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 FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7472  
 INFO AMEMBASSY DHAKA  
 AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
 AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
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 AMEMBASSY BERN  
 AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU POUCH  
 AMCONSUL SHANGHAI POUCH  
 AMCONSUL SHENYANG POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIJING 17388

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR  
 TAGS: PINT, CH  
 SUBJECT: TIBET: RELAXATION AND LIBERALIZATION

1. (C) - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: EMBASSY OFFICERS WHO VISITED TIBET FROM  
 SEPTEMBER 3 TO 11 WERE CONTINUALLY REMINDED OF THE  
 DIVISIONS THERE BETWEEN A TRADITIONAL TIBETAN SOCIETY  
 AND A MODERNIZING HAN CHINESE ELITE. THE HAN, AFTER  
 YEARS OF ATTEMPTS TO STAMP OUT TIBETAN BUDDHISM AND  
 SINICIZE THE REGION, ADOPTED MORE TOLERANT POLICIES  
 AFTER HU YAOBANG'S VISIT IN 1980. THIS YEAR, THOSE  
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POLICIES HAVE BEEN AMPLIFIED AND CODIFIED IN CENTRAL  
 COMMITTEE DOCUMENT NUMBER 6, WHICH IS WIDELY CITED IN  
 LHASA AS THE UNDERPINNING OF CURRENT RELATIVELY LIBERAL  
 POLICIES. THE DOCUMENT, REINFORCED BY LAST MONTH'S  
 INSPECTION TRIP BY PARTY SECRETARIAT MEMBER HU QILI AND  
 VICE PREMIER TIAN JIYUN, CALLS FOR RESPECT FOR AND  
 DEVELOPMENT OF TIBETAN CULTURE, PROTECTION OF FREEDOM

OF RELIGION, AND ASSISTANCE TO THE POPULACE TO ALLOW THEM TO "GET RICH." THE NEW POLICIES IN PRACTICE HAVE MEANT REQUIREMENTS THAT THE 100,000 HAN CADRES IN TIBET RESPECT THE CULTURE AND LEARN THE LANGUAGE OF TIBET (A PROVISION WIDELY IGNORED), THE GOVERNMENT-FUNDED REHABILITATION AND REOPENING OF SOME 75 TEMPLES AND MONASTERIES SO FAR (OUT OF AN ESTIMATED 2,700 THAT ONCE EXISTED), AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LIBERALIZED ECONOMIC POLICIES THAT PERMIT ACCUMULATION OF INDIVIDUAL WEALTH. AT THE SAME TIME, SO-CALLED "PATRIOTIC PERSONAGES", THAT IS, RECONCILED MEMBERS OF THE TRADITIONAL THEOCRACY HAVE BEEN REHABILITATED AND ARE BEING GIVEN PRESTIGIOUS POSITIONS, OFTEN LACKING REAL INFLUENCE.

3. SOME TIBETANS, HOWEVER, ARE TAKING POSITIONS OF POWER WITHIN TIBET. OF THOSE, SOME ARE TIBETANS WHO GREW UP AND WERE EDUCATED IN THE NEIGHBORING PROVINCES OF SICHUAN, GANSU, QINGHAI, AND YUNNAN AND THUS ARE BI-CULTURAL. IN ADDITION TO THIS GROUP, THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT IS RAPIDLY TRAINING YOUNG TIBETANS AT UNIVERSITIES AND INSTITUTES THROUGHOUT CHINA FOR EVENTUAL TECHNICAL AND LEADERSHIP ROLES BACK HOME.

4. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THIS GROJING SINIFIED ELITE, THE GREAT MASS OF TIBETANS MAINTAIN THEIR TRADITIONAL CULTURE, PRACTICE THEIR TRADITIONAL OCCUPATIONS, FOLLOW  
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TIBETAN BUDDHISM, AND REVERE THEIR FORMER THEOCRATIC LEADERS, THE DALAI AND PANCHEN LAMAS. TO COMPLETE AND FULLY LEGITIMIZE THEIR INTEGRATION OF TIBET, THE CHINESE WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO SEE THE RETURN OF THE DALAI LAMA IN A NON-POLITICAL ROLE, AND THIS IS ONE AIM OF THEIR NEWLY-RESPECTFUL AND TOLERANT ATTITUDE TOWARD TIBETAN BUDDHISM. PHOTOS OF THE DALAI LAMA ARE OPENLY ON SALE IN LHASA AND, WHEN THE PANCHEN LAMA RETURNED TO TIBET BRIEFLY IN 1982, HE REVERENTLY AND PUBLICLY PAID HIS RESPECTS AT THE PALACES OF THE DALAI LAMA. THE EXPECTED VISIT OF THE DALAI LAMA'S REPRESENTATIVES TO BEIJING REPRESENTS ANOTHER ROUND IN NEGOTIATIONS FOR A 1985 VISIT, BUT OFFICIALS IN LHASA EXPRESS A STUDIED UNCONCERN ABOUT HIS POSSIBLE RETURN.

