

22 April 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

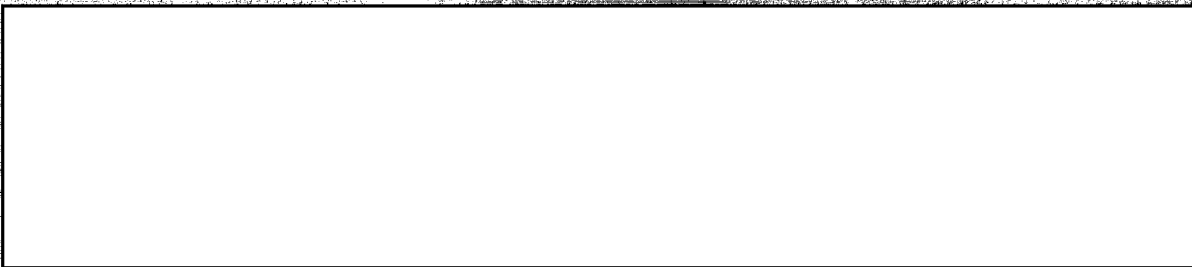
SUBJECT: Tibet Summary

1. On 10 March thousands of Tibetans, apparently suspicious of Chinese intentions, surrounded the Dalai Lama's palace in Lhasa and prevented the attending a theatrical performance to which the Chinese authorities had invited him at Military District Headquarters. During the week from 10 to 17 March the Dalai Lama and the Chinese authorities were in correspondence with one another on the situation, but their contacts accomplished nothing in the face of intensive Tibetan anti-Chinese Communist public demonstrations plus apparently menacing Chinese Communist military activity around Lhasa.

2. The rift between the Tibetans and Chinese steadily widened, with the Tibetans repudiating Chinese suzerainty over Tibet on the 15th, the Dalai Lama fleeing the city on the 17th and the Chinese Communists denouncing the existing Tibetan authorities.

3. On 28 March the Chinese Communists named the pro-Communist Panchen Lama as the "acting" spiritual and temporal leader of Tibet in place of the fleeing Dalai Lama, who the Chinese Communists claimed was abducted "under duress" by rebels.

4. On 31 March the Dalai Lama and 30 followers left Tibet and entered the northern Indian province of Assam, east of Bhutan.



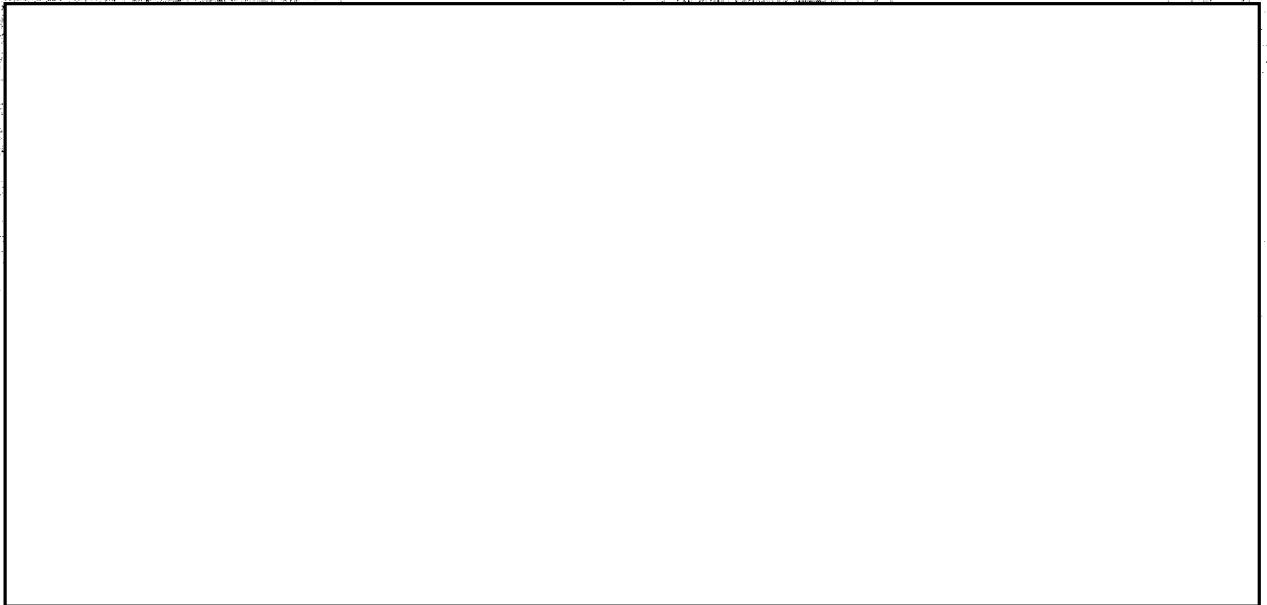
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7. The Dalai Lama is now safely in India and has announced that he is not under duress, as the Chinese Communists have claimed, but is there under his own free will with the mission of doing all he can to preserve his religion and insure the freedom of his country. However, the Chinese Communists appear to have the revolt under control in both Lhasa and southeast Tibet.

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(Signed) Desmond FitzGerald

Desmond FitzGerald  
Chief, Far East Division

FE/ [redacted]  
Dist - DCI - Orig & 1  
DDCI - (C)  
DD/P - (C)  
FE/ [redacted]  
CFE - (C)

*Handcarried by Mr. [redacted] (2/1/59)*



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