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CATALOGUE OF MATERIALS RELATED TO MODERN CHINA IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA, 1939-1945

Madhavi Thampi and Nirmola Sharma

Wreckage of a plane on the Hump route

Route map from Ramgarh to Burma border

Chinese troops at Ramgarh training centre

Tea Horse Road
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This work is the second product emerging from a project sponsored by the Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, to catalogue materials related to modern China in the National Archives of India. The first publication catalogued materials related to China in the Special Collections of the NAI.\(^1\) Like the earlier publication, this one too has the primary objective of bringing to public notice the wealth of material on modern China in India which has remained unutilized or at least greatly underutilized. Undoubtedly, some of the material would also be found in other collections around the world, and particularly in the India Office archives in London. However, the task of comparing the holdings in these two places is beyond the purview of this project, and in our estimation, materials can be found here that will not be duplicated elsewhere. Moreover, the catalogues are primarily intended for researchers in India working on China, and on subjects related to China. It is particularly hoped that young Indian scholars will find material here that will inspire them to delve deeper into aspects of India-China relations and produce original work.

The files catalogued here are from the proceedings of the External Affairs Department of the Government of India from the years 1939-1945, corresponding to the period of World War II.\(^2\) The National Archives has yearly indexes of the files transferred to it by different government departments.\(^3\) Files related to modern China are to be found mainly (but not exclusively) in the proceedings of the Foreign & Political Department, which was renamed the External Affairs Department in 1937, and subsequently again renamed the External Affairs Ministry in 1947. Any student or scholar who has sought to use these files for research on China or India-China relations knows that it is a tedious process to comb through these indexes year by year for the span period of one’s subject of research, looking for the relevant files which may be listed under several different headings. The tedium is compounded by the fact that a large proportion of the listed files may not be accessible for various reasons – something which is known only when someone asks to see those files. This time-consuming process and the difficulties involved have probably deterred many researchers from consulting the materials on China in the Archives.

Yet for those who have persisted and trawled through the files related to China in the Archives, the rewards are many and often unexpected. One can come across official reports, letters, intelligence briefs, news clippings, and even maps and photographs, that throw light on little known aspects of the relations between India and China. There was a time not so long ago when there was a blanket ban on access to holdings related to China from the period of the Simla

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\(^1\) Madhavi Thampi and Nirmola Sharma, *Catalogue of Materials Related to Modern China in the National Archives of India: Part One (Special Collections)*, New Delhi: ICS Occasional Paper No.3 (January 2013).

\(^2\) Of course, for China the War began earlier, with the Japanese occupation of eastern and central China in 1937, and even earlier with the Japanese invasion of Manchuria in 1931. India was officially declared a belligerent in World War II by the British Government in 1939.

\(^3\) The practice of compiling yearly indexes unfortunately was discontinued after 1954.
Convention of 1914 onwards. Thankfully, that ban has been lifted, and although access is not completely open, researchers on China face far fewer difficulties now. This relative freedom of access should be utilized by scholars.

To make the task of the researcher easier, we have, first of all, identified a little under one thousand files related to China for the seven years from 1939 to 1945. Secondly, we have ensured that each and every one of the files listed here is actually available for consultation. Thirdly, each file has been personally looked over and the gist of each file has been given, and not just the title as listed in the annual indexes. Occasionally, if there is a particularly interesting quote, or a map or photo, from a particular file, this has been noted as well. Fourthly, the list of files has been rearranged thematically, according to broad categories, to make it easier for researchers to identify those files that may be more relevant to their work. Within each category, the files are arranged chronologically according to the year. Finally, after giving the number of each file as listed in the Archives, we have given the reference numbers of other files which are related to the file in question.

We found that many files belonged to more than one category, and often had to make a rather arbitrary choice about which category a particular file should be listed under. To lessen the confusion, we have given each listing a unique number and, at the end of each category, we have given the numbers of those files that are listed in another section but that may be of interest to someone searching through this particular category. For example, a file concerned with Soviet influence in Sinkiang may be listed under “Sinkiang”, but a reference to it should be found at the end of the category on “Russia/Soviet Union”. Apart from this system of cross-referencing, we have included an index of around 750 entries to facilitate locating files of interest to a researcher.

An introductory essay on “India, China and World War II” seeks to place the material to be found in the Archives from this period within a broader context and interpretive framework. It also provides a very broad summary of the different aspects of the India-China relationship in this period as they emerge from a perusal of this set of archival materials, and highlights findings which we found to be of particular interest.

Needless to say, the references to “India” in this catalogue are to what was then British India. The “Government of India” refers to the then British colonial government of India. A word of explanation about the spelling of names is also in order. We have retained the spelling of names according to the usage of those times. This refers not only to the spelling of Indian names, like “Calcutta”, “Bombay”, “Simla”, etc, but also to the romanization of Chinese names, which followed the Wade-Giles system rather than the now widely used pinyin system. We know that in a work of this scope, many errors would still remain, and we would be happy if these are brought to our notice.

It remains only to thank those persons and organisations who have contributed greatly to this project. We would first of all like to express our deep gratitude to the Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, for its generous support for the project, and its patience in awaiting this final
product. The Director, Prof Alka Acharya, and other members of the Institute showed consistent enthusiasm for the project, which helped us to persevere at times when we felt swamped by the enormity of the task we had set ourselves. We would also like to express our appreciation to the National Archives of India, New Delhi, and its staff who assisted us in various ways over the many months of work we carried out there. Mrs Jaya Ravindran was particularly helpful and encouraging. A very major contribution to this project was made by Shilpa Sharma who worked hard and persistently as a research assistant combing through the files in the Archives. Sayantani also helped us enthusiastically with the research in the last stages.

Madhavi Thampi
Nirmola Sharma
April 2015
There is a strong case to be made for the argument that the modern era of relations between India and China, began during World War II. The objections that can be raised against this argument are of course obvious: India was not yet independent, and China itself was preoccupied with an all-consuming war and its territory was divided amongst contending political forces. A formalist view would be much happier dating the commencement of modern relations between the two countries to the establishment of diplomatic ties between the Republic of India and the People’s Republic of China.

Nevertheless, there are compelling reasons why we should regard the World War II years as the crucible of modern India-China relations.

If the concept of ‘uneasy neighbours’ has been and continues to be a characteristic feature of Sino-Indian relations in contemporary times, we can trace its origins to World War II. Prior to the War, when China’s economic and political centre of gravity lay in the eastern and coastal areas of the country, India was for it still a distant country, under colonial rule and of little strategic significance. This situation changed dramatically during the War, particularly after the headquarters of the Nationalist Government was compelled to move deep into the western regions of China on account of the Japanese occupation of the eastern and central regions of the country. The Nationalist Government’s subsequent attempts to consolidate its hold over the western, northwestern and southwestern peripheries of China inevitably brought it face to face with India, particularly in Sinkiang and Tibet. The cutting off of China’s supply and communication lines through Burma by the Japanese invasion of that country in 1942 also heightened the vital importance of the direct overland commercial and transportation routes from India, once of marginal economic or strategic importance.

The significance of China’s “looking west” for its ties with India was not lost on discerning observers. Jawaharlal Nehru noticed this as early as October 1940 and gave expression to it with his customary eloquence: “China for the first time for some generations,” he wrote, “began to look towards her western and southwestern neighbours. Her outlook which had been governed so long by the treaty ports was changed by circumstances, and the hand of destiny began to link together again the fate of India and China.” Sir Olaf Caroe, as Foreign Secretary of the Government of India, was to put it much more prosaically, noting that “China during the war has

become far more India-conscious than she ever has been before.”  

While this new phenomenon of “rubbing shoulders” with each other contributed to a degree of closeness and inter-dependence between India and China, not seen perhaps since the days of the ancient Buddhist connections, it also generated a new friction. Border and boundary issues, spies and smugglers, and jostling for influence over smaller, intervening states, turned the India-China land interface into a zone of tension and watchfulness, if not yet open conflict.

The British Government of India found itself locked into an ambivalent relationship with China during the War. In the beginning of this period, it was the European War that preoccupied Britain, and its words of sympathy for China did not at this stage translate into significant material support. Indeed, Britain’s decision to bow to the Japanese demand to close the Burma Road for some months in 1940 was a hard blow to Nationalist China’s war effort. However, Britain’s obligations to directly aid China sharply increased with the start of the Pacific War and with the Japanese rampage through South East Asia, which threatened and eventually swallowed up Britain’s outposts in the region – Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaya and Burma. China, which had been at the receiving end of British aggression and humiliation for a whole century, now became Britain’s ally, whose continued resistance to Japan became vital to the interests of the British empire. State-to-state cooperation and coordination across a number of fronts – military, technical, economic, political and diplomatic, and even in spheres such as publicity and propaganda, health and education – became the new norm. Much of this was handled by the Government of India rather than by London due to India’s relative proximity to China.

At the same time, Nationalist China’s systematic efforts during the War to strengthen its presence on its western and southwestern peripheries generated considerable uneasiness on the part of the Government of India. Always wary of the Russian and later Japanese presence in the regions north of the mountainous frontiers of India, the Government of India now began to see China too as a threat to its interests, particularly in Tibet with which Britain had established a unique relationship, and in the other Himalayan states. The Nationalist Government’s decisive wresting of control over Sinkiang from the warlord Sheng Shih-ts’ai in 1944 was also watched with concern by the Government of India although, unlike the Chinese moves to reestablish its influence in Tibet, it was cautiously welcomed as a blow to Soviet influence over that region.

This ambivalence towards China on the part of the Government of India – cooperation mixed with suspicion – was a legacy of the War years, and was a new element in India-China relations which has persisted through subsequent decades. The Republic of India and the People’s Republic of China did not begin their relationship with each other on a clean state. Despite the end of colonial rule in India and the revolution in China, the new states that were established did not make a decisive break with the past in their relations with each other. In a perceptive article, Raja Mohan has remarked on “the general unwillingness of India to acknowledge the importance of the Raj legacy in foreign policy”, and on “the myth that Indian foreign policy was divined by
Jawaharlal Nehru when he took charge of the nation”. He further posits that while an “idealistic” foreign policy may have been pursued in a wider international arena by Nehru, “he did not for a moment hesitate in accepting the Raj burden in the neighbourhood.” Before World War II, China was not the major threat to British India’s carefully constructed security system of buffer states and protectorates along its northern frontier. It was Russia or the Soviet Union that had been viewed as the main threat. However, from the time of the War, China’s activist policy on its vast land frontier with India made it the power to contend with in India’s neighbourhood.

It was also during World War II that we witness significant developments in the political (as opposed to state-to-state) ties between India and China. On the one hand, the attempts to achieve political coordination and cooperation between the dominant political forces in India and China – the Indian National Congress and the Kuomintang – reached a new level. On the other hand we also see politics within India and China becoming a complicating factor in India-China relations.

Political contacts between Indians and Chinese, both in China and at other venues around the world, developed from around the second decade of the twentieth century. The rising tempo of the nationalist and anti-imperialist movements in both countries provided a fertile soil for these contacts. At various times, Chinese organisations and individuals, including prominent politicians and military strongmen, offered help and protection to exiled Indian political activists and groups, who found the fluid political conditions in China after the 1911 revolution a congenial environment for their anti-British activities. These involved, in some instances, plans to overthrow British rule in India by force of arms and in alliance with other states. However, although the colonial Government in India kept a close watch on these contacts, and persecuted those Indian nationalists in China whom they could lay hands on, these early political interactions between Indians and Chinese could not be said to have significantly affected political developments in India.

A different strain of political interaction commenced with the establishment of contacts between the Indian National Congress and the Kuomintang, both political organisations with a mass following in their countries, from the late 1920s. Following an anti-imperialist meeting held in Brussels in 1927, which was attended by Nehru and representatives of the Kuomintang among others, there began a phase of lending moral (even if largely verbal) support to each other’s struggles, based in their own countries. Plans were made for closer coordination between the anti-imperialist movements in both countries, including exchange of information and of visits by personalities and organisations affiliated to these two parties. These plans could not amount to much because the Government of India put a spoke in the wheel wherever it could, as when it repeatedly prevented the visit to India of Soong Ching-ling, the widow of Sun Yat-sen. Nevertheless, the 1930s saw increasing public interest in and awareness of political developments in the other country in both India and China. In China, journals like Eastern Miscellany (Dongfang zazhi), as well as New Asia (Xinyaxiya) which was founded by the

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prominent KMT leader Tai Chi-t’ao, regularly carried news and analysis of the Indian national movement led by Gandhi and the Indian National Congress.\(^4\) In India, the Japanese incursions into China in the 1930s similarly evoked a strong response from the INC and the Indian press. Nehru criticized the Japanese invasion of Manchuria as early as 1932, and noted with satisfaction the formation of the united front in China against Japan in 1937.\(^5\) The full-fledged Japanese invasion of China in 1937 galvanized the Congress into passing resolutions on more than one occasion condemning Japan and expressing support for China’s struggle. It also prompted the INC to undertake more concrete steps to show its support, including organizing “China Days” in India and, most famously, sending the Indian Medical Mission to China in 1938.

Nevertheless, throughout most of the 1930s, the flavor of the political interaction between India and China remained that of two oppressed nations locked in uneven contests with the imperialist powers, sympathizing with each other but charting their paths of struggle in their own ways. There was little attempt, or need, to take their solidarity to the level of common strategizing or practical political coordination. This was reinforced by the viewpoint that continued to see India-China unity primarily in spiritual or civilizational terms. Rabindranath Tagore, of course, was the most powerful force behind such a view. It is significant that the major concrete examples of cooperation between Indians and Chinese in this period – even those involving high-level political figures like Chiang Kai-shek and his wife, and Gandhi and Nehru – were cultural or humanitarian in nature, such as the formation of the Sino-Indian Cultural Society in 1933, the opening of Cheena Bhavan (the centre for Chinese studies) in Tagore’s university Visva Bharati in 1937, and the dispatch of the Indian Medical Mission. In fact Tagore, in his speech on the opening of Cheena Bhavan, emphasised that the strength of Sino-Indian relations lay precisely in their non-state character. He pointed out that Indians, lacking political, military or commercial power, could do no injury to China, and could offer nothing but their unadulterated friendship and brotherhood to the Chinese people.\(^6\)

Towards the end of the decade, however, developments in India, China and the world as a whole worked to subtly transform the nature of Sino-Indian interaction. The holding of provincial elections in India in 1937 and the coming to power of Congress-led provincial governments in different parts of India, gave an enhanced status to the Congress and its leaders, and also brought the prospects of independence that much closer. The outbreak of the war in Europe, meanwhile, helped to position China’s hitherto lonely struggle against Japanese aggression within a wider global struggle, and as such, underscored its importance on a world scale. For Nehru, the fate of China was of particularly great significance for the future of India. As he expressed it at that

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time, “China is one of the key countries in the world, and in the world perspective, she counts more than the small warring countries of Europe. In any event, to Asia and to us in India, she and her future are of prime importance.” His decision to visit China at a critical juncture, in August-September 1939, was prompted no doubt by such sentiments. During his visit, he was treated with great respect by the Nationalist Government, and met Chiang Kai-shek and his wife several times, in addition to prominent leaders of the Kuomintang and representatives of the Chinese Communist Party at Chungking. As pointed out by Guido Samarani, Nehru had chalked out clear political objectives when he undertook his visit, including the need for a common perspective on international issues with his Chinese hosts.

However, two developments complicated the path to Sino-Indian political understanding and coordination in the ensuing period. One was that China and Britain, which was still the entrenched colonial power in India, found themselves on the same side as allies during the War. The other was Britain’s decision to declare India a belligerent in the War without consulting Indian political leaders – a development which made Nehru cut short his visit to China and rush back to India. The British Government made it clear that it would not countenance any talk of Indian independence until after the War. Nehru found this “monstrous” and “amazing”, as did many of the other prominent leaders of the INC. A program of civil disobedience was launched. Following the failure of the Cripps Mission in 1942, whose offer of self-government for India only after the War was not acceptable to the INC, an even more powerful agitation under the slogan of “Quit India” was launched, leading to massive protests all over India and the jailing of most of the top leadership of the INC. A program of civil disobedience was launched. Following the failure of the Cripps Mission in 1942, whose offer of self-government for India only after the War was not acceptable to the INC, an even more powerful agitation under the slogan of “Quit India” was launched, leading to massive protests all over India and the jailing of most of the top leadership of the INC. As pointed out earlier, the Japanese offensive in Asia in 1942 had made Indian cooperation even more vital for China’s war effort. The government of China, and also that of the United States which had by now entered the War, both believed that Indian participation in the war in the “China-Burma-India theatre” would be severely hampered by the non-cooperation of its political leadership. The visit to India by Chiang Kai-shek and his wife in February 1942 was clearly aimed at contributing to resolving the deadlock, using in particular his rapport with Nehru. It was a delicate mission, aimed both at putting pressure on the British to accede to the demand for self-government for India and at convincing the Congress leadership to participate in the war effort. However, Chiang could not convince his prickly ally Churchill, nor could he elicit much more than sympathy and the promise to keep China’s concerns in mind from the Indian political leadership. As Gandhi was to write tersely to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel after his five-hour long meeting with Chiang Kai-shek: “I would not say that I learnt anything, and there was nothing that we could teach him.” With most of the Congress top leadership thrown into jail for the rest of the duration of the War after August 1942, coordination and cooperation between India and China during the War remained for all practical purposes in the hands of the governments in the two countries. Thus, in spite of the many years of cordial relations based on pan-Asianism and common anti-imperialist goals, at the most crucial junctures

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7 Cited in Yang, Yun Yuan, p.67.
8 Samarani, p.13.
10 See ibid, p.33, for Roosevelt’s views on Britain’s handling of Indian political opinion.
11 Cited in Samarani, p.15.
in the fate of both India and China, neither could unreservedly support each other. Their interests as understood by the main political leadership in both countries diverged rather than converged, and ironically it was Britain, which had been the common foe of both Indian and Chinese nationalists, that was now the ally of China.

Nowhere was this divergence more clear than in the case of the Indian National Army led by Subhas Chandra Bose, and its role in the War. As part of the leadership of the INC at the time, Bose had explicitly stated his sympathy and support for China in its struggle against the Japanese invaders, and had even played a key role in sending the Indian Medical Mission to China. However, as the War unfolded and British power in the rest of Asia collapsed under the Japanese onslaught, Bose, like many other Indian nationalists, saw this as the long-awaited ‘golden opportunity’ to strike the final blow for India’s freedom. His taking over leadership of the INA in East Asia, following his escape from prison in India and flight abroad, followed directly from this thinking, as did the controversial alliance with Japan which had helped to initially organize the INA from the ranks of Indian POWs in Singapore and Malaya. The INA and its political wing, the Indian Independence League, garnered considerable support among the Indian population in China at that time, amongst whom a high proportion belonged to the police and armed forces. Although the INA did not succeed in its immediate aim of overthrowing British rule in India by military force, and did not damage China’s war effort, the whole episode threw into stark relief the divergences between the political aims of Indians and Chinese during the War. Even though the INA was not the main political trend in the Indian national movement, its leaders and fighters were nevertheless considered popular heroes in India. In China, on the other hand, they were reviled as collaborators, and INA activists and supporters in China were subject to particularly harsh treatment at the end of the War.

Thus, although the dominant narrative on Sino-Indian relations during World War II has tended to highlight the friendship between Chiang Kai-shek and Nehru and downplay the real divergences that emerged, a dispassionate analysis would show that genuine feelings of sympathy and even admiration for the other country were overshadowed by the hard geopolitical realities that unfolded during the War. As the leaders of India and China were to find out in subsequent years, trying to forge friendship between their two countries while pursuing hard-nosed policies based on their own perceived national interests, would prove to be an exceedingly complex affair. At the same time, other strands of interaction between India and China, including state-to-state cooperation on many fronts, trade and economic ties, as well as the movement of people between the two countries, all developed considerably during the War.

A view from the Archives

Materials related to China and India-China relations in this period are scattered across a number of collections in the National Archives of India. Apart from the proceedings of the External

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Affairs Department, relevant files can be found in the Foreign Miscellaneous Records, the Home Department files, the Special Collections section, the Military Department collection and the Indian Overseas Department. For instance, very valuable materials related to the Indian National Army and the Indian Independence League in China are to be found among the Special Collections in the National Archives, and very little on this subject is to be found in the proceedings of the External Affairs Department. If one was to embark on a comprehensive study of this period, one would certainly have to look into all these collections.

Nevertheless, the slightly under one thousand files catalogued here from the proceedings of the External Affairs Department contain a wealth of information that can be usefully mined to flesh out our understanding of India, China and their mutual relations during the War. Below we attempt to draw attention to some of the more interesting findings contained in these files, which we have grouped according to different themes. Needless to say, the material in these files reflect essentially the concerns of the British colonial government in India at that time concerning China, and do not cover all aspects of India’s connections with China in that period, including many discussed in the first part of this essay.

The General Situation in China and China’s International Relations

Regular reports and briefings from the British Embassy in Chungking cover various aspects of the situation in China following the Japanese invasion. These are supplemented by censorship interceptions of letters, as well as reports compiled by the China Information Committee and the Chinese Intelligence Wing in Calcutta.

Conditions in Chungking are described as “abnormal” and “difficult in the extreme”, which could be “fully appreciated only by those who have had actual experience of living there.” [16] Political developments in China, including the negotiations between the Nationalist Government and the Communists, are reported and analysed. Of particular interest is the attention paid to the Chinese leadership’s stand on the nationality question in their country. The Government of India took special note of the claim that all the nationalities in China, including Tibetans, Mongols, etc. belonged to a single race, as embodied in the proclamation of the Executive Yuan, as well as in Chiang Kai-shek’s work *China’s Destiny* and other Chinese publications. This was criticized as a “falsification of history.” [41-43]

Jawaharlal Nehru’s visit to China and Chiang Kai-shek’s visit to India are both reported. The details of Chiang’s itinerary and his delegation can be found. The April 1942 monthly report of the British Embassy, Chungking, discusses extensively the impressions of Chiang Kai-shek after his visit to India. Among the files can be found reports of various reactions in China to the political situation in India. This includes the sharp criticism by the well-known Chinese writer Lin Yutang of British policy in India. An article in the *Sinkiang Gazette* opposing the British in India and supporting the Congress of Nehru and Gandhi is also reported by the British Consul-General in Kashgar. On the other hand the translation of a letter to Gandhi from a Chinese criticizing him for not cooperating with the war effort can also be found. Among other things it admonishes Gandhi saying, “If you adhere to your present idea of leading India to launch bloody
revolution to resist Great Britain, India will come to ruin, the Axis will rejoice and friendly nations will suffer.” [18]

A significant development during the War was China’s efforts to strengthen its international position. It was in this period that China succeeded in renegotiating in its own favour treaties with the major Western powers. Discussion on the Anglo-Chinese Treaty of 1943, which among other things saw the end of the humiliating phenomenon of extraterritoriality, and on how it would affect India, is found in these files. The Chungking government also sought to extend its diplomatic ties with a number of other countries. Wanting to consolidate their hold over the westernmost province of Sinkiang, and to find new supply routes to western China, the Nationalist Government paid special interest to opening up their relations with the countries of West Asia. Of special interest in the archives are the documents related to China’s diplomatic push in this region, including the efforts to establish legations in Afghanistan, Iran and Iraq, and the British reaction to this. The holdings include a file on the high-powered Chinese Military Mission to the Middle East in 1943. [70]

Reports on various aspects of the Japanese occupation of China and in particular the damage done by Japanese bombing raids are to be found. There is a report of an interview with the Japanese Consul-General at Calcutta in 1939, in which he claimed that the aim of Japan in China was only “cooperation” and absolutely “no territorial ambition”. [83] Questions were raised in the Legislative Assembly in India on the extent of Indian casualties during the Japanese bombing of the International Settlement in Shanghai. Efforts were also made by Indians to raise funds for China and its war of resistance. One of the files shows that the Government of India was keeping a close watch on activities of the Japanese in Tibet and Nepal. [96]

**Wartime supplies and coordination**

India played a pivotal role in the coordination of war efforts on the part of Britain, the United States and China. Particularly after the commencement of the Pacific War, a huge amount of military supplies was despatched to China which had necessarily to pass through India. The most important mode of transportation was the famous airlift operations from eastern India over the “Hump” carried out by the China National Aviation Corporation (CNAC) and American volunteer pilots, but the files show that the Chinese Air Force was also interested in another route, from Karachi to Yarkand in Sinkiang, via Risalpur and Chitral, as well as via Srinagar and Gilgit, and made enquiries about the suitability of these routes and the conditions of the airfields in these places. [112] After the closure of the Burma Road in mid-1942 on account of the Japanese invasion of that country, alternative overland routes were also explored. The Americans, who provided the bulk of the supplies to China through the lend-lease arrangements, seem to have considered a route through Afghanistan into Russian Turkestan. However, it was apparent that the British were not keen on this, fearing that it would harm their own interests in the region. [114] An interesting insight that comes through the material in the archives is that, despite their close alliance, the British were touchy about American interference in Indian affairs and even about the Americans getting the upper hand in relations with China. [164, 123, 109]
The alliance with China was even more problematic, with a letter from the British side acknowledging that in Chungking “undoubtedly the feeling that we regard the Chinese as something considerably less than first-class allies still persists.” [116] A large number of complaints emanating from the Chinese had to do with the censorship of their mail by the authorities in India even after it had cleared censors in China. Nevertheless, despite the irritations, the war period did see a significant increase in cooperation between various agencies in China and India. Even apart from the main diplomatic envoys – the Chinese Commissioner in India and the Indian Agent-General in Chungking – there were many other persons on both sides involved in coordinating wartime relations. The post of China Relations Officer was set up in Calcutta by the Government of India in 1942 specifically “to coordinate the various activities of the G/I Central Departments, the Reserve Bank and the Government of Bengal in matters relating to the common war effort of India and China, and to the transportation of supplies to China, with the Chinese organisations which have been set up in Calcutta.” [111] Later, another post of China Relations Officer was created in New Delhi as well. Many Chinese agencies posted representatives in India during this period, including the CNAC, China Defence Supplies, the Chinese Board of Transport Control, the National Resources Commission, the Bank of China, China’s Ministry of Information and even the Ministry of Finance.

Publicity and propaganda in China, concerning the war effort and about the general state of affairs within India, was also a major concern for the colonial government in India during the War. There was apparently some uneasiness about the way the political situation in India was being portrayed in the Chinese press. Efforts were even made to come to an agreement with China on controlling negative press reportage in each other’s countries. The Chinese Journal of India, produced by Calcutta-based Chinese settlers in India, also came under some flak for ‘misleading’ reporting on Britain’s war effort, and a decision was taken to cut off their supplies of paper if they continued with this practice. Interestingly, the Chinese Commissioner in India was asked to use his influence to restrain the journal from publishing such matters. [174] The Chinese Consulate-General in Calcutta was given permission to publish a weekly called China Review to publicise China’s war effort and other matters in India.

On the front of military cooperation, one of the most striking examples during the War was the existence of a Chinese Army in India (CAI), stationed at a former prisoner of war camp in Ramgarh in present-day Jharkhand. The original 9000 troops who formed the nucleus of the CAI were Chinese soldiers in Burma who had been forced to retreat into India when the Japanese invaded that country, between June and September 1942. It was decided to reconstitute these soldiers, after providing them with the necessary training and equipment, into an elite strike force. While the Chinese looked after internal discipline and organization, the Americans provided training and equipment, and the Government of India took care of the logistics and expenses of their stay. Additional forces were flown in from China to Ramgarh for training, and eventually in 1945 the CAI divisions took part in the battles to recapture Burma from the Japanese. It is not well-known that more than 50,000 Chinese officers and men passed through the Ramgarh training camp in India in a period of three years.
The bulk of the archival material related to the Ramgarh camp is not to be found in the files of the External Affairs Department, but some reflection of its existence is to be found among these files. It is not surprising that the presence of such a large number of Chinese soldiers in India was not without its problems. One of the problems was smuggling, while another was the question of who had jurisdiction over Chinese soldiers and civilians of Chinese nationality if they were involved in any crime while on Indian soil. A report from the Assam Police Weekly describes a clash between the Assam Police and the Chinese Military Police in Tinsukia in October 1943 over this question. [179] In fact, the number of Chinese forces in upper Assam was at one point large enough to prompt the creation of the post of Chinese Liaison Officer with the Political Officer, Tirap Frontier Tract. [185] Another problem seems to have been Chinese soldiers deserting or staying on in India, or what the files refer to as “improper discharge of personnel” from among the Chinese forces. Certainly, the presence of the Chinese Army in India, wrapped in secrecy for the duration of the War, was one of the more intriguing and unusual aspects of India-China interaction in modern times.

Embassies, consulates and missions

The large number of files dealing with the affairs of the missions and consulates of India and China in the other country make for dry reading, preoccupied as they are mostly with routine administrative matters. However together they testify to the growing significance of the political relations between India and China, in keeping with their expanding multifarious links during the War.

The most significant development on this front was the establishment for the first time in 1942 of direct diplomatic relations between India and China in modern times. Earlier, the British Embassy in China handled matters related to India, while China maintained only a Consulate-General in Calcutta and Consulates in a couple of other cities. It is noteworthy that the Indian Agency-General, as it was called, was one of only two Indian missions established abroad at that time, the other one being in Washington. Sir Zafarullah Khan was appointed the first Indian Agent-General in Chungking, followed less than a year later by K.P.S.Menon. Their Chinese counterparts were known as Commissioners, with the first Commissioner of China in India being Shen Shih-hua.

A letter from Sir Hugh Weightman dated 21 April, 1942 spelled out that the Indian Agent-General was to “handle matters affecting purely Sino-Indian relations”, though it would be necessary to “watch out how the Agent-General’s functions develop.”[300] Quarterly reports and correspondence from the Indian Agency-General did cover matters related to Sino-Indian relations, such as the views of the Chinese press and public on India, publicity about India in China, Indian students in China, Chinese trade with India, and so on. Yet they also provided another perspective for the British government on more general matters such as the Japanese occupation of China, the role of the Chinese Communists, political developments in Sinkiang, etc. Interestingly, one of the suggestions given to the Indian Agent-General was that he should
take whatever opportunities were available to explain the British position on Tibet to the Communist representatives at Chungking. [310]

The first Chinese Commissioner for India arrived in Delhi to take up his position in April 1942. He was initially accommodated in the Maidens Hotel, but later was allotted Jind House. Both the Commissioner and the Consuls functioned in tandem, carrying out publicity for China, overseeing the work of Chinese representatives and agencies in India, and also keeping in touch with different groups of Chinese in India. One of the files reports in detail on the visit of Shen Shih-hua to Kashmir to meet with Chinese from Sinkiang there. [340] This visit was in keeping with the directive from the Chungking government explicitly stating that “Chinese of Sinkiang Province residing in India have to be treated and protected just the same as those of other provinces.” [862] Interactions of the Chinese Commissioner and Consuls with Chinese in different parts of India were watched very closely by the intelligence authorities.

