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PAGE 01 HONG K 15662 090826Z
ACTION SS-25

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R 070001Z SEP 79
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3665
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
NSC WASHDC
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL ZURICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 15662

EXDIS **DECAPIONED**

NSC FOR MICHEL OKSENBERG, OLD EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING

E.O. 12065: RDS-4 9/6/99 (SHOESMITH, THOMAS P.) OR-M
TAGS: PEPR, SREF, CH
SUBJECT: (C) DALAI LAMA'S VISIT TO THE U.S.

REF: STATE 221981

1. (C- ENTIRE TEXT).
(#)

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Lahiguera, Senior Reviewer

IN INDIA HAS TOLD US THAT ON AUGUST 30 "A
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PAGE 02 HONG K 15662 090826Z

PRC OFFICIAL IN HONG KONG WHO HAS CONNECTIONS IN RELIGIOUS
CIRCLES" (UNIDENTIFIED EXCEPT AS NOT WITH NCNA) INFORMED HIM
THAT BEIJING WAS INTERESTED IN ENCOURAGING A MEETING IN NEW YORK
BETWEEN THE DALAI LAMA AND THE CHINESE DELEGATION TO THE WORLD
CONFERENCE ON RELIGION AND PEACE IN PRINCETON, NEW
JERSEY [REDACTED] -- WHO WAS UNAWARE THAT
BEIJING HAD IN FACT PROTESTED THE COINCIDENCE OF THE
TWO GROUPS BEING IN THE U.S. AT THE SAME TIME (REFTEL) --
INFORMED GALO THUNDOP, A BROTHER OF THE DALAI LAMA WHO
HANDLES CONTACT WITH CHINESE OFFICIALS IN HONG KONG,

B6

OF THE REQUEST TO ARRANGE A MEETING.

3. THUNDOP IMMEDIATELY CALLED THE HEAD OF THE "OFFICE OF TIBET" IN NEW YORK, WHO TOLD HIM THAT BY AUGUST 30 THE CHINESE DELEGATION ALREADY HAD CALLED THE OFFICE THREE TIMES TO REQUEST A MEETING WITH THE DALAI LAMA, AND THE REQUESTS HAD BEEN POLITELY DECLINED. THUNDOP ADVISED THE HEAD OF THE NEW YORK OFFICE THAT THESE REFUSALS WERE FOOLISH AND AFTER DISCUSSION THEY AGREED THAT IF THE DELEGATION CALLED AGAIN THE TIBETANS WOULD ACCEPT. THE TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WAS REPORTED TO THE ABOVE-MENTIONED CHINESE OFFICIAL IN HONG KONG, WHO RELAYED THE MESSAGE TO BEIJING. AS OF SEPTEMBER 5 THUNDOP HAD RECEIVED NO WORD OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.

4. THUNDOP COMMENTED THAT THE DALAI LAMA WOULD BE GLAD TO MEET WITH THE HEAD OF THE CHINESE DELEGATION, CHAO PUCHU, WHOM HE FIRST MET IN BEIJING IN 1954 AND RESPECTS AS A GENUINE BUDDHIST SCHOLAR. THUNDOP HAD A LONG TALK WITH CHAO DURING HIS SECRET TRIP TO BEIJING IN MARCH.

5. COMMENT: THE INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN THE PRC
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PAGE 03 HONG K 15662 090826Z

RELIGIOUS DELEGATION'S REQUEST FOR A MEETING WITH THE DALAI LAMA AND THE PRC WASHINGTON EMBASSY'S REQUEST THAT THE DALAI LAMA'S ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK BE DELAYED UNTIL AFTER THE DELEGATION'S VISIT IS THE THIRD CASE SO FAR IN WHICH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND THE PARTY'S UNITED FRONT WORK DEPARTMENT HAVE APPEARED TO BE WORKING AT ODDS. AT A MINIMUM, THERE APPEARS TO BE POOR COORDINATION WITHIN THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT ON TIBETAN POLICY. WE RECALL THAT SHORTLY AFTER THUNDOP'S MARCH TRIP TO BEIJING HE CALLED THE PRC AMBASSADOR IN NEW DELHI TO REQUEST A MEETING AND WAS REFUSED. WHEN HE PROTESTED THAT HE HAD JUST RETURNED FROM A LONG TALK WITH DENG XIAOPING, THE EMBASSY OFFICER RECEIVING THE CALL HUNG UP. TWO DAYS LATER THE EMBASSY APOLOGETICALLY CALLED HIM BACK AND THE AMBASSADOR MET WITH HIM. IN A SECOND CASE, THE PRC'S NEW DELHI EMBASSY REQUIRED A GROUP OF YOUNG TIBETAN REFUGEES TO REGISTER AS "OVERSEAS CHINESE" BEFORE ISSUING VISAS FOR A VISIT TO CHINA, A CONDITION WHICH THE TIBETANS REJECTED. POLITBURO MEMBER ULANHU, WHO HEADS THE UNITED FRONT WORK DEPARTMENT, PASSED WORD TO GALO THUNDOP THAT THE EMBASSY HAD ACTED INCORRECTLY AND IF THE YOUNG TIBETANS REQUESTED VISAS AGAIN THERE WOULD BE NO SUCH CONDITIONS. BUT BY THEN THE WOULD-BE TRAVELLERS FELT THEY HAD BEEN INSULTED AND THE TRIP WAS CALLED OFF.
SHOESMITH

NOTE BY OC/T: HONG KONG 15662(##)OMISSION. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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