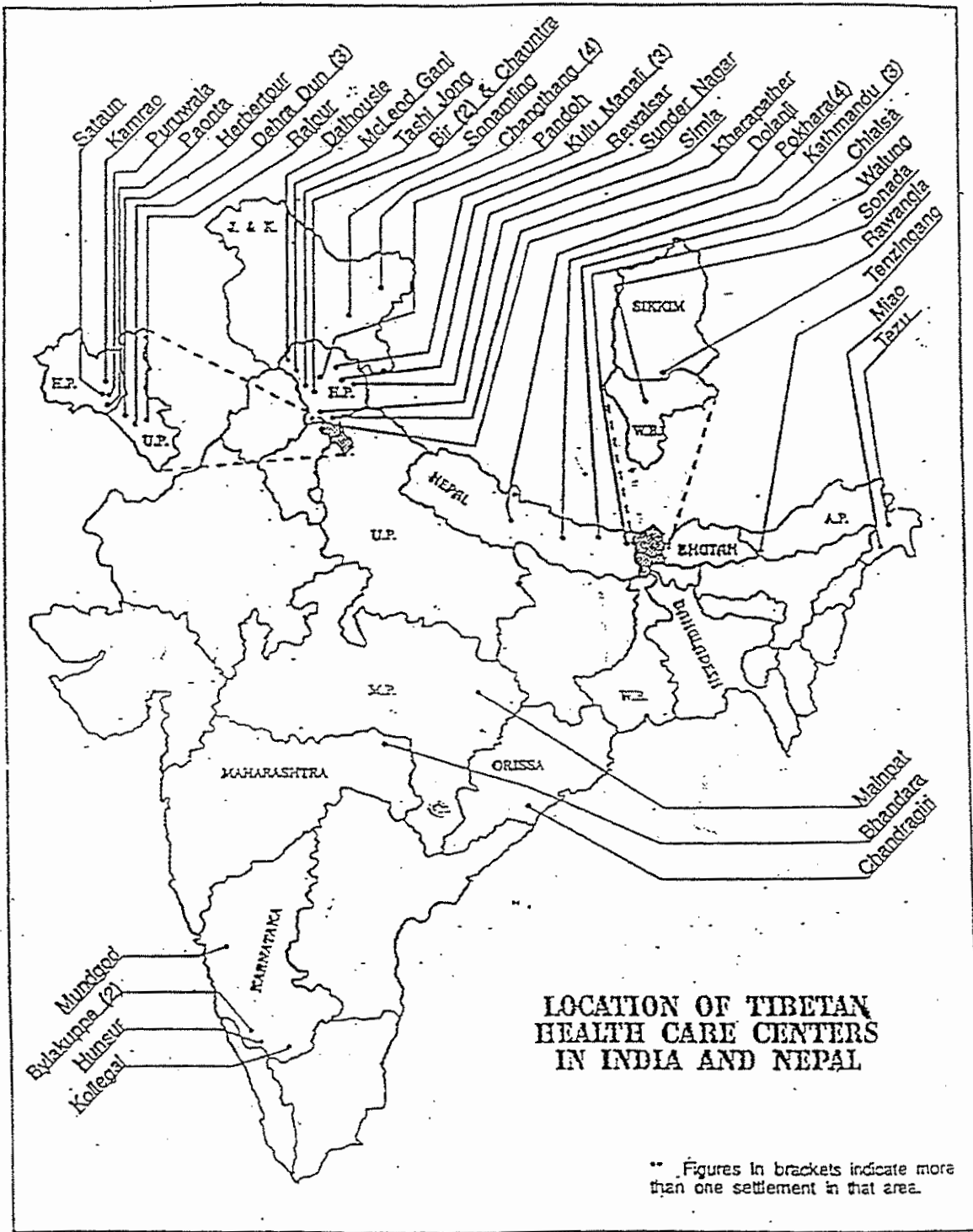
432 stayed

New Refugees from Tibet during the period January 1997 to March 1997

Occupation\Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Monks	149	65	38	252
Nuns	25	30	8	63
Student	48	22	13	83
Farmers\Nomads	297	113	34	444
Business	99	23	11	133
House-wife	98	26	4	128
Minors	5	2	1	8
Teacher	5	3		8
Chinese Govt. Staff	24	3	5	32
Doctor\Nurse	2	3		5
Driver\Mechanic	9	5	1	15
PCC Member	1	1	1	3
Skilled Labour	32	8	5	45
Unskilled Labour	26	3	3	32
Unemployed	114	30	7	151
Translator		2		2
Total	934	339	131	1404