Researchers interested in the British Trade Agencies in Tibet would find plenty of material on the three Trade Agencies at Gyantse and Yatung in Central Tibet and Gartok in Western Tibet, which dated from the time of the Lhasa Convention signed in 1904. From 1942 onwards, all three trade agencies functioned under the authority of the Political Officer, Sikkim. Britain also maintained a mission in Lhasa, though not on a permanent basis. Apart from Tibet, the missions in Sinkiang were also of great concern to the Government of India. A consulate was opened at Urumchi (Tihua) in 1942, but the consulate at Kashgar in southern Sinkiang was much older and of greater importance to the Government of India, not only because of its relative proximity to India but also because of the presence of Indians in the region. A large number of files related to the Kashgar Consulate in this period can be found. The Kashgar Consulate was clearly maintained mainly for strategic reasons, since the volume of trade between Sinkiang and India, and the number of Indians in Sinkiang, by this time had dwindled to a very low point. [240] In fact, a proposal to create a post of Vice-Consul in Kashgar in 1940 was rejected on the grounds that it was not advisable to “waste the services of an able bodied man in an appointment like Kashgar where there is hardly enough work to keep one officer fully occupied.” [250]

Movement of people

Because of the conditions prevailing in China at the time, India was a major gateway for individuals wishing to visit Tibet. A number of files deal with requests from persons of diverse nationalities for travel passes to visit Tibet. They included geologists and botanists, mystics and adventurers, as well as ordinary tourists and suspected spies. The Government of India appeared to grant or withhold permission to visit Tibet on a rather arbitrary basis, conveniently using the excuse when it chose that Tibet discouraged visitors. Apparently, ordinary Indian nationals did not require passports or special permission to visit Tibet. [350]

Interest among Indians and Chinese to visit the other country, for personal, professional or political reasons, seems to have increased during this period. The Government of India actively discouraged political visits to China, for instance by Vijayalakshmi Pandit as the head of the Congress-sponsored women’s goodwill mission in 1942. “We see no reason,” an internal letter
argues, “why Congress, or any other political party for that matter, should be permitted to send “quasi-diplomatic” missions to foreign powers and receive unnecessary publicity and importance in the country on that account.” [388] Similarly, a proposal to send a Hindu Mahasabha goodwill mission to China, allegedly with the aim of creating better understanding between Hindus and Buddhists, was rejected on the grounds that it would play into the aims of Japanese pan-Asianism. [387] However, visits by eminent Indians in other fields, such as the philosopher S.Radhakrishnan, the scientist Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, the artist Nandlal Bose and others, were encouraged.

From the material in the archives on this period, one is struck by the number and variety of ordinary Indians and Chinese who could be found in the other country, sometimes for reasons not of their own choosing. There were Indians residing in China’s eastern ports and cities which were under Japanese occupation, as well as those living or trading in Sinkiang, where conditions for them were not much better. There were also regular Chinese residents in India, particularly in Calcutta, Kalimpong and Assam, whose numbers swelled in this period as many Chinese sought to escape the difficult conditions of war and turmoil in China. There were people on both sides who regularly crossed the land border to do business and trade, whether legal or illicit in nature. And then there were people in transit, refugees, deportees, and in general those who were caught in the other country because of wartime exigencies. An unusual example from this group included several hundred Kazakhs in Bhopal who had fled from oppressive conditions in Sheng Shih-ts’ai’s Sinkiang into Tibet and thence into Kashmir, where the Government of India denied them permission to stay. Eventually, with the assistance of the Nawab of Bhopal, they were permitted to stay in Bhopal for some time. [428] Another group of Chinese who appeared to be stranded in India on account of the War were a number of Chinese seamen. Various files discuss the question of what could be done with them. Eventually, a Chinese Wartime Seamen’s Service Corps in India was set up to accommodate them. [425]

Kalimpong, where about 300 Chinese at that time resided, came under the close watch of the authorities in India, as a number of Chinese seem to have come across the border illegally, often disguised as Tibetans, creating what the authorities believed was a security problem. Kalimpong was seen as the epicentre of smuggling between India and China. Suspicions were expressed about the interaction of the Chinese consular and diplomatic representatives with the Chinese here and elsewhere, including their role in organizing them. [441, 442, 453, 454, 457]

Also on the colonial authorities’ watchlist were Indians in China who were suspected of being engaged in “seditious” activities. A number of intelligence and other reports give their names and describe their activities. [482, 489, 496] From the late 1930s and early 1940s, the problem of large-scale deportation of Indians from Sinkiang was the subject of much correspondence and reporting, as well as of questions raised in the Legislative Assembly in India. A number of Indians seem to have left Sinkiang on their own, fearing persecution, thereby reducing to a handful the numbers of Indians who remained in the province, from the 500-600 traders and cultivators who were there before the war. As for the Indians in eastern China, the disruption caused by the war and Japanese occupation led to an alarming increase in destitution. A number of files deal with the question of providing relief to these Indians (through the good offices of the
Swiss consulate in Shanghai). A monthly maintenance of 5 pounds sterling per person was allotted for destitute Indians – half of what was sanctioned for Europeans finding themselves in a similar position. [495] Eventually, a drastic solution to the problem of destitution of Indians in China was found through mass repatriation, and the virtual dispersal of the Indian community in China, at the end of the War.

Material and Cultural Connections

Throughout the War, overland trade between India and China continued vigorously. The only exception to this pattern was in Sinkiang, where the centuries-old trade over the Karakorum passes was seriously affected, first by civil war and rebellion in the province, and then by the ban clamped down by the Sinkiang authorities on the trade in charas which had been the mainstay of the trade in that period. Reports from the British Consul-General at Kashgar stated that in 1939 the total volume of the trade between India and Sinkiang had come down sharply to just Rs 80,582, from Rs 23,01,994 in 1937. [529, 530] This had a discernible impact on the provincial revenues of Punjab province. Trade between India and Tibet continued, despite minor irritations and complaints that Marwaris were manipulating the price of Tibetan wool at Kalimpong. [510] In 1943 it was decided to use the traditional pack route through Tibet to send non-military supplies to China if the Tibetan Government concurred. The Tibetan Government was initially vehemently opposed to this proposal, believing that this would encourage the Chinese to expand their presence in Tibet. However, ultimately they bowed to British pressure. 14

The Bank of China was permitted to open a branch in Calcutta during the War, but its proposal to open more branches in India, specifically in Kashmir, was not viewed with favour by the Government of India. The Indian Agent-General voiced his suspicions thus: “…I should imagine the opening of these branches would enable to play (sic) a good deal of hanky panky with Indian currency. My uneasiness, however, has more direct reference to the proposal to open a branch in Kashmir and is due to considerations of a political and diplomatic nature.” Another blunt opinion on this proposal warned that “the tentacles of the Bank of China should be kept as far as possible from our interests in the “Mongolian fringe”. “ [541]

The opening and maintenance of transport and communication links between India and China expanded during the War. Many files are concerned with postal and wireless arrangements with Tibet and Sinkiang. There was eagerness on the part of both governments to expand air services. Proposals were mooted for a Kunming-Calcutta air link that would carry passengers as well as mail and freight. This was expanded to become a service between Chungking and Calcutta via Kunming, Lashio and Chittagong. A separate freight air service between Sikang and Sadiya in Assam via Chengtu was also started. [582, 588] Discussions on commencing work on another road through Burma were held in 1943 with a delegation that arrived from China.

One of the most significant new developments during this period was the push given to exchanges on the front of health, education, science and technology, and culture. One of the files contains correspondence about the construction of the Cheena Bhavan in Tagore’s Visva Bharati University in Santiniketan, and the reasons for the delay in completing the project. [606] The first ever officially sponsored exchange of students between India and China was also launched in this period. The agreement signed in 1942 between the two governments, for each to sponsor the studies of ten students from the other country, is to be found among the documents in this collection. [604] Apart from this, Tata & Sons Ltd in India proposed to invite four or five Chinese researchers and scholars to come to India to study and do research in the leading scientific institutions of India at their expense. [607] There are also records of visits by technical experts and professionals between the two countries, showing the range of fields in which interaction was beginning to take place. One of the more interesting examples of this concerns the proposed visit of an ornithological expedition to Western Tibet in April 1945 headed by the noted Salim Ali. [621] The Indian Agency-General in China was particularly keen to promote cultural relations between India and China, as can be seen in a report on this subject from 1944. [616]

Tibet

Approximately 225 files, or roughly one quarter of those catalogued here, are concerned with Tibet. Under the Thirteenth Dalai Lama (1876-1933), Tibet had fiercely sought to preserve whatever measure of independence it had from China and other powers. However, through a mixture of force and political manipulation, and using the weakness of China in the early decades of the twentieth century, Britain had succeeded in establishing a special relationship with Tibet. This included the three trade agencies accompanied by military escorts in Gyantse, Yatung and Gartok, and the mission in Lhasa. Britain viewed the existence of a ‘friendly’ Tibet which resisted any overtures or encroachments by other powers as vital to the security of the Indian empire. Russian and Japanese feelers to Tibet were watched with great suspicion, but it was China’s efforts to strengthen its position vis-à-vis Tibet in this period that caused the greatest alarm in Delhi and London. The death of the Thirteenth Dalai Lama in 1933 led to a jostling for power among different factions in Tibet’s religious-political establishment, which did not end with the identification and installation of the young child who would be the next Dalai Lama. Both Britain and China sought to maneuver in this unstable situation to gain the edge over the other in Tibet. Meanwhile, with the outbreak of World War II, Tibet sought to preserve its cherished neutrality, while both Britain and China, realizing the strategic importance of Tibet, wanted it to contribute to the Allied war effort. This complicated situation formed the backdrop to the numerous files on Tibet in the National Archives of India from this period.

In the files can be found several frank expositions of the Government of India’s aims and strategy in Tibet. In a letter dated 25 September, 1939, Basil Gould, the Political Officer in Sikkim, opposed a proposal to withdraw the military escorts for the British Trade Agencies in Tibet saying:
“The policy of the Government is to maintain a position of stability on the long North-East frontier of India with a minimum expenditure of military personnel and of money. For thirty-five years the regular detachments at Gyantse and at Yatung have done much to attain this end. It is particularly desirable that nothing should be done which would impair our influence in Tibet and our power to afford support to the more stable elements in the Tibetan Government, at a time when the new Dalai Lama is about to arrive at Lhasa with a number of Chinese supporters .... If the detachments were to be withdrawn, the Tibetan Government, instigated by the Chinese, might feel encouraged to reopen the whole question of the 1914 agreement, on which the present geographical frontier between Tibet and the Assam trans-frontier tracts is based. This might probably lead to considerable military and police commitments in difficult and unhealthy tribal areas in order to safeguard our territorial rights. I regard the continued presence of the detachments .... as a major asset in any negotiations which may hereafter take place between His Majesty’s Government and China with a view to mutual abstention from unnecessary activities in Tibet.” [633]

Another letter from Gould defends equally staunchly the presence of the British Mission in Lhasa, saying:

“Nothing but good has resulted from the maintenance during a continuous period of three years of direct relations with the Tibetan Government and of close touch with all classes at Lhasa, and at no time has there been any friction; the Tibetans have become accustomed to relying on us, on our wireless, for news of the outside world, particularly with regard to the progress of events in China; there is little doubt that the presence of the Mission tends to afford support to those patriotic and conservative elements which favour a reasonable measure of independence from Chinese administrative interference .... whatever may be the outcome of the struggle between China and Japan, we shall in future be very much better situated if we can point to the fact that we have for some years continuously maintained a Mission in Lhasa....” [637]

The war that raged all around showed up interesting aspects of Tibet’s attitude towards the contending powers. The Japanese occupation of China and subsequently the outbreak of the War in Europe were watched “with keen interest” by the Tibetans, but officials of the Government of India were disappointed that the Tibetan Government merely offered prayers for the “speedy termination of the War” and were not more forthcoming with support for the Allied cause. A report noted wryly that the Tibetan stand was “more impartial than we had expected.” [643] In the early stages of the War, the Tibetan government like many others apparently believed that the Japanese would win the war. Yet, as Hugh Richardson, then head of the British Mission at Lhasa, noted with some perplexity, “although they [the Tibetans] realised that they owed their respite to the Japanese invasion of China, their sympathies were becoming more strongly pro-Chinese.” [647] Another report cited the views of the seasoned Bhutanese notable Raja Dorje that, in case of having to choose among an alliance with Japan, China or [British] India, Tibetans would accept Japan and China over India. [656] Apparently, British India’s alleged special influence on Tibet only went thus far and no further.

One of the most significant events in Tibet in this period was the installation of the new Dalai Lama in Lhasa in 1940. Since the Dalai Lama, then still a child, had to travel from his original
home in the Chinese-controlled Kokonor region (Tsinghai in Chinese and Amdo in Tibetan), his passage had to be negotiated with the Chinese authorities, and a considerable sum of money paid to them. The Nationalist Government saw this as an opportunity to strengthen its position in Tibet, and insisted on sending a high-powered delegation led by Wu Chung-hsin, head of the Mongolian and Tibetan Affairs Commission, for the installation of the new Dalai Lama. However, it was apparently on the insistence of the Tibetans that Wu Chung-hsin and his party had to travel to Lhasa via India and not directly from China. A number of the files are concerned with the installation of the Dalai Lama and Wu Chung-hsin’s visit. A report by Basil Gould, who was deputed to attend the ceremony on behalf of the Government of India, noted that the new Dalai Lama, although very young, was “already exercising high spiritual authority, and [was] already a centre of influence.”

The documents listed in this collection give ample evidence of the numerous ways in which the Government of India sought to counter the possibility of increased Chinese influence over Tibet. Gould strongly advocated the strategic advantage that would accrue to India by building roads in Tibet, arguing “I have no doubt that China, if we leave to her the advantage of position in south-eastern Tibet, will sooner or later exploit it to our disadvantage.” Another letter also laid stress on road-building as a way “to draw that country as closely as possible into the Indian orbit”. On receiving news that the Bank of China was contemplating opening a branch in Lhasa, the India Office in London suggested that in this eventuality, the British should also follow suit and open a British bank there even though “there was not much business to be done” in Lhasa. A report of a plan of the resident Chinese representative in Lhasa to start a newspaper there was met with a corresponding plan to issue a newspaper of their own. It was even recommended that the Government of India increase its donations to the powerful Tibetan monasteries to counter the effect of the lavish contributions being handed out to the monasteries by the Chinese representative. In general, the British were under the strong impression that the Chinese were in a hurry to settle the status of Tibet on terms favourable to China before a post-war conference took place. Caroe, writing in 1945, was worried that the Chinese should not get the impression that “we have lost interest in Tibet, and that the way was open for them to assert finally their influence in Lhasa….” Overall, as one of the documents made clear, it would have suited the Government of India very well if Tibet remained isolated and unapproachable either because of its natural physical features or its own capacity to ward off advances of any kind. But as it noted, “it is clear that the time of Tibet’s extreme isolation is passing, and that Tibet is not strong…”, and hence it would require deft maneuvering on the part of Britain and India to prevent the Chinese or anyone else from making inroads.

India-China boundary issues

There are more than twenty files that relate to some aspects of the India-China border. The fact these are available for consultation testifies to the growing openness of the Indian archives now compared to the situation just a few years back when it was virtually impossible to consult files related to China (and certainly not those concerned with border issues) after 1913. This is a healthy trend which should be welcomed by all researchers.

Border issues assumed ever greater importance in this period when both the British in India and the Chinese government sought to assert their claims on this front in rivalry with each other. However, what is clear is that the Tibetan government also had its disputes with India over the border. One of the files is on the subject of such a dispute in the area of Tehri (Garhwal) about which, as a note by a Capt Fletcher admits, “the Tibetans feel very strongly.” The note continues: “I think it may be difficult to apply a policy of “occupation without saying anything” to the Tehri-Garhwal frontier. Unlike Assam, the frontier there has never been accepted by the Tibetans. Moreover, the frontier is one between the Indian States and Tibet. In Assam, it is between British India and Tibet, which simplifies the problem, for we can occupy by Assam Rifles. But who is to carry out occupation in the Tehri-Garhwal area?” [798] There is also a file on the subject of the Government of India’s proposal to permit controlled immigration of Tibetan people (lower Zayul tribes, who resided on both sides of the border) to the Walong valley, on the Indian side of the McMahon Line, in order to increase manpower on the Indian side of the border. While the Government acknowledged that it could be a possible irritant to the Tibetans, it was considered “absolutely essential” from the point of view of Indian interests. [815]

Another set of three files relate to the dispute over the boundary between Sinkiang and Hunza, a small but strategically located semi-independent principality (in today’s Pakistan) which was in a complicated subsidiary relationship with both British India and China. [939-941] In the late 1930s, a dispute had arisen between Hunza and Sinkiang over the Mir of Hunza’s grazing rights in the region of Darwaza. A note by the Political Agent, Gilgit, stressed the desirability of keeping the Hunza boundary issue dormant for the time being, but this was difficult in a period when Nationalist China was actively seeking to revive what it considered were China’s historical ties with Hunza.16

Many of the files relate to the question of maps, and in particular to what was considered the ‘wrong’ delineation of the India-China boundary in maps, not only in Chinese maps, but even in maps issued by the British and Indian side, including in one case an authoritative War Office map. [816] Some of the maps concerned can be viewed, but several are stitched to the file and cannot be accessed.

An interesting file relates to a wartime agreement between Britain and the United States on the mapping of areas of Sinkiang, Tibet and China, which was supposed to be undertaken by the US. The Government of India was worried that the American cartographers would accept the boundaries based on the Chinese claims rather than on the British version. It was therefore

decided to include a clause in the agreement to ensure that British interests were not compromised. [818]

Sinkiang and Russia/Soviet Union

Sinkiang was of almost as much concern to the authorities in India at this time as Tibet, as can be seen from the more than 120 files related to this subject. As with Tibet, the attempts by China to reassert its presence in this region were of some concern, but unlike in Tibet, the issue of Russian or Soviet influence loomed much larger. In Sinkiang, the condition of Indians there in the wake of repeated political disturbances also posed a major problem for the Government of India.

The Tungan rebellion in the 1930s and the accompanying disturbances proved to be extremely damaging for Indian traders in Sinkiang. Apart from the loss of life and damage to their property, many Indians were thereafter imprisoned or deported for their alleged complicity in some of the political developments. A number of the files discuss the hardship they underwent, and talk of compensating them from the “Tungan gold” apparently in the possession of the Indian government. [202, 206, 830, 832, 833, 837, 851, 855]

The greatest single preoccupation of the Indian government in Sinkiang concerned the extent of Russian or Soviet influence over the provincial government headed by Sheng Shih-ts’ai, and this is reflected in the content of many of the files related to Sinkiang. [860, 875, 946, 948, 949, 950] Soviet troop movements and the presence of leading Soviet personnel in Sinkiang are reported in detail. In 1942, Sheng Shih-ts’ai suddenly terminated his policy of leaning towards the Soviet Union, and expelled all Soviet advisers and military personnel. Although he sought to reverse his policy in the later stages of the War, by that time his power had been cut down to size by the Nationalist Government in Chungking and he was replaced by a representative of the Chungking Government in 1944 in what was a major coup for Chiang Kai-shek. Since much of Sheng Shih-ts’ai’s measures against British India, Indians and Indian trade had been blamed, rightly or wrongly, on Soviet influence, the Government of India was optimistic about an improvement in Indo-Sinkiang relations following the decline of Soviet influence and particularly after the removal of Sheng Shih-ts’ai. [881, 891, 888] However, the end of the War coincided with renewed political turbulence in both the northern and southern parts of Sinkiang, dampening these hopes. Very few Indian traders remained in the bazaars of southern Sinkiang. Contingency plans were even made to send aircraft to evacuate the staff of the Kashgar Consulate on account of the disturbances. [911]

The fluidity of the political situation in Sinkiang, and the need for more accurate information about this part of China which was strategically important from the point of view of Indian security, were probably the main reasons for the unusually lengthy 64-day tour of Sinkiang carried out by the Indian Agent-General K.P.S. Menon in 1944, in the company of the British Consul-General at Kashgar M.C. Gillett. Even more striking was the fact that Menon arrived in Sinkiang not by air from Chungking but by hard trekking on foot and horseback from Srinagar and Gilgit over the high Karakoram passes to Kashgar, itself a journey of several weeks. Several
reports and letters can be found on Menon’s Sinkiang tour, giving details of his itinerary, the persons he met and his impressions of conditions in Sinkiang. [818, 883, 887, 905, 912]

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The years from 1939 to 1945 were thus a period when much was happening in the relationship between India and China. This collection of files stands testimony to this. The picture that emerges from these files does not fit easily either into an “India-China brotherhood/friendship” paradigm, nor does it fit into the paradigm of the two being “natural enemies”. What we see instead is a much more complex picture. These archival materials show the growing importance of the two countries to each other during World War II. They reveal the beginnings of modern state-to-state relations covering diverse fields as well as the continuation of earlier patterns of interaction, especially among people living along the frontier zones. They also testify to the numerous existing or potential irritants to the relationship, the role played by external powers, and the sometimes clashing and sometimes converging security interests of the two states. Scholars and commentators interested in the subject of the modern relations between India and China would do well to test their hypotheses and arguments against the data to be found here. Researchers can benefit from utilizing these documents in conjunction with materials found in other collections in India, China, Taiwan, the UK, the US and other places. Perhaps the formulation that most accurately characterizes India-China relations in this period, to return to Nehru’s image cited at the beginning of this essay, is that of increasingly “linked destinies”.
**Materials on China in the National Archives of India**

**Part I: War and Politics**

**General situation in China**

**1939**


Telegram from the British Embassy and various consulates in China reporting on the situation in China.


Telegram (March-May 1939) from the British Embassy and various consulates in China reporting on the situation in China.


Letters on the subject of the Nationality Law promulgated by the Provisional Government of North China on 26 Feb 1939.


Notes on the revolt by Muslims in Kansu province against the Kuomintang Government. Extract from *Shanghai Times* reporting that more than 20,000 youth had rallied under Wang Tsu-yuan and were rebelling in Eastern Kansu. In Sinkiang, in addition, Muslims were said to be incensed over alleged destruction of mosques by Soviet troops. The report was apparently sourced from Domei, a Japanese news agency.

**1940**


Telegram and weekly letters from the British Consuls in China and Japan describing the situation in China.
Censorship interception concerning views expressed by Japan and China on the war in Europe and how it would affect the fortunes of the British Empire, Germany and Japan.

Censorship interception of a letter from one Khwaja Abdus Samad to Khwaja Abdul Wahid Jan, which describes living conditions as a result of the Sino-Japanese war and the hardships that people were facing.

Letters on the political situation in China and Far East, giving descriptions of the situation created as a result of the Japanese occupation.

Four quarterly reports (March, June, September and December) on the conditions in Chungking and other parts of China, sent by the British Consulate General, Chungking. These reports give a good description of the political situation in wartime China. (The last two reports are hard to read as pages are torn and the ink has become very light.)

Censorship interceptions of assorted letters and telegrams related to China.

A series of eight reports describing important developments in China during 1941.

Censorship interceptions of assorted letters and telegrams related to China.

A series of eight reports describing important developments in China during 1942.
Censorship interception of letters related to China and Chinese affairs. The letters deal with subjects like potential supply routes, and the conditions of Chinese seamen in Calcutta and their activities.

Letters on the subject of the criticism of the British Government and its policies in India by the well-known Chinese writer, Lin Yutang. According to a Reuters news despatch from New York, Lin Yutang had declared that the “British authorities have done everything to devour India” and urged a complete reversal of tactics in dealing with the Indian situation.

Censorship interception of letters related to China.

The file contains a report by Andrew Findley, Press Attache to the British Embassy in China, on ‘Chinese Moslems.’ It points out that there had never been any serious trouble with the Chinese Muslims since the KMT came to power in China. According to the report this absence of trouble with their own Muslim minority may have been the reason why the Chinese seemingly underestimated the difficulties of the Hindu-Muslim problem in India.

Also enclosed in the file are English translations of articles from the Chinese newspaper *Ta Kung Pao* on the subject of the Japanese attempt to win over the Muslims in China.

A report by the Military Attache, British Embassy, Chungking dated 16 February, 1942 on living conditions in Chungking, characterized as “abnormal” and “difficult in the extreme”, which could be “fully appreciated only by those who have had actual experience of living there.”

Letter from the British Embassy Chungking on the anti-Japanese stand of the Koreans and Formosans, and their promise to support the Allied forces. However while the Koreans desired full independence, the Formosans apparently “claim nothing more than the restoration of their country to China”.
English translation of a letter addressed to M.K. Gandhi from a Chinese citizen named Weng Shou-i, a native of Chungking. In the letter he requests Gandhi “to urge all your countrymen to render their assistance and their utmost service to Great Britain…” In the letter Weng is critical of the policy of the Congress and specifically of Gandhi to not support Britain in its war effort, and advises Gandhi to utilise the time that he had as a result of being imprisoned by the British “to meditate [sic] your mistaken pro-Japanese and anti-British policy… If you adhere to your present idea of leading India to launch bloody revolution to resist Great Britain, India will come to ruin, the Axis will rejoice and friendly nations will suffer.”

Series of monthly reports from the British Embassy in Chungking from the month of April 1942 to January 1943. The April monthly report discusses extensively the impressions of Chiang Kai-shek after his visit to India.

Reports on various matters related to China summarised by the Chinese Intelligence Wing, Calcutta.

Notes regarding a statement made by Winston Churchill in which he resolves to help China and United States against the Japanese aggression. The notes dwells on how Indian political parties could interpret the statement of the British PM and ask if the British Government wished to clarify its stand vis-a-vis India.

Reports accumulated by the Chinese Intelligence Wing, Calcutta on a variety of topics, including the internal situation in China, smuggling, the Japanese aggression, Chinese seamen, trade routes to India etc.
Weekly bulletin of the China Information Committee containing an account of the political structure of China along with various articles on agriculture, education, economics, cartoons, missionary organisations, etc. The bulletin explains in detail the political structure of the Kuomintang government, along with changes in the structure as result of the war. Also letters describing Kuomintang members accompanying Chiang Kai-shek to India, including General Choo, General Shang Chen and Dr Wang Ch’ung-hui, then secretary-general of the Chinese Supreme Defence Council. Dr Wang is referred to as being second in command to Chiang Kai-shek.

Telegram from British Ambassador Chungking to Foreign Office regarding changes in the personnel of the Kuomintang and Chinese government ministries.

Report of interview with Hall Patch of the British Embassy Chungking. Also General Chiang Kai-shek's recent message to the Herald Tribune Forum regarding China's attitude towards the south eastern maritime states of Asia, and on the economic and financial situation of China.

Letter and telegram from the British Embassy, Chungking reporting on the visit of T.V. Soong, Chinese Government representative in the US, and his strained relationship with Chiang Kai-shek.


Censorship interception of letters sent from China to India in the period from February to May 1943. The letters deals with various topics, including the conditions of people and the Chinese state in wartime as well as happenings in Tibet.

A letter intercepted by the Indian censorship authorities talking about censorship in China directed against people “who think for themselves and are at all critical of the Government.”

Censorship interception of letters related to the Red Cross originating from China in the year 1943.

Letters and reports (Feb-Sept 1943) related to the plenary sessions of the Central Executive Committee of the Kuomintang and revision of the organic laws of the National Government passed during the sessions. Also contains a report submitted by Dr. Joseph Needham on the various political groups within the Kuomintang in the Chinese Government.

1944

News reports compiled by the British Embassy, Chungking for the year 1944.

News summaries on Kweilin for the year 1944.

Reports from the British Consulate, Chengtu, for the period from November 1943 to the end of February 1944, covering the news and events in Szechuan and Sikang in the same period.
News summaries from the British Consul General, Kunming, accompanying a confidential letter addressed to Sir Horace J. Seymour, British Ambassador in Chungking, covering various issues.

Censorship interception of letters related to China and Tibet during the period November 1943 to January 1944.

Censorship interception of letters related to China and Tibet during October 1944.

Censorship interception of letters related to China and Tibet during the period December 1943 to May 1944.

Reports on many aspects of China acquired through interceptions by the Chinese Intelligence Wing during the period Oct-Dec 1944.

Fortnightly intelligence report on Manchuria, Hong Kong, occupied China, Netherlands Indies, Java, etc by the Far Eastern Bureau, British Ministry of Information, New Delhi.

Letters from the British Consul at Urumchi (Dec 1943 – Feb 1944) on the subject of the new Chinese official attitude towards the non-Han elements in the population of the China, as proclaimed by the Executive Yuan. This proclamation embodied Chiang Kai-shek’s view that all the minority populations in China have the same ancestral origins as the Chinese.
Correspondence (Jan- July 1944) on the publication of Chiang Kai-shek’s book *China’s Destiny* and its possible implications for the Tibet question, as Chiang in his book presented his view that the Tibetans, Mongols etc all belonged to the Chinese race. British view of this as “falsification of history.” Also contains summaries of parts of the book.

Letters concerning the publication of an article entitled ‘China includes Sinkiang, Tibet and Mongolia’, taken from a booklet entitled ‘Introducing China’ published by the Ministry of Information, Sydney, Australia. The transcript of the article (with torn pages) is also attached.

Letter from the British Embassy, Chungking, dated 24 April, 1944 reporting a speech by Dr. Sun Fo at the Youth Corps Workers’ Conference at Chungking. Transcript of the speech is also attached.

Letter from the British Embassy, Chungking reporting the convening of the National Administrative Conference in Chungking from May 29 to June 1, and giving details related to the Conference. Also attached is a report on the status of technical and industrial preparations in China as part of the joint war effort of the Allied powers.

Letters and report on the Chinese Government’s efforts to popularize and lay the groundwork for the introduction of Constitutional Government in China. Also discussion of a possible resolution of disputes between the Communists and the Kuomintang.

Report by the Commandant BAAG (British Army Aid Group) on the political and military situation in China. Also, a report on the plenary session of the Central Executive Committee of Kuomintang held in Chungking.
Weekly directives and background notes issued by the Information & Broadcasting department on various topics. China is mentioned under the category Foreign Affairs.

Correspondence on the establishment of the Chinese Ministry of Conscription. Also a memo entitled "Generalissimo's Message to Educated Youth" encouraging the youth to join the army.

Notes on the conditions in Sinkiang, Tibet and Inner Mongolia. The notes on Sinkiang and Tibet discuss the political situation in these two places, while the note on Inner Mongolia talks about the extent of Japanese control and Japanese activities and policies there.

Monthly news reports from the British Embassy, Chungking for the year 1945.

Correspondence from the British Embassy, Chungking on the promulgation of “Regulations governing the registration of foreigners travelling in China during the war-time”. The English translation of the regulations is attached in the file. Also contains an English translation of the “Measures for the prohibition of travel or residence of foreigners by provinces and municipalities”, which was promulgated by the Executive Yuan on 29 Sept, 1945.

Letter from the British Embassy, Chungking on the promulgation and enforcement of ‘Regulations governing the entry, departure and domicile of foreigners in the Republic of China’ issued by the Executive Yuan on 14 November, 1944. The English translation of the Regulations is also attached.
British Embassy communications on Chiang Kai-shek’s new year message to the nation, along with impressions of the tone and content of the speech. A summarized English translation of the speech, issued by the Central News Agency, is also enclosed. The letters also discusses the possible implications of the proposals set out by Chiang Kai-shek in his speech.

Correspondence from the British Embassy regarding negotiations between the Communists and the Kuomintang for a coalition government in China.

Correspondence from the British Embassy on the dialogues between the Communists and the Kuomintang in China. Also attached are summaries of conversations between the Kuomintang Government representatives and the representatives of the CCP.

A letter from the British Embassy to Anthony Eden, Foreign Secretary, London, reporting on the activities of T.V. Soong, Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs, whom he was expected to meet during the San Francisco Conference. The report suggests that the influence of Soong was growing in China, which was considered favourable from the standpoint of British interests.

Letter from British Embassy on the report submitted by John Keswick, one of Adm. Mountbatten’s political advisers, on the situation in China after his visit in November 1944. Correspondence also on the decision of the Government of India that matters primarily related to India should be dealt by the Agent General for India rather than by the British Embassy.

A British Embassy report regarding the activities in Chungking of Benjamin H. Kizier and Harry Price, Director and Assistant Director of the China Area office of the UNRRA. Also attached is a report issued by the CNA’s English service announcing the establishment of a Chinese National Relief and Rehabilitation Administration under the Executive Yuan with
T.F. Tsiang as its Director-General. Also attached is a copy of “Organic Statute of the Chinese Relief and Rehabilitation Administration”.


Letters from the British Embassy reporting about the situation in China through an analysis of press reports and newspaper articles. (Also attached is a map which could not be opened as it was stitched to the file.)


Extract of a Chinese Intelligence Wing report on remarks made by Dr. Wong Wen-hao, Minister of Economic Affairs and Chairman of the War Production Board, in an interview with the Central News Agency, on the principles governing post-war economic reconstruction in China.


A collection of news reports from different newspapers in China, put together by the China Information Committee.


