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E.O. 12356; DECL:OADR
TAGS: CH, SHUM, PINT, SCUL, SOCI
SUBJ: CHINESE RESTATE POLICY TOWARD DALAI LAMA

REF: BEIJING 6604

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: IN THE WAKE OF THE DALAI LAMA'S VISIT TO EUROPE, DURING WHICH HE CALLED UPON OFFICIALS IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES, THE BEIJING REVIEW HAS CONFIDENTIAL

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PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE CRITICIZING SUCH MEETINGS, CALLING THE DALAI LAMA A POLITICAL AS WELL AS A RELIGIOUS FIGURE. THE ARTICLE REVEALED MAJOR ELEMENTS OF THE PROPOSALS MADE BY THE DALAI LAMA'S

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: CHARLES E LAHIGUERA
DATE/CASE ID: 24 MAR 2011 201004412

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Representatives on their visit to the PRC earlier this year, and explained the reasons for Chinese rejection of them. Meanwhile, the Panchen Lama told a Sichuan audience that religious believers should love the party, country, and socialism if they want to be good religious believers.

End summary.

3. Prompted by the recent visit of the Dalai Lama to France, Italy, and the Soviet Union, where he was received by various local government officials, the Beijing Review has published a defense of Chinese policies toward Tibet, and a criticism of the Dalai Lama. Reprinted in the Nov. 16 China Daily, the article by An Zhiguo describes the Dalai Lama as not simply a religious but a political figure. It notes that the PRC cannot agree with foreign officials receiving him, and it has so informed foreign governments which have done so.

4. The article reveals some of the details of the discussions earlier this year between the Dalai Lama's representatives and the PRC government. The account given in the article confirms in large measure a previous private version given the embassy in June (reftel). The article asserts that the Dalai Lama's confidential

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Representatives made two unacceptable demands: that the Ye Jianying 9-point program for Taiwan be applied to Tibet, and that all areas inhabited by Tibetans in Sichuan, Qinghai, Gansu, and Yunnan be incorporated into Tibet.

5. The article goes on to criticize foreign observers who assert the "independence" of Tibet. It says that these "separatists and others with ulterior motives" have exaggerated the welcome given to visiting delegations from the Dalai Lama, confusing the continuing religiosity of the Tibetan Buddhists with political motivations. Balancing out these statements of firm principle and hostile words about the Dalai Lama's alleged political
PRETENSIONS IS A REITERATION OF CHINESE FLEXIBILITY: THE DALAI LAMA AND HIS FOLLOWERS "ARE WELCOME TO RETURN TO CHINA," "APPROPRIATE POLITICAL AND PERSONAL ARRANGEMENTS" WILL BE MADE FOR THEM, AND THERE SHOULD BE NO "REHASHING" OF THE HISTORICAL ISSUES REVOLVING AROUND THE 1959 CIVIL DISTURBANCES WHEN THE PLA MARCHED IN.

6. MEANWHILE, TIBETAN BUDDHISM'S NUMBER 2 LAMA, THE PANCHEN LAMA, TOLD A SICHUAN AUDIENCE THAT RELIGIOUS BELIEVERS SHOULD "FIRST BE CITIZENS OF THE PRC LED BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY, AND NEXT BE BELIEVERS; THEY MUST FIRST LOVE THE PARTY, LOVE THE COUNTRY, AND LOVE SOCIALISM AND BECOME GOOD CITIZENS AND ONLY THEN ARE THEY GOOD RELIGIOUS BELIEVERS WHO LOVE RELIGION" (THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE CHINA DAILY, AIMED AT A FOREIGN AUDIENCE AND MORE ATTUNED TO FOREIGN SENSITIVITIES

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7. COMMENT: THE UNUSUAL DECISION TO REVEAL DETAILS OF THE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE DALAI LAMA'S DELEGATION WAS PROBABLY TRIGGERED BY PRC IRRITATION OVER THE CONFIDENTIAL

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