New Refugees from Tibet during the period January 1997 to March 1997

Age Group\Month	January		February		March		Total	Female	Male	Grand Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female				
0 - 13	58	31	89	17	42	6	3	89	51	140
14 - 25	150	42	192	31	103	54	17	276	90	366
26 - 59	275	225	500	62	156	33	13	402	300	702
60 & above	77	76	153	24	38	4	1	105	91	196
Total	560	374	934	124	330	97	34	872	532	1404



Satrain  
 Kamrag  
 Puruvrala  
 Paonta  
 Haridwar  
 Dehra Dun (3)  
 Bakour  
 Dalhouse  
 Mel end Gani  
 Tashi Jong  
 Bir (2) & Chaurita  
 Sonamling  
 Chanchang (4)  
 Pandoh  
 Kulu Manali (3)  
 Bewalsar  
 Sunder Nagar  
 Simla  
 Khacacather  
 Dolanji  
 Pokharal(4)  
 Kshimandu(3)  
 Chialist  
 Watung  
 Sonada  
 Rawanola  
 Tenzingang  
 Miao  
 Tezu

Munsted  
 Byakappa (2)  
 Hunsur  
 Kollegal

Mahool  
 Bhandara  
 Chandragiri

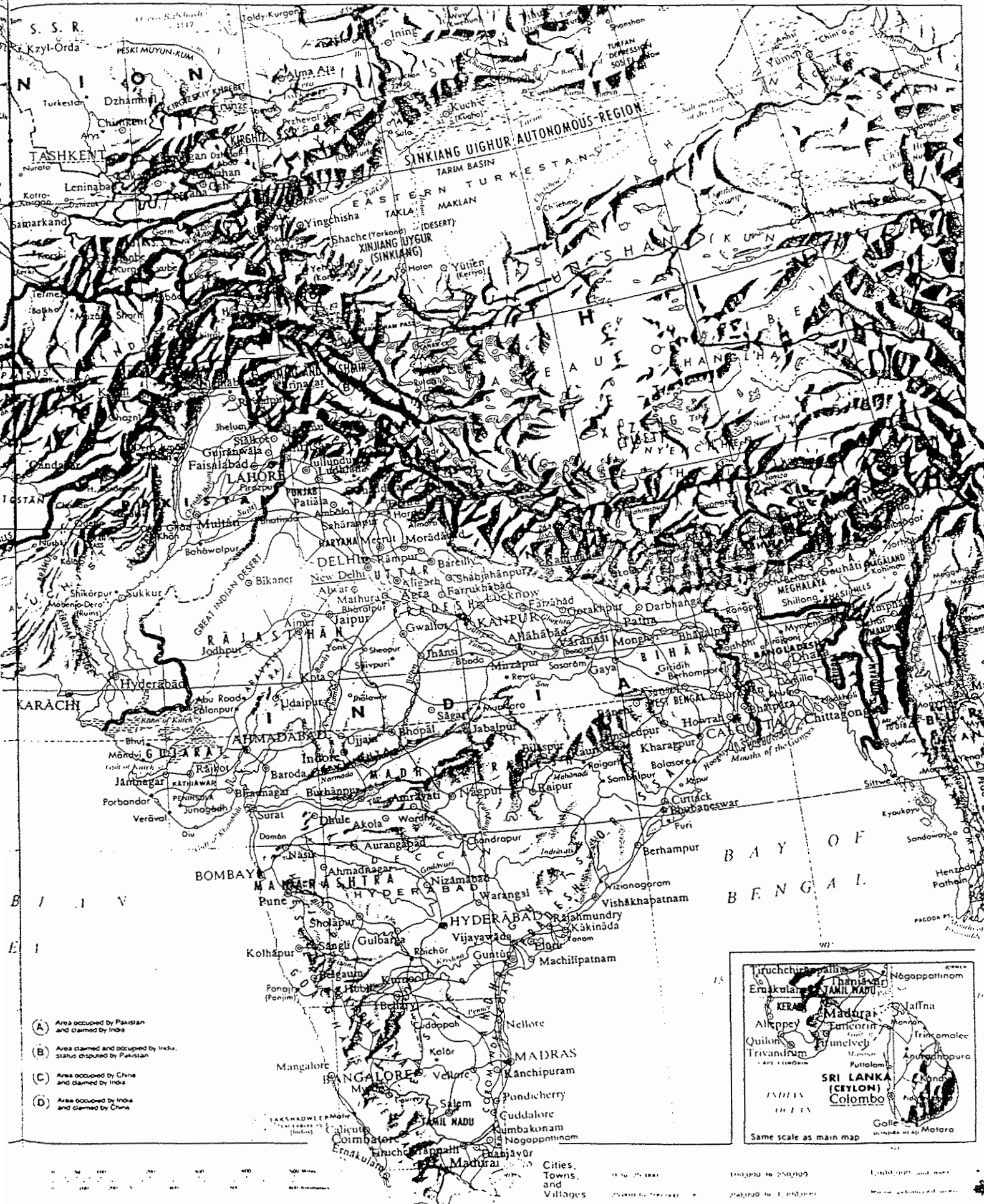
**LOCATION OF TIBETAN HEALTH CARE CENTERS IN INDIA AND NEPAL**

\*\* Figures in brackets indicate more than one settlement in that area.

