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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

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INTELLOFAX 14

COUNTRY Tibet

DATE DISTR. 19 Nov. 1951

SUBJECT Report of Rapga Pangdatshang on Chinese Communist Occupation of Ch'angtu.

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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1. Rapga Pangdatshang, governor of Ch'angtu (Chamdo), East Tibet, made a short and very private visit to Kalimpong on [REDACTED] to advise his brother, Yangpel, to shift his center of business from Kalimpong to Ch'angtu since Tibetan wool would be diverted to China across the Sino-Tibetan border.
2. Rapga's movements in Kalimpong were extremely secret, and even some of the officials of the Tibetan Trade Mission (including Gyaluk Surkhang, a cousin of Rimshi Surkhang) did not know of the visit.
3. Rapga, in an interview, stated that he was "one of the creatures of circumstances...We want progress and prosperity for our people...We had no other alternative than to join the Greater Ch'na family...We are happy since the Chinese authorities do not interfere in Tibetans' religious beliefs and daily vocations...More openings have been made by the new Tibetan authorities for the Tibetan people to advance in economic, social and educational movements...It is a tolerably mutual understanding with the new Chinese Republic that Tibetan sovereignty will never be infringed upon. I am sure we will prosper through this new arrangement."
4. Rapga further states that the Chinese Communist army during its entry into Tibet did not harm the Ch'angtu people, although some skirmishes took place between the Tibetan frontier guards and the Chinese troops resulting in the death of 27 Chinese and 18 Tibetan soldiers. Three Tibetan-speaking Chinese soldiers, posing as caravan-men, contacted Rapga (presumably in advance of the main body of troops) and discussed the possibility of calling a cease-fire on condition that the Communist army would not infringe upon anything "dear to the Tibetan people." In the meantime, the morale of the ill-equipped Tibetans dropped and communication with Lhasa was too remote to be of help in waging war against Chinese who seemed to be extending the hand of friendship to the Tibetans. The Ch'angtu authorities, after a short discussion, called for a cease-fire.
5. The Chinese, after their entry, paid gold and silver coins in exchange for food and shelter in Ch'angtu. They advised and guided the Tibetans in

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administrative reforms which were welcomed by the people. Wireless communications and motorable roads were improved, adding to the prosperity of Ch'angtu. Twenty primary and five secondary schools, with both Chinese and Tibetan teachers, have met with tremendous response. A teachers' training institute has been established in Ch'angtu and some 100 teachers have already been produced to work in village schools. Electrical engineers, agricultural experts and town-planners from China have been loaned to Ch'angtu.

6. Ragpa's final statement was as follows: "I have not experienced that any of my rights as the governor has been infringed by the Chinese advisors, nor has any such report come from other departments. The same is the report of other provinces of Tibet and I am happy at that."

- 25X1X 7. [REDACTED] Ragpa as a man approximately 32 years old, about 5 feet tall, slim, with small Mongoloid eyes, a round, bony (sic) face, and unruly hair. Ragpa speaks English fairly well, Tibetan and Chinese fluently, and reads and writes all three fairly well.

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