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ACTION EA-12

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-----177323 191334Z /45R 190720Z JAN 82  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9081  
INFO AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMCONSUL SHANGHAI  
AIT TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIJING 00626

E.O. 12065: RDS-4, 1/19/02 (TAYLOR, JOHN J.) OR-P  
TAGS: PINT, SEDU, SCUL, CH  
SUBJECT: MORE ON CONDITIONS IN TIBET

REF: 81 BEIJING 7523

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY: THOUSANDS OF TIBETAN YOUTH ARE ORGANIZED INTO DISSIDENT GROUPS AWAITING THE RETURN OF THE DALAI LAMA, A TIBETAN NATIVE RECENTLY TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER. THE GROUPS ARE REPORTEDLY UNARMED AND HAVE NOT ENGAGED IN OVERT ANTI-CHINESE ACTIVITIES. ALTHOUGH CONDITIONS IN TIBET HAVE IMPROVED SINCE HU YAOBANG'S VISIT IN 1980, SOME FACTORIES HAVE CLOSED DUE TO THE WITHDRAWAL OF CHINESE SKILLED PERSONNEL. CHINA'S MINORITIES INSTITUTES HAVE BEEN LITTLE MORE THAN TRAINING CAMPS FOR INTERPRETERS AND AGENTS FOR CHINESE CADRE. OUR SOURCE CHARGED THAT TIBETAN CULTURE WILL BE VIRTUALLY EXTINGUISHED WITHIN 10 YEARS,  
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DESPITE THE RECENT CHANGE IN EDUCATIONAL POLICY. END SUMMARY.

3. ACCORDING TO A TIBETAN NATIVE WHO HAS

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BEEN LIVING IN LHASA FOR THE PAST TEN MONTHS, ORGANIZED GROUPS OF YOUNG PEOPLE ARE AWAITING THE RETURN OF THE DALAI LAMA. OUR SOURCE CHARACTERIZED THE YOUTH AS UNEDUCATED AND ANTI-CHINESE. HE ESTIMATED THEIR NUMBERS IN THE THOUSANDS. HE REMARKED THAT THEY MUST HAVE LEADERS, BUT THAT THERE WERE NONE WHO WERE OF ANY PROMINENCE. HE SAID THAT, "OF COURSE," THEY WERE UNARMED, SINCE THE CHINESE CONTROLLED MUNITIONS IN TIBET. HE WAS UNAWARE OF ANY RECENT INCIDENTS BETWEEN CHINESE SOLDIERS AND TIBETANS.

4. OUR SOURCE, A MEMBER OF A PROMINENT TIBETAN FAMILY, ATTENDED BEIJING'S MINORITIES INSTITUTE FROM 1952 - 1955, AND TAUGHT AT A MINORITIES INSTITUTE IN SHAANXI PROVINCE FROM 1959 UNTIL 1980. HE SAYS THAT THE INSTITUTES WERE "A WASTE OF TIME." TIBETANS AND OTHER NATIONALITIES LEARNED CHINESE LANGUAGE AND MARXIST THEORIES. THEY ACQUIRED NO TECHNICAL SKILLS. THE INSTITUTES PURPOSE WAS SIMPLY TO TRAIN TIBETANS TO BE THE AGENTS OF THE CHINESE. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT RECENT CURRICULUM CHANGES IN SOME INSTITUTES THAT SHOW GREATER SENSITIVITY TO LOCAL CUSTOMS MAY BE AN IMPROVEMENT.

5. THE TIBETAN SAID THAT CONDITIONS IN TIBET  
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HAD ON THE WHOLE IMPROVED SINCE HU YAOBANG'S VISIT IN 1980, BUT THAT THERE WERE ALSO SOME NEGATIVE FEATURES. ALTHOUGH THERE WERE NOW MORE TIBETAN CADRE, MANY OF THE HAN CADRE WITH MANAGERICAL AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE HAVE LEFT THE AREA, WITH THE RESULT THAT SEVERAL FACTORIES NEAR LHASA HAVE CLOSED IN THE PAST YEAR, DUE TO LACK OF TIBETAN KNOW-HOW. ALTHOUGH SOME MONASTERIES HAVE REOPENED, MANY FAMILIES STILL FEAR TO SEND THEIR SONS, IN CASE THERE SHOULD BE A POLICY REVERSAL IN BEIJING. TIBETAN IS NOW THE PRIMARY LANGUAGE IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, IT IS OF LITTLE PRACTICAL VALUE, SINCE THE ONLY UNIVERSITY STILL TEACHES IN CHINESE. ON THE POSITIVE SIDE, HE SAID

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THAT THE TIBETAN HERDSMEN NOW HAVE MORE FREEDOM.

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6. OUR SOURCE SAID THAT MOST TIBETANS ARDENTLY DISLIKE THE CHINESE. NEVERTHELESS, THE INFLUENCE OF CHINESE DOMINATION WAS SO GREAT THAT WITHIN TEN YEARS, THE TIBETAN CULTURE WOULD BE VIRTUALLY EXTINGUISHED, HE THOUGHT. MANY YOUNG TIBETANS, DUE TO THEIR CHINESE STYLE EDUCATION, WERE QUITE SIMILAR TO CHINESE YOUTH. THE NEW EMPHASIS ON TIBETAN LANGUAGE IN THE SCHOOLS WOULD NOT REVERSE THE DECLINE OF TIBETAN CULTURE, ACCORDING TO HIM. CHINA PROPER IS THE ONLY OUTLET FOR EDUCATED TIBETANS, WHICH MEANS THAT THE CHINESE LANGUAGE MUST BE MASTERED. HUMMEL

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