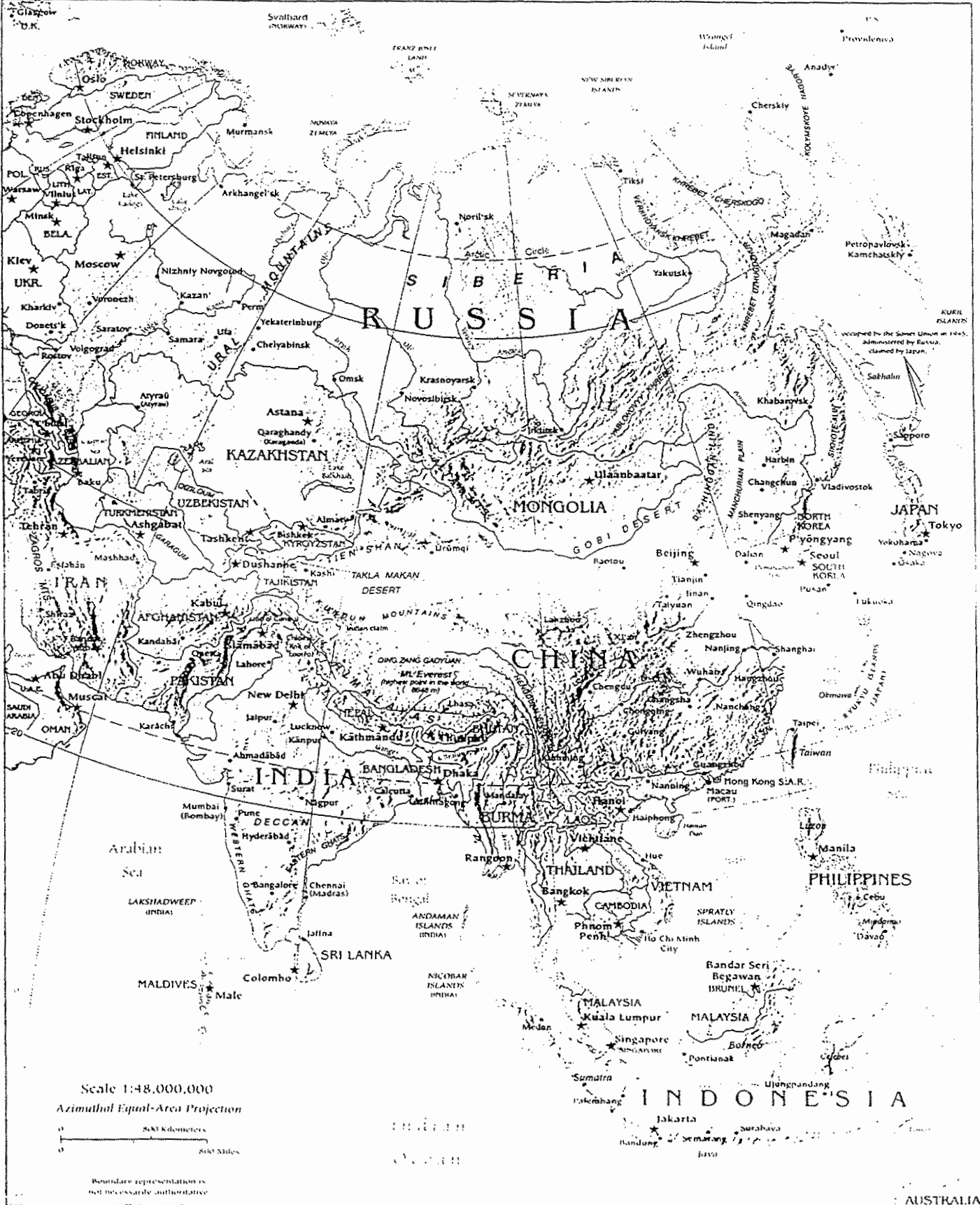
Design & created on computer by: Tibetan Computer Resource Center, Central Tibetan Administration, Dharamshala 170115, H.P., INDIA



Scale: 1:25,000,000. Contour interval: 500 feet. Projection: Polyconic. Place names in Chinese and in Pinyin are given in bold.

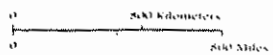


# ASIA



Scale 1:48,000,000

Azimuthal Equal-Area Projection



Boundary representation is not necessarily authoritative

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