A series of reports compiled by the India Office London on the situation in China. The reports include subjects like ‘How is China financing the war?’, ‘Trends and developments in Free China during the year 1944’, ‘Outline of National Land Policy adopted by the Sixth National Congress of the Kuomintang on the 19th May’, ‘An account of the proceedings of the National Congress of the Communists’, as well as an account of the meeting which Ernest Bevin had with T.V. Soong, Chiang Kai-shek’s address to the Supreme National Defence Council, and his message to the Chinese people on the termination of the hostilities against Japan.


Extract of fortnightly report no. 52 on the Far East, Middle East, Africa and Australia of the Censorship Control Department, on the rise of anti-foreign feeling in Sikang, and about the influx of upper class Tibetans into Likiang in Yunnan.
General situation in Shanghai and other places [916]

Stafford Cripps’ views on situation in China after his visit to Urumchi [858]

Reports on situation in China of the Indian Agency General Chungking [304]

China’s International Relations

1941


Telegram regarding the proposed establishment of a Chinese Legation in Teheran.

1942


Correspondence regarding China’s efforts to establish diplomatic relations with Afghanistan.

The Chinese Government had already established diplomatic relations with Iran and Egypt. However because the Government of Afghanistan appeared not to be keen to have diplomatic relations with China, the Chinese approached the British Government in India to persuade the Afghans.


Correspondence regarding Chinese efforts to establish diplomatic relations with Kabul giving the justification of Japanese activities in Afghanistan and possible attempts by Axis powers to establish lines of communication through Afghanistan. British officials in India remarked that this was a “singularly inept” strategy on the part of the Chinese, and that if the “Chinese, or their American mouthpiece think they can force Afghan hand by publicity of this sort they have got Afghan mentality wrong. Afghans are particularly tender over references to their country as vestibule for supply routes. ….. Government of India would welcome presence of Chinese Minister in Kabul, but this is not the way to salt the ground.”

Telegrams regarding the travel arrangements of Jean Escarra from Chungking to London. Escarra had gone to Chungking in order to negotiate on behalf of General de Gaulle for the recognition of the Free French Movement by China.

Correspondence related to the recently concluded Treaty of Amity between China and Iraq signed by the Chinese Minister at Ankara.

1943

On the Chinese Military Mission’s visit to the Middle East, and names of the members of the mission.

Notes which deal among other things with the question of ratifying the Anglo-Chinese Treaty regarding the withdrawal of extraterritorial rights in China, on behalf of India.

1944

Various documents concerning the inter-provincial and international boundaries of China. A note on the Burma-China frontier. A memo from the Joint Secretary, External Affairs Department through Surveyor General of India, regarding a map of China, with a request to "distinguish clearly between the international and provincial boundaries" and with instructions to highlight the Sino-Burma boundary and the Wa state frontier as “undemarcated”. No map in the file. A letter regarding a map of Tibet, removed from a Chinese Handbook of 1943 produced by the Chinese Ministry of Information, showing Indo-Tibetan, Sino-Burmese and Sino-Tibetan frontiers. Also a telegram concerning Chinese troops in Burma, as well as a memo on Chinese infiltration in Burma.

Correspondence regarding the application of Article 7 of the Treaty between the United Kingdom and the National Government of the Republic of China, signed on 11 Jan, 1943, which stated that the Consular Officers of one contracting party in the territories of the other were to be immediately informed by the appropriate local authorities when any of their nationals were arrested or detained in their consular districts by the local authorities.


Report dated 12 June, 1944, submitted by Berkeley Gage, First Secretary to the British Embassy, Chungking, on his meeting with Dr. K.C. Wu, Chinese Political Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, on Sino-British relations.

1945


Correspondence revealing the displeasure of the Government of India on Mme Chiang Kai-shek passing through India to China on her way back from Washington without adequate notice to the Government of India and without observing international courtesies. It was decided to drop the matter as it could have negatively affected Sino-British relations.


Correspondence regarding a proposed Consular Convention between the United Kingdom and China, and the problem of including India in the Convention due to India having no Consular representation in China. The draft of the Convention is also attached.


A letter from the British Legation, Kabul informing that the newly appointed Chinese Minister to Afghanistan, Tsou Shang-yu had presented his credentials to the King of Afghanistan on 23 Sept, 1945.


Correspondence on the disapproval of the Government of India at the appointment of Signor Anzilotti, the former Secretary of the Indian Legation, Kabul, as the Italian Chargé d’Affaires in Chungking.
Copy of “Proclamation by the Heads of Government, United States, United Kingdom and China” released on the 26 July, 1945 at Potsdam. Extract of a Central News Agency (CNA) news report dated 2 Sept, 1945 on the same.

Japanese occupation of China

1939

Telegram(June-July1939) on the subject of the Japanese occupation of China.

Telegram(July-Aug1939) on the subject of the Japanese occupation of China.

Telegram(July-Aug1939) on the subject of the Japanese occupation of China.

Account of an interview granted to the Press at Rangoon by the Japanese Consul General in Calcutta, Tarao Wakamatsu, regarding the Sino-Japanese war. Among other things he stated that Japan’s sole aim in China “is co-operation, politically, economically and culturally, and no territorial ambition”.

Letter dated 3 February from J. N. Kapoor of Delhi addressed to Viceroy Linlithgow about opening a public lottery called ‘China and Spain Relief Sweep’ in order to collect money for the Chinese and Spanish people.
Telegrams (February 1939) from Sir. Robert Craigie about a note from the Japanese Government expressing deep regret for the bombing of a train within the Hong Kong leased territory. Japanese forces, while engaged in a bombing attack against Chinese troops in the neighborhood of Shumchum on the morning of 21 February, had dropped four bombs close to the Chinese border with Hong Kong by mistake.

Question and answers in the Legislative Assembly regarding Japanese air raids on British territory and on International Settlements in China and the number of Indian casualties.

Censorship interception of a letter from Dr. L.A. Khan (127, The Bund, Canton) to the Editor of the daily *Aflazal Qadian*, Punjab. It contains some photos with names of members of the new Chinese Government set up under Japanese patronage.

A British Foreign Office memorandum on the possibilities of a general settlement of the ‘Far Eastern question’, and the interests of the British empire. It proposes the involvement of other countries, especially the United States, in this matter. Also attached are a statement made by Prince Konoe, the Prime Minister of Japan, on 22 Dec, 1938 stating the aims of Japan in China, and a telegram sent from Japan to the United States on the 15 July, 1940 regarding a settlement of the Far Eastern question.

Extract from an article entitled “China being divided into 3 different administrations” by Minoru Yokota in *Contemporary Opinions on Current Topics* (a Japanese publication published by the Tokyo Information Bureau) No. 303, dated 2 Nov, 1939. In the article the writer talks about the inroads of Soviet troops into China.
Telegrams from British ambassador in Tokyo, Sir Robert Craigie, reporting that he had lodged an official protest with the Japanese Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs regarding the bombing of the British Embassy in Chungking twice in one month. The Japanese Vice-Minister expressed his apologies over the bombing of the British Embassy, which he said was not deliberate, and over the injuries sustained by the British ambassador in Chungking, Sir Arthur Blackburn. He suggested that the British Embassy should have moved to the safety zone on the southern bank of the Yangtze river instead of remaining in the city of Chungking.

1942


Regarding an intercepted letter from G.E. Merritt to T.L. Overing, Sun Life Assurance Co., that discussed how the Japanese dealt with the operation of branches of all foreign firms after the Japanese occupation of Shanghai.


Enquiry from the Intelligence Bureau to the External Affairs Department about the ‘Asiatic Peoples Anti-Fascist Convention’ which was mentioned in an intercepted telegram from the Eighteenth Group Army, Chungking Office. The intercepted letter is also attached.

Also a discussion about a “more influential” organisation known as the Far East Anti-Japanese Association.


Official notes on whether to ban the book “Japan in China”, described as a “typical Japanese propaganda product”. Ultimately it was decided not to ban the book.


Telegrams and reports on the militarising of labour by the Japanese in China, and on Japanese gas warfare.


Refs: 798-X(P)/42, 824-X(P)/42, 830-X(P)/42, 845-X(P)/42, 846-X(P)/42, 847-X(P)/42, 848-X(P)/42, 849-X(P)/42, 850-X(P)/42

Refs: 497(2)-X/40(Sec), 104-X/42, 108-X/42, 374-X/39, 110(3)-X/42, 529-X/42, 110(3)-X/42, 196. C.A(Sec)/44

Correspondence on the activities of the Japanese in Tibet and Nepal.

1943


Letters enquiring whether Major-General C.M. Maltby, General Officer Commanding, Hong Kong, was one of the POWs who were repatriated from China.


Report dated 8 Jan, 1943 prepared by Lord Clauson’s Committee on the treatment of British subjects in Japan, Japanese-occupied areas of China and Siam.

1944


Correspondence with prisoners of war and civilian internees in Japanese hands. Camps mentioned in the list of mails include those in Hong Kong and Taiwan. A press note issued by the Indian Red Cross and St. Johns Ambulance, Simla, shows postal messages despatched to civilian internees in various places including Hong Kong, Shanghai and other parts of occupied China.
Letters from the British Ambassador in Chungking H.J. Seymour reporting the publication of an article by Dr. Sun Fo entitled “The Mikado Must Go” which appeared in the English language newspaper, the *National Herald*. The transcript of the article is also attached.

1945

Secret reports from the Director of Intelligence, Headquarters, S.C.S.E.A. on the conditions in occupied Shanghai and Peking. The report contains details about the Shanghai Municipal Administration, courts, military authority, trade conditions, prices of goods, internment camps, food situation, public utilities, transportation etc.

Censorship interception of letters on the Japanese occupation of China.

*Air raids in Chungking and Chengtu [367]*

*Tibetan views on Japanese occupation of China [647]*

*Regarding formation of Wang Ching-wei government [944]*

*British in occupied China [569]*

*Reports of Indian Agency General on Japanese occupation [309]*

Manchukuo

1939

A letter dated 6 January 1939 from the Manchukuo Embassy addressed to the British Embassy at Tokyo stating that with the establishment of Manchukuo embassies and consulates at various places, people wishing to travel to Manchukuo should apply in one of
those for visas to enter or pass through Manchukuo. A list of Manchukuo embassies and consulates is also attached.


A list of Foreign Office circulars and consular instructions of which a few are related to China, with sub-headings such as ‘visas issued to Manchukuo’.

1940


A letter from K. Federenko (15 Pitomnikovaya, Harbin) dated 30 April, 1940 to V. Primakov living in Secunderabad, India, requesting him to send for Stephen Federenko to live in India, as in Harbin the authorities were proposing to call up young men for military training.

Reports on Manchuria [40]

Proposal for having British consular representation in Mukden after the War [239]

Wartime supplies and coordination

1940


Communications regarding the release of two shipments of munitions to the Chinese Government by the Government of India. The British navy had intercepted this consignment which the Nationalist Government of China had purchased from Switzerland. On the Chinese government’s request, the Government of India decided to release the shipments with the minimum formality.


Telegrams from the Secretary of State for India, London informing about the Japanese demand that the British stop supply of military equipment to the Chungking Government
through routes passing through British territory, including the Burma route and through Hong Kong, and that British troops be immediately withdrawn from Shanghai. It was stated that an Agreement had been reached at Tokyo on 17 July to not transport war materials through British territories to China. It was also agreed to close the Burma route for 3 months. Two letters on this subject are also attached.


Communications on the subject of protecting British interests in China through a tripartite Anglo-American Alliance with China. Among issues discussed are what Britain's financial contribution should be, the nature of the loan to be extended to China, how much military equipment Britain could provide, how to meet the demands of Chiang Kai-shek, and how not to let the Americans get the upper hand.

1941


Correspondence regarding what policy the Government of India should adopt with regard to the treatment of China under the Trading with the Enemy Legislation in the event of war with Japan.

1942


A memorandum of the External Affairs Department dated 24 Feb, 1942 announcing the decision of the Government of India to establish the post of the China Relations Officer in Calcutta. The post was to be held by Sir Edward Cook. The function of the new office was “to coordinate the various activities of the G/I Central Departments, the Reserve Bank and the Government of Bengal in matters relating to the common war effort of India and China, and to the transportation of supplies to China, with the Chinese organisations which have been set up in Calcutta.”

[112]File No: 60(2)-X/42 (Sec). Pp. 1-14

Telegram from the Air Attache China to the Aeronautics Club, Delhi notifying that the Chinese Air Force wanted to use the air route from Karachi to Risalpur and thence via Chitral to Yarkand. It also enquired if the section Chitral to Yarkand was suitable for aircraft, and
about the size of the Chitral airfield, about landing grounds between Karachi and Risalpur and about the suitability of the Srinagar-Gilgit route, etc.

Also attached are notes on aerodromes in the Gilgit area, namely in Chitral, Drosh, Gilgit and Srinagar. Notes on the weather conditions in these places are also attached.


Official notes on the decision of the Railway Board to extend the military tariff rules and rates to all stores belonging to the Chinese Government and offered for despatch by an accredited representative of that Government. Official notes on the agreement reached by the river steamship companies to charge the Chinese the same rates as were applicable to Defence Department stores.


Telegrams regarding the impending visit of Gordon Bowles, an anthropologist and representative of the Board of Economic Warfare and Office of Lend Lease Administration of the American Government, to explore motorable routes though Afghanistan and Russian Turkestan. It is apparent that the British Government was not keen on this as they felt that this would disturb the situation in Afghanistan and harm British interests in the region.


Discussion on how to coordinate the business of securing priority air passages for Chinese officials and non-officials connected with the Allied war effort proceeding westwards.


Correspondence regarding the Chinese complaint that the airmail between China and the US were getting delayed due to censorship in India. The Chinese argued that since China, Britain and the US were allies, it was not necessary for India to censor transit mail which had already been censored in their countries of origin. Some of the letters discuss the repercussions of such censorship as “these things do assume considerable importance in a place like Chungking where undoubtedly the feeling that we regard the Chinese as something considerably less than first-class allies still persists.”

Discussion on giving factual information about the day-to-day situation in India to the American and Chinese diplomatic representatives in India and to the British Ministers in Nepal and Kabul for communication to the heads of Government in those countries.


Telegrams on the subject of removing 84 cases of archives from the British Embassy, China which had been transferred to Singapore for safe keeping due to the war conditions in China. However with Singapore under Japanese threat, the British Ambassador in China desired the archives to be removed to India.


Translated extracts of Japanese news about their military advance in different parts of China. Also contains the statement of Brigadier General E.D. Hopkins, liaison officer of the British-Chinese (Chungking) forces, who was captured on the Burma Road in Lashio on May 2, in which he allegedly testified to the low morale of the Allied troops and animosity between British and Chinese forces.


Letters and official notes on granting exemption from censorship to letters emanating from the China National Aviation Corporation (CNAC).


Correspondence regarding taking security precautions in the use of the Chengtu-Delhi wireless service.


Correspondence on the dispatch of two British experts from London to Chungking and India to ensure the provision of effective aid to China from India.

Correspondence regarding the arrival in India from Kunming of 10 foreign doctors without the prior knowledge of the Government of India. These were volunteers from the Chinese Red Cross Medical Relief Corps proceeding to Ramgarh at General Stilwell’s request. Of the 10, 5 Allied nationals were allowed to continue their journey to Ramgarh while the other 5 were first detained at Calcutta for investigation and then later sent to Ramgarh under escort. The Government of India complained to the US authorities that enemy aliens should not have been brought into India without the consent of the Government.


Correspondence regarding request of the Chinese Government to allow the representatives of the China Defence Supplies in India to exchange telegrams with certain officials in cipher without being subject to censorship.


Correspondence regarding the supply of confidential documents to the Chinese Government on its request. These included a map of the main telegraphic circuits in India, a telephone map of India and a distribution chart of the PP&T wireless stations in India.


Report of Major-General Sir Gordon Jolly, Director-General, Indian Medical Service, regarding his visit to Chungking from 10 to 21 March. Subjects discussed with the Chinese included arrangements for storage and transport of Chinese medical supplies in India, Liaison Officer in India for medical stores, availability of medical supplies in India and China, technical training in India for Chinese personnel, and evacuation and hospitalisation of Chinese troops in Burma.


Correspondence on asking the Chinese Government to send a Chinese expert on civil defence measures to Calcutta for liaison purposes.

Correspondence on the supply of medical stores to Chinese forces in Burma by the Government of India.


The file contains the draft of a proposed broadcast which Lieutenant General Sir Gordon Jolly, Director General, Indian Medical Service, was supposed to deliver on the radio on 6 April, 1942, giving details of his visit to Chungking in March.


Official documents concerning the Caltex drum plant erected in Bombay for the manufacture of drums sheets for aviation and motor spirit supplies meant for China, as part of the Chinese lend-lease supplies, for the needs of the US and British air force.


Request for exemption from customs duty for defence supplies of the Chinese government and purchases made by China of petroleum products. Also contains information regarding Chinese depots and supply routes.


Concerning the supply of meteorological publications to China through the China Relations Office, Calcutta.


In relation to the matter of medical supplies to China from India. Concerns expressed about the urgent need for medical supplies. Problem of black marketing of Red Cross supplies highlighted in a statement by Mme Chiang Kai-shek and in a personal letter written by a doctor working in Chungking to his family in Canada.


Request from the China Relations Office to keep them informed about decisions taken and appointments made affecting lend-lease supplies and related matters.
Minutes of meeting held in the general headquarters in March 1942 to consider various matters pertaining to communications, including construction of telegraph and telephone lines along the Assam-Burma-China roads.

Regarding supply of quinine sulphate and distilled sterilized water to Chinese forces in Burma from India.

1943

Free carriage of gifts belonging to the Chinese Red Cross from Jodhpur to Calcutta.

Regarding supplies to China under the lend-lease arrangement. Question of transport of supplies to Burma.

Letter informing that the export of Lend/Lease oil procured for India cannot be exported to adjacent countries like Nepal, Afghanistan or Tibet.

Correspondence between the British Embassy, Chungking and the External Affairs Department at New Delhi on the question of finding employment in India for French railway personnel formerly employed in Yunnan on the Indo-China railway.
Correspondence regarding the request received from the Chinese Commissioner in India for the release of Burma currency notes in exchange of Indian currency notes for military requirements.


Censorship interception of a letter from a M.W. Rankin from Kukong, China to his wife in the US in which Rankin talks about his travel in China with a British military convoy and the misbehavior of the Director of the British Postal Mail Truck in Kunming.


Report submitted by Dr. Joseph Needham on the medical conditions in the Chinese Army and their political and military implications for the Allied war efforts.


Correspondence regarding a proposal that letters coming from China to India should be stamped by the Chinese censors to indicate the authority responsible for making excisions from the letters under censorship.


Official notings on the procedure to be adopted by crew members of airlines in case of emergency landing in the neutral territory of Tibet, Iran and Saudi Arabia.


Letters regarding transmission of certain papers of J.T. Asquith, Allied Supplies Executive Secretariat Representative at Chungking, to London through the British diplomatic mail bag.


Three issues of the Weekly Information letter (June18- 24; July 16- 22; August 20-26’ 1944) published by the Board of Transport Control of the Chinese Government. The BOTC acted as a liaison between the departments of the Chinese Government and the US Army and the British authorities in connection with supplies for the Chinese Government, their storage, movement and disposition in India, and their transportation into China.
Correspondence related to the supply of 25 tons of quinine from India to China under the British Sterling Credit arrangements.

Letter from L.K. Little, Inspector General of Customs, to Horace Seymour, British Ambassador at Chinking, proposing the employment of Chinese deck and engineer officers in the British and American navies during the war on convoy or transport duty.

Letters informing about the appointment of Chinese Liaison Officers namely, Major-General Feng Yee (Chinese Army), Captain Tseng Wan Li (Chinese Navy), Major Liu Tzu Han (Chinese Air Force) to the South East Asia Command (SEAC). Also attached is a report on the tour of Major-General Feng Yee to India and his itinerary while in India.

Documents on the censorship concessions given to E. Y. Soo, the West India Representative of the Chinese Board of Transport Control at Karachi, to exchange telegrams in code and cipher with certain organizations in Chungking and Washington DC.

Correspondence regarding the request received from T. T. Shen, Chief Representative of the Chinese Ministry of Finance in India, to send and receive bags containing correspondence to and from his Government by the CNAC service without censorship and customs examination. The request was not granted by the Government of India.

Information conveyed to British Consul, Urumchi, in relation to Government of India’s policy regarding materials received under the lend-lease act from the US, in order to refute anti-British propaganda in Sinkiang in regard to lease-lend goods. Policy regarding the re-transfer of lend-lease material.
Regarding India-China air freight service and the return of loads carried by the China National Aviation Corporation between India and China.

Proposed exemption from custom duty for goods imported into India by the China National Aviation Corporation.

Formation of a new Southwest Import Transport Supervisory Commission in China. A draft related to the war in China and British and American cooperation in war.

On China’s wartime preparedness [45]

Publicity, propaganda and the press

1942

Telegram from the British Embassy Chungking asking for telegraphic reports from India on issues pertaining to Sino-Indian relations so that they could be utilised in press conferences.

Also contains articles related to the war which appeared in the Chinese Press.
Regarding supply of pamphlets on the Cripps mission in India to China and translating them into Chinese.


A report on Kuo-Yu (Mandarin) broadcasts on All India Radio, giving details of the broadcasts such as the wave length, time, composition of broadcast, sources of information, materials for the broadcasts, entertainment resources, staff and requirements of the. The aim was to “present the Allied picture of the war to Free China and in particular, to explain the Indian scene.”

Another report on the nature of broadcasting to Far East and the work of Air Units is also there in the file. The file also contains minutes of meetings held to discuss how to improve the propaganda work directed at and about China during the war.


Correspondence on supplying 6 films for wartime propaganda in Nepal and China.


Correspondence regarding policy concerning propaganda activities to be carried out in China.


Telegram from the British Embassy, Chungking enquiring about matters which Government of India wants to publicize in China. Also contains brief comments from various newspapers in China regarding the war situation.


Regarding publicity for India in the Middle East, Russia and China.


Concerning publicity in the Indian press on China, and British concerns regarding the representation of Indian affairs in the Chinese press. Contains brief discussions on topics such as the abrogation of unequal treaties and on the Chinese seeing themselves as equal to other
Allied powers. Also on Sino-American interference in British-Indian affairs, and awareness and concern in India and China with respect to each other's nationalist struggles. The file mentions that the Burma campaign led to heightened admiration of the Chinese cause in India.


Regarding the supply of publicity materials to China and other such arrangements. Discussion on the visit of the author Guy Wint to India to discuss the situation in China.

1943


Official memorandum and reports regarding a suitable publicity policy for the British Government with regard to China. It was proposed to appoint a Press Attaché at the Indian Agency General, Chungking. Another memorandum talks about the possibility of removing T. Chao from the post of Head of Reuters, China, because of complaints against him.

1944


Letters on the proposal of the Chief of the General Staff of the Army, to take Chinese civilians on a tour of India so as to impress on them the extent of the war efforts of the British.


Official notes on the subject of arranging for pre-censorship of materials published in the China Information Bulletin, published by the Chinese Ministry of Information. This followed the publication in it of an article entitled 'Guerrillas in Malaya worry the Japanese' despite the suggestion by the Government of India to not publish anything on guerrilla activities in Malaya. The concerned issue of the China Information Bulletin (No. 86, 2 February, 1944) is also attached.


Regarding the complaint received from the Indian Agency General, Chungking about the supply of objectionable news in China by Reuters on the domestic political situation in India. Decision to replace Tommy Chao, Reuters representative in Chungking, because of the above-mentioned news articles.
Documents concerning complaint received from Major Napier of the Indian Agency General, Chungking about the contents of the first issue of the “Weekly Newsletter from India” distributed in China by Reuters, which apparently presented a negative impression of the political situation in India. Protest made by the Government of India to Reuters which led to the dismissal of Tommy Chao, Reuters representative in China. Transcript of the “Weekly Newsletter from India” is also attached. Letters also on the “marked improvement” in Reuters news coverage with regard to the Indian Army’s achievements, especially in the Burma Campaign.

Publications in English by the China press. An exchange of letters between Sir Edmund Gibson, China Relations officer, Calcutta, the Under Secretary to the Government of India, External Affairs Department, and the C.O., Chinese Intelligence Wing, Calcutta. A draft report on the activities of the China press.

Correspondence on reaching an agreement between the Governments of India and China about taking steps to control negative press reportage in each other’s country on Allied war efforts.

In relation to objectionable articles published in the Calcutta-based Chinese Journal of India, and the decision to cancel supply of paper to the journal if any further objectionable articles are published.

Transcript of an editorial published in The Chinese Journal of India on 25 March, 1944 entitled ‘Calmness and Readiness’, which according to the Government of India tried to show the British Government as unprepared for the Japanese invasion. The Government asked the Chinese Commissioner in India to ask the Journal to exercise restraint in future.
Regarding the policy to be followed with respect to India's publicity materials directed towards China, with special reference to Col.Wheeler's articles on Indian political leaders. The file also contains a booklet entitled "Has Congress failed?"


Minutes and notes of press conferences held by the Chinese Government in which the foreign correspondents protest against restrictions imposed by the Chungking Government against their visiting the Communist base in Yenan. Telegrams on the permission given to foreign as well as Chinese journalists to visit Yenan. A newspaper cutting entitled 'Arrangements being made for pressmen to visit Northwest’ published in the National Herald, Chungking, 2 March, 1944.

Publication of China Review by Consulate General of China in Calcutta, and proposal for Hindustani language broadcasts from Chungking Radio Station [339]

Government of India’s decision to avoid publicity about the possibility of constructing an India-Sinkiang motor road [890]

Military Cooperation and Chinese Army in India

1942


Telegrams regarding jurisdiction over Chinese troops in India in the event of criminal offences committed in India inside and outside the Ramgarh Camp (Bihar). According to the Allied Forces Ordinance, 1942, which also applied to China, British Indian courts would have jurisdiction in cases involving offences against the law of British India, and the Chinese military authorities would have jurisdiction in matters concerning discipline and internal administration.
Budget estimates of the Chinese Seamen’s Wartime Service Corps for the financial year 1943-44.

1943

A report from Assam Police Weekly describing an incident on 27 Oct, 1943 in Tinsukia involving a clash between Assam Police and the Chinese Military Police over the question of jurisdiction over Chinese civilians in India.

Installation and control of Wireless and Telegraph station erected in India by the American and Chinese forces.

Letters and telegrams related to various issues related to the Chinese Seamen Wartime Service Corps in India (March to September, 1943).

Letters, telegrams on agreements between the British Government and the Government of China in the period January-July 1943 on the question of jurisdiction over the British forces serving in China and the Chinese forces serving in India, in the event of the repeal of extraterritorial rights in China.
Information regarding smuggling from Dum Dum and Dinjan by W.S Army transport personnel and Chinese.


Letters and telegrams on the subject of signing of an Anglo-Chinese agreement called Allied Forces (China) Ordinances, 1946, regarding the extent of jurisdiction over troops while serving in each other’s territory.


Correspondence on the decision of Government of India to create the post of Chinese Liaison Officer with the Political Officer, Tirap Frontier Tract, due to the presence of a large number of Chinese forces in Upper Assam. It was decided to appoint Tao Shao Fu as the Chinese Liaison Officer.


Letters on the subject of recruitment of a large number of transportation coolies in China for service with the Chinese forces in India. Also contains a translation of a newspaper report from the Ta Kung Pao dated 11 November, 1943 on the same subject.


Correspondence regarding infringement of the Defence of India Act, 1939 by Lieutenant Chao Hsiao-tien of the Chinese Air Force Command, India Detachment, Chinese Air Force Cadet School, Lahore. During his trip from China to India on 15 April, 1944, he had been discovered carrying seven packets of letters which were liable to censorship and which he had not declared. Lieutenant Chao was later sentenced to four months imprisonment in Chungking for his attempt to evade censorship.


Correspondence regarding the visit of a Chinese Military Mission, comprising of Lt-Gen Tu Chien-shih and Commander Wei Chi-min, to the Combined Training Centre, Bombay. The itinerary of the Mission is also attached. Also attached are itineraries of the visit of other Chinese Officers in India, namely Lt-Gen Cheng Kai-min (Chinese DMI), Lt-Gen Hua Chen-min (Head of Signal Corps Board, Military Training Department) and Major-General Feng
Yee. Also attached is a report on the visit of Lt-Gen Cheng Kai-min to New Delhi from 30 July to 9 August.


Letters informing about the appointment of Chinese Liaison Officers, namely, Major-General Feng Yee (Chinese Army), Captain Tseng Wan Li (Chinese Navy) and Major Liu Tzu Han (Chinese Air Force) to the South East Asia Command (SEAC). Also attached is a report on the tour of Major-General Feng Yee and his itinerary while in India.


Regarding prohibition of discharge of Chinese military personnel in India.

1945


Letters on the subject of termination of appointment of Tao Shao-fu as the Chinese Liaison Officer with the Tirap Frontier Tract, Assam. The post was created in December 1943 and Tao was appointed as liaison officer. However the Governor of Assam found him unsuitable and a European Chinese-speaking officer was sought as replacement.


A British Embassy letter enclosing a statement by Brigadier-General William H. Turner, Commanding General of the India-China Division of the Air Transport Command, at Kunming announcing the lifting of 44,000 tons of war materials to China under his command.


Correspondence regarding arrangements to be made for inspection of wartime transportation and communication systems in India by a group of Chinese technical experts sent by the Chinese Ministry of Communications who were proceeding to the US via India. Also contains list of the above-mentioned Chinese experts.

Documents concerning the improper discharge of Chinese military personnel, particularly British nationals of Chinese race or persons possessing dual nationality, in India from military duty. The Government of India made it mandatory that all members of Chinese forces, including those who claimed dual nationality, not be discharged from the Chinese army in India without undergoing proper passport and visa formalities.


Letters on the appointment of Li Tieh-tseng and Lt. Pei Yu-fen of the Chinese Navy to the staff of the Chinese Resident Military Officer in India.


Documents regarding the treatment of 114 Chinese civilian ex-PAI (Persia and Iraq) force who were, without prior consultation, brought to India to be inducted into the Chinese Army in India. The Chinese forces having already left India, the Government of India did not want to increase the number of Chinese in India, and hence asked the Chinese Commissioner to make arrangements to repatriate them to China. In the intervening period, these Chinese were sent to the Deolali Camp, Maharashtra. Lists of Chinese in the Deolali camp are also attached.


Documents on Ho Chin-yu, a deserter from the Chinese Army station at Ramgarh.


Correspondence concerning the smuggling of goods by crews of the Chinese Air Force which was discovered at Mohanbari Airfield in Assam. A note containing details of the incident is also attached. On 9 January 1945, twelve bombers which were on their way to China with crews who had completed their training in India arrived at Mohanbari Airfield. On being searched, a large quantity of drugs, clothes and many other goods were discovered, the value of which was estimated to be at least Rs 1,50,000/-. A list of the goods seized at Mohanbari is attached along with a list of Chinese personnel involved. Also attached are documents related to the arrest of Harry Sutter, Radio Instructor to 14 USAF Training School, Karachi, who was travelling with the above-mentioned Chinese bomber squadron to China, for attempting to leave India without a proper permit.

Letters on the activities of Major General Peter Gabriel Bourlin, a naturalized Chinese citizen of Russian origin in India. Bourlin and his wife had come to India in December 1944 on a Chinese Military Certificate. The Intelligence Bureau intercepted one of his letters to the Chinese Military Commission, which gave the impression that he was passing military information to China. The British Embassy, Chungking was therefore instructed not to grant them visas for India.

Deserters from the Chinese army in Kalimpong [448]

Foreign volunteer doctors for Chinese Army in India [123]

Questions in the Legislative Assembly/State Council

1939


Question in the Legislative Assembly asked by S. Satyamurti on 4 Sept, 1939 regarding consultation with the Government of India by the British Government about the international situation, especially in the Far East and in China.


Question in the Legislative Assembly by C.N. Muthuranga Mudaliar on 30 Aug, 1939 asking if the Sinkiang Government had passed any order which imposed restrictions on the purchase and possession of immovable property by foreigners, including Indians, in Sinkiang. The answer of Sir Olaf Caroe to the above question is also attached.

Question in the Legislative Assembly regarding the treatment of Indian merchants in Sinkiang.