5. LAST AUTUMN'S INTERNATIONAL MEDIA FLURRY ABOUT EXECUTIONS IN TIBET UPSET THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES, WHO PLACED THE EXECUTIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NATION-WIDE CRIMINAL ROUNDUP. NOW THE NEPALI CONSUL GENERAL IN LHASA HAS PICKED UP "BAZAAR RUMORS" TO THE EFFECT THAT

ANOTHER CRIME CRACKDOWN MAY BE IN THE OFFING. HE EXPECTS THAT ARRESTS WILL BE ON CRIMINAL, NOT POLITICAL, CHARGES.

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6. SEPTELS FOLLOW ON ECONOMIC, RELIGIOUS, AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBET. END SUMMARY.

7. TIBET'S TWO SOCIETIES TODAY STRIKE AN UNEASY BALANCE, WHEREVER THEY COEXIST. THE HAN CHINESE NOW CONSTITUTE ABOUT ONE-HALF OF THE POPULATION OF THE CAPITAL CITY OF LHASA BUT ARE REPORTEDLY LESS PREVALENT IN THE REST OF THE TIBET AUTONOMOUS REGION, PARTICULARLY IN THE COUNTRY-SIDE. CULTURAL DIFFERENCES AND OCCASIONAL MANIFESTATIONS OF HAN ARROGANCE, AS WELL AS LANGUAGE DIFFERENCES,

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 05 BEIJING 17388

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR  
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EXACERBATE LONG-STANDING TENSIONS. BUT, IN LHASA, AT LEAST, 25 YEARS AFTER THE ABORTIVE TIBETAN REVOLT AND THE DEPARTURE OF THE DALAI LAMA, CHINESE CONTROL APPEARS TO BE ACCEPTED AS A FACT OF LIFE. WHILE LHASA IS TWO VERY DIFFERENT TOWNS -- ONE TIBETAN AND TRADITIONAL, THE OTHER HAN AND INDISTINGUISHABLE FROM OTHER DUSTY, CONCRETE CHINESE CITIES -- TIBETANS WANDER FREELY THROUGH OUT, AND PLA SOLDIERS ARE FREQUENT VISITORS TO THE OLD TOWN, WHERE THEY OGLE THE CROWDS OF WORSHIPPERS PROSTRATE.  
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TING THEMSELVES IN FRONT OF THE JOKHANG TEMPLE.

8. THE CHINESE ARE WELL AWARE OF THEIR STATUS AS OUTSIDERS IN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY. IN RECENT YEARS. THE POLICIES OF THE DISASTROUS 1960'S AND THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION, WHICH AIMED AT THE VIRTUAL DESTRUCTION OF TIBETAN CULTURE AND RELIGION, HAVE BEEN REPLACED BY MORE ENLIGHTENED REGULATIONS DESIGNED TO FOSTER AND ENCOURAGE THE TRADITIONAL SOCIETY, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME ENSURING THAT POLITICAL CONTROL REMAINS FULLY IN THE HANDS OF THE HANS. WHILE THE OFFICIAL DATE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL REFORM THROUGHOUT THE REST OF CHINA IS THE FAMOUS "THIRD PLENUM" OF 1978, IN TIBET, PROGRESS IS MARKED FROM THE 1980 TIBETAN INSPECTION TOUR OF PARTY SECRETARY HU YAOBANG AND VICE PREMIER WAN LI. THE MORE LIBERAL POLICIES LAID DOWN THEN HAVE BEEN AMPLIFIED AND REINVIGORATED BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY SECRETARIAT'S "FORUM ON WORK IN TIBET" OF FEBRUARY 1984. THE DIRECTIVES COMING OUT OF THAT MEETING WERE SUMMARIZED IN CENTRAL COMMITTEE DOCUMENT NUMBER 6, THE UNOFFICIAL CHARTER UNDER WHICH TIBET IS NOW GOVERNED. ALTHOUGH THE DOCUMENT HAS NOT BEEN PUBLISHED, EMBOFFS IN TIBET IN EARLY SEPTEMBER HEARD ENOUGH OF ITS CONTENT TO GIVE AN IDEA OF ITS EMPHASES. ONE WATCHWORD IS THE "REAPPRAISAL" OF TIBET IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RESULTS

