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INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING
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C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 8782

E.O. 12065: GDS 6/9/86 (BURGHARDT, RAYMOND F.) OR-P
TAGS: CH, PINT, PGOV, PINS, SOCI
SUBJ: CHINA'S TIBETAN POLICY

REF: HONG KONG 8462

1. (LOU) PEOPLE'S DAILY JUNE 8 IN A PROMINENT PAGE ONE
STORY REPORTED ON THE BRIEF MAY 31 STOPOVER OF PARTY
GENERAL SECRETARY HU YAOBANG AND (SECRETARIAT) SECRETARY/
VICE MINISTER WAN LI IN QINGHAI PROVINCE ON THEIR WAY
BACK TO BEIJING FROM TIBET. DURING THE STOPOVER, HU ANNOUNCED
THAT THE PARTY'S NEW LIBERAL POLICY GUIDELINES FOR TIBET
SHOULD ALSO BE ADOPTED FOR WORK IN QINGHAI'S AUTONOMOUS
AREAS. WE NOTE THAT HISTORICALLY A LARGE PORTION OF
QINGHAI CONSTITUTED THE AMDO PROVINCE OF TIBET, AN ETHNIC
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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Lahiguera, Senior Reviewer

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TIBETAN AREA WHERE BOTH THE DALAI AND PANCHEN LAMAS WERE
BORN. IT WOULD SEEM, THEREFORE, THAT FOR THE TIME BEING
HU'S LIBERAL POLICIES TOWARD TIBET WOULD ONLY APPLY TO
TIBETAN NATIONALITY AREAS. THERE IS, HOWEVER, THE
POSSIBILITY THAT LIBERAL POLICIES FORMULATED FOR TIBET
WILL LATER BE APPLIED MORE BROADLY TO OTHER NATIONAL
MINORITY AUTONOMOUS AREAS AND REGIONS.

2. (C) IN CLARIFICATION OF POLICY GUIDANCE GIVEN TO TIBET
(REFTEL), HONG KONG LEFTIST MEDIA SOURCES ACTIVE IN UNITED

FRONT WORK HAVE TOLD US THAT PARTY LEADERS IN TIBET WILL BE ABLE TO SET ASIDE WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE CENTER ALL BUT THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL CENTRAL PARTY DIRECTIVES IF THESE ARE DEEMED INAPPROPRIATE TO LOCAL CONDITIONS. ON QUESTIONS INVOLVING FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES OF PARTY POLICY, THE TIBETAN AUTHORITIES WILL BE ABLE TO APPEAL TO THE CENTER TO DELAY OR STOP IMPLEMENTATION IN TIBET.

3. (C) THE DALAI LAMA'S SISTER (ALSO A QINGHAI NATIVE) WILL SOON BE PASSING THROUGH QINGHAI LEADING A DELEGATION OF TIBETAN EXILES. HU'S EXTENSIONS OF LIBERAL POLICY GUIDELINES TO THAT AREA DOUBTLESS IS IN PART DESIGNED TO IMPRESS THE EXILES. TIBETANS BOTH IN THEIR NATIVE LANDS AND IN EXILE CAN BE EXPECTED TO VIEW THIS INITIATIVE WITH SOME SKEPTICISM ON THE BASIS OF PAST EXPERIENCE. NEARLY IDENTICAL GUIDELINES WERE ISSUED IN 1957 IN A SUCCESSFUL BID TO PERSUADE THE DALAI LAMA TO RETURN FROM A VISIT TO INDIA BUT THEN FORGOTTEN DURING THE GREAT LEAP FORWARD. THE SAME GUIDELINES WERE PROMULGATED AGAIN IN 1961 TO QUIET DISSATISFACTION WITH LAND REFORM PROGRAMS BUT WERE SOON IGNORED IN THE WAKE OF THE POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS PRECEDING THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION.

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