Question in the Legislative Assembly regarding the anti-Indian propaganda by the Sinkiang government and its intention to eliminate the Indian presence from Sinkiang.


Question in the State Council regarding the ill treatment of Indians in Sinkiang.


Question in the Legislative Assembly regarding the difficulties faced by Indian traders in Chinese Turkestan. The file also includes a statement explaining the position of British subjects in Sinkiang during the previous two years and action taken after the Tungan rebellion, as well as information about an unofficial boycott against Indians and Indian trade in Sinkiang, exploitation of Indians, and problems in obtaining exit visas.


Question and answer in the Legislative Assembly regarding reported loss of property and lives of Indian merchants in Chinese Turkestan.

1941


Copy of the questions place before the Council of State by Raja Yuveraj Dutta Singh regarding conditions of Indians in Sinkiang and the difficulties they were facing. Attached is the full transcription of the answer which was given to the Raja by the Government. It is mentioned that there were about 300 Indians in Sinkiang excluding the Consulate staff. On p. 30 is a newspaper clipping entitled “Sinkiang Boycott of Indians: Several Deported” from The Statesman of 26 February, 1941. The file also consists of abstracts of weekly letters from Kashgar.
Questions relating to casualties from Japanese air raids [86]

Part II: Embassies, Consulates and Missions
British Embassy, Consulates and Missions

1939


Letters regarding despatches, telegrams and savingrams sent in 1938 between the British Embassy Peking and the External Affairs Department of Government of India.


Correspondence on G.E. Stockley taking charge as Acting Consul-General of the British Consulate-General, Yunnanfu, from J.W.O. Davidson in August. He was later replaced by H.I. Prideaux-Brune in November of the same year.


Telegrams regarding the budget estimates of the British Trade Agencies in Sikkim, Bhutan, Yatung and Gyantse for 1939-40.


Telegrams, letters and notes regarding the maintenance of British Government buildings in Gyantse and Yatung in Tibet. The possibility of building British Mission quarters in Lhasa mooted.


Letters and memorandum on the subject of granting daily allowance to the Political Officer in Sikkim and his staff while at Lhasa for the period from 1 Oct,1939 to 30 Sept, 1940.
Enquiry regarding the welfare of the wife and two children of the late Dr. Anderson of the China Inland Mission.

1940

Telegram from the British Diplomatic Mission in Chungking informing that ‘Prodome’ was now the registered address of the Mission.

Arrangements for the grant of visas to Brigadier L.E. Dennya and Major H.R. Officer, appointed as Military Attache and Assistant Military Attache respectively at the British Embassy, Chungking. Also attached is the passport form with a small photograph of Saiyid Jalal Shah, the private servant of Major H.R. Officer who was accompanying them to Chungking.

Letter from the British Embassy in Chungking to provide extra copies of any papers of importance, with particular reference to Chinese policy in Tibet.

Extract of a Defence Department note regarding allowance to be paid to the Civil Veterinary Assistant Surgeon at Gyantse.

Letters concerning extension of the Lhasa Mission for one more year until 30 Sept, 1941.
Letters regarding discontinuing the practice of printing the monthly Lhasa Mission Diaries as a means of economising on paper, on the suggestion of B. Gould, Political Officer of Sikkim.


Letter on refunding duties paid when some ammunition was brought for the Lhasa Mission.

[221] File No: 165-X(Sec). Pp. 1-10. Refs: 517-X/37(Sec); 672-X/37(Sec); 244-X/36(Sec); 244(2)/36(Sec); 306-X/39(Sec).

Letters on whether R. N. Cox, the wireless operator with the Lhasa Mission, should be allowed to remain in possession of a private wireless set. It was decided to let him continue using it as he “could by this means put in some useful and quiet propaganda.”


Correspondence regarding whether military officers of the Escorts serving in Lhasa should be exempted from payment of Indian Income Tax if they draw their pay in Tibet.


Correspondence regarding exempting four boxes of wireless apparatus required for the British Mission Lhasa from custom duties.


Correspondence regarding the continuance of the two temporary posts of Sub-Overseers at Gyantse and Yatung on the existing pay and allowances until the end of February 1941.


Refs: Proceedings Sec-E, February 1905, Nos-1398-1445; Proceedings August 1906, Nos 4-11, External B; Proceedings January 1909, Nos 154-168 External B; Proceedings May 1911, Nos 20-22, External B; Proceedings January 1913, Nos. 82-86, Sec-E; Proceedings August 1913, Nos 265-269, External Secret; File No. 89-X/27; 520-X/35; 111(2)-X/40 (Sec); 8(77)-E/41; 161-x/40 (Sec); 8(77)-E/40
Letters on the question of finding a successor for Rai Bahadur Dr. Kanshi Ram, the British Trade Agent at Gartok. It was decided that Kanshi Ram should be given an extension for a period of one year from October 1940. Also discussed was the question of whether Gartok should be covered by the Sikkim Post Office or that of Punjab. Moreover the Government of India approved of direct communication between the Resident, Punjab States and the Political Officer in Sikkim as it was thought to be more efficient.

Refs: Proceedings August 1914, Nos 404-55(Sec), External; Proceedings March 1915, Nos 398-508(Sec) External; 258-X/22(Sec); 65-X/23; 65-X/25; 513-X/27; 209-E/32; 58-X/33; 434-X/36(Sec); 256-X/38; 365-X/39; 373-X/39(Sec)
Letters and telegrams from the British Ambassador in Chungking proposing the reopening of the British consular agencies at Chengtu and Tachienlu, as it was felt that to get news from Tibet and Xinjiang, Chungking would be too far a post to keep an eye on the happenings in the region.

1942

Letters and statement of budget estimate of revenue and receipts and expenditure of the Gyantse Trade Agency for the period 1 April, 1943 to the 31 March, 1944.

Annual report of the British Trade Agent, Yatung, Tibet for the year ending the 31 March, 1942. The report was submitted by Norbhu Dhondup, British Trade Agent, Yatung.

Budget estimate for the Yatung Trade Agency for the year 1943-44.

Correspondence on the question of employing A. H. Staunton Skinn and his wife in the External Affairs Department due their extensive knowledge of China and Chinese affairs, on the suggestion of Sir Maurice Gwyer.
Proposal to establish wireless equipment at Urumchi consulate.

Opening of a British consulate at Urumchi (Tihua) and appointment of G.R. Turral as Consul General Urumchi. Discussion of respective functions and jurisdiction of the consulates at Kashgar and Urumchi.

1943

Instructions to British representatives in Gilgit, Sinkiang and Tibet that correspondence related to Sino-Indian relations or the situation in Tibet should be sent to the India Office, London as a rule.

Instructions to the members of the staff of the British Embassy in China to refrain from writing or disclosing any official information about official activities or conditions in China. This followed censorship interception of a private letter critical of China and her war efforts which cited official information from the British embassy in China.

1944

Monthly reports of conditions in Foochow district for the period December 1943- December 1944 sent by the British Consulate in Foochow.
Regarding the possible use of the British Embassy, Chungking’s mail bag for private letters by Bishop Frank Houghton of the China Inland Mission.

Correspondence on the procedure to be adopted for the distribution of censorship intercepted letters to the British Embassy and the Indian Agency General in China.

1945

Monthly reports sent from the British Consulate at Foochow for the year 1945.

Extract from a report submitted by Lt. Col. D.M.L Henessey of the British Indian Army who had been a P.O.W in Mukden, in which he stressed the necessity of having British Consular representation in Mukden, pointing to the “incalculable possibilities for trade.”

Kashgar Consulate-General

Correspondence on arrangements to finance the British Consulate General at Kashgar. Due to the sharp decrease in the number of Indian traders in Kashgar, the Consulate was facing difficulty in improving its treasury reserves. Hence the Government of India was requested to send a monthly subsidy in American Dollars to the Kashgar Consulate.
Letters on supply of spare parts for the British wireless station at the Kashgar Consulate.


Telegrams regarding 1) sanctioning a post of Assistant Chinese Writer, Kashgar and appointing Thomas Wai for the same; and 2) the Vice-Consul taking over temporarily as Treasury Officer during the absence of Consul-General, Kashgar, while on tour.


Payment to Sinkiang authorities by the Consul General, Kashgar, on behalf of Sir Eric Teichman.


Permits for transmission by post of certain classes of postal articles to neutral countries. Supply of permit books to certain foreign consuls in India and to the British Consul General, Kashgar.


Views expressed by the Mehter of Chitral to Deputy Director, Intelligence, Peshawar, regarding Soviet influence in Sinkiang affairs. He suggests that the long held view that the expulsion of Indians from Sinkiang was carried out at the behest of the Russians with the goal of replacing the British Consulate General in Kashgar was no longer justified.


Letter and notes concerning the procedure for the censorship and despatch of correspondence for authorized persons in Kashgar and Yarkand.


Letters on granting Chinese visas to Hub-i-Ali and Sohrab so that they may proceed to Kashgar to take up private service with the subordinate staff of the Consulate-General. Decision that in future a list may be made of all such persons proceeding to Kashgar.
Letters on the application of the China (Kashgar Amendment) Order in Council, 1922. Includes a list of officers who exercised judicial powers under the Order in Council during 1939. Attaches two lists of civil and criminal cases tried under the Order. Notes that 171 persons were registered as British subjects under the Order.

Correspondence on the grant of a Chinese visa to K.F. Limbuwala who was proceeding to Kashgar to take up appointment as Wireless Operator at the Consulate-General.

1940

Correspondence regarding the request made by A.J. Hopkinson, Consul-General at Kashgar, for the appointment of an officer of either the Chinese consular service or the Political Department to the post of Vice-Consul in Kashgar. The request was not granted saying that in time of war, it was not advisable to “waste the services of an able bodied man in an appointment like Kashgar where there is hardly enough work to keep one officer fully occupied.”

Letter on the subject of the travelling allowance that Y.S. Au, Chinese writer, Kashgar could draw for his return journey from Kashgar to India in October-November 1939.

Correspondence regarding the contributions made by Major H.H. Johnson, British Consul-General, Kashgar, Dr. A.J. Selvey, Vice-Consul, Kashgar, P.J. Robbins, wireless operator and J.T. Chu, Chinese writer, to the Viceroy’s War Purposes Fund.

Rejection of application from C.H. Chen for re-appointment as the Chinese writer to the British Consulate, Kashgar for three years.
Correspondence regarding the appointment of A. J. Hopkinson as the Consul-General in Kashgar in place of H.H. Johnson.

Letter on the question of whether the intelligence summaries sent by the Baluchistan Intelligence Bureau in the period 15 Nov to 6 Dec, 1940 should be sent to the Consulate-General Kashgar.

Budget estimates of the Kashgar Consulate-General for the year 1941-42.

Correspondence regarding financing the Consulate-General, Kashgar in US Dollars, Chinese currency or Sinkiang Dollars.

Correspondence about refunding members of the staff of the Kashgar Consulate-General the Chinese customs duties paid by them on first appointment. This followed the levying by the Xinjiang authorities in 1937 of customs duty, ranging between 40 to 60 ad valorem, on goods imported by the members of the Kashgar Consulate-General other than the Consul-General and Vice-Consul.

Correspondence regarding providing telegraph summaries of daily news to the British Consul-General, Kashgar, via Misgar, until the Consul General had received his own wireless set.

Telegrams on some funds credited to the Kashgar treasury.


Telegrams from the Kashgar Consulate with the proposal to open a grain depot in the Consulate to help counteract the increasing cost of living for lower paid staff of the Consulate. The proposal was accepted by the Government. Also attached are weekly news reports on the situation in Xinjiang.


Correspondence regarding the fixation of the monthly exchange rate for payments made in Sinkiang dollars from the Kashgar treasury for the financial year 1940-41.


Correspondence regarding the appointment of Qazi Ghulam Sarwar of the North West Frontier Province Government under deputation to the post of Accountant, Kashgar, in place of Abdul Aziz Tajik.


Letters concerning the appointment of Raza Ali as First Clerk in the Kashgar Consulate in place of Abdul Wassey. Also correspondence on the arrangements for the travel of Eric Shipton, Consul-General designate, and his party to Kashgar. Information on the salary and allowances paid to the staff at the Kashgar Consulate.


Correspondence regarding the travelling allowance of C.J. Franks, former wireless operator, Kashgar Consulate, for his journey from Kashgar to India.
Correspondence on the supply of Union Jack flags for use in the Kashgar Consulate–General.

Correspondence on the replacement of P.J. Robbins by C. Johnson as wireless operator at the Kashgar Consulate. Decision to continue the temporary post of wireless operator at the Consulate.

Letters and telegrams on the sanctioning of a new wireless radio set for the Kashgar Consulate General.

Letter regarding payment of salary and house rent of the Aksakal at Tashkurghan by the Kashgar Consulate.

Letters and telegrams on the amount of savings and excessive spending accrued by the Kashgar Consulate General during the budget of 1940-41.

Correspondence on rebuilding the hothouse in the Kashgar Consulate, which was in a dilapidated condition.

Correspondence on the extension of the tenure of Dr. A.J. Selvey, I.M.D., who had also acted
as the Vice-Consul in the Kashgar Consulate General, until 26 Oct, 1941.

Correspondence regarding accidental inclusion of some private correspondence to a Chinese subject in the Kashgar Consulate mail bag.

Photo and passport form submitted by Lhakpa Tenzing, a resident of Darjeeling, employed by the British Consul General, Kashgar as a bearer.

Correspondence on the supply of anti-plague vaccines to the Kashgar Consulate as a result of the outbreak of cholera.

[276] File No: 2-X(Sec). Pp. 1-158. Refs: 555-X/39;106(3)-X/37(Sec); 248-X/38(Sec);48-X/40; 930-X/40;586-X/39(Sec)
Correspondence regarding the closing down of the wireless station of the British Consulate at Kashgar. The Xinjiang Government strongly disapproved of the establishment of the British wireless station as it was considered a violation of sovereignty and demanded its closure. As a result it was closed down and the wireless parts and stores were sent to India.

Report of the interview between Government of India Foreign Secretary O.K. Caroe and Major Johnson, who had just been relieved of his post as the British Consul at Kashgar.

Correspondence regarding the appointment of Eric Shipton as British Consul-General at Kashgar.

Correspondence on the logistics of the despatch of letters from the Kashgar British Consulate to India.

Letter from M.N. Kennedy, Secretary, Royal Central Asian Society, London, requesting Turki or Chinese broadcasts from Kashgar.

Correspondence regarding duty-free import of stores for the British Consul-General, Vice Consuls and their families and staff in Kashgar.

Correspondence regarding expenses incurred on the Kashgar Consulate wireless set.

Letter reporting the operation of the China (Kashgar Amendment) Order-in-Council, 1922 for the year 1939. The report mentions that the during the year 1939 the British Consul General at Kashgar H.H. Johnson also acted as the District and Sessions Judge and tried 12 civil cases while no criminal cases were tried. It also mentions that 67 persons were registered as British subjects. Also attached is a statement of all the civil cases tried in that year.

Letter regarding the disposal of the wireless instruments in Kashgar. It was advised to return the expensive instruments to India while the old ones were either to be destroyed publicly or gifted to the local authorities so as to prevent any suspicion about the wireless system still being used discreetly.

Letter from the Consul-General H.H Johnson to the Government of India informing that due to non-availability of appropriate transport between Gilgit and Kashgar, the Kashgar Consulate was having problem in obtaining stationery.
Letter from J.T. Chu, Chinese writer at the Kashgar Consulate, charging a certain Chinese shopkeeper named Wang Pea-jan with misappropriation of Rs 250/-

Censorship interception of letters written by a staff member at the Kashgar Consulate, Thomas Wu, and by Major H.H. Johnson, the Consul General at the Kashgar Consulate.

Correspondence on whether or not to employ gatekeepers from among Hunza men in the Kashgar Consulate.

Correspondence concerning evacuation of the staff of the Kashgar Consulate by air in case of emergency.

Telegram from the British Consulate Kashgar informing about a newspaper article which was “violently anti-British in tone and describes India as being in a state of revolution. It ends with the remark that after Japan has been defeated, Indians will be assisted in obtaining their freedom.” However, the newspaper article is not attached.

A report submitted by Major H.H. Johnson, the British Consul-General at Kashgar, giving a detailed report of his journey from Kashgar to Gilgit, as well as of his alleged mistreatment by the authorities at Tashkurgan.
Correspondence regarding visas for Xinjiang granted to Qazi Ghulam Sarwar and Raza Ali, appointed as clerks in the Kashgar Consulate.

1941


Letter from the External Affairs Department of Government of India to the British Consul General at Kashgar Eric Shipton, informing him that in order to economise on use of paper, the Weekly News Report and Talking Points published by the Department of Information would be discontinued. Also, a letter from the British Consul-General suggesting that the “Bi-Weekly Guidance Notes on the War Situation” be discontinued as it arrived very late in Kashgar.


Budget estimates of the Kashgar Consulate for 1942-43 along with a comparison with the sanctioned budget for the year 1941-42.

1942


Budget estimate of the Kashgar Consulate General for the year 1943-44.

1944


Proposal from the Chinese government to close down the diplomatic mail bag service of British Consulate General, Kashgar.

An exchange of letters between M.C. Gillett, British Consul General, Kashgar, H. Weightman, Joint Secretary, External Affairs Department, and H. Dayal, External Affairs Department, Government of India, in relation to supply of photo films and prints to the British Consul General, Kashgar.

**Implications of Russian presence in Sinkiang for British consulate at Kashgar [950]**

**List of personnel of Kashgar Consulate [844]**

**Chinese refusal to grant visas for some staff of Kashgar consulate [321]**

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**Indian Agency General in China**

**1942**


Refs: 702-G/39, 704(2)-G/39, 8(124)-E/41, 8(83)-E/42, 235-G/42, 8(144)-E/43, 23(7)-E/48, 17(7)-E/46, 17(18)-E/46

Letters and telegrams related to the appointment of staff and maintenance of the office of the Agent-General of India in Chungking. It was decided to create two posts of First and Second Secretaries to the Agent-General. The senior official was to be from the Indian Political Service and the junior one an Indian Army officer of the rank of Captain. Captain A.N. Mehta was appointed Second Secretary. Documents on the issue of settling the pay and allowances of Major Nazir Ahmad. Papers related to the appointment of local staff including an interpreter and the fixation of their pay and allowances.
Letters on the question of appointing a China Relations Officer in Delhi apart from the one already in Calcutta. Accordingly, the China Relations Office (Delhi) was set up with its office at No. 82 Queensway. H. Prideaux-Brune was appointed as the China Relations Officer in Delhi. Also attached are extracts of letters from Sir Zafarullah Khan, Agent- General of India in China, about the reactions of the Chinese to the political situation in India.

Correspondence related to the appointment of Sir Mohammad Zafarullah Khan as the first Agent-General for India in China. One of the letters dated 21 April, 1942 from H. Weightman to Sir Edward Cook, China Relations Officer, spells out the functions of the Agent-General of India. The Agent General was to “handle matters affecting purely Sino-Indian relations” while the British Embassy was to continue to handle the wider relations of Great Britain and the British Empire with China, though it was necessary to “watch out how the Agent-General’s functions develop.” Also attached is correspondence related to the itinerary, activities and logistical problems that Sir Zafarullah Khan faced in the initial days after taking up his post. Letters carrying instructions to him from the Government of India are also mentioned.

Regarding issuing to Sir Zafarullah Khan, Agent-General for India in China, a copy of a brief on the position of Indian states in the political and economic map of India.

Telegram in which Sir Zafarullah Khan complains about the non-receipt of mail.

Letters on the subject of exchange of representatives between India and China. Sir Zafarullah Khan was appointed as the first representative of India in China and was styled as Agent
General for India in China, while Shen Shih-hua was appointed as the Chinese representative in India with the title Commissioner.

1944

Quarterly reports for the year 1944 submitted by the Indian Agency General, Chungking on the situation in China.

Documents related to the creation of the post of Indian Attache at Shanghai to look after Indian interests after the War, and the decision to appoint I.G. Bahadur Singh for the post.

Correspondence regarding the grant of a fund of Rs. 1000/- to the Indian Agency General, Chungking for giving gifts to Chinese dignitaries during meetings.

Documents on the subject of the principle of reciprocity of facilities and concessions to be given to the diplomatic missions of India and China in each other’s countries. The British Government desired that the Indian Agent General and his staff be accorded the same concessions in China that the Chinese Commissioner was availing in India. It was proposed that if the Chinese Government did not agree, the Government of India was open to retaliation by reducing the concessions given to the Chinese Commissioner in Delhi.

Regarding need for censorship of news. An extract from a personal letter from K.P.S Menon, Agent General for India in Chungking, to O.K Caroe, Secretary, External Affairs Department, expressing his disapproval of a news report in Reuters regarding the Bengal famine.

**1945**


Quarterly reports from the Indian Agency General, Chungking for the year 1945. The reports discuss issues like the Japanese occupation of China, views of the Chinese press on India, other Chinese views on India, the Communists, Indian publicity in China, opening of the Ledo Road, the San Francisco Conference, visit of the Mountbattens, Indian students in China, Tibet, Chinese trade with India, inflation etc.


A note by H. Richardson which suggests that the Indian Agent General should take whatever opportunities available to explain the British attitude to Tibet to Communist representatives in Chungking.


Letters from the Director of the Intelligence Bureau enquiring if there was an organization by the name of “Indian Branch of the International Labour Office” at Chungking. A letter from the Indian Agency General, Chungking replied in the negative.


Enquiry by Shankar of the Home Department to the Agent General of India regarding the grant of exemption by the Chinese government to diplomats and consular officials from registration, and from having to obtain immigration or other permits.


Report of tour made by Captain A.N. Mehta, Second Secretary, Indian Agency General, in November 1944 in the Paoshan Lungling area of Yunnan. The report talks about the roads, the US military establishment, Indian prisoners of war whom Mehta met, the remnants of Japanese occupation in the area, and other matters.
Correspondence on the proposal to appoint a Publicity Officer in the Office of the Agent General for India at Chungking. K.E. Mathew, Officer on Special Duty in the Information Department, was transferred to Chungking as the Publicity Officer.

Censorship intercepted letters and the Indian Agency General [237]
Division of responsibilities between Indian Agency General and British Embassy [58]

Chinese Consulates and Mission in India

1939

Changes in the personnel of the Chinese Consulates in India.

Letter and enclosure (September 1939) from CC Huang, Chinese Consul-General at Calcutta, saying that he had been instructed by his Government to exercise greater caution in sending telegraphic exchanges between the Consulate and Government at Chungking, and to use ten alternative codes. (Codes enclosed.) He requested permission to use these. Government of India replied that it is unable to accede to the request, but added that the Consul General could pursue his request further with the authorities in London through diplomatic channels.
1940


Telegram on the practice of consulting the British Ambassador in China regarding Chinese consular appointments anywhere in the British Empire.


Letter on the request of the Vice-Consul for China at Bombay to be allowed to send messages out of India in code, as allowed of in the case of the Consul-General for China at Calcutta, and that his mail should not be subjected to censorship. The request of the Vice-Consul was not accepted on the grounds that he was not the senior-most Chinese consular representative in India.


Report of the first interview of Major F.H.A Stables with the Chinese Consul-General at Calcutta Huang Chao-chin on 4 May, 1940. Some of the topics about which they talked (e.g. Wang Ching-wei’s propaganda, Japanese intimidation, Tibet, Buddhism) are also mentioned.


Censorship interception of an airmail letter from the Chinese Vice Consul at Bombay to K.C. Yu, a member of the Chinese Legation at Ankara, containing letters for transmission to Vienna and Prague.


Correspondence on the refusal of the Chinese Consul-General at Calcutta to grant Chinese visas to eight persons who were to be employed as gate-keepers in the British Consul-General, Kashgar.

1941
Correspondence regarding arrangements for receiving Lt. Col Yi Teh-ming, the Chinese Resident Officer in India. The Resident Officer had a rank similar to that of a Military Attache with the Government of India.

Letters on the issue of whether to continue the concessions which were accorded to Dr. Kung Ching-tsung (chief of the Chinese Mission in Lhasa) to exchange telegrams in code, cypher or any language with the Chinese Consul-General at Calcutta. The Political Officer in Sikkim suggested the discontinuance of the concessions.

Letters on the question of accommodation for Shen Shih-hua, Chinese Commissioner to India, who was to arrive in Delhi in the first week of April accompanied by his secretary Chang Ping. It was decided to accommodate the Chinese Mission in the Maidens Hotel until the availability of suitable accommodation. Jind House was later allotted to the Chinese Commissioner.

Letters on the subject of the Chinese Consul-General’s request to obtain 10 copies each of the 1940 or latest edition aeronautical maps covering India and Burma. The Government of India granted permission.

Correspondence on granting permission to the Chinese Consul-General at Bombay to receive and despatch telegrams in cypher and code to and from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Chungking and the various Chinese embassies, legations and consulates abroad. The Government of India decided to grant the permission to communicate by cypher telegrams only with the Chinese Foreign Office in Chungking.
Official notes and letters regarding complaint received from the Chinese Consul-General at Calcutta about delay in receiving mail through consular bags due to the censorship process.


Ref: 10(52)-W/41, 566(3)-X/42(Sec), 10(17)-W/42, 8(9)-W/42, 11(19)-W/44, 371-CA/44(Sec),11(6)-W/44, 11(29)-W/44, 11(13)-W/44, 11(14)-W/44,9(8)-W/45, 9(9)-W/45

Correspondence on granting concessions to the Commissioner of China to India regarding postal and telegraph censorship. In one of the letters, dated 30 July, 1942, the Commissioner S.H. Shen complained that his mail had been opened. The Government of India informed the Chinese Commissioner that he was permitted to exchange without censorship official correspondence and telegrams in code, cypher or any language, subject to certain conditions.


Correspondence on the question of permitting the Chinese Commissioner’s headquarters and Chinese consulates in India to install wireless stations on their premises. The permission was granted by the Government of India.


Request from Thomas T. Euyang, Karachi Representative of the National Resources Commission, Government of China for permission to use private code in its communications with Chungking and its agents in the Allied countries. He was notified that he had to approach the Government of India through the Chinese Commissioner.


Complaint received from the Chinese Consul General in Calcutta that the procedure by which Consular bags had to be sent to the censor authorities to be stamped before they could be despatched, was causing delay in some cases amounting to 3 or 4 days.
Letter from the Political Officer in Sikkim asking the Government of India what he should be “cautious” about during the discussions with the Chinese Consul-General Calcutta who was to visit him shortly.

Report on the activities of the branch of the Chinese Ministry of Information in Calcutta, and on their publications.

1944

Correspondence regarding grant of special censorship concessions to the Chinese Commissioner and the Consuls General for Persia and France.

Correspondence on the request received from the Commissioner of China in India for certain maps for the use of the Deputy East India Regional Representative of the Board of Transport Control (BOTC) and others.

Intelligence reports regarding the activities of Dr. C.J. Pao, the Chinese Consul General at Calcutta.

Correspondence on the proposal submitted by the Chinese Commissioner in Delhi to publish a weekly called China War News by the Office of the Chinese Commissioner in India for distribution to Government institutions and cultural institutes, to provide information about the war situation in China. The idea later was dropped, and it was decided to publish pamphlets instead.
Correspondence regarding the complaint received from the Chairman, Institute of International Relations of the Chinese National Military Council, regarding the non-delivery of a coded telegram from him to the Chinese Consul General, Calcutta, contains details of the Chinese authorities in India who had been granted concessions with respect to telegraph censorship.


Documents regarding the proposal by the Consul-General for China in Calcutta to publish a Chinese weekly newspaper entitled the China Review. Permission was granted by the Government of India to publish the weekly. The documents also deal with the proposal of the Government of India to start a broadcast in Hindustani from the Chungking Radio Station to Indian civilians and prisoners of war in Japanese occupied territories, which was tied up with the request by the Chinese Consul to start China Review.


Correspondence regarding the visit of Shen Shih-hua, the Chinese Commissioner in India, to Kashmir and to Serai Safa Kadal to meet Chinese who resided there. The speeches made by Shen are also reported. A letter from the Chinese Turkistan Association to Shen, in which they inform him about their living conditions, is also attached.


Correspondence regarding exemption of Chinese employees of the Board of Transport Control serving in Calcutta, New Delhi, Karachi and Dibrugarh from registration under the Registration of Foreigners Act, as they were subject to military discipline.

Artist Ju Peon’s visit [405]

Refusal of Chinese consulate to grant visas for Kashgar and Yarkand to agents of Mir of Hunza [937]

Chinese vice-consul Bombay’s meeting with two Xinjiang merchants residing in India [850]

Chinese Commissioner’s request for Burmese currency [141]
Government of India seeking the Chinese Commissioner’s help to restrain the Chinese Journal of India’s reporting [174]

Reciprocal concessions to be given to Chinese Commissionarate in Delhi and Indian Agency General in Chungking [307]

Request from Chinese consul general for export of medicines from India to Tibet [561]

Chinese Commissioner’s request to publish a book on China by Prof Daruvala [619]

Passports, visas and travel permits

1939


Correspondence concerning the grant of a British passport to Shalom Hayim Levy, an Ottoman origin resident of Shanghai on the basis of a false birth certificate. It is mentioned that until 1928 France used to protect former Ottoman nationals resident in China.


Correspondence concerning the application from J.G. May for the grant of a visa for India to his cousin Heinz Cohn, then residing in Shanghai.


Letters on the subject of the cancellation of the Chinese passport of A. J. Smolin, a Russian refugee, by the Chinese Passport Authority at Tientsin, on account of his having become a naturalized British subject.
Letters concerning grant of visa for Singapore and Penang (Strait Settlements) to Chinese subjects Khoe Shik Kan and Ko Shao Liang.

Regarding issue of passports for China valid for one year in the first instance, as documents of identity to British Indian residents in China who had evaded Indian passport regulations to reach China.

Concerning request of the Government of Ceylon that Chinese hawkers should not be granted visas for Ceylon without prior reference to that Government.

A letter from Chief Secretary's Office, Colombo, to the Home Dept. stated that the number of Chinese hawkers coming to Ceylon had recently increased considerably. Owing to the prevailing slump in trade it was felt that these hawkers would find it difficult to make a living.

Endorsement of Felicity M. Gilbert’s passport by the External Affairs Department to enable her to get a Chinese visa.

Telegram regarding grant of travel passes via India to traders of the Regent of Tibet, Jamel Kunzang and Khechok, and their party of seven, who were then at Hong Kong.

Letters regarding grant of passport to four Kashmiris who intended to travel between Lhasa and Calcutta. The Government of India replied that no special permission was required for Indians wishing to enter Tibet, and hence passports were not required by them.
Correspondence regarding issue of travel passes by the British Embassy to travelling proceeding to Tibet via India. The file also contains letters on the attempt made by the Dilawa Hutuketu (Living Buddha) to collect a travel pass to Tibet under false pretence. A note on the Dilawa Hutuketu is attached. Ten travel passes to Tibet issued to Mongolian lamas are also attached along with the cancelled travel pass of the Dilawa Hutuketu.

Letters, telegrams and notes regarding the issue of travel passes by the British Embassy in China to travelling proceeding to Tibet via India.

1940

Circular sent from the British Embassy, Chungking, to the various Consuls in China instructing them to grant restricted passports to those Indians “who have evaded compliance with the Government of India passport regulations and who have arrived in China without travel documents.”

Correspondence on the subject of granting restricted passports to Indian applicants in China. A number of the letters inquire if the applicants had been involved in anti-British activities in India.

Application from Miriam Ali to the British Consulate at Shanghai for registration as a British subject and for a British passport. Also contains a Shanghai Municipal Police Report describing the history of Miss Ali.

Telegrams and letters on the question of granting Hong Kong visas to P. Thawald, Robert
Christensen (Danish) and Jens Nielsen (Norwegian), ships officers on board the *Johanne Justensen*, who had fallen sick and been allowed to temporarily land in Bombay.


Correspondence on granting visas for Hong Kong and the Straits Settlement to certain individuals (mostly women whose husbands were working in these British colonies). It was advised not to “permit women to travel to countries from which there is the possibility that they may have to be repatriated.”