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OF THE PARTY SECRETARIAT FORUM. CADRES SHOULD RESPECT AND ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONALITIES IN TIBET AND THEIR CULTURE. EVERY HAN CADRE UNDER THE AGE OF 50 SHOULD BE ENGAGED IN THE STUDY OF THE TIBETAN LANGUAGE. (NOTE: IN EIGHT DAYS IN LHASA, EMBOFFS FOUND NO WORKING LEVEL HAN OFFICIALS FLUENT IN TIBETAN, EVEN THOSE WHO HAD BEEN THERE 25-PLUS YEARS.) FREEDOM OF RELIGION SHOULD BE PROTECTED AND "CARRIED FORWARD"  
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IN TIBET. EMPHASIS IN TIBET, AS IN THE REST OF THE COUNTRY, SHOULD BE ON ECONOMIC CONSTRUCTION. "FLEXIBLE" POLICIES SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED TO ENABLE THE PEOPLE OF TIBET TO GET RICH. EMPHASIS SHOULD ALSO BE PUT ON UNITED FRONT WORK, ALLOWING "PATRIOTIC PERSONAGES" (I.E., INFLUENTIAL NON-PARTY TIBETANS, MEMBERS OF THE DALAI LAMA'S FORMER GOVERNMENT, ETC.) TO TAKE POSITIONS OF INFLUENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT (AS OPPOSED TO POWERLESS POSITIONS THEY OFTEN HOLD). PARTY RECTIFICATION IN THE TIBET AUTONOMOUS REGION SHOULD BE MORE LENIENT THAN IN THE REST OF CHINA. PARTY MEMBERS OF ZANG (TIGETAN) NATIONALITY WHO HAVE COMMITTED MISTAKES (AS MEMBERS OF THE "THREE KINDS OF PEOPLE" - THE WORST OFFENDERS OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION) ARE NOT TO BE REMOVED FROM THE PARTY AS IS BEING DONE ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY, BUT SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO ADMIT THEIR MISTAKES AND REMAIN. BECAUSE ECONOMIC CONSTRUCTION IS PARAMOUNT, RECTIFICATION SHOULD BE COMPLETED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, ACCORDING TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE TIBETAN BRANCH OF THE CHINESE ACADEMY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES.

9. THIS MANDATED RESPECT FOR TIBET AND TIBETANS, AND OFFICIAL CONCERN FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT IS FAR FROM A DISINTERESTED POLICY. ALTHOUGH POLITICAL AND MILITARY CONTROL OF TIBET SEEMS SECURE AT LEAST FROM LHASA, THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES STILL REGARD THE REGION AS A SENSITIVE BORDER AREA, WHOSE ECONOMIC BACKWARDNESS IS A BLIGHT ON THEIR POLICY OF FOUR MODERNIZATIONS AND A SEVERE DRAIN ON THE STATE TREASURY. THUS THE NEW TIBETAN POLICIES SERVE SEVERAL PURPOSES. ONE IS TO ATTRACT THE SYMPATHY, RATHER THAN GRIM ACQUIESCENCE, OF THE TIBETAN PEOPLE FOR RULE FROM BEIJING. ECONOMIC LIBERALIZATION

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 05 BEIJING 17388

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR  
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(SUBJECT OF SEPTTEL) HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANT FOR A WIDE RANGE OF TIBETANS, WHOM A NEPALI RESIDENT RECALLS WERE "IN RAGS" FIVE YEARS AGO IN LHASA. RELIGIOUS REFORM HAS RESULTED IN THE REOPENING FOR WORSHIP OF 75 MONASTERIES (AND THE ONGOING REPAIR OF 125 MORE), WHERE THERE WERE AN ESTIMATED 2700 BEFORE, BY THE COUNT OF A BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL. THE GOVERNMENT HAS FUNDED THOSE REPAIRS, AS WELL AS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW BUDDHIST INSTITUTE, WHICH IS NOW TRAINING ONE HUNDRED  
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MONKS. THE CONCENTRATION ON UNITED FRONT UORK HAS MEANT THE REHABILITATION OF MANY MEMBERS OF FORMER TIBETAN ARISTOCRATIC FAMILIES, WHOSE PROPERTY IS BEING RESTORED AND WHO ARE BEING GIVEN MOSTLY-POWERLESS POSITIONS IN THE TIBET GOVERNMENT. FOR INSTANCE, LHALU TSEWANG DORJE, A FORMER MEMBER OF THE DALAI LAMA'S CABINET AND GOVERNOR OF CHAMDO PROVINCE, SPENT 20 YEARS IN JAIL BUT HAS NOW BEEN MADE A VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE TIBET PEOPLE'S POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE. A REBEL WHO FLED WITH THE DALAI LAMA, A LEQIUNZE, HAS RECENTLY RETURNED FROM ABROAD