Letters on granting permission to Maud Parrics who wished to travel to Gyantse. She was denied permission as the British policy was not to allow women to travel to Tibet without male escort.


Correspondence on issuing travel passes to Tibetan merchants Nima Dagylzang Bhutia and Hou Tuh Shin, who held passports issued by the Chinese Consulate in Calcutta and who wished to return to Lhasa with their goods.


Letter about the Chinese Government granting visas for the travel of officers to be employed at the Kashgar Consulate. Telegram from the Consul-General for China, Calcutta, to the Secretary to the Government of India, External Affairs, on the refusal to grant visas to the Chinese Eastern Football team who wished to come to India to play with Indian teams.


Correspondence on granting passports for the couriers who carried British consular mail between India and Xinjiang.

1942

Correspondence regarding facilitating the passage through India of one Monsieur Baudet, formerly in charge of the French Embassy at Chungking, and his family.

1943


Correspondence between K.P.S Menon, Indian Agent-General Chungking, and Hugh Weightman in the External Affairs Department of Government of India, along with other documents, relating to the refusal by Government of India to grant visas to some Chinese citizens.


Instruction for the grant of transport facilities to India to persons of dual nationality (British subjects of Chinese origin) and holders of British passports.

1945


Regarding request received from the China Inland Mission for priority sea passages for the UK for missionaries stranded in China. A table showing the number of Protestant missionaries in unoccupied China, classified according to areas and nationalities is also attached.


Telegram regarding a diplomatic visa and custom facilities extended to Nikolai Stepanovich Ananiev, First Secretary of the Soviet Embassy, Chungking, transiting India en route to China.

On visas for Manchukuo [105]
Visas for porters from Kashgar in India [463]

Part III: Movement of people
Visitors to China

1939


Chungking political summaries. The file talks about the new reincarnation of Dalai Lama found in Tsinghai and sent to Lhasa. Nehru’s visit to Chungking and Chengtu. Air raids in Chengtu and Chungking.


Letter and notes on the subject of whether Giani Sher Singh may be granted a passport for China and other countries for the purpose of religious preaching and raising funds. Singh was a well-known Akali leader. Ultimately he was allowed travel facilities.


Letters on logistical arrangements to be made for the transportation of four live monkeys presented by the Tibetan Government to Dr. Schafer’s German Expedition during their visit to Tibet.


Letters on the proposed visit of Lt. Col. R.C.F. Schomberg, Consul-General in Pondicherry, to Tibet in 1940.


Correspondence on the proposed visit of Lester Collins and Ormsbree Simonds, American landscape architects, to Tibet. They asked permission to travel to Gyantse in Tibet.

Letters on grant of permission to S.M. Imam, Bar-at Law and his secretary, Arthur Young, to visit Tibet. Imam and Young wanted to visit Tibet to conduct research on the “mystic side of Tibet”. The Tibetan Government did not give permission for the visit.

Letters on grant of permission to Charlton. D. Putnam, American businessman based in Calcutta, to travel up to Dochen in Tibet for a pleasure trip.

Letters on the application of Dr. Georges de Roerich, based in Kulu, to visit Tibet. The application was rejected citing the Tibetan Government’s reluctance to have foreign visitors in Tibet.

Letters (June-July 1939) on the enquiry made by the Political Officer, Sikkim about Dhanpat Rai, former Professor of Mathematics at the RSD College Ferozepur (1921-28), who had applied for permission to visit Gyantse in Tibet.

Letters on the proposed visit of Dharam Vira, Deputy Commissioner of Almora, to Tibet (Bhot, Taklakot and Gyanima) so as to enquire into the complaints received from Bhotia traders regarding trade conditions and against the Trade Agent at Taklakot. Also attached is the tour programme of Dharam Vira.

Letters on grant of permission to Rev. Monsignor Gianora and Father Butty (both Swiss citizens) of the Roman Catholic Prefecture, Kalimpong, to visit Tibet, on the condition that they would not indulge in any kind of religious propaganda while in Tibet.

Letters on the application of Mrs. Gasque, a wealthy American lady living in Kashmir, and her party to visit Lake Mansarovar and Mount Kailash in Tibet.


Letters on proposed visit of Lt. J.O.M. Roberts of the Gurkha Rifles and his party to Lake Mansarovar in Tibet during the summer of 1939.


Letters on the grant of permission to J.C. White, American Consul-General at Calcutta, and his wife to visit Gyantse in Tibet.


Letters concerning the refusal of permission to Ronald Kaulback and St. Clair Bartholomew to visit Tibet. Kaulback had earlier visited Tibet in 1936 and had desired to visit Tibet and the Sadiya Frontier Tract in Assam to carry out a geographical survey. While permission to enter Assam was given to him, he was asked to abandon his plans of visiting Tibet.


Telegrams on the grant of permission to McQueen Grant, an American citizen, to accompany Basil J. Gould to Lhasa.


Letters on permission granted to the Agfa Photo Co. Ltd Calcutta to supply gramophone records of Tibetan songs to Dr. E. Schafer of the German Tibetan Expedition.


Grant of permission to G. Sheriff and party to visit Southeast Tibet in connection with botanical explorations.
Dr. Schaefer's expedition to Tibet. Extract of a letter indicating that Schaefer may have studied meteorological and ground conditions on behalf of the German government with an eye to possible landing grounds in Tibet, as it afforded a route between the Middle East and Far East which was free from the meteorological conditions of India and the Himalayas, and more or less independent of British or Russian control. The file also refers to Schaefer’s closeness to Himmler and the German authorities.

Appointment of Capt. H.W.G Staunton, IMS, as medical officer to accompany the Political Officer Sikkim during his visit to Lhasa.

Correspondence regarding a proposal by Dr. B.S. Moonje to send a Hindu Mahasabha goodwill mission to China and Japan with the object of creating a better understanding between the Hindus of India and the Buddhists of the other two countries. The Government decided to “politely but firmly” discourage the idea because it felt that it would amount to simply “playing Japan’s game” as this project was “exactly in accordance with the plan of the Buddhist approach to Hindu India …which is a part of the Japanese pan-Asiatic scheme.”

Correspondence regarding the proposed Congress-sponsored Indian women’s goodwill mission to China. Vijayalakshmi Pandit was to be one of the members of the delegation. It was instructed that the proposed delegation should not be permitted to proceed to China on the grounds that, because of the “existing delicate state of relations between the British and Chungking Governments (consequent upon the closure of the Burma Road) it seems inadvisable that such a mission should visit China since the Chinese are bound to be more than usually susceptible at present to anti-British propaganda. From the strictly internal point of view we see no reason why Congress, or any other political party for that matter, should be permitted to send “quasi-diplomatic” missions to foreign powers and receive unnecessary publicity and importance in the country on that account.”
Report and letter concerning Dr. Debashish Mukherji, member of the Congress Medical Unit who wanted to proceed to Russia and China as a delegate of the Communist Party of India.


Correspondence regarding the proposed visit of Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Mayor of Calcutta, to China on the invitation of the Chungking Government. The Government of India decided against granting him passport facilities to visit China in view of his history as a politically “undesirable person”. A ‘history sheet’ of the individual concerned is attached.

1942

[391] File No: 143-X(P)(Sec). Sr No: 1-5. Pp. 1-15. Refs: 16(9)-X(P)/43(Sec), 16(9)-X(P)/42 (Sec)

Reports on the book Chungking Diary by D.F. Karaka, published in 1942 in Bombay, which was considered to be against the British Government in India. Owing to the negative impression produced by Karaka’s book, the Government of India asked the Agent-General for India in China to provide periodical reports on Indian visitors to China and on the activities of those Indians who were already in China and “may be engaged in subversive or otherwise objectionable activities.” Also decision not to renew Karaka’s tenure as a broadcaster with All India Radio.


Correspondence concerning visit to China of John Sargent, Educational Commissioner to the Government of India, and Prof. Hughes of Oxford University, to China.


Request of Meher Baba, a Parsi priest, to visit Nepal, Bhutan and Tibet. A biographical note on the activities of the Meher Baba is also attached, and it was found that no political significance could be attached to him or his religious cult.

Report submitted to the Government of India by Sir Robert Reid about his visit to Chungking and the issues which he discussed in Chungking, mainly the issue of smuggling and of Chinese seamen.

Report submitted by Blofield, from the Ministry of Information, on his tour of Universities in West and South West China.

1943

Proposal of the Communist Party of India to send to China (Communist-occupied areas) a team of medical volunteers to help in the war efforts of the Chinese. The proposal was put forward by Dr. P.K. Basu, the last surviving member of the 5 member Congress Medical Mission. The Government of India was not keen on it. Also contains 2 letters (in English) from Mao Zedong to the Central Committee, Communist Party of India (dated 5 April, 1943), and to the Indian National Congress (dated 5 April, 1943).

Correspondence on the proposal to send distinguished individuals and educationists like C.V. Raman, S. Radhakrishnan, Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, Pt. K.M. Sen, Nandlal Bose, etc to China as a measure to improve relations between India and China. This was based on the suggestion made in the report dated 16 Nov, 1942 submitted by Evert Barger, a British lecturer in Asiatic History at Bristol University.

Correspondence in relation to the proposed visit of Buddhist Studies scholar P.U Bapat of Fergusson College, Poona, to Tibet.

Correspondence and a report related to the visit of the British Parliamentary Delegation to China.
Correspondence regarding the British Government’s decision to restrict the entry of British citizens into China because of the military situation there. However, Asquith Redman and Donald Stephenson, Director BBC, were given special permission to visit China.

Regarding circular received by British diplomatic missions in China concerning vaccination and inoculation certificates required from travellers entering China.

Letters and telegrams on the proposed visit of Dr. C.V. Raman to China. Dr. Raman refused, following which the Chinese Government invited Dr. S. Radhakrishnan to give lectures on philosophy in China.

Communications related to various aspects of the visit (May 6-21 1944) of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan to China. Also contains a report from the Indian Agency General in China on the visit of Sir Radhakrishnan, and his itinerary while in China.

Correspondence related to the impending visit of Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar to China on the invitation of the Chinese Government.
Visitors from China

1939


Letters regarding request received from the Consulate-General of China at Calcutta for exemption from custom duty on Professor Ju Peon’s paintings. Ju Peon of the National Central University of China was intending to come to India on the invitation of Rabindranath Tagore, to hold an exhibition of his paintings.

1942


Letters regarding a newspaper editorial in the Ta Kung Pao (25 September, 1942) which claimed that Chiang Kai-shek visited India on the invitation of the British in order to mediate in the Indian problem. The British authorities felt that the newspaper editorial would give a false impression about the political situation in India. The file also contains an English translation of the editorial.


Official notes regarding seating arrangements for official functions including the ceremonial parade held on the occasion of the visit to India of Chiang Kai-shek.


Arrangements for tickets sent to the officers and foreign representatives who wanted to attend the parade to be held on 11 Feb, 1942 in honour of Chiang Kai-shek’s visit to India. Also attached is a statement showing particulars of the foreign representatives in Delhi who wished to attend the parade.
Correspondence and a report on James Shen, head of the Writing Section of the International Department, Chungking, who was invited to visit India. The British Embassy in Chungking had made the suggestion to invite James Shen in order to enquire into the problems connected with collaboration in news dissemination between India and China.

Letters on the arrangements to be made for the impending visit to India and specifically to Kashmir, of Major General H.C. Yu, Counsellor to the Chinese 5th Army and C.P.P. Chiang, Educational Commissioner with the Chinese Government. A brief biographical note on Major General H.C. Yu is also enclosed.

Notes by various officials on the visit to India of Dr. Wen Yuan-ning of the Chinese Ministry of Information, in July 1943. Also contains a handwritten letter by Dr. Wen, dated 26 July 1943 asking for three books – Monuments of Sanchi, Excavation at Harappa and Guide to Fatehpur Sikri.

Letters and telegrams on the visit to India of two Chinese Engineers from Chungking, Ku Wen-quei and Lu Ching-kang, from February to August 1943, to see different electric plants in India.

Letters and telegrams on the visit to India of four Chinese agriculture specialists, Dr. Pan Chien-liang, Dr Ma Bao-chih, Dr. Wang Yang-tseng and Dr. Chiu Yuen from July 1943, for a year’s intensive training and refresher course.
Communications regarding the visit of Chang Kia-Ngau, former Minister of Communications in China, on his way to the US. Also includes a report of his visit to Sikkim by B.J. Gould, the British Political Officer in Gangtok.


Correspondence regarding the request from C. P. Chiang in Darjeeling, who claimed to be the Commissioner of Education of Overseas Chinese of the Republic of China in India, to provide him with material so as to enable him to study Indian education. It was decided not to entertain his request until official intimation had been received of such appointments.

1944


On the desire of Greshe Lobzang Chodak, a Chinese in Tibet supposed to be personally known to Chiang Kai-shek, to visit Kalimpong and India for pilgrimage, and suspicions concerning him. Lobzang Chodak was denied a visa.

1945


Telegram regarding grant of gratis visa to distinguished Chinese scholar Kuo Mo-jo, who was proceeding to Moscow via India to attend an International Congress at the Moscow Academy of Science.

Visit of “Dr. Tai” from China and his perception of political forces in India [848]

Persons accompanying Chiang Kai-shek to India [23]

Chiang Kai-shek’s impressions following his visit to India [19]
Chinese in India (people in transit, refugees and deportees)

1939


Journey of some Chinese Muslim pilgrims to Hejaz via Tibet and India. Visit of some Chinese traders to India.

1940


Report on the arrival in India of 27 Chinese cloth merchants from Germany via Istanbul. The British took keen interest in the arrival of the group because they wanted to ascertain if any of the Chinese were German spies. Eventually it was decided to facilitate their early repatriation to China.

1942


Refs: Proceedings August 1901, Nos 49-50. Front 8-A; Proceedings May 1912, Nos 100-101, Internal –A, 64-X/27, 401-X/32(Sec), 114-X/35(Sec), 306-X/35(Sec), 491-X/345(Sec), 558-X/35(Sec), 2-X/36(Sec), 164-X/36, 130-X/37, 301(17)-X/37, 432-G/37, 676-X/37(Sec), 7(15)-W/40(Sec), 12-X/42(Sec),55(3)-X/42, 10-X/42, 422-CA/44, 108-A/43

Telegrams on the arrest and imprisonment of two foreign agents, Hidayat Khan and Ayub Khan of Sinkiang, who had entered the Gilgit Agency via the Shimshal Pass without passports. Also attached is an extract of a letter from the Political Agent, Gilgit to the First Assistant to the Resident in Kashmir informing about the release of five Chinese prisoners as a token of improved relations of the British with the Sinkiang authorities. (Although these documents are listed in the 1942 Index, the events discussed actually took place in 1943.)


Correspondence regarding the arrival of Chinese evacuees from Burma to Assam. The Chinese Consul-General at Calcutta informed that he would be visiting Dibrugarh and Dinjan to help in checking the large number of incoming Chinese nationals. The Government of India made enquiries as to the magnitude of the Chinese influx into Assam and found out that it was not so big, and hence requested the Chinese Consul-General to return to Calcutta.
Telegram on the subject of evacuation of 120 Chinese women and children (Australian citizens) to Calcutta on the request of the Burma Corporation at Namtu.

Telegram on the question of allowing Chinese nationals to carry valuables with them from India to China, as requested by the Chinese embassy. Under a Reserve Bank of India amendment, Chinese nationals proceeding from India to Burma into non-occupied China could take with them valuables and jewellery up to Rs. 3000 per head and larger amounts where the owners could show that they were bona fide personal effects in keeping with their socio-economic status.

Documents on miscellaneous matters related to China, including security control and customs checking at airports. Papers related to the smuggling of goods by Chinese from the eastern frontier of India are also there, including a report entitled “Illicit Chinese Trade over India’s Eastern Frontier”.

Letters on the question of finding employment for Chinese seamen of the Chinese Seamen Wartime Service Corps in India, including in the Labour Corps in Calcutta. The letter deals with the “rather serious” situation which had arisen in Bombay as a result of the unemployment of Chinese seamen. The military authorities ruled out the possibility of employing Chinese in the armed forces as there was no shortage of Indian labor and “there seems to be no military reason for recruiting unemployed Chinese.”

Reports and information on Mohammed Shih Jung who was the Commander of the People’s Army of Southern Sinkiang which had earlier revolted against the erstwhile Governor of Sinkiang Jin Shou-jen. He had later fled to India and developed close ties with the Japanese, especially the Japanese Consul.
Letters and telegrams on the subject of using Kalimpong and Sikkim as escape routes for Chinese citizen to escape to China in the event of India being invaded by Japan. Telegrams on the question of one Chin Sing and a companion seeking permission to go to Tibet, which was refused by the Government of India.

1944

Documents on the subject of Kazakh refugees who had escaped from Sinkiang to Bhopal. Reports on the condition and subsequent repatriation of the Kazakh refugees to Sinkiang. Request from the Chinese Consul-General in India to visit Bhopal state on the invitation of the Nawab of Bhopal to understand the conditions of the Kazakh refugees in the state. Letters also on the expenditure incurred on the repatriation process.

Correspondence on the release of four men, Turdi Akhun, Tokhta Akhun, Hidayat Akhun, Ayub Akhun, Chinese citizens from Sinkiang, who were arrested in 1942-43 under the Defence of India Rules for entering the Gilgit Agency without passports.

Correspondence with regard to the release and repatriation of three Chinese maids, Chho Pok Giok, Tan Gwat Kim and Sim Giok, who had earlier worked at the Japanese Consulate General at Singapore, and who were arrested and brought to India for internment.

Documents on the subject of controlling the illegal influx of Chinese nationals (posing as Tibetans who did not require passports to visit India) coming into British India from Tibet via
Sikkim and Darjeeling. Documents also contain suggestions for stringent measures to control the illegal entry of Chinese into India.


Prosecution of Stanley Ho, Wang Chi-hsiang and Yan Weh-wha, Chinese nationals, for breach of rules regarding registration of foreigners and for entering a prohibited area without permit.


Concerning delegation of power to the Government of Bengal to deport certain classes of the foreigners under the Foreigners Act 1940. Also correspondence concerning the deportation of Chow Chih-hsien, alias Chang Che-ming, a Chinese national.


Report on Chinese nationals from Germany, Wou Chong Chi, Chang Lin Woo and Dr. Jan Bao Lin. A translation of a statement made by Dr. Jan Bao Lin dated 17 June, 1944.


Correspondence on the visit to India of six members of the Chinese Goodwill Mission to the United Kingdom on their return journey. They were Wang Shih-chieh, Dr. Hau Li-wu, Dr. Wen Yuan-ning, Wang Yun-wu, Hu Lin and Dr. Lee Wei-kuo.

Detention of Dr. Li Shu Fan, a refugee from Hong Kong.


Telegram concerning the repatriation to China via India of twelve Chinese Haj pilgrims stranded in Mecca.


Censorship interception of a telegram from Wang Yunbao, Likiang, to Chokochung, Kalimpong, regarding smuggling of illegal goods to China via Tibet.

1945


Correspondence concerning provision of funds to meet the cost of construction and maintenance of the Chinese Seamen’s Wartime Service Corps Camp building at Site No.II at Tollygunge for the purpose of accommodation of the seamen.


Letters on the illegal entry of Chinese into India through Kalimpong. Also attached are lists of some of the Chinese who were arrested while entering India without passport. Letters also discuss the situation caused due to some Chinese traders taking up permanent residence in Kalimpong.


Extract of a letter from A.J. Hopkinson, Political Officer in Sikkim, on the acquisition of properties by Tibetans and Chinese in Kalimpong, advising the Government of India to take adequate precautions. The Government, while acknowledging the increased movement of Chinese and Tibetans across the Indo-Tibetan border, decided that acquisition of property by foreigners in India was not yet a major problem.

Correspondence regarding application received from Yang Shung-sheng, a Chinese national originally from Yunnan, to reside in Kalimpong permanently. Yang worked at the firm of Messrs Chuchi in Kalimpong. Letters also on the subject of granting a transit visa to Chen Shu-ching, clerk of the Chinese Mission at Lhasa.


Telegrams on the subject of grant of diplomatic transit visas as well as censorship and custom exemption to Dr. V.K. Wellington Koo, Chinese Ambassador to Great Britain, and to Chai Feng-yang and Wang Yung-yuan, who were passing through India en route to Chungking.


Correspondence concerning the deportation of 13 Chinese nationals who had landed on the Madras coast in March 1944, as they were suspected to be Japanese agents.


Correspondence on the subject of granting permission to certain Chinese subjects who were in Gilgit to stay on in India. They had initially intended to proceed to Sinkiang but later on postponed their departure. These Chinese subjects had arrived in India the previous year to proceed to Mecca.


Correspondence on the repatriation of three Chinese maid servants namely, Sim Yoke, Tong Guet Kin and Chu Poh Guet, who had been employed with the Japanese Consulate, Singapore and had been rounded up and sent to India for internment. On the termination of the war, they expressed their wish to return to Singapore.


A statement by the Intelligence Bureau, Home Department on the arrest of Chinese citizens attempting to enter Indian territory at Kalimpong without passports, disguised as Tibetans. The statement contains details of eleven names, out of which two were deserters from the Chinese Army.
Chinese residents in India

1940


1942


Letter from V. Shanker, Deputy Secretary, Government of India to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay Home Department in which he says that in the event of an emergency, the question of grouping together Chinese nationals under the Chinese Consul at Bombay is for the Government of Bombay to consider with the Chinese Consul directly, and that arrangements for attaching Chinese nationals to units of the army should be made locally as and when necessary.

1943


Correspondence concerning the smuggling of gold into China by air by Chinese based in India.


Correspondence regarding the smuggling of goods by Chinese in Assam. Interception of huge amount of goods (medicines, drugs, surgical instruments etc) in Sadiya, Assam while in the process of being smuggled to Tibet. List of smuggled goods is also attached.

1944
Censorship interception of letters concerning the Chinese community in Kalimpong.

Report on a trip made by Capt. A.R. Allen to Kalimpong in September 1944. In the report, Captain Allen talks about the extent of commercial activities carried out by the Chinese and Tibetans in Kalimpong and how it has led to a security problem in Kalimpong. Among other things, the report also talks about the Chinese population in Kalimpong (300), the number of Chinese commercial firms (9), the routes of trade between Kalimpong and Tibet, the staff of the Kalimpong branch of the Bank of China (4), Chinese commercial agents, the involvement of Chinese in the illegal trade via Kalimpong, the illegal entry of Chinese dressed as Tibetans and the resultant security problem, etc.

Censorship interception of a letter from T.T. Koo (Ku Chih-chung) who was the editor of the *Chinese Journal of India*, Calcutta, to M.T. Chen (Chen Ming-te), *Hsin Min Daily News*, Chungking, entitled ‘Food Rationing in Calcutta as seen by a Chinese’ which was intended for publication in the *Hsin Min Daily News*.

Payment of compensation to the dependents of Ah Hing Look, Chinese carpenter, who was killed in enemy action on the *SS Jalatarang*.

An extract from a report of the Intelligence Bureau, Home Department from the Calcutta security control, expressing suspicion that the Chinese Government was involved in the organization of an Overseas Chinese Association.

Correspondence on the question of granting a visa to Chu Hung-li who was supposed to join a Chinese school in Bombay as a teacher. This followed the receipt of an anonymous letter in
which the principal of the Chinese School as well as its teachers were alleged to be secret agents engaged in anti-British activities.

Visit of Chinese Commissioner in India to Chinese living in Kashmir [340]

Articles on Tibet in Chinese Journal of India [738]

Indians resident in China

1939


Letters on facilities extended to Hakim Rahim Baksh Rawal to go to Shanghai to assist his nephew, Dr. Lall, in an eye clinic.


Letter on grant of passport facilities for Tara Singh, son of Labh Singh, District Amritsar, Punjab, who wished to go to Peking and open a silk store there.


Letters regarding the examination of a witness in a legal case who was residing in Manchukuo. Permission was granted by the Government of India and the witness in question was examined at Harbin.


Correspondence on expenditure incurred on the repatriation of Tungan rebellion refugees.
Correspondence on issue of travel permits to Kashgar porters who had entered India without visas. The British Resident in Kashmir was instructed to issue temporary travel permits to such porters arriving at Misgar without visas, which would allow them to remain in Indian territory for a period of 40 days.

Monthly lists (January-August 1939) of British Indian subjects deported from Sinkiang in this period. A statement showing the property held by British Indian subjects is also attached. Correspondence on the Chinese government’s deportation of Khan Sahib Badruddin Khan, British Aksakal, Khotan, who stood trial in Sinkiang for engaging in activities against the Provincial Government, along with some other Indian subjects. Correspondence on providing maintenance to the family of Badruddin Khan.

Request by widow of Gurdial Chand, who had died in Yarkand, asking that documents and assets of her late husband be taken into custody from Yarkand and Kashgar, and his shops be locked up. Also instructions to R.S. Rakha Ram to furnish Consul General, Kashgar, with particulars of money and property belonging to Ma Shao-wu, late Commissioner Kashgar.

Difficulties of Mehar Chand, Bhopal and other Hindu traders in Yarkand in obtaining travel permits for India from the Chinese authorities.

Letter enclosing a statement showing the numbers of British subjects in the various treaty ports and consular areas in China, plus the particulars of members of the British Embassy and the military forces and their families.


Message from Viceroy Linlithgow delivered by Major H.H. Johnson, British Consul General, Kashgar, to the Tupan (Governor) of Sinkiang at Urumchi. In the letter, the Viceroy raises concerns about the position of British subjects in Sinkiang.


Correspondence (Jan-Nov 1939) on recovery of expenses incurred during the repatriation of destitute Indians from Shanghai to India as a result of the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese War in 1937.


Correspondence on recovery of the expenses incurred in connection with the funeral of Kunda Singh of the Nabha state who had died in Shanghai in July 1938.


Correspondence on expenses incurred in the funeral of three destitute Indians, Bhan Singh, Ralla Singh and Sadhu Singh, who had died in Shanghai in 1938.


Correspondence on expenses incurred in the funeral of three destitute Indians, Chanan Singh, Kartar Singh and Karnail Singh, who had died in Shanghai in October 1938.


Correspondence on recovery of expenses incurred in the funeral of Sewa Singh of Patiala state, who had died in Shanghai in 1939.
Correspondence on recovery of expenses incurred in the funeral of Nawab Singh who had died in Shanghai in 1939.

1940

Expenditure on the funeral of Nihal Singh from Lahore, who had died in Shanghai.

Expenditure on the funeral of Gurmukh Singh from Jullunder, who had died in Shanghai.

Expenditure on the funeral of Taja Singh from Amritsar, who had died in Shanghai.

Expenditure on the funeral of one Zarin Khan from Peshawar, who had died in Shanghai.

Expenditure on the funerals of Bagga Singh and Jarnail Singh from Ferozepore, both of whom had died in Shanghai.

Expenditure on the funeral of Thakar Singh from Amritsar, who had died in Shanghai.

A letter and a confidential memorandum sent from the British Consulate, Shanghai on the seditious activities of Chanan Singh, an Indian resident of Shanghai who worked with the Chinese Postal Administration. The secret memorandum reports that Chanan Singh was close
to the Japanese and was known to have played an influential role in the despatch of seditious literature from Shanghai to India.


Letter from the British Consul-General in Shanghai, A.H. George, giving a detailed report of the meeting which he had with Amritlal D. Sheth, Managing Director of the Dholera Steamships Limited (Bombay). The meeting was reported probably because Sheth had been closely associated with the Congress Party, but in the meeting he declared “himself to be hundred per cent on the side of Great Britain in the struggle against Hitlerism.”


Correspondence on granting travel facilities for Shanghai to Bagga Singh of village Dhandaru Kalan, district Ludhiana, who had earlier served in the Shanghai Municipal Police.


Regarding Kushi Mohamed, a native of Patiala, who had served in the Shameen British Concession Municipal Police Force as police constable since 1937, and the grant of a passport to him to return to China.


Extract of a statement given by one Khairatiram dated 18 March, 1940 regarding the oppression of Indian traders, particularly the Hindus, at Kashgar following the exit of the Tungans and re-establishment of the Sinkiang Government in 1937. He mentions that almost all the Hindu traders barring 9 or 10 had left Kashgar due to the oppression by the authorities which he said was probably instigated by the Russians. Gives a description of the political changes that had taken place in Kashgar as a result of the power transition.

Correspondence regarding loan of Rs 300 (576 Xinjiang Dollars) paid by the Kashgar Consulate to Ghulam Hussain, a contractor who had run out of money. His 32 mules and 8 ponies were to be sold in case he failed to repay the money upon his arrival in India.


Extracts of intelligence reports sent by the Shanghai British Consulate for March and September 1940 regarding the anti-British activities of Indians in Shanghai. The reports talks about the activities of Usman Khan and other prominent Sikhs in Shanghai, like Waryam Singh and Tek Singh, who were involved in anti-British activities. The report also describes the activities of A.M. Sahay in Shanghai. An important document on anti-British activities of Indians in China, especially in the phase just prior to the establishment of the INA.


Letter from one Dev Raj Palaha, Hoshiarpur, requesting permission to send some Unani medicine to his cousin Sarsari Lal in Kashgar.


Correspondence on the whereabouts of British subjects who lived in the northern towns of Xinjiang. The British Consul at Kashgar mentioned that before the Tungan rebellion, 500 or 600 British subjects had lived in various parts of Xinjiang either as traders or farmers. However after the rebellion a number of them were arrested as suspected sympathisers of the rebels or left fearing for their well-being.


Letter from the Consul-General, Kashgar informing that a certain Bal Chand had left for India from Kashgar with the money which belonged to one Ganga Ram who was consequently left stranded in Kashgar without money to travel back to India. Government of India was asked to help recover the money.


Telegrams on the disposal of the moveable property of Tek Chand of Shikarpur.

Application from one Sabar Akhun of Kashgar to the Government of India urging it to take action against his two business partners, Gurdial Chand and Rai Sahib Rakharam, who he claimed had fraudulently misappropriated the money he invested in the business.

1942


Correspondence on the subject of providing relief and maintenance to the British and Indian subjects in Shanghai, through the Swiss consulate, in the wake of the occupation of Shanghai. It was decided to provide maintenance of 10 pound sterling per month per person for Europeans and 5 pound sterling for Indian and other non-European British subjects, provided all grants were covered by written promise to repay.


Intelligence reports on the subjects of activities of Indians in China. The Office of the Agent-General of India, Chungking sent an intelligence report from Colonel Ride at Kweilin which dealt with the activities of Indians in China and Hong Kong as members of the Indian Independence League.


List of Indians residing in Japanese territory, including Mukden and Harbin, together with addresses.


Report by a Ceylonese refugee from Hong Kong, regarding the arrest of certain Indians for their refusal to co-operate with the Indian Independence League at Hongkong.

1943


Correspondence on the problems faced in repatriating Indian refugees, mainly POWs who escaped from Hong Kong or Kunming, because of the activities of a certain Colonel Yen, Security Officer at the Kunming airfield.

Correspondence on the repatriation of Indians from Kweilin and Kunming who had escaped from Hong Kong as a result of the Japanese occupation, and related arrangements and expenses.

1944


Some communications relating to Indians in Macao. One of these notes that many second-and third-generation Indians had intermarried with Chinese, and that Chinese was being used as their “normal” language. Another points to the difficulty in identifying people as Indians on the basis of language, as most of them seem to have lost their Indian identity.


On the question of British nationality and the protection of British subjects in Sinkiang.

1945


Letters of complaint received from E. R. Vicajee regarding ill-treatment of his family and a family friend N.N. Mehta in Shanghai, as a result of raids on their respective houses undertaken by the Woosung-Shanghai Garrison.


Letter from Bhojraj Boolchand, resident of Hyderabad in Sind, enquiring about his family’s two shops, the Indian Silk Trading Company in Tientsin and Messrs N. Boolchand & Sons in Mukden, following the sudden demise of his father in China. A letter from K.D. Melvani regarding the condition of Boolchand’s two shops in China.


Correspondence regarding payment of pension money to Zaman Khan, who had earlier served in the Portuguese Colonial Police at Macao.
Correspondence on relief and repatriation of Indians from Shanghai. Letters discuss the financial and logistical aspects of the relief program.