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AND HAS BEEN NAMED A MEMBER OF THE CPPCC. MANY TIBETAN REFUGEES ARE REPORTEDLY RETURNING FROM INDIA, NEPAL, THE U.S., AND AUSTRALIA, EITHER TO VISIT RELATIVES OR TO SETTLE DOWN. SINCE 1979, TWO THOUSAND HAVE COME BACK TO VISIT AND 350 HAVE STAYED, ACCORDING TO THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY'S UNITED FRONT WORK DEPARTMENT IN LHASA, CHARGED WITH RECEIVING AND ASSISTING THEM.

10. ANOTHER ASPECT OF CHINESE POLICY IN TIBET IS THE INCREASING USE OF TIBETANS TO STAFF GOVERNMENT AND PARTY POSTS. UNLIKE THE NEWLY-RECRUITED "PATRIOTIC PERSONAGES, THERE ARE TIBETAN CADRES WITH SIGNIFICANT POWER. HOWEVER THEY DO NOT COME FROM THE TRADITIONAL POWER STRUCTURE OF TIBET. RATHER, MOST OF THEM HAVE COME FROM TIBETAN NATIONALITY AREAS IN NEIGHBORING PROVINCES, WHICH HAVE LONG BEEN RULED BY HANS. THUS, THEY HAVE GROWN UP UNDER CHINESE AUTHORITY AND ARE BOTH BI-LINGUAL AND BI-CULTURAL THESE SINIFIED TIBETANS PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN TIBET TODAY. THE CHAIRMAN, OR HEAD OF GOVERNMENT, OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGION, DUOJIE CAIDAN, IS A QINGHAI TIBETAN, WITH NO TIES TO THE TRADITIONAL POWER STRUCTURE OF TIBET OR A SIGNIFICANT POPULAR FOLLOWING. IN THE PARTY, CONFIDENTIAL

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ALTHOUGH FIRST SECRETARY YIN FATANG IS HAN, FOUR OF THE OTHER SECRETARIES ARE TIBETAN AND SEVERAL OF THESE ARE SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL PLAYERS. YANGLING DUOJIE, FOR INSTANCE, HAILS FROM SICHUAN, WHERE HE WORKED FOR ZHAO ZIYANG. HE IS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE CCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE, AND ACCORDING TO THE NEPALI CONSUL GENERAL IN LHASA, HE HAS HAD SOME SERIOUS DISAGREEMENTS WITH FIRST SECRETARY YIN FATANG THAT HAD TO BE RESOLVED IN BEIJING. THUS, WHEN BEIJING BOASTS OF STAFFING ITS GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE WITH TIBETANS, THE REFERENCE IS USUALLY TO TIBETANS BROUGHT IN FROM SICHUAN, QINGHAI, GANSU, AND YUNNAN TO BRIDGE THE LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL GAP BETWEEN THE HANS AND TIBETANS.

11. IN ADDITION TO THESE "OUTSIDER" TIBETANS, CHINA IS RAPIDLY TRAINING WHAT IT CALLS "NATIONALITY INTELLECTUALS," WHO ARE BEGINNING TO PLAY A ROLE IN GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION. THESE ARE TIBETANS WHO ARE EDUCATED IN LHASA IN THE CHINESE LANGUAGE AND ARE THEN SENT TO THE CENTRAL NATIONALITIES INSTITUTE IN BEIJING AND OTHER INSTITUTES AND UNIVERSITIES THROUGHOUT CHINA FOR FURTHER EDUCATION. UPON THEIR GRADUATION, THEY ARE ASSIGNED TO TIBET IN GOVERNMENTAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE

POSTS. SOME 2000 TIBETANS ARE ENROLLED THIS YEAR IN UNIVERSITY AND SECONDARY TECHNICAL SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT CHINA (INCLUDING TIBET) ACCORDING TO EDUCATIONAL OFFICIAL IN LHASA. WITH THE OPENING NEXT YEAR OF TIBET UNIVERSITY THE NUMBER SHOULD BE INCREASED. THIS CLASS OF EDUCATED AND PRESUMABLY PRO-HAN YOUTH IS EXPECTED TO BE THE ADMINISTRATIVE ELITE OF THE FUTURE IN TIBET, PERHAPS ALLOWING A GRADUAL DECREASE IN THE 100,000 HAN CHINESE

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(APART FROM SOLDIERS) CURRENTLY ASSIGNED TO TIBET FOR PERIODS RANGING FROM TWO YEARS TO LIFE.

12. THIS SINIFIED ELITE IS ONLY A SMALL PROPORTION OF TIBET'S 1.9 MILLION POPULATION. THE GREAT MAJORITY WILL CONTINUE TO LEAD THEIR TRADITIONAL LIFE, SPEAKING ONLY TIBETAN, AND MAINTAINING THEIR OWN CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS BELIEFS. PRESENT CHINESE POLICY IS TO ALLOW THESE PEOPLE TO DO JUST THAT. WITH TRADITION, OF COURSE, COME THE

TRADITIONAL LEADERS, THE DALAI AND PANCHEN LAMAS, STILL WIDELY REVERED THROUGHOUT TIBET. PHOTOGRAPHS OF BOTH OF THEM ARE SOLD FREELY IN LHASA. THE PANCHEN LAMA, A PLIANT PATRIOTIC PERSONAGE LIVING IN BEIJING, RETURNED HOME BRIEFLY IN 1982 TO SCENES OF RIOTOUS ENTHUSIASM AND REVERENCE. SIGNIFICANTLY, HE MADE PUBLIC PILGRIMAGES TO THE DALAI LAMA'S PALACES AND CALLED FOR HIS RETURN. ALTHOUGH TIBET PARTY SECRETARY YIN FATANG HAS PUBLICLY CALLED THE DALAI LAMA A TRAITOR, IN THE SAME BREATH HE WELCOMES HIM BACK "IF HE IS WILLING TO ADMIT HIS MISTAKES." RECENT REMARKS BY HU YAOBANG (BEIJING 16653) INDICATE THAT CHINESE AUTHORITIES HAVE THE SAME ROLE IN MIND FOR THE DALAI LAMA AS THE PANCHEN PLAYS -- A PRESTIGIOUS TITLE AND A HOME IN BEIJING. CHINA WOULD TRULY WELCOME THE DALAI LAMA'S RETURN, AS A FINAL LEGITIMIZATION OF ITS CONTROL OF TIBET; OFFICIALS DESCRIBE THE ECONOMIC AND RELIGIOUS LIBERALIZATION POLICIES AS IN PART AN ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE DALAI LAMA TO COME HOME AND SEE FOR HIMSELF WHAT THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES HAVE DONE FOR TIBET. BUT, EVEN THOUGH A SENIOR DELEGATION FROM THE DALAI LAMA'S ENTOURAGE IS SCHEDULED TO BE RECEIVED HERE IN BEIJING, LHASA OFFICIALS ARE PRIVATELY PESSIMISTIC THAT HE WILL MAKE HIS TRIP HOME IN 1985. THEY ARE ALSO CAREFUL TO EXPRESS STUDIED UNCONCERN ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR SUCH A VISIT. A PARTY OFFICIAL SAID FLATLY THAT THE DALAI LAMA, ALTHOUGH A SIGNIFICANT RELIGIOUS LEADER, IS BASICALLY NOT NECESSARY TO THE FUTURE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF TIBET.

13. ANOTHER CONCERN OF THE AUTHORITIES IS LOCAL CRIME AND THE IMPACT ON TIBET'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE OF CRIMINAL ROUNDUPS. THE FLURRY RESULTING FROM LAST FALL'S EXECUTIONS OF WHAT THE CHINESE AND OTHERS INSISTED WERE COMMON

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CRIMINALS (83 BEIJING 16579) HAS SENSITIZED TIBETAN AUTHORITIES TO THE INTERNATIONAL SIDE-EFFECTS OF THEIR ACTIONS. BUT ACCORDING TO THE NEPALESE CONSUL GENERAL IN LHASA, CRIME IS ONCE AGAIN ON THE INCREASE, PARTICULARLY AS PILGRIMS FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE AND OTHER PROVINCES FLOCK INTO THE CITY. ACCORDING TO BAZAAR RUMORS PICKED UP BY THE TIBETAN-SPEAKING CONSUL GENERAL, ANOTHER ROUNDUP MAY BE IN THE WORKS. EXECUTIONS HAVE NOT BEEN DROPPED AS A CRIMINAL PENALTY; THERE WAS A DEATH PENALTY CARRIED

OUT ON A CONVICTED MURDERER IN LHASA ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO. THE CONSUL GENERAL BELIEVES THAT IF THERE ARE FURTHER EXECUTIONS, THEY WILL BE ON CRIMINAL, NOT POLITICAL GROUNDS. TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ETHNIC FACTORS, THE TIBETAN GOVERNMENT HAS JUST PASSED NEW CRIMINAL REGULATIONS REQUIRING THE USE OF THE TIBETAN LANGUAGE IN INVESTIGATIONS AND TRIALS AND REQUIRING AT LEAST ONE MEMBER OF A DEFENDANT'S OWN NATIONALITY TO BE INVOLVED IN JUDGING HIM.

14. A FURTHER GOAL OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT IS TO INTEGRATE TIBET MORE FULLY WITH CHINA, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME OPENING UP THE REGION TO TRADE AND OTHER RELATIONSHIPS WITH NEPAL AND SOME OTHER NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. ROAD CONSTRUCTION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT, AND THE EXCHANGE OF TRADE AND CULTURAL DELEGATIONS WITH NEPAL ARE STEPS IN THIS DIRECTION. BORDER TRADE IS BEING ENCOURAGED. THE NEPALESE CONSULATE GENERAL ISSUED 800 VISAS LAST YEAR TO TIBETANS TO TRAVEL TO NEPAL. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TIBET AUTONOMOUS REGION, DUOJIE CAIDAN, HAS CALLED FOR OVERSEAS TIBETANS, CHINESE, AND FOREIGNERS TO SET UP BUSINESSES AND FARMS IN TIBET. INDIA, HOWEVER, SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN CONSPICUOUSLY LEFT OUT OF TIBET'S REGIONAL OUTREACH SO

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ACTION EAP-00

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-00 SS-00 CIAE-00  
EB-08 DODE-00 H-01 IO-15 NEA-06 NSCE-00 NSAE-00  
HA-08 L-03 PM-10 PA-01 OMB-01 USIE-00 SP-02  
SNP-01 PRS-01 /068 W

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P 180330Z SEP 84  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7476  
INFO AMEMBASSY DHAKA  
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AIT TAIPEI  
AMEMBASSY BERN  
AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU POUCH  
AMCONSUL SHANGHAI POUCH  
AMCONSUL SHENYANG POUCH

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: TIBET: RELAXATION AND LIBERALIZATION

FAR, PENDING BETTER SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS.

15. CONCLUSION. TIBET IS READY FOR SOCIAL STABILITY AFTER TUMULTUOUS YEARS OF THE 60'S AND 70'S. MANY LIVES WERE LOST AND MUCH OF TIBET'S CULTURAL HERITAGE WAS DESTROYED. RESENTMENT - AND PROBABLY HATRED - OF THE HANS IS STRONG. (A LAMA WHO HAD SPENT 22 YEARS IN PRISON TOLD OUR HAN GUIDE "YOU KILLED MANY OF US.") BY ACTIVELY REVERSING THEIR DISASTROUS POLICIES, ENCOURAGING TIBETAN LANGUAGE, CONFIDENTIAL

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CULTURE, AND RELIGION, AND PROMOTING MORE RAPID ECONOMIC GROWTH, THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES HOPE TO MAKE THEIR RULE MORE PALATABLE. THE TIBETANS APPARENTLY WELCOMED THE NEW POLICIES; THEIR DOUBTS CONCERN WHETHER OR NOT THE POLICIES WILL LAST AND WILL BE FULLY IMPLEMENTED. THEY ARE RECONCILED TO THE FACT THAT THEIR POLITICAL FUTURE NOW LIES WITH BEIJING, BUT THE LAST DECADES HAVE DEMONSTRATED THAT THEY WILL NOT EASILY GIVE UP THEIR TRADITIONAL WAY OF LIFE, THEIR UNIQUE RELIGION, AND THEIR REVERENCE FOR THEIR RELIGIOUS LEADERS, UP TO AND INCLUDING THE DALAI LAMA.  
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