Correspondence regarding the repatriation of Mrs Roshan Jal Patel and her two children from Canton to Nagpur. Mrs. Lal’s husband, a wealthy businessman, had died during Japanese internment.

Correspondence on the death in Yarkand of a British subject, Mohammed Jan Kashmiri, allegedly as a result of being beaten by a petty local official.

Indians going to Macao
Indians who had evaded passport regulations to enter China
Indians in Sinkiang
Number of Indians in Sinkiang
Decrease in number of Indian traders in Sinkiang
Losses suffered by Indians during Tungan Rebellion
Deportation and departure of Indians from Sinkiang
Questions in Legislative Assembly on conditions and treatment of Indians in Sinkiang
Questions in Legislative Assembly regarding anti-Indian propaganda in Sinkiang
Questions in Legislative Assembly on loss of Indian lives and property in Sinkiang
Problems of Indian traders in Western Tibet
Indians arriving in China without travel documents
Indians with restricted passports [354]

L.Ovadia of Sassoon & Co. [915]

Indians going to Macao [927]

On Dr I. Khan living at 127, the Bund, Canton [87]

Problems of Indian traders in Sinkiang [531]

Persecution of an Indian trader in Sinkiang [851]

Property of an Indian killed in Sinkiang disturbances [852]

Civil cases tried by British Consul-General at Kashgar [283]

Deportation of Indians and other nationals from Sinkiang [855]

Treatment of Indians in Sinkiang [207]

Indians deported from Sinkiang [861]

Proposal for Hindustani language broadcasts from Chungking Radio Station to Indian civilians and internees in Japanese-occupied China [339]
Part IV: Material and Cultural Connections

Trade, Industry and Banking

1939


Letters, telegrams and notes regarding a report on the prohibition of cultivation and export of charas from Sinkiang. Letter from J.D. Penny, Chief Secretary to Government, Punjab suggests that the ban on export of the drug had been imposed with a view to force the exporters to pay export duty to the Sinkiang Government. Therefore, the ban might be removed if sufficient export duty were paid. Punjab was concerned since provincial revenues were affected.


Correspondence on the export of Tibetan wool. The documents discuss the rise in the price of wool in Kalimpong because Marwari traders there were buying the wool from Tibetan traders and selling it to mills at higher prices. Discusses the Government’s effort to control the selling price of Tibetan wool at Kalimpong.


Annual report of the British Trade Agency at Gyantse for the year ending 31 March,1939.


Report dated 14 Aug,1939 submitted by Rai Bahadur Dr. Kanshi Ram, British Trade Agent, Gartok, on his journey from Simla to Gartok via Srinagar and Leh, in which he mentions the problems faced by British Indian traders in Western Tibet due to the practice of the pujjar system. Restrictions on one Moti Singh from entering into Tibet and instigating Indian traders
in Tibet and harming the prospects of the traders while there. A map showing routes and trade markets in Western Tibet is also attached.


On export of Tibetan wool.


Annual report on the British Trade Agency, Yatung, for the year ending 31 March,1939.


Letters and notes on the budget estimates of the Yatung Trade Agency for the year 1940-41.


Letters and notes on the budget estimates of the Yatung Trade Agency for 1940-41.

1940


Censorship interception of a letter from Toyomenka Kaisha Ltd., Calcutta, to their Shanghai office, regarding the import of cotton goods to India from Shanghai.


Censorship interception of a letter addressed by Imperial Chemical Industries (China) Ltd., to the Natal Tannin Extract Co. Ltd., Maritzburg, dated 9.7. 1940, regarding research in
synthetic tanning carried out by the Japanese.


Censorship interception of letters sent in April 1940 from two firms in Allepey, one in Madras, and one in Tuticorin, on the subject of the despatch of rubber to Hong Kong, Shanghai, Tientsin and places in Japan like Kobe, Osaka and Yokohama.


Decision to rigorously cut down exports of raw jute and jute goods to Japan, Japanese possessions, Manchuria and Chinese territory under Japanese control. Attached is a map of China which shows the approximate extent of Japanese occupation in China.


Correspondence on the subject of Messrs Molnar and Greiner, Shanghai, which was on the suspect list of firms included in the United Kingdom War Trade Lists No.1.


Refs: 504-X(Sec)/37; 248-X(Sec)/36; 516-X(Sec)/37; 50-X(Sec)/37; 37-X(Sec)/38; 68-X(Sec)/38; 35-X(Sec)/1938; 342-X(Sec)/39; 334-X(Sec)/39.

Two notes directing the concerned authorities to supply the General Staff Branch with any available literature dealing with the Indo-Tibetan trade and traders.


Correspondence concerning wartime restrictions imposed by the Government of India on the export of jute and jute commodities to China. The firm of Jardine Matheson & Company had asked for the release of jute materials for the manufacture of Hessian cloth and gunny bags for consumption in China and Hong Kong.


Enquiries regarding the procurement of mercury from China as well as other possible sources like Burma and Hong Kong for medicinal purposes, owing to the fact that mercury had become more expensive in the United Kingdom.

Commerce Department File of 1939 on the subject of imposition of limited land customs regime on the land frontiers of India with effect from 1 Feb, 1938, and declaration of Chinese Turkestan, Tibet and other places as foreign territory for the purposes of Section 5 of the Indian Tariff Act, 1934.


Pamphlet containing an article recommending that the manufacture of China glass, a decorative material used mainly in the glass bangles industry, could be a profitable venture in India both under war and peace-time conditions as all the raw materials required for its production were available in India.


Enquiry by A. J. Hopkinson, Political Agent, Eastern Kathiawar Agency, regarding the existing levy of custom duty at Xinjiang.


Refs: 129-X/37, 454-X/37, 250-X/40, 101-X/34(Sec), 223-X/38, 129-X/37(Sec), 56-X/37(Sec), 421-X/41, 17-X/42, 567-X/42 (Sec), 394-CA/44

Letter from the British Consul-General at Kashgar along with the Indo-Xinjiang report for the year 1939. Mentions that imports into Xinjiang from India were valued at Rs. 4,362 and the exports at Rs. 76,220. The total volume of trade of Rs. 80,582 saw a decrease of Rs. 1,91,860 from the previous year. This decrease in trade between Xinjiang and India was due to the decision of the Sinkiang Government to prohibit the cultivation and export of charas, the “backbone” of Indo- Xinjiang trade. Report contains a list of Indian firms which had business in Xinjiang and which might be willing to re-open trade between Gilgit and Kashgar on a subsidy basis.


Letter from the British Consul-General, Kashgar dated 14 Dec, 1939 providing the Indo-Xinjiang Trade Report for 1938. Imports from India during 1938 amounted to Rs. 32,978 and the exports to Rs. 2,39,464. The total volume of trade of Rs. 2,72,442 showed a decrease of Rs. 23,01,994 from 1937. This was attributed primarily to the “political conditions” which
prevailed in Xinjiang as a result of Soviet influence in the administration which made any trade with India as difficult as possible. Also attached are statistical tables of export and import with Xinjiang and a report on the financial and economic conditions in Xinjiang in 1938-39.


Letter of reply to the Central Asian Traders and Charas Dealers Association, Hoshiarpur, Punjab from H.H.Johnson, the Consul-General at Kashgar, wherein he sympathises with the difficulties that the traders were encountering as a result of the prohibition of the charas trade by the Xinjiang Government. Also attached is a certificate whereby it was confirmed that due to the ban in the import of charas from Xinjiang, the traders in Punjab had suffered heavy losses.


Letter from the British Resident in Kashmir enquiring about the applicability of a British Government notification prohibiting the entry of silver bullion. The reply said that since the export of silver from Xinjiang to Kashmir was very meagre, the notification was not applicable for Kashmir.

[533] File No: 116. Sr. No: 1-6. Pp. 1-34. Refs: 152(2)-X/35(Sec); 151(2)-X/36(Sec);106(2)-X/38 (Sec); 36-X/39; 557-X/39; 647-X/41

Letters and telegrams on the prohibition of the smuggling of charas into Punjab. The British Consul-General in Kashgar mentioned that in Xinjiang the cultivation of the charas plant had been completely prohibited and the prohibition was strictly enforced. Also attached is a report entitled “Charas trade and the arrangements connected with the control on its import into and export from the Warehouse at Leh.”

1941


Correspondence between the Government of India and the British Consul in Shanghai regarding restrictions imposed by the Japanese authorities on trade between China and British-ruled territories like Hong Kong, British Malaya, New Zealand, British Borneo and South Africa.
Official Notification issued by the Finance Department (Central Revenues) saying that the Central Government was to prohibit the bringing by sea or land into British India from any place other than Burma, of Chinese dollar notes unless permitted by the Reserve Bank of India.

Telegrams on the question of reviving trade with Sinkiang by restoring certain trade routes. Suggested that the Kashgar Consulate should discuss with Sinkiang authorities proposals such as the establishment of an Indian Trade Agency in Sinkiang, and supply of products like petrol and machinery, especially weaving machines, to Sinkiang. However the possibility of Russian opposition to any such proposals was strongly emphasised.

Correspondence regarding prohibition of the export of lac to China, which had increased considerably. Notified that further licenses for export of lac to China should be refused except for those British consignees whose applications were recommended by the British Embassy in Shanghai on the ground that their business would be seriously affected.

On the question of sending an Indian Trade Mission to China, including geological and irrigation experts, on a goodwill tour. The proposed visit to India of Sir Archibald Clark Kerr, the British Ambassador to China, is also discussed.

Letters on the question of arranging suitable premises for the operation of the New Delhi branch of the Bank of China. The branch manager was Robert Yu, and the premises chosen was on the ground floor of the Gopal Dass Building on Barakhamba road.

Letters and telegrams on the request made by the Peking Syndicate Limited to buy certain items for oil refineries as demanded by the Chinese Government. The Peking Syndicate was
appointed as Transport and Storage Agents in India of the British Government in respect of goods purchased under the first British Credit Loan of 3 million pounds sterling and the Second British Credit loan of 5 million pounds.


Correspondence on the question of opening up of a branch of the Bank of China (a branch of the Bank was already there in Calcutta) in Kashmir. While the Reserve Bank of India did not object, the Indian Agent-General Sir Zafarullah Khan said he was “rather perturbed” by the proposal. Even though he was “not able to appreciate all the financial pros and cons of these proposals, but I should imagine the opening of these branches would enable to play a good deal of hanky panky with Indian currency. My uneasiness, however, has more direct reference to the proposal to open a branch in Kashmir and is due to considerations of a political and diplomatic nature.”

Richardson, also from the Indian Agency General, Chungking suggested that “the tentacles of the Bank of China should be kept as far as possible from our interests in the “Mongolian fringe.”


Regarding the evacuation of the Bank of China, Rangoon branch, and its staff to Calcutta on account of war emergency.


Telegrams on the question of providing chemicals and stains to the Epidemic Prevention Bureau of Northwest China. The cost of these was to be met from the fund of Rs. 200,000 from the National Health Administration of China.


Refs: 119-X(Sec)/42, 345-X/40, 110(3)-X(Sec)/42, 135(4)-X/43, 181-C.A/44(Sec), 238-C.A/44(Sec), 135(4)-X/44, 159-CA/44, 200-CA/44, 176-CA/144(Sec), 221 CA/45(Sec), 236 CA/45(Sec), 249 CA/46(Sec), 25(10)- NEF/46, 16- NEF/47

Correspondence on the subject of restrictions imposed by the District Magistrate of Darjeeling on the exports of goods from Darjeeling district to Tibet.
Regarding the purchase of Tibetan wool.

1943


Question of purchasing Borax from Tibet. Proposed despatch of a geological survey party to Western Tibet to investigate occurrence of Borax.


Export of woollen and cotton piece goods and indigo to China by overland route via Tibet by Hen Sun Kun Company, Kalimpong.


Censorship interception of a letter dated 22 Dec, 1943 sent by the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, Karachi branch, to its Chungking branch on behalf of Chinese citizen Peter Woo.


Censorship interception of a letter dated 30th December, 1943 from R. Johannessen, Wallem & Co. (India) Ltd., Bombay, to C.Y. Lin, Hengyang, China, in which the writer discusses the future of shipping in China in the post-war situation.


Correspondence on the subject of finalising a commercial Treaty between India and China after the conclusion of the War. The draft of the Treaty of the Establishment of Commerce and Navigation between the United Kingdom and China is also included.

Admission of claim by the Chinese Government for compensation for the cotton yarn and textile goods which were damaged during the disturbances in India of August 1942.


Correspondence on the possibility of using trade routes through Tibet by traders for sending supplies to China.


Correspondence related to the decision of the Government of India to use the Tibet route to send non-military supplies to China with the consent of the Tibetan Government.


Telegrams regarding the request forwarded by the Nepalese Legation at Lhasa from the Nepalese firm Bhajuratna Mahiharsha Joti for the early release of 735 bales of cotton piece goods from Indian mills for trade with Tibet. Telegrams also regarding a similar request from the Tibetan firm Papgdatsang requesting release of 1000 bales.


Correspondence on the subject of granting permission to R.V. Vernede, Deputy Commissioner of Garhwal, to visit the trade marts in Western Tibet. Also attached is a letter by Vernede in which he proposed to visit the trade marts in Western Tibet to discuss with the Tibetan authorities about the uneven imposition of taxes by them on the Bhotias who used to cross into Tibet for trade.


Documents regarding export of goods to Tibet. Issues such as the volume of exports to Tibet, increasing exports to Tibet, whether to export goods to China via Tibet, and trade routes, are discussed the file.

Report submitted by Rai Sahib Sonam Tobden Kazi, British Trade Agent, Gartok, of his visit to Western Tibet in 1943. Also attached is a list of issues which were discussed by him with the Garpons of Gartok. Appendixes include a list of local taxes imposed on Bians and Chaudas Traders (Almora District), and a list of medical cases treated by Tonyot Tsering, Sub-Assistant Surgeon, Gartok. There are also two maps showing the trade routes between British India and Tibet and the urban and trade centres on both sides of the border between India (Garhwal) and Tibet.


Removal of restrictions by the Bengal government on the purchase by T.L.Shen, Chinese delegate to Tibet, of certain quantities of rice, flour, sugar and kerosene oil for export to Tibet along with medical supplies.


On monetary issues, such as the devaluation of the Indian rupee in Tibet. Question of making arrangements with the Tibetan Government for stabilization of the exchange rate. Report on the Tibetan monetary system and on silver exports to Tibet.


Grant of a permit to Kusho Pangda Tshong, Tibetan Trade Agent, Yatung, for exporting 450 maunds of cotton piece goods to Tibet.


Request by the Chinese Consul General to allow dispatch of medical drugs and instruments to Lhasa, which earlier was to be exported to China in 1942.


Correspondence on the possibility of a barter exchange of commodities: raw silk from China and raw materials from India. Correspondence also on the question of visit of the physiologist Prof. A.V. Hill to China.
Correspondence regarding imposition of export trade control on goods transported by the China National Resources Commission.

Memorandum submitted by Dr. Arthur Young in which he suggests that the Government of China should import consumer goods from India in order to reduce inflation and discourage hoarding in China. File also includes a list of goods that could be imported from India.

A report titled ‘Illicit trading and exchange of operations between India and China, May 1942 to January 1944’, prepared by G. Stewart, Assistant Controller, Exchange Control Department, Calcutta.

Correspondence on the possibility of the supply of goods to China and Russia by the Perso-Russian route.

Letters on smuggling of goods by a certain Ring Ring Baba to China via Sadiya.

Letters concerning the replacement of certain items belonging to the Chinese Government by the Government of India.


1945


Censorship interception of a letter from Pekin Syndicate Ltd, Calcutta to J.R. Milligan of the Pekin Syndicate Ltd, Chungking, which discusses the “deterioration in Sino-Indian relations” from a commercial point of view.


A report by R.C. Atherton, Commercial Attache (Intelligence), Calcutta analysing telegraphic communications between leading Chinese firms established in Calcutta, Kalimpong and Lhasa. These show the nature of financial and mercantile transactions between India, Nepal and Tibet. The file also contains censorship interceptions of telegrams between Nepal and Lhasa.

Trade complaints at Taklakot in Tibet [376]
Japanese mills and competition between Chinese and Japanese products [820]
Trade with Burma [940]
Import of Turkey Rhubarb from Tibet [686]
Report of British Trade Agency at Gyantse [689]
Trade in charas with Sinkiang [874, 883]
Suggestions for improving trade with Sinkiang following decline of Soviet influence [881]
Sinkiang tyre caravan to Leh [882]
Sinkiang government negotiations with foreign firms for trade [885]

Indo-Sinkiang trade [892]

Indian Agency General report on Chinese trade with India [309]

Exemption of goods from Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan from sales tax [774]

Negotiations for resumption of Indo-Sinkiang trade in 1945 [901]

Depreciation of the Sinkiang dollar [908]

On supply of certain commodities to Sinkiang [879]

Reopening of Sinkiang-Leh trade route [897]

Transport and Communications

1939


Correspondence on the proposal of the Indo-China-Yunnan Railways to hire railways locomotives from railway companies in India for a period of one year.


Letters and wireless telegrams (Nov-Dec 1938) on a reported Sino-Russian contract for a new civil airline route via Chuguchak-Urumchi-Hemi-Chungking.


Documents on the subject of metalling the Kufri-Fagu Section of the Hindustan-Tibet Road.
Discussion between Central China Telecommunications Co and Indian Radio and Cable Communications Co. Ltd for opening direct wireless communications between Shanghai and Bombay.

Telegram and notes on the establishment of a regular postal service between India and Sinkiang. Proposal rejected on the grounds that a large number of British subjects from Sinkiang have departed as a result of the boycott. Therefore GOI did not consider that there was sufficient correspondence between Sinkiang and India to justify the expense of establishing a regular postal service.

Correspondence regarding disposal of Post Office Building at Gnatong and the runners’ stage huts at Jaluk, Lingtu and Gnatong in Tibet. Under the revised postal arrangements in Tibet, it was proposed that these buildings should be transferred to the External Affairs Department.

Correspondence regarding maintenance of the British wireless station at Lhasa. The reason given for this was that the Tibetan Government should not be at the mercy of the Chinese wireless at Lhasa for their information regarding current events. Letters also on the decision that the Jubbulpore W/T station would be made responsible for operating the Lhasa Mission W/T Station in case of emergency, and on the sanction given to Lhasa to communicate with Kashgar so long as it was done by relayed transmission through Rawalpindi.

Regarding revised postal arrangements in Tibet.

Correspondence with regard to effecting economies in the maintenance of telegraph lines in Tibet. A note on Tibet post and telegraph economies.
Correspondence on the availability of trucks and buses in Tibet for transportation purposes. Factors discussed included the enormous geographical obstacles to such transport and the lack of motorable roads that explained the reliance on transport by mules or by porters.

Correspondence on the proposed establishment of air communications between India and China, and the decision that a Chinese company be permitted to operate a postal and freight air service between Chungking and Calcutta via Kunming, Myitkina and Chittagong. Question of obtaining permission from the Chinese Government to operate a service between Calcutta and Kunming, and from Kunming on to Hong Kong and Shanghai. The Chinese Government’s desire that the Kunming-Calcutta service should carry passengers as well as mail and freight, and that this service will in effect be an extension of the Kunming-Lashio service operated by the China National Aviation Corporation.

On the decision to fix Havelian as an alternative route to Srinagar for journeys to and from Gilgit, Chilas and Kashgar.

Telegrams regarding increase in the horse allowance to the mail couriers in Kashgar from the current Rs 7 to Rs.20 per month as their expenses on journeys to Tashkurgan and back had more than doubled. Attached is statement showing the rise in the cost of living there.

On the opening of an air service operation between Hami in Xinjiang to Chemnitz in Germany and on another air service between Chungking and Moscow to be started shortly via Hami.
Letter and maps showing railway lines in Russian Turkestan and the Chinese provinces of Xinjiang and Gansu compiled by the General Staff Branch.

1941


Correspondence regarding the maintenance of the Hindustan-Tibet Road.

1942

File No: 508-X (Sec). Pp.1-46

Refs: 135-X/41, 436-X/38(Sec), 245-X/39(Sec), 810-X/40(Sec), 135-X/41(Sec), 508(3)-X/42, 508(2)-X(Sec)/42, 839. C.A (Sec)/46, 490-EA(Sec)/47.

Official papers regarding the establishment of an air service carrying passenger mail and freight between Chungking and Calcutta via Kunming, Lashio and Chittagong. Also, a freight air service between Sikang and Sadiya via Chengtu.


Official notes and correspondence on having systematic arrangements for despatching air mail between India and China. It was suggested that the China Relations Officer could be the main distributing and receiving centre for all safe hand mail to and from China.

Telegrams on the subject of a plane crash on this route on 14 March, 1942, and details of the people who were killed in the crash and the mail bags which were lost.


Letter on the complaint of the local agent of Butterfield and Swire company, J. A. Blackwood, regarding the alleged detention by the Indian censorship authorities of letters addressed by the firm’s Chungking office to their office in Bombay.
Documents on various subjects related to wartime supply arrangements: Chinese proposal to have a 4000 mile land route from India to China; possible supply routes to China through Persia and Russia for transporting supplies from America; proposed pack supply route for China via Gilgit, Hunza and Kashgar; delivery of oil supplies for China; supply of Russian petrol for trucks operating in Gansu province in China, etc.

Correspondence regarding the number of flights that operated between Eastern India and China and the total tonnage carried in them. Lists of flights and freight are also included.

Official notes on the meeting of Foreign Secretary Olaf Caroe and the Director of Civil Aviation in India with Capt. Kingdom Ward, who represented the Oriental Mission taking supplies for Chinese guerilla forces into China. Mention that Capt. Ward was persona non grata with the Chinese Government. Also attached are telegrams reporting the arrival of Capt. Ward in the Sadiya Frontier Tract from Burma via Rima.

Telegrams on the question of improving communications between India and China. Dr. Hollington Tong, Vice Minister of Information of the Chungking Government who had accompanied Chiang Kai-shek to India, had raised the question of reduction of press rates from Chungking to other countries. The Government of India expressed its inability to support the proposal on the grounds that India’s transmitter capacity was overloaded and could not take additional load.

Correspondence on the visit of a Chinese delegation to India to discuss China-India road connectivity. The Chinese delegation comprised of Dr. Francis K. Pan, Counsellor in the Chinese Ministry of Communications, R.C. Chen of China Defence Supplies, and Z. On, who was the West Coast representative of the China-Burma Transport Company. During the
discussions it was decided that the Chinese would undertake the entire road construction work in Burma, subject to the condition that if the Assam road construction parties reached the boundary first, they would proceed with the work into Burma, and vice versa.

The Chinese delegation also complained about the “very tiresome delays to which important visitors from China to India are subjected on arrival by air at the Calcutta aerodrome” unless the visitors had diplomatic visas.


Letters and telegrams on the Government of India’s proposal to send to China J. Vesugar, Consulting Engineer to the Government of India (Roads).


On the establishment of a direct mail service between India and Sinkiang via Misgar.


Regarding abandoning the proposal to reduce safe hand facilities accorded to certain Chinese government organizations and officials in India with a view to check smuggling between India and China.

1944


Correspondence on proposed postal service between India and China via Rima in Tibet.


Supply of 24 wireless meeting sets from the US to George Tsarong in Tibet. Supply to the Political Officer in Sikkim of 24 battery sets offered by the Information and Broadcasting Department for distribution as presents in Tibet.
Establishment of a temporary wireless service between India and Sinkiang via Peshawar Radio.

Extension of India, Sinkiang and China postal mail services to include parcels from the UK and USA.

Documents on the subject of road building activities in North West China. The letters deal with the rumour of road building by General Ma Pu-fang in Qinghai province up to Tibet via Jyekundo.

Condition of Shigatse-Yasi road in Tibet [639]
Postal arrangements involving Tibet [645]
Closing of illegal wireless station in Hong Kong [841]
On non-availability of transport between Gilgit and Kashgar [285]
On aircraft capable of landing on water in Tibet [675]
On possibility of Chinese taking over post and telegraph services in Tibet [761]
Proposal for construction of India-Sinkiang motor road [889]
On the state of communications between India and China [776]
Broadcasting in Tibetan language [777]
Exchanges in Education, Culture and Science and Technology

1942


Agreement between government of India and Chinese government for exchange of Chinese and Indian students. Award of scholarships to ten Chinese students for study in India by the Government of India, and to ten Indian students for study in China by the Chinese government. Selection of Indian students for China.

1943


Letters on remuneration to Dr. Zakir Hussain who was one of the members of the Selection Committee Meeting held on 21 July, 1943 for the award of scholarships to Indian students proceeding to China.


Correspondence regarding procuring materials for the completion of the construction of Cheena Bhavan in Santiniketan, West Bengal, for which Chiang Kai-shek and Madame Chiang Kai-shek had donated money for the promotion of cultural relations between India and China. Letter from Tan Yun-shan dated 4 Feb, 1943 to the Chinese Commissioner in India, Shen Shih-hua explaining the reason for the delay and requesting him to put pressure on the British Government to give permission to get the necessary materials. The list of the materials is also attached, along with a map of Cheena Bhavan on the campus.

1944


Correspondence related to the Government’s acceptance of the proposal of Tata and Sons Ltd to invite four or five Chinese researchers and scholars to come to India to study and do research in the leading scientific institutions of India at the expense of the Tatas.
Proposal to arrange Chinese students to meet Indian students, to help them compare notes and enlarge their horizons. A note on Chinese research students in India, along with a list of students and their background and whereabouts.

Regarding facilities for post-graduate study in the Mental Hospital, Bangalore, for Ting Tsan of the Chinese National Health Commission.

Grant of scholarships to Chinese medical students in India.

Documents regarding the extension of scholarships to Chinese students studying in India. Some discussion of the difficulties due to the problem of the lack of a common medium of instruction.

Correspondence regarding the suggestion to invite Robert Lim, Major-General, Chinese Red Cross, to London.

Letters and telegrams regarding the request received from Von. G. Sun, Professor of Agronomy and Director of the Agricultural Experimental Station of the College of Agriculture, National University of Chekiang, for information on cotton-producing districts in India and the important cotton research stations based in India, in order to increase domestic cotton production in south-western China. As a result, the Government of India decided to supply a “Varietal Cotton Map of India” published by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, along with a list of important cotton research stations and senior research officers in India.

Letters and telegrams regarding the visit to China, from April 20-June 15, of an Indian Agricultural Mission comprising Dr. B.P. Pal, Imperial Economic Botanist, Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, Delhi; Sardar Bahadur Sahib Kartar Singh, Assistant Director of Agriculture, Punjab, and D.C. Sarkar, biologist at the Central Sericultural Research Station, Berhampur. Also attached is a report entitled ‘Indian Agricultural Mission to China’ submitted by Dr. B.P. Pal which has 6 photographs of Chinese agricultural fields. Also attached is a map of China with the caption ‘Wheat regions of China.’


Correspondence on the proposed lecture tour of China of British physiologist Prof. A.V. Hill.


Documents on Sino-Indian cultural relations. A letter addressed to the Secretary, External Affairs Department, Government of India, from the Agent General for India in China, K.P.S Menon, in relation to the above.


Note on a visit of Dr Joseph Needham of the British Council scientific mission in China to the National Resource Commission Industrial Exhibition in Chungking.


Letters and telegrams regarding presentation of three milch goats to the West China Union University, Szechuan, as per their request to help increase goat milk production in China.


Letters and telegrams regarding request received from the Chinese Commissioner in India to publish a book tentatively titled ‘Exodus to the East’ or ‘China Fights for Peace’, written by Prof. J.C. Daruvala who taught in the Central Political Institute, Chungking.

Letters on the request received from Professor Percy Chen, Secretary of the China Society of International Law, asking for the assistance of the Government of India in the supply of printing paper for the publication of an English translation of the Laws of China. Due to acute shortage of paper in India, Government of India expressed its inability to help Prof. Chen.

Refs: 698-X(Sec)/38, 302(12)-X/39, 102(3)-X/41, 2(50)-NEF/48(Sec), 72-NEF/46, 4(7)-NEF/46, 2(17)-NEF/50

Correspondence on granting permission to a five member party headed by noted ornithologist Salim Ali to visit Western Tibet in April 1945 on a scientific expedition. The expedition was sponsored by the Bombay Natural History Society and also included S.S. Khera, Deputy Director General, Supply Department, Government of India, and W. T. Loke, a Chinese British subject of Malaysia. All except Loke were given permission to visit Tibet.

1945


Correspondence on the activities of Indian students who had been granted scholarships by the Chinese Government for research in China.


Correspondence on the grant of a scholarship to John Blofeld, Cultural Attache at the British Embassy, by the Chinese Government for a period of three years for the study of Sino-Indian relations. Blofeld had earlier approached the Government of India for a research appointment in India towards the writing of a book on the same subject.


Correspondence on the question of procuring certain historical documents related to Indian and Chinese history. The Cultural Attache of the British Embassy, Chungking was instructed to acquire Ma Huan’s account of Zheng He’s expedition to India, as well as any Chinese description of the invasion of Gilgit in the 18th century and the invasion of Nepal in 1794. Ma Huan’s book was acquired and a translation of the preface of the book is attached in the file.
Proposed visits of Dr C.V. Raman and Dr. S. Radhakrishnan to China [402-03]

Visit of Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar to China [404]

Indian Agency General report on Indian students in China [309]
Part V: Places

Tibet

1939


Correspondence regarding request by E.M. Groth, American Consul-General at Calcutta, to visit Mount Kailash. The GOI replied that permission to visit Kailash could be granted only by the Tibetan Government, and as Tibetans regard Mount Kailash area as holy, they had generally refused permission to foreigners to visit the area.


Correspondence regarding letter from McMurdo Silver Corporation to R.N. Fox, wireless operator at Lhasa, informing him about its bankruptcy.


Telegrams concerning rumours circulating in Sikang of the presence of three Germans in Lhasa. British Mission at Lhasa reports that no German was present in Lhasa.


Correspondence on transmission of a letter from Theodore Illion (author of 3 books on Tibet) to Lama Blo-Byang-Ming-Gyur Dorjee and the Prime Minister of Tibet.


Correspondence regarding proposal of the Himalayan Club, Delhi, to climb Mount Everest in autumn 1940. A letter dated 20 Feb, 1939 from Sir Basil Gould on the Tibetan Government’s position with regard to expeditions to Mount Everest is also attached. It notes that even though the Tibetan Government had agreed “as the result of considerable pressure, to give
permission for an attempt on Mount Everest in 1938, they were careful to indicate that
permission was being granted for that occasion only and would probably not be renewed.”

941-X/40, 146-X/41, 111(2)-X/40 (Sec)

Documents regarding construction of rest houses at Lhasa for the British mission. Sir Basil
Gould stressed the need to have a permanent accommodation arrangement at Lhasa for the
British Mission. One of the notes dated 3 April 1939 (writer signature illegible) said “ It is, I
think, clear that we must retain our Mission in Lhasa indefinitely in order to keep in close
touch with a friendly neighbour and ensure as far as possible that she remains friendly. On
the other hand, we do not want to commit ourselves to anything so stable and permanent as a
Legation which could not be withdrawn without a very serious loss of face. … in my opinion,
[we can] ask the Tibetan Government to allow us to build a rest house to be occupied by the
Mission so long as it is there and to be used by visiting officers subsequently.”

H/23, 45-E/42

List of chiefs and leading families in Sikkim, Bhutan and Tibet.

X/38, 320(9)-X/1939(Sec), 374-X/1939(Sec)

Documents on the request received from Surkhang Dzasa, an influential and pro-British
Tibetan, for permission to import silver bars into India free of custom duty, which was
granted to him.


Refs: Progs May 1908, Nos. 741-794, Sec E, Progs July 1916, Nos. 95, Sec Est-B, 841-X/23,
192-X/25, 230-X/28(Sec), 260-X/30(Sec), 317-X/31(Sec), 304(2)-X/35, 508-X/37(Sec), 518-
X/37, 168-X/40(Sec), 318(2)-X/1939(Sec), 111(2)-X/40(Sec), 386-X/1939(Sec), 157-
CA(Sec)/45, 1(9)-NEF/46, 7-NEF/47

Correspondence regarding withdrawal of regular military escorts at Gyantse and Yatung and
their replacement by a garrison of ex-soldiers, as it was felt that “ there was no strategic or
other military grounds for continuing to maintain” the same. In a letter dated 25 Sept, 1939,
Basil Gould objected to the move saying: “The policy of the Government is to maintain a
position of stability on the long North-East frontier of India with a minimum expenditure of
military personnel and of money. For thirty five years the regular detachments at Gyantse and at Yatung have done much to attain this end. It is particularly desirable that nothing should be done which would impair our influence in Tibet and our power to afford support to the more stable elements in the Tibetan Government, at a time when the new Dalai Lama is about to arrive at Lhasa with a number of Chinese supporters and when Mr. Wu, the Chairman of the Bureau of Mongolian and Tibetan Affairs, is about to visit Lhasa via India…. If the detachments were to be withdrawn, the Tibetan Government, instigated by the Chinese, might feel encouraged to reopen the whole question of the 1914 agreement, on which the present geographical frontier between Tibet and the Assam trans-frontier tracts is based. This might probably lead to considerable military and police commitments in difficult and unhealthy tribal areas in order to safeguard our territorial rights. I regard the continued presence of the detachments as a valuable offset against such increased activity as may result from the visit to Lhasa of Mr. Wu and as a discouragement to undesirable activities on his part, and also as a major asset in any negotiations which may hereafter take place between His Majesty’s Government and China with a view to mutual abstention from unnecessary activities in Tibet.”

Correspondence on the subject of the disposal of a Tibetan book on medicine given by Dr. Ernst Schafer to Rabden Kazi for translation, which he was unable to translate.

Correspondence regarding application of R.B. Seth, Divisional Executive Engineer, North Western Railway, Ferozepur (Punjab) to visit Sikkim and Tibet. The letters discuss the procedure to be followed by an Indian of a status different from that of an average Indian for getting permission to visit Sikkim and Tibet.

A memo from B.J. Gould on matters including the continuance of the Lhasa Mission, grant of funds for presentation to the monasteries, construction of the Mission building at Lhasa, visit to Lhasa of the Medical Officer at Gyantse, etc.

Documents on the extension of the British Mission at Lhasa for one year until 30 Sept, 1940. B.J. Gould’s letter in which he states: “Nothing but good has resulted from the maintenance during a continuous period of three years of direct relations with the Tibetan Government and of close touch with all classes at Lhasa, and at no time has there been any friction; the Tibetans have become accustomed to relying on us, on our wireless, for news of the outside world, particularly with regard to the progress of events in China; there is little doubt that the presence of the Mission tends to afford support to those patriotic and conservative elements which favour a reasonable measure of independence from Chinese administrative interference and the making of genuine effort to secure the arrival at Lhasa of a successor to the late Dalai Lama; and it can hardly be doubted that, whatever may be the outcome of the struggle between China and Japan, we shall in future be very much better situated if we can point to the fact that we have for some years continuously maintained a Mission in Lhasa….”


Correspondence on the possibility of exploration of mineral resources in Tibet. Contains a confidential report by Sir Henry H. Hayden dated 1 March, 1923 on mineral resources in Tibet.


Undated note by Hugh Richardson on the condition of the road between Shigatse and Yasi in Tibet.


Correspondence (Oct-Nov 1939) on the conferring of the Tibetan honorary rank of Depon on Rai Sahib Kazi Sonam Tobden, Personal Assistant to the Political Officer in Sikkim, by the Tibetan Regent for his “services to the Tibetan Government enhancing the existing good relations between the Government of India and the Tibetan Government”.


Correspondence on the proposed visit to Western Tibet of Second Lieutenants R. Hamond and T.R. Glancy, 1st Battalion, the Royal Norfolk Regiment. Also attached is a report by Hamond of his travels in Western Tibet.
Letters on the proposed visit of three officers (namely John Phillip Searight, William W.M. Chard, Tom Pringle Wilson) of the First Battalion, the Royal Fusiliers, to Lhasa. The Government of India secured permission for the above mentioned officers to travel up to Gyantse and not until Lhasa as it was felt that the Tibetan Government was not keen on having visitors in Lhasa. Also attached are letters reporting the poor behaviour of the Schaefer party in Tibet which landed them in trouble with the monks in Lhasa who had in turn stoned them.

Telegram on the attitude of the Tibetan Government to the War in Europe. A telegram from the Tibetan Government at Lhasa reads: “Sometime ago we heard that War had broken out in Europe and we are hoping that it might come to an end before now. Tibet is a religious country. We have therefore arranged for performance of religious services and offering of prayers for speedy termination of the War and that peace and happiness may be restored to all mankind.” The Government of India expressed disappointment with the message for seeming to be “more impartial than we had expected.”

Letters granting permission to B.J. Gould, Political Officer Sikkim, to discuss with local officers the question of effective customs control on the Tibetan frontier.

Correspondence regarding revised postal arrangements from Gangtok to Phari via Nathula.

Letters concerning request of Lt. Col. F.M. Bailey to acquire a copy of the ‘Rules for the Phonetic Transcription into English of Tibetan words.’
Report on Tibetan affairs by Hugh Richardson for the period October 1938 to September 1939 during which he was in charge of the British Mission at Lhasa. In the report Richardson discusses his impressions of the Tibetans, the Dalai Lama, the activities of the Regent, the Kashag, prominent personalities of Tibet, English education in Lhasa, Marwaris, customs concessions, control of Chinese travelling by the land route, Tawang, Western Tibet, the Ladakhis in Lhasa, Nepali people, the economic situation in Lhasa, the Chinese Mission in Lhasa etc. On the attitude of the Tibetans to the Japanese occupation of China, Richardson said, “Tibetan officials were taking keen interest in the course of the war, and although they realised that they owed their respite to the Japanese invasion of China, their sympathies were becoming more strongly pro-Chinese….prayers “for which Tibet is famous” were being offered for the Chinese. Tibetans were greatly impressed by the rapid progress of the Japanese and were inclined to think that the Chinese were doomed. They did not appear to have any clear idea how this would affect them, nor has the Chinese emphasis on the importance of their Western provinces been given the attention it deserves.” Expresses concern about the spread of Japanese influence in Inner Mongolia.


Documents on public works arrangements in Sikkim and Tibet.


Documents on a dispute between the Tibet and Kashmir Governments about the alleged murder of a Tibetan subject named Champa Skaldan by the Zaildar of Rupshu who was an official of the Kashmir Government. This led to reconsidering of the prevailing procedure followed in cases of dispute between Tibet and Kashmir.


Monthly reports submitted by the British Mission, Lhasa, for the year 1939.

Correspondence on the subject of the supply of arms and ammunition to certain persons in Tibet.

Offer of Rev. Burrough for employment in wartime on account of his knowledge of the Tibetan language.

A series of letters and telegrams regarding supply of material to foreign and Indian press in connection with the arrival of the Dalai Lama in Tibet and subsequent events.

Proposed expedition of National Mountaineering Club, Lahore to Tibet during the summer of 1940.

Tibetan government informed that Id-ul-Zuha and Diwali will be observed as telegraph holidays.

Note by a Mr. Sheriff regarding affairs in Tibet. Reference to Raja Dorje's opinion about Bhutan and Tibet losing confidence in the Government of India and the likelihood that, in case of having to choose among an alliance with Japan, China or India, Tibetans would accept Japan and China over India.

Grant of exemption from customs duty and examination of goods belonging to Ngawang Gyaltsen, member of the Tibetan and Mongolian Affairs Commission, on his return to Tibet.

Documents on various matters. Selection of a new Dalai Lama. Visit of B. J Gould to Lhasa in connection with the installation ceremony of the Dalai Lama. Visit of Wu Chung-hsin, representative of the Chinese Government and President of Mongolian and Tibetan Affairs Commission to Lhasa. Pro-Chinese tendencies of the Regent of the Dalai Lama. Payment of one lakh dollars by the Tibetan Government to the Chinese Government for permitting the Dalai Lama to proceed to Tibet. A telegram dated 24 April, 1939, from B.J. Gould mentions the Tibetan Government's displeasure at the Chinese Government sending a representative to Lhasa for the ceremony without asking for permission from the Tibetan Government. Another telegram from the External Affairs Department to Secretary of State for India, London, states that "in view of attitude of Tibetan Government there appears no need for grant of facilities to Mr. Wu and his party to travel to Lhasa via India, and Chinese authorities should be informed." Also includes a confidential report on the general situation in Tibet.

Refs:S.E.October.1908,nos:269-285,47-X(Sec)1930,1-x/1932,504-X/1937,40-X/1938,68-X/1938,320-X/1939,305(2)-X(Sec)/1939,324(4)-X/1939,137-X/1940(Sec),69-X(Sec)/1942,305(2)-X(Sec)/1939

Affairs in Tibet and Sinkiang. Refers to Chinese interference in selecting a successor to the Dalai Lama.


Customs concession for the representative of the Panchen Lama at Nanking.


Request of the Tibetan Government for permission to import silver bars into British India duty free.

Visit of Wu Chung-hsin, President of Mongolian and Tibetan Affairs Commission and head of the Chinese mission to Lhasa in connection with the reincarnation of Dalai Lama. Grant of customs and other facilities. Question of granting travel passes to a Chinese named Yunnen Huang, wife of Dr. Schaw of Tibet, to go to Tibet from China via India, along with some others.


Supply of arms and ammunition to Tibetan Government and Pangda Tsang, Tibetan Government trader.


Intimation from the Political officer in Sikkim that there were no irregular units of military escorts at Gyantse or Yatung.


Letters, telegrams and notes (July 1939-March 1940) regarding the withdrawal of Military Escorts at Gyantse and Yatung and their replacement by a garrison of ex-soldiers consisting of Kumaonis.


Letter from an American Philip Chelf to Secretary to GOI in Commerce Department, asking how many British Trade Agents were stationed in Tibet, where they were located, and how he might communicate with them by mail. The reply to Chelf states that three British Trade Agents were stationed at Gyantse, Yatung and Gartok, all of whom were under the charge of the PO in Sikkim. It adds that there are Indian Post Offices at Gyantse and Yatung where Indian stamps are used for communications abroad.

In response to an enquiry by another American, Roth, the reply stated that there were no British subjects permanently resident in Tibet, though the trade marts at Gyantse, Yatung and Gartok on the outskirts of the country were visited by British Indian traders at certain times of the year. Foreigners were not allowed by the Tibetan Government to visit places in Tibet
other than the trade marts. The Tibetan Government was also opposed to Christian missionaries preaching in Tibet and thus there were none present in territories under control of the Tibetan Government.


Letter and enclosure regarding Trebitsch Lincoln, a British subject in Tibet. Lincoln was supposed to have been the first European Buddhist monk to come to China, and was known as Abbot Chao Kung.


Extract from Notes on External Affairs Department File No. 27-X (Sec) of 1937, regarding matters of dispute between Ladakh and Tibet. These were listed as:

(i) Inroads of armed Tibetans for the purpose of bringing back persons of Tibetan origin who had permanently settled in Ladakh.
(ii) Taxation and ill-treatment of settlers in Ladakh by the Rudok Jongpon.
(iii) Prohibition on carrying of arms by Tibetans in Kashmir territory.
(iv) Return of weapons confiscated from Tibetans by the Kashmir authorities.
(v) Place of trial by the Kashmir authorities of a case of the murder of a Tibetan subject.
(vi) Abolition of a tax on Tibetan traders visiting Ladakh.


Correspondence regarding mission properties previously confiscated by Lamas being restored to the Christian missionaries of Yercalo. The British administration was keen to distance itself from the incident and claimed that the restitution had not been won through any British intervention.

1940


Grant of exemption from customs duty for 140 cases of Chinese goods to be consigned to Khardo Rimpochi, a highly influential Lama in Tibet. Travel passes issued to 3 Tibetan traders Jigme, Tsengpo and Kagyur, who were accompanying the goods to Tibet via India, are also attached.
Secret report on the visit of Wu Chung-hsin, member of the Mongolian and Tibetan Affairs Commission of the Chinese Government, to Calcutta and his activities in Calcutta prior to his visit to Lhasa.

Correspondence on the visit of Wu Chung-hsin, President of the Mongolian and Tibetan Affairs Commission and head of the Chinese Congratulatory Mission to Lhasa, and his party to Tibet in connection with the impending enthronement of the new Dalai Lama. Also, grant of travel pass to a Chinese woman named Yun Hen-huang, wife of Dr. W.C. Schaw of Tibet.

Note discussing different views of British authorities in London and in India on the question of Chinese suzerainty over Tibet.

Letters regarding grant of travel passes by the British Embassy in China to travellers proceeding to Tibet via India. The file also contains travel applications which were submitted to the British Embassy in China by various people, including a Mongol Prince; letters on granting travel passes as well as customs exemption to 10 monks from the Sera Monastery; an enquiry by the Tibetan Government about the whereabouts of the Dlwa Hutuktu; and enquiries about the activities of a Japanese reportedly disguised as a Mongol Lama in the entourage of the Achin Lama at Gyantse.

Correspondence regarding the possibility of float planes landing on and taking off from lakes and waterways in Tibet. Noted that the aircraft Bristol Blenheim, some of which were with the Air Force in India, was capable of landing at and taking off from airfields at 11000-14000 ft and of crossing the higher passes into Tibet.
Decision to grant customs concessions in favour of the Dalai Lama and also the Regent of Tibet only when applications were forwarded to the Customs authority by the Political Officer in Sikkim. This measure was aimed at making “some political capital out of each consignment and will also be a safeguard against possible misuse of the name of the Dalai Lama or the Regent.”

Request from the Political Officer of Sikkim for newspaper cuttings of all reports on the Dalai Lama which appeared in Delhi and Simla in 1939 and 1940.

Correspondence on the installation of the young Dalai Lama in Tibet and the possibilities that might arise as a result. The letters discuss the situation in Tibet as well as Tibet-China relations. Reports on the activities of Wu Chung-hsin, President of the Mongolian and Tibetan Affairs Commission, during the installation ceremony. Some related newspaper cuttings and magazine articles also enclosed.

Report by Captain H.W. G. Staunton, Medical Officer, British Mission Lhasa. Discusses the inadequate medical facilities in Tibet as well as the attitude of Tibetan people towards hospitals. A list of a total of 2900 people who were treated at hospitals from 1 Jan to 31 Aug, 1940 is enclosed.

Permission for customs exemption for Kusho Dangtyopa, one of the British Mission guides, on 20 cases of Chinese goods, such as silk, saddles, cups, carpets, etc.
Permission granted to Gnawangchuk, the uncle of the Dalai Lama to carry silver ingots worth 8000 dollars free of customs duty during his journey from Tibet to China via India.

Secret report stating that the Chinese Government was sending a high official to Lhasa to be stationed there as their representative, on the recommendation of General Wu Chung-hsin. The news was later found to be not true.

Correspondence regarding severe floods that occurred in Yatung and the damage to lives and property that were incurred. Consequently, decision to sanction the construction of certain buildings at an estimated cost of Rs. 16000 provided in the budget of the British Trade Agency at Gyantse for 1941-42.

Grant of daily allowance to the Political Officer in Sikkim and his staff for the full period of their stay at Lhasa up to the 30 Sept, 1941.

Permission to Monsignore Gianora, Swiss Prefect Apostolic of Sikkim, to show some films he took in Tibet.

Correspondence regarding the possibility of direct import to India from Lhasa of *rheum palmatum* also known as Turkey Rhubarb, which grew in large quantities in Tibet.

Sanction given to the proposal of the British Trade Agent, Gartok, to undertake his annual tour of Western Tibet via Kashmir instead of Rampur and Bashahir in May 1939.

Reports of the flood that took place in different parts of Tibet in July 1940.


Annual report of the British Trade Agency, Gyantse, for the year ending the 31 March, 1940. The report gives a detailed view of the people who worked there, foreign officials posted in Gyantse, the local authorities, the political situation, the extent of trade, the climate, the political relations of the Agency with the local authorities, foreigners who visited Gyantse etc.


A note by Richardson of the Gyantse Trade Agency explaining the meaning of the words “Jampel ngawan lobsang jishey tenzing gyatso” - the names that were given to the new Dalai Lama.


Correspondence on the proposal of the Political Officer, Sikkim to limit the issue of money orders payable at Post Offices in Tibet in accordance with the funds available in the Treasury. The proposal was rejected as the Government of India thought that it would lead to people borrowing from other sources and as such would contribute to the diversion of money to other channels.


Denial of permission to Reverend Angarika Govinda (alias Ernst Loosbar Hoffman) to visit southern Tibet, on the grounds that he was German and also known to have been in the society of Japanese monks in India. The Reverend was later arrested under rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules.


Denial of permission to a Russian, Mikhail Pavelovich Pashoff, to visit Tibet from August to December 1940. A note discussing the procedure of application for foreigners wanting to visit Tibet is also attached.
Denial of permission to Joseph Saab, a French subject, to travel and stay in Tibet for business purposes, on the grounds that the “Tibetan Government do not view applications to visit their country with favour”.

Correspondence regarding presentation of a gold medal to Rai Sahib Bo Tsering Kazi, Sub-Assistant Surgeon, from the Regent of Tibet for his services in Gyangtse and Lhasa as a doctor. Also attached is the English translation of the letter from the Regent informing about the medal.

Letter from Aurel Stein, Archaeological Bungalow, Taxila to O.K. Caroe positing a strong connection between Russian scholarly and political interest in Tibet. Also attached is a report by Sir Charles Bell on the religious and political affinities between Mongolia and Tibet. Consequently, view expressed that in the light of the possible spread of Russian and Japanese influence in Tibet, the importance of Mongolia was to be kept in mind. Also contains a biographical note on a Buriat (Russian) named Dorjieff who was one of the tutors of the Dalai Lama. Enclosed are also telegrams from B.J. Gould, then visiting Lhasa as a member of the Tibetan mission, on the activities of the Mission in Tibet and the impressions they had of the political situation there and the influence of Russia and Japan in Tibet.

Exemption from customs duty to Kusho R.D. Ringang, alias Chhangopa, for 100 packages of silk, jade, etc from China.

Annual report submitted by Norbhu Dhondup, British Trade Agent, Yatung for the year ending 31 March, 1940.
Exemption of duty granted on goods brought from China to Tibet by Yabsgi Phunkang Kung, a relative of the Dalai Lama and Minister at Lhasa.

1941


Letters on the report received from the Political Officer, Sadiya Frontier Tract, in which he discussed the conditions of Chinese refugees in Sikang and their settlement in Batang and in the east and north-east of Batang. The report discusses the tours carried out by Chinese officers to Chamdo, south to Dayul and to Weisi, and draws attention to the presence of a large Chinese garrison, an airfield and a wireless station at Darchendo. It reports that at Yakado, Batang, Litang and Darchendo, European and American missionaries with printing presses were present, and that wireless stations existed at Litang and Likang.


Letter from the British Resident in Kashmir, M.S. Fraser, to Basil Gould, Political Officer in Sikkim, informing him that in a petition sent to the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir, the zamindars of Kargil and Ladakh had complained against the Tibetan officials at Roduk who were allegedly levying customs duties on wool and taxes on sheep and goats imported into Ladakh from Tibet, in violation of the agreement concluded between the Tibet and Kashmir governments at Dakpo Karpo in 1924. Also enclosed is a translated copy of the petition of the said zamindars.


Correspondence regarding expenditure incurred by the Lhasa Mission. Attached is a letter from the Political Officer in Sikkim in which he reports his visit to Lhasa as a representative of the British Government for the installation of the Fourteenth Dalai Lama in February 1940. He noted that the new Dalai Lama, although very young, was “already exercising high spiritual authority, and [was] already a centre of influence.”


Censorship interception of a letter sent by H. Guibart, one of the two members of the French Guibart-Lietard Mission, describing how his partner Louis Lietard had been killed by Tibetan
bandits while he himself barely escaped. Enquiries by the Director, Intelligence Bureau about the above-mentioned French mission.


Correspondence regarding the attempt by Brother Alfonso Tavera, proposed Honorary Consul-General of Colombia at Madras, to enter Tibet through an unauthorised route (Gangtok-Nathu La- Yatung La-Chumbi Valley-Shigatse-Lhasa). Suggested that the Tibetan government be requested not to give Tavera the necessary permit to enter.


Letters from the Political Officer in Sikkim describing the political situation in Tibet, particularly the resignation of the Regent Rajalama and his replacement by Takta Rembuchhi, the tutor of the new Dalai Lama.

1942


Letters, telegrams and reports from the various British Trade Agents based in Tibet about the conditions of Kazakhs in Tibet.


Correspondence concerning the appointment of F. Ludlow, Additional Assistant Political Officer at Sikkim, as the head of the Lhasa Mission. Ludlow was appointed in place of Rai Bahadur Norbhu Dhondup.


Official documents related to the recovery of Government money from the estate of the former Government Bankers at Gyantse and Yatung in Tibet, Rai Bahadur Ramchandra Mintri and Nanda Lal Mintri. In January 1933 they stated that they were unable to pay Government balances that they owed, owing to trade depression that had caused their business to fail. Hence liquidation proceedings were started in the Bikaner court to recover the Government’s share from the sale proceeds of their property.

Telegrams on the subject of a broadcast from Berlin announcing that the Tibetan Government had agreed to passage of supplies to China.


Letters on the subject of the strategic significance of building roads in Tibet. Sir Basil Gould, Political Officer in Sikkim, in a letter to Olaf Caroe, Foreign Secretary, wrote: “…nothing could suit our political and strategic convenience better than that, by convulsion of nature, Tibet should become unapproachable from all sides, and untraversable. In the alternative it would suit us well enough if Tibet were to become so strong that she could vindicate her independence against all corners. But it is clear that the time of Tibet’s extreme isolation is passing, and that Tibet is not strong. …if we were to obtain equal or superior advantage of position, as compared with China, in south-eastern Tibet, we should, by doing so, interpose a screen of potential influence well forward of Lhasa…. I have no doubt that China, if we leave to her the advantage of position in south-eastern Tibet, will sooner or later exploit it to our disadvantage. The best way of steadying China would be to improve our own position. This is mainly a matter of roads. It is by roads also that we can best carry into execution our immediate, or short term, policy of being in a position to send maximum help to China via Tibet.”

The Government of India, while acknowledging the likelihood of the Chinese Government in the post-war period striving for “the restoration of their influence and control in Central and Eastern Tibet”, however decided not to carry out this proposal to build roads for “practical and political reasons”.


Letters regarding the possible opening of a Chinese bank in Lhasa. The India Office, London suggested that in this eventuality, the British should also follow suit and open a British bank there even though “there was not much business to be done” in Lhasa. The need was emphasized for “Chinese commercial institutions not being allowed to get ahead of us in Tibet.” At the same time it was felt that “a Chinese Bank could not be opened in Lhasa without the consent of the Tibetan Government and until there is some radical change in the state of Sino-Tibetan relations there can be little expectation that the Tibetans would willingly consent.”

Extract of a report dated 17 Jan, 1942 by the Central Intelligence Officer, Calcutta, on his tour to Upper Assam. The report claimed that a Chinese agency had existed at Chamdo for the previous 6-7 years. The report also warned of increasing Chinese influence in Chamdo. The report also discussed the possibility of Tibetans and Chinese using the Sadiya-Rima route as enemy agents or messengers, as most of them did not carry regular passports. It also stressed the need to check the contacts of as many of these Tibetan and Chinese visitors as possible while they were in India. There was also discussion of a proposal to establish an airport at Sadiya for commercial transport to and from China.


Letter from Rai Bahadur Norbhu Dhondup, British Trade Agent, in which he reports about the Dalai Lama’s parents trying to acquire properties and estates in Tibet. He also reports that the Dalai Lama’s father had been interfering in the affairs of the Government.


Handwritten note by Sir B.J. Gould on the possibility of using a track of land in the Tsangpo valley in Tibet as a flying boat base. The proposition was ruled out as not feasible.


Correspondence on the question of formulating and adopting suitable policies in Tibet so as to counter Chinese incursions in Tibet as well to maintain British influence there.

[716] File No: 416-X (Sec). Sr. No: 1-14. Pp. 1-24. Refs: 106(2)-X/42 (Sec), 817-X/43 (Sec), 157-CA /44 (Sec), 182-CA/44 (Sec), 6343(11)-CA(Sec)of 1945

Telegrams on the subject of a quarrel between the Tibetan Government and Dr, Kung Ching-tsung, who headed the Chinese Mission at Lhasa. Also telegrams on the Tibetan Government’s request to transmit a coded message to the Tibetan Representative in Chungking through the Government of India.


Discussion regarding the visit of Captain R.K.M Saker, British Trade Agent, Gyantse, to Western Tibet.

Criticism of inaccuracies in an article by Prof. G.F. Hudson, Royal Institute of International Affairs, Balliol College, Oxford, published in the Review of the Foreign Press No. 139 dated 4 June, 1942, regarding the nature of Chinese policy in Tibet. Also included in the file is a booklet written by B.J. Gould entitled ‘On the discovery, recognition and installation of the Fourteenth Dalai Lama’, a note on Tibet, and issues of the Review of the Foreign Press.


Confidential reports from the British Mission, Lhasa and weekly letters dealing with various issues, including problems between the Chinese and Tibetan authorities.


Request from the British government for information needed to reply to a question raised in the House of Commons about the extent of Axis activities in Tibet.

[721] File No: 115-X(Conf). Sr.No: (1)-(3). Pp.1-5. Refs: 111(2)X/40(Sec), 80-X/43(Sec), 69-X/42(Sec)

Information through censorship interception about the desire of the Chinese government that Tibetan and Bhutanese students should learn Chinese.


Miscellaneous reports on affairs in Tibet, Bhutan and Sikkim.

1943


Renewal of the lease for the site of the British Trade Agency, Gyantse for a further period of 30 years from 1 April, 1941.

Correspondence on the question of supplying arms and ammunition to the Tibetan government.

Censorship intercepts on China and Tibet, April-September 1943.

Censorship intercepts on China and Tibet, September-November, 1943.

Censorship intercepts on China and Tibet, July-September 1943.

Enquiry made by the Political Officer, Sikkim, whether Government had any objection to his using material from his report on the discovery, reorganization and installation of the 14th Dalai Lama, for the preface of another book.
Comment of the British Mission Lhasa on certain censorship intercepts relating to Tibet for the period October-December 1943.


Refs: Proceeding 223 in S.E July 1905 no: 216-223, Proceeding 391 in S.E July 1907 no: 390-392, Proceeding 31 in S.E May 1916 no: 28-33, 89-X/27(Sec), 184-X/32(Sec), 359-X/32(Sec), 29-X/38(Sec), 8(77)-E 41, 140-X/42, 121. C.A/44(Sec), 1094 F.E/45, 156. C.A/45, 7.8(7)-NEF/45

Report by Captain R.K.M. Saker, British Trade Agent, Gyantse on his tour of Western Tibet from July-December 1942.

1944


Letters and telegrams on the visit to Tibet of Archibald.T. Steele, an American correspondent of the Chicago Daily News. The transcript of the series of articles that he wrote on Tibet along with the photographs are also attached in the file.


Letters from B.J. Gould, Political Officer, Sikkim, enquiring if the original of the Tibetan Word Book, which was sent to Sir Aurel Stein, could be traced among his effects.


Lhasa weekly reports, Gyantse and Yatung news reports, and other miscellaneous reports on situation in Tibet for the year 1944.


Censorship interception of a series of letters exchanged between P. Rapga to the Chinese Commissioner of Mongolian and Tibetan Affairs in Chungking, apprising him of the situation in Tibet. Also contains letters on the subject of Rapga attempting to start the publication of a Tibetan newspaper in Kalimpong, which the British authorities did not approve of.
Correspondence regarding the starting of an English medium school in Lhasa, and the appointment of Major R.A Parker as a teacher in the English School by the Tibetan authorities. Correspondence also on the proposal of Basil Gould for the appointment of an Educational Adviser for Sikkim, Tibet, Bhutan and the McMahon Line areas. Also contains a report on the functioning of the English school at Lhasa by H.E. Richardson, Additional Assistant Political Officer in Sikkim, in charge of the British mission in Lhasa.

Telegram from the British Embassy, Chungking to the British Government informing it of the appointment of Shen Tsung-lien as Director Officer, Mongolian and Tibetan Affairs Commission in Tibet, in place of Kung Ching-chung who resigned from that post.

Censorship interception of a series of articles on Tibet (translated into English) which were published in the Chinese Journal of India, published in Calcutta. Also contains a letter from H.E. Richardson, in charge of the British mission in Lhasa, in which he makes detailed comments on the content of the articles on Tibet.

Documents related to the amount to be paid by the Tibetan Government for the supply of ammunition by the British Government.

Documents related to the Government’s decision to issue travel passes to Tibetans returning from China via India.
Correspondence on the problems faced by the Tibetan Representative in Chungking in trying to send secret telegrams to Lhasa, owing to censorship by the Chinese Government.


Extract of a report for the first quarter of 1944 received from the Agent-General for India in China on the building of roads and communications by the Chinese Government in the neighbourhood of Tibet.


Correspondence regarding a rumour that the Chinese with the help of the Americans were building roads to Batang and Rima in Tibet. Letters also deal with the visit of a Dr. Brown to the China-Tibet border on a weather survey mission.

[744] File No: 186- C.A. (Sec). Sr. No: 1-132. Refs: 810-X(Sec), 817-X(Sec)/43, 403-X(Sec)/44, 135-CA(Sec)/45, 120-CA(Sec)/45, 279-CA/46, 3-NEF/46, 1(2)-NEF/46.

Correspondence on the appointment of Shen Tsung-lien as the new Chinese Representative at Lhasa, who was succeeding Dr. Kung Ching-chung. Grant of transit visas to Shen and his staff who were accompanying him to Tibet. A report on the meeting which Olaf Caroe, the Foreign Secretary, had with Shen is also attached.


Documents about the arrival of Shen Tsung-lien, Resident Officer of the Tibetan and Mongolian Affairs Commission in Lhasa. The documents also deal with the events that were organized to receive him, as well as his activities on his arrival in Lhasa and the speeches that he made.


Refs: 106(2)-X(Sec)/42, 821-X(Sec)/43, 61-X(Sec)/43, 182-C.A/44, 180-C.A(Sec)/46, 118-C.A/45, 5(23)-NEF/46.

Correspondence on the visit of two American army officers, Captain Tolstoy and Lieutenant Brooke Dolan, and reports on their activities while in Tibet. Letters also on the subject of supply of wireless equipment presented by the US Government to the Tibetan Government. Letters also related to the supply of the colour film made by Major Tolstoy during his visit to
Tibet to the Political Officer in Sikkim. Also about a sound projector given as a “gift” by the US Office of Strategic Services (OSS) C-B-I Command.


Correspondence regarding the appointment of Dr. G.S. Terry as Civil Surgeon, Tibet and Bhutan, in succession to Lt-Col. J.H. Hislop.


Letter from Hugh Richardson to Guy Wint regarding the supply of “Tibet Summary”, on the request received from Wint for information on internal Tibetan politics.


Refs:272-A/43,177-A(Sec)/44,193-C.A(Sec)/44,256-C.A(Sec)/44,90(2).P.W.R/44, 187-C.A(Sec)/45, 8(25)-NEF/47.

Correspondence regarding the supply of information to Guy Wint, who wished to know the extent of improvement of road communications between India and Tibet. The objective was to use it for propaganda purposes “to draw that country as closely as possible into the Indian orbit” as a counter-measure to the Chinese improvement of communications between China and Tibet.


Correspondence regarding request for permission from Colonel Reginald Schomberg, Chief Inspector of Customs at Baluchistan, to travel in Tibet (from Leh to Gyantse). Permission was not granted to him.

Telegram from Basil Gould, Political Officer Sikkim, reporting the possibility of the ex-Regent of Tibet, Reting, becoming Regent again.


Letter dated from Basil Gould, Political Officer Sikkim, to Sir Olaf Caroe, Secretary, Department of External Affairs, in which he brings to notice a list of things that needed attention in the context of India’s relations with Tibet, before his departure for Lhasa. These included: the need to have an Educational Adviser in Tibet; to have the “best” army personnel sent as Tibet Escorts so that the Tibetans and the Chinese do not “under-estimate the quality of the Army in India”; to grant the jagir of Diwangiri to the Raja of Bhutan so as to have a friendly power in the McMahon Line Areas; the need to advance medical work in Tibet and Bhutan; the need for a suitable successor to the British Trade Agent Gyantse, etc.


Documents regarding how the British viewed the American stand on the question of Tibetan independence. Detailed discussion of the journey of American Army personnel Lt-Col Tolstoy and Lt Brooke Dolan of the US Army in 1942 from Sikkim to Lhasa and their success in obtaining the Tibetan Government’s agreement to their leaving Tibet via Jyekundo into China. Belief that this would support the case for Tibetan independence in the US. Mention of speech by US Vice-President Henry Wallace in which he apparently suggested that China in her dealings with Tibet, Mongolia etc. would have to recognize after the War “the responsibility which rests upon the independent nations in relation to the dependent people who aspire to liberty.”


Extract of letter from Eric Lambert to Sir Denys Pilditch in which he talks about Surkhang Dzasa, the Tibetan Foreign Minister (whom he suspected to be pro- Chinese) and Yuthok Dzasa, the “very pro-British” Tibetan Commissioner in Kham. He also talks about a proposed visit to Chamdo in Tibet.


Correspondence on the supply of arms and ammunitions to the Tibetan Government by the Government of India. List of arms and ammunitions supplied is also attached.

Correspondence concerning the directive issued by Government of India to the British Mission at Lhasa not to grant transit visas for people travelling to China via India for more than fifteen days without prior reference to the Government of India. Also attached are two telegrams from Basil Gould in which he discusses the personal impression he had of Shen Tsung-lien, Director Officer of the Mongolian and Tibetan Affairs Commission in Tibet, and the discussion which he had with Shen on the question of Tibet.


Refs: 96(6)-G/37, 140-X(Sec)/40, 18-G/41, 69-X(Sec)/42, 51-X(Sec)/43, 817-X(Sec)/43, 434-X(Sec)/44, 9(2)-NEF/46(Sec), 9(4)-NEF/48(Sec)

Correspondence on the distribution of Tibet Summary prepared by Richardson, Additional Political Officer in Sikkim and in charge of the British Mission in Lhasa.


Regarding the desire of British botanist Francis Kingdom-Ward to get into Tibet in connection with his exploration on the China-Tibet frontier. Also, a proposal that the political officer in Sikkim might send someone to visit eastern Tibet for collecting information. A further suggestion that the Director of the Intelligence Bureau should arrange with the Central Intelligence Officer, Assam for agents to proceed from Walong, primarily in the Chamdo or Batang direction, to investigate Chinese activities in the Kham region.


Extract from letter from Eric Lambert to Sir Denys Pilditch suggesting an increase in Government of India's contribution to monasteries in Tibet. Extract from the letter suggests that Lamas from the big monasteries owe their pro-Chinese stance to the generous donations by the Chinese state. British suspicions about the Chinese intention to settle the Tibet issue before the question of Tibetan independence goes to the world peace conference.

Proposal to set up a Seventh Day Adventist mission in Lhasa. Also, an extract mentions a news report of the Chinese government taking over the postal and telegraph services in Tibet.

Request from the Royal Geographical Society and the Royal Asia Society to borrow Sir Basil Gould's film on Tibet.

On medical work in Tibet.

Supply to Director of Information and Broadcasting of an outline of the nature of British interests and policy towards Tibet and its people by H.E. Richardson.

Annual report of the British Trade Agency at Gyantse and Bhutan for the year ending 31 March, 1944. A note on a tour of the Civil Surgeon to Tibet and Bhutan.

1945

Secret news reports from the British Mission, Lhasa on various issues. This includes the meeting of Shen Tsung-lien, the Chinese Representative in Lhasa, with Surkhang Dzasa, the Tibetan Foreign Minister; the alleged counterfeiting of Tibetan currency notes by Liu Shin-che, Shen’s English secretary; and the meeting of Shen with the Dalai Lama and the Regent.

Documents on the subject of Chinese Government’s attitude and policies towards Tibet. Attached is an English translation of ‘Organic Regulations of the Tibet Office of the Mongolian and Tibetan Affairs Commission’ promulgated by the Executive Yuan. It details
the composition of the Office of the Mongolian and Tibet Affairs Commission, its duties and functions. Also contains the Executive Yuan’s annual report dealing with the work of the Mongolian and Tibetan Affairs Commission in Tibet during the period August 1944 to May 1945. There is also a detailed British Government memorandum on the composition, departments, and personnel of the Mongolian and Tibetan Affairs Commission.

[768] File No:634(2)-CA. Sr. No: 1-20. Pp.1-62. Refs: 634-CA/45(Sec), 634(3)-CA/45, 634(6)-CA/45(Sec), 634(18)-CA/45(Sec),634(5)-CA/45(Sec)

Documents on the visit of the Tibetan Mission to India, and the arrangements made by the Government of India for sightseeing, meetings, etc of the Mission while in India.


Notes on the British Government suggestion to build roads to the Tibetan border and to offer scholarships to Tibetans to study road engineering in the UK.


Communications regarding the alleged attack by a Tibetan lama named Akio on Father Tornay, who was a lone missionary at Yerkalo in the diocese of Tachienlu, in charge of the mission of the Society of Foreign Missions of Paris there. Also contains a report on the origin of the Catholic Mission at Yerkalo.

[771] File No: 634(11)-CA (Sec). Sr. No: 1-4. Pp. 1-11. Refs: 416-X (Sec)/42, 79-X(Sec)/43, 135-CA(Sec)/44, 144-CA(Sec)/45, 634(5)-CA(Sec)/45

Communications on the visit of the Tibetan Mission to India and China, and on the request of the Tibetan Mission to be allowed to use British communication systems for transmission of cipher telegrams so as to be independent of the Chinese. The Government of India decided not to allow the Tibetan Mission to use the its wireless set as it was felt that it would become a cause of embarrassment if it came to the knowledge of the Chinese Government.


Communications regarding the visit to Gangtok of Capt. J.B. Howes, Deputy Secretary, Information Department, to see films on Tibet made by Sir Basil Gould, Political Officer Sikkim, as well as to discuss matters related to Tibetan publicity purposes.
Condolence messages from the Governments of India, Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan on the death of Sir Charles Bell (1870-1945) who was the Political Officer in Sikkim in 1904. Attached are an extract of an article on Sir Charles Bell in *The Times*, dated March 12, 1945, and a report on Sir Charles Bell’s activities in Tibet. Also attached is a report titled ‘*Tibet during and after the War*’.

Documents on the levy of sales tax by the Bengal Government on goods exported to Sikkim, Bhutan and Tibet, which ran counter to the provisions of the existing treaty with the Tibetan Government under which no export duty was to be levied.

Communications on proposals to increase British propaganda in Tibet to counter the alleged plans of the Chinese Representative in Lhasa to issue a Tibetan paper. Suggestion to start an English edition of the Tibetan *Dunya*. Discussion of need to assist Gergan Dorje Tharchin of Kalimpong, who produced the only Tibetan newspaper in India.

Correspondence on supplying Colonel Fox Holmes, China Intelligence Wing, Calcutta, with copies of intercepted Chinese code telegrams handed in at the British Post Offices in Tibet along with details about the timing of operation of the Chinese wireless station in Lhasa so as to monitor it. Also attached is a report prepared by the Intelligence Bureau of the Government of India on the existing communications between India and China.

Correspondence on the subject of the Tibet Wireless and Broadcasting station at Gangtok. The letters also discusses the possibility of closing down the station at Gangtok and instead starting Tibetan broadcasts under All India Radio. Also attached is a note on broadcasting in Tibet.
Intelligence reports on Tibet on various issues, including: the activities of Shen Tsung-lien, the Chinese Representative at Lhasa, Chinese activities in Tibet, Chinese publicity in Tibet, Reting monastery, the Sino-Tibetan boundary, Chinese and Tibetan troops on the frontier, Sino-Tibetan trade, communications between China and Tibet, appointments in Tibet, the Americans and Tibet, a secret arrangement by Shen Tsung-lien to contact a Tibetan lama. They also talk about Tshatrul Rimpoche in Lhasa planning to write a book stressing the cultural similarity between the Chinese and Tibetans as well as bringing out the historical ties between China and Tibet. The file also contains sketch maps showing the routes used by the Tibetan Hill tribes in the Balipara Frontier Tract.

Correspondence about whether the practice of the Maharaja of Kashmir sending commercial missions to Lhasa every three years had been discontinued. The Resident of Kashmir replied that it had not fallen into disuse but had become irregular.

Documents on the publicity that was given in India to the Tibetan Mission which had visited India from 27 Feb-2 March, 1946. (Listed in 1945 Index). Also contains newspaper cuttings and photographs on Tibet, and an issue of the Hindi magazine *Aajkal* containing articles on Tibet.

Correspondence on the activities of Shen Tsung-lien, the Chinese Representative at Lhasa. Notes on the importance of Tibetan monasteries. Suggestion that in order to counter the huge donations given by Shen to Tibetan monasteries, the Government of India should also increase spending for donations and presents to the monasteries.

Five articles on Tibet written by Archibald.T. Steele, the *Chicago Daily News* correspondent, based on his two month long expedition to Tibet.
Correspondence on the request received from L. Walters, Hindustan Aircraft Ltd, Bangalore, for permission for himself and two American civilians, L.L. Barick and L.A. Kelly, to travel into Tibet from Sikkim. Also contains a letter on the procedure to be adopted on the entry of non-British foreigners into Tibet. Stipulated that such foreigners should approach the Tibetan Trade Agent, Yatung for permission to visit Tibetan trade marts without direct intervention from the British Government in most cases.

Letters on the decision of the Government of India to refer to the Tibetan “Foreign Office” as the “Foreign Bureau” in view of the restricted activities of that body.

Telegramms enquiring about the details of an airplane which had flown over Yatung on 7 Oct, 1945.

Correspondence on the proposal to provide exemption from customs to the Tibetan Goodwill Mission on their return from China to India en route to Tibet.

Correspondence on the transmission of the message of condolence from the Tibetan Government to the US Government on the death of President Roosevelt.

Report by an unnamed secret agent who was in Tibet from December 1943 to April 1945. In the report he describes the places he visited in Tibet and the people, including Chinese officials, he had met.


Chinese press reports on the tenth incarnation of the Tashi (Panchen) Lama, born in Kokonor in Tsinghai province.


Correspondence regarding the admission of two Sikkimese candidates, Kazi Wangdi Zangpo and Sonam Dorji, into the Campbell Medical School, Calcutta. These candidates were being trained for subsequent employment as Sub-Assistant Surgeons, Yatung and Gyantse, as Tibetan-speaking doctors were required at these two places.

[792] File No: 157-CA(Sec). Sr.No:1. Pp.1-9. Refs: 317-X(Sec)/31, 508-X(Sec)/37, 352-X(Sec)/39, 563-CA(Sec)/44, 1(9)-NEF/46, 634(6)-CA/45, 7-NEF/47, 7(4)-NEF/47

Documents on the question of continuing the military escort to the British Trade Agent at Gyantse and Yatung. An interesting note by Sir Olaf Caroe on the importance of not only continuing with the military escort, but also of increasing the number of troops on the Lhasa route so that Chinese do not get the impression that “we have lost interest in Tibet, and that the way was open for them to assert finally their influence in Lhasa…. It is the last place where we ought to cut down or reduce our commitments. China during the war has become far more India-conscious than she ever has been before and one most important trend of Chinese political propaganda is in the direction of once more after an interval of over 30 years asserting her control over Tibet. This is what we wish to prevent and one of the best ways of doing it is to keep ourselves on the main route into Lhasa. We therefore very definitely consider that the escort should remain an Army commitment and should consist of the best available troops with the best available equipment.”

Correspondence on the subject of gifts that A.J. Hopkinson should take to Lhasa as the Political Officer, Sikkim. He was advised to present the monasteries with cash, apart from carrying materials presents such as sewing machines and rifles.

[794] File No:125-CA(Sec). Sr.No:1-34. Pp.1-84. Refs: 515-X(Sec)/27, 58-X/29, 7-W(Sec)/39, 114-X/41(Sec), 32(8)-W(Sec)/44, 156-CA/45, 10(5)-NEF/47

Correspondence regarding the escape to India of a Tibetan official known as the Shung Tshong Gompu Tsering, with a sum of Rs. 2,00,000 to Rs. 3,00,000 and some firearms. The Tibetan Government of India requested his arrest and deportation to Tibet. He was arrested and was asked to return the cash and firearms to the Tibetan Government. However the Government of India decided not to deport him due to the absence of an Extradition Treaty between Tibet and British India.


Refs: 87-X/43, 38(8)-W(Sec)/44, 157-CA(Sec)/44, 118-CA(Sec)/45, 634-CA(Sec)/45, 634(12)-CA(Sec)/45, 634(22)-CA(Sec)/45, 114-CA(Sec)/45, 120-CA(Sec)/45, 182-CA(Sec)/45, 183-CA(Sec)/45, 1249-FE/45, 224-CA/46, 173(3)-CA/46, 383-FE/46, 634(11)-CA/45, 183-CA/45, 634(9)-CA/45, 634-CA/45, 122(3)-CA/45, 634(6)-CA/45, 634(7)-CA/45, 7-NEF/46

Documents on the visit of the Tibetan Mission to India, primarily discussing the logistics and arrangements for the Tibetan delegation.


Correspondence on the actual numbers of British military personnel stationed at the two trade routes and at the British Mission at Lhasa. Enquiries brought out that the Government of India maintained 73 and 44 escorts for the British Trade Agents at Gyantse and Yatung respectively. Apart from these no troops served at any other place in Tibet. Three civilian British officials served in Tibet at that time: the Civil Surgeon at Lhasa, the British Trade Agent at Gyantse and Wireless Officer at Lhasa.


A note by H.E. Richardson in which he draws parallel between the Russian methods in Mongolia with the British methods in Tibet.
British mission at Lhasa [212]

Visitors to Tibet [370-73, 375-84]

New reincarnation of Dalai Lama found in Tsinghai [367]

Passes granted to traders of Regent of Tibet [349]

Schafer expedition to Tibet [369, 383, 385]

Tibetan government refusal of permission to a proposed visit to Tibet [374]

Tibetan wool trade [510]

Postal arrangements in Tibet [577, 579]

Hindustan Tibet Road [574, 587]

British Trade Agency at Gyantse [511, 514]

Problems of Indian traders in Western Tibet [512]

Travellers going to Tibet via India [351-52]

Export of Tibetan wool [513]

British Trade Agency at Yatung [515, 517]

Post and telegraph lines in Tibet [580]

Visit of Capt. Staunton to Lhasa [386]

Maintenance of British Mission buildings at Gyantse and Yatung [211]

Difficulties of transport in Tibet [581]

British Mission at Lhasa [218]

Tibetan traders returning to Lhasa [359]

Indo-Tibetan trade [523]

Export of goods from Darjeeling to Tibet [544]

Regarding purchase of Tibetan wool [545]

Happenings in Tibet [28]

Proposed visit of P.U. Bapat to Tibet [398]

Smuggling of goods into Tibet from Assam [452]

Purchase of Borax from Tibet [546]
Export of goods from India through Tibet [547]
Censorship interceptions related to Tibet [36-38]
Implications of new nationalities policy for Tibet [42]
Notes on Tibet [50]
Mapping of India-Tibet border [72]
Procedures for emergency landing if needed in neutral Tibet [145]
Illegal trade between Tibet and Kalimpong [454]
Trade routes through Tibet for China [552-53]
Tibetan firm’s request for cotton piece-goods from India [554]
Trade between Garhwal and Western Tibet [555]
Exports to Tibet [556]
Report on commercial conditions in Gartok and Western Tibet [557]
Monetary issues concerning Tibet [559]
Proposed postal service between India and China via Tibet [599]
Visit of ornithologist Salim Ali and party to Western Tibet [621]
Importance of Bhutan for boundary issue [753]
Disposal of cases relating to Tibet [938]
Arrival of Tibetans in Likiang, Yunnan [64]
On need to explain British policy towards Tibet to the Chinese communists [310]
Movement of Tibetans across border into Kalimpong [442, 448]
Commercial relations between India, Nepal and Tibet [571]
On cold relations between Tibetans and Muslim population of Qinghai [827]
Activities of Japanese in Tibet [96]

India-China Boundary Issues

1939
Documents on a boundary dispute between Tehri (Garhwal) and Tibet in the neighborhood of Nilang. An interesting note by Capt. Fletcher reads: “I take it that we do no not want to raise the question of the Tehri-Garhwal boundary while Mr. Gould in is Lhasa. It is a question on which the Tibetans feel very strongly and at this juncture our aim is, I take it, not to raise awkward questions while the Chinese Mission is in Lhasa and not to spoil the harmony of the festivities occasioned by the Dalai Lama’s installation. I think it may be difficult to apply a policy of “occupation without saying anything” to the Tehri-Garhwal frontier. Unlike Assam, the frontier there has never been accepted by the Tibetans. Moreover, the frontier is one between the Indian States and Tibet. In Assam, it is between British India and Tibet, which simplifies the problem, for we can occupy by Assam Rifles. But who is to carry out occupation in the Tehri-Garhwal area?” The note goes on to discuss the complicated issue of the Tawang monastery being on the Indian side of the “Red Line”.

Proposed reopening of the Lohit valley road up to the international boundary (Assam-Tibetan frontier) as far as Rima. A confidential letter from B. J. Gould about certain complications in relations to the McMahon line.

Letters and telegrams on the supply of a copy of the Chinese version of the draft of the Simla Convention of 1914 to the Political Officer in Sikkim who had requested it. As the Government of India did not possess any, two copies were sent from the India Office, London.

Permission granted to reprint the McMahon Tibet-India border maps for the Assam Government which did not have any copies of them.
1941


File with correspondence regarding extension of the control area of the Political Officer in the unadministered territories of the Sadiya Frontier Tract; contains a map of Assam and Tibet on pp. 23 and 24.

1944


Refs: 110(3)-X(Sec)/42, 63-X/43(Sec), 91-X(Sec)/43, 43-X(Sec)/44, 832-X(Sec)/44, 157-C.A(Sec)/44, 197. C.A(Sec)/44, 243-C.A/44(Sec), 157-C.A/44(Sec), 211-C.A/45(Sec), 230-C.A(Sec)/45

Letters and telegrams regarding the adoption of a general policy by the Government of India to stabilize the McMahon line on the North East Frontier.


Refs: 63(2)-X(Sec), 233-CA(Sec)/44, 211-CA/45,235-CA/45, 233-CA/44, 303-CA/46

Correspondence regarding decision of the Government of India to undertake an air survey of tribal areas in Assam south of the McMahon Line, in the Balipara Frontier Tract and Lohit Valley. This was done so as to “facilitate the work of asserting” British authority in these areas. Appendix includes topographical map of the area.


Letters and telegrams on supplying certain maps of Tibet to the Chinese Government as per their request.


Correspondence on the subject of wrong delineation of the India-China frontier in a war map of China produced by the Chinese Ministry of War. The Government of India objected to the
discrepancy, to which the Government of China responded by asking the Indian government to explain the grounds on which they based their claim of discrepancy. (There is a map which is inside an envelope stitched to the file so that it cannot be accessed.)


Letter from K.T. Gurney to A.J.S. White, British Council, complaining about inaccuracies in the publication of a map of the Indian boundary with Tibet, because “such error is a potential source of trouble …. and the Chinese might later quote the British Council’s very authoritative map to support that the boundary is farther west than is usually admitted by us.”


Refs: S.E. Oct. 1914, Nos. 134-396, 1-X(Sec)/35, 1-X(Sec)/36, 1-X(Sec)/37, 504-X(Sec)/37, 124-X/40, 106(2)-X(Sec)/42, 108-X/42, 416-X/42, 110(3)-X(Sec)/42, 62-X/43, 61(2)-X/43, 63-X(Sec)/43, 70-X/43, 80-X/43, 92-X/43, 96-X/43, 113-X/43, 802-X/43, 816-X/43, 817-X/43, 847-X/43, 80-X/44, 86-X/44, 181-C.A(Sec)/44, 197-C.A(Sec)/44, 409-X/44, 205-C.A(Sec)/44, 832X/44, 193-CA/44, 170-CA(Sec)/44, 1012-X(Sec)/44, 257-CA(Sec)/44, 558-CA(Sec)/44, 182-CA/44(Sec), 576-CA/44(Sec), 234-CA/44(Sec), 197-CA/44(Sec), 564-CA/44(Sec), 137-CA/44(Sec), 516-CA/45(Sec), 224-CA(Sec)/46

Correspondence on the subject of promulgation of a Tibetan policy of the British Government of India. Letters also on the discussions that the Political Officer in Sikkim had with the Tibetan Government regarding the position of the McMahon line and the objections of the Chinese to it, the need for negotiations on the matter, etc.


Refs: S.E. Oct 1914, Nos 134-396, S.E. May 1915, Nos 36-50, 355-X/1936, 8.X(Sec)/1938,63.X(Sec)/1943, 160.C.A/1944, 157.C.A(Sec)/1944, 234.C.A(Sec)/1944, 257.C.A(Sec)/1944, 248.C.A(Sec)/1945, 182-C.A/45(Sec), 211C.A(Sec)/1945, 243.C.A(Sec)/1945, 157-C.A/1944(Sec), 268-C.A(Sec)/1944, 59-N.E.F/1946

Report by the Political Officer, Balipara Frontier tract on (1) monastic tribute in the Sela Sub-Agency; (2) interference of Tibetan civil officials with the administration south of Sela. The issue of payment to the Dzongpons of up to Rs5,000 as partial composition for monastic dues. Question of having photostat copies made of the original McMahon Line map which was sealed by the Tibetan Prime Minister.

Question of approval of the Indo-Tibetan boundary shown on map Hind 5000 sheet NH 46, first edition.


Information supplied to Oxford University Press, Bombay as to how the frontiers between China, Tibet and India should be indicated on maps. Circular memorandum regarding maps of China issued by the British Ministry of Information, London. The files also contains maps showing India, China and Tibet.

1945


Memorandum dated 4 Aug, 1945 on the subject of the Governor of Assam intending to use six more platoons of Assam Rifles for operations along the McMahon Line during the winter months.


Documents regarding demarcation of the undefined boundary between Kashmir and Sinkiang and Kashmir and Tibet on maps. This followed the coming to light of a map which projected Hunza and Nagar (separate states) and Chilas, Koh Ghizar, Ishkoman and Yasin (tribal areas) as being inside the Kashmir State boundary.


Correspondence regarding discovery of a mistake in the 1939 edition of the War Office map of Tibet. The map in question apparently presents the Chinese version of the Sino-Tibetan boundary and also puts Rima inside India. The letters discusses the “political importance of getting these boundaries right” and the amount of “damage” caused by the error owing to the fact that the map was given wide circulation. A map (probably the map in question) is stitched to the file and cannot be opened.

Documents on the subject of the Government of India’s proposal to permit controlled immigration of Tibetan people (lower Zayul tribes, who resided on both sides of the border) to the Walong valley, on the Indian side of the McMahon Line, in order to restore the deserted fields and populate the villages to increase manpower on the Indian side of the border. While the Government acknowledged that it could be a possible irritant to the Tibetans, it was considered “absolutely essential” to carry out this policy.


Correspondence on the subject of differences between the Chinese conception of China’s boundaries, as evident from a map produced by the Chinese Ministry of Information, and British views regarding the boundaries between China on the one hand and India, Tibet and Burma on the other. Also attached is a map (could not be opened as it was stitched to the file).


A telegram informing the Political Officer in Sikkim on the proposed flight of the Viceroy up the Lohit Valley to Walong, over the Assam Tribal Areas near the Tibetan Frontier.


Documents regarding the division of responsibility for mapping Sinkiang, Tibet and Indo-China, between the Government of India and the US Government, following a wartime agreement signed between American and British representatives at Washington on 21 Feb, 1945. According to the agreement, the responsibility for mapping China including Tibet and Sinkiang as well as Indo-China should have fallen on the Americans. The Government of India feared that the American cartographers would accept the frontiers based on the Chinese claims rather than on the British version, thereby doing harm to British interests in the region. As a result, it was decided to add a clause to the agreement so as to safeguard British interests in Tibet, Sinkiang and Indo-China. The draft of the agreement is also attached. Also in the file is a report by M.C. Gillett of his 1944 visit to Urumchi accompanied by K.P.S.Menon, Indian Agent-General in China, which contains a list of people met or heard of in Urumchi. Also attached are maps which are stitched to the file and cannot be opened.


Correspondence regarding misrepresentation of Tibet in a map published by the Counter-Propaganda Directorate, New Delhi. Maps are also attached.
Yunnan

1940


Censorship interceptions of letters on various issues such as a dispute between the tin mine owners in Yunnan with the Chinese Government over fixation of prices; concerns of trade circles in Japan about the increased shipments to third countries from China and competition from Chinese products in these places; the proposed arrival of a Mr. Chan, Chief Superintendent, Material Resources Committee, to India; Japanese mills insisting that Chinese merchants should accept payment for cotton in military Yen; letter to Sir Victor Sassoon from L. Ovadia, Sassoon House, on the situation in Shanghai; construction of a new highway from Burma to China; conditions in China as a result of the Japanese occupation.


Censorship interception on the opening of the Burma-China Road and the Burma-Yunnan railway.

1942


Letters on the subject of evacuation of the local British community from Yunnan in the event of an invasion of Yunnan. The British Consul- General at Kunming H. Prideaux-Brune’s letter enquiring about the possibility of planes being sent from India to Yunnan to help in the evacuation of British nationals.

Monthly news reports of events in Yunnan from September 1942 to December 1943.


Letters on the question of supplying revolvers and ammunitions to Li Kuo-ching, Governor of Yunnan, at his request and recommended by the British Consul-General there.

1944


Documents on the subject of over-conscription of young men into the Chinese Army in Yunnan, thereby creating the problem of shortage of essential labour required for agricultural and construction work. Also attached is an English translation of an article entitled ‘On a Proper Use of Nation’s Power’ from the Yunnan Jih Pao of 3 April, in which a plea is made for better treatment for the men enlisted in the Chinese Army.

1945


Monthly news reports from the British Consul-General, Kunming for the year 1945.


Chungking Embassy correspondence reporting on the situation on the western borders of China. A report on the activities of the Border Service Mission, a Christian missionary organization providing medical facilities and educational training to the Lolo tribes in Sikang. Also a report on the hostile treatment received by American airmen who made forced landings in Lolo territory. An extract describing the Lolo tribe, from H.R. Davis’ “Yunnan, the Link between India and the Yangtse” published by Cambridge University Press in 1909, is also attached. The file also contains a letter on the cold relations between the Buddhist Tibetans and the Muslims of Qinghai province, such that Tibetans faced trouble in obtaining permits to travel to Qinghai.

Documents on the political coup carried out by the Chinese Central Government in Yunnanfu (Kunming) on 3 Oct, 1945.

*Yunnan-India railway deal [572]*

*French employees of the Indo-China railway in Yunnan [140]*

*Arrival of Tibetans in Likiang [64]*

*Report on Paoshan Lungling area [313]*

## Sinkiang

### 1939


Correspondence regarding the whereabouts of two Indian businessmen, Brijlal and Chetram, who had gone to Sinkiang in 1937 for wrapping up their business there, but had not returned home even after two years.


Telegrams enquiring about the approximate number of British subjects in Sinkiang when persecution by the authorities there began, and about how many had died or left Sinkiang since then. The British Consulate at Kashgar in a telegram dated 17 April 1939 reported that in October 1937, 388 subjects had been registered even though the total number was about 500. Since then 91 had died and 13 had disappeared or imprisoned, 63 persons other than officials and their servants had left Kashgar for India, and approximately 100 British subjects had adopted Chinese nationality.

Extract of a report by Sir Eric Teichman in which he describes the important personalities of the Sinkiang Provincial Government.


Documents on the disposal of Tungan gold. The Government of India proposed that the Tungan gold be sold off and that British subjects who had suffered losses during the Tungan rebellion be compensated with that amount recovered from selling the gold.


Lists of British persons deported from Sinkiang who arrived in the Gilgit Agency in August-September 1939. Also two petitions in Persian from the family of the late Khan Sahib Badruddin Khan Aksakal of Khotan and from Mahmood Khan Aksakal of Kargalik, who were rendered destitute as a result of the actions of the Sinkiang Provincial Government.


Refs: 7-X/36, 1-X/1939(Sec), 35-X/1939, 1(2)-X/1939, 66-X/1939(Sec), 554-X/1939(Sec), 241-A/1939, 66-X/1939(Sec), 60-X/1939, 904-X/40(Sec), 789-X/40, 79-X/40, 94-X/40, 25-X/40, 6(2)-X/1939(Sec), 35-X/1939, 586-X/1939(Sec), 904-X/40(Sec), 372-CA(Sec)/44

Report of the visit to Urumchi of the British Consul-General at Kashgar during the period July-Sept 1939. Includes a record of conversations between the Consul-General and the Commissioner for Foreign Affairs at Urumchi on 27 July, 1939.


Documents on the activities of the ex-Amir of Khotan, Mohammed Amin Khan, in Southern Sinkiang. Reports also on the activities of the party of the ex-Amir of Khotan in Srinagar.
Correspondence on the situation in Sinkiang. The letters discuss the anti-foreigner activities of the Sinkiang Provincial Government, dismantling of the British wireless station at Kashgar, the activities of the staff of the Consul-General, Soviet influence in Sinkiang, etc. A newspaper clip from the *Hindustan Times*, New Delhi dated 19 Jan, 1940, entitled “Indians in Sinkiang: Hostile Policy Leads to Dwindling Trade”, is also attached.

Concerning treatment accorded to British Indian subjects by Sinkiang authorities. Deportation of three British Indian subjects from Kashgar.

File contains a letter mentioning that Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, prompted by a radio report on Soviet incursion in Sinkiang, intended to send forces to Leh as a precautionary measure.

Contains details about the history of the northern districts of Sinkiang province from 1919-1939.

Proposal of British Consul General, Kashgar, that Father Ludwig Goloub and Father Mathias Haberl, German missionaries of the Catholic mission at Urumchi, who were kept in internment in Ahmadnagar, be allowed to go to Rome to explain plight of Catholic missionaries in Sinkiang.
Demand by the provincial government of Sinkiang for the closing of the wireless station at the British Consulate General, Kashgar. A telegram dated 10 Oct, 1939 from Foreign Office, London, to Ambassador, Chungking, talks about Soviet interests and involvement in Sinkiang. Also, report that a raid was conducted by the Hong Kong Police and postal officials at the Chinese Central Trust managed by David Kung, son of Dr. Kung, Chinese Minister of Finance, and found an unauthorized transmitting set in operation in breach of telecommunications ordinance and censorship regulations.

1940


Censorship interception of a letter from one Yusuf Yarkandi, Military School, Chengtu to Mahmud Khan Aksakal, Srinagar, stating that 30 students brought from India and Arabia and three from Chinese Turkestan were admitted in the Chinese Government Military School in Chengtu. The full course of the training was for 5 years during which the students would get a stipend of Rs 20/- . Also attached is the Censor’s note on the activities of one Isa Beg, a very influential resident of Yangi Hisar, who was instrumental in securing the admission of the above students to the Military School.


Proposal from London that the Kashgar Consul-General should visit Urumchi in May or June of 1940 together with a staff member of the British Embassy in China. Contains some information on the current situation in Xinjiang.


Kashgar Consulate report on the situation in Xinjiang for the period from 1 July, 1938 to 21 October, 1940. Also attached is a list of personnel attached to the Consulate.


Censorship interceptions of 3 letters sent by Abdul Wassey, clerk in the Kashgar Consulate, to 2 persons in Ludhiana and 1 in Mardan. The letters discuss anti-British activities carried out by the Xinjiang Government supposedly because of Russian influence.

Intelligence reports from Kashgar, noting the movement of 20 truckloads of Russian troops from Kashgar to Khotan. They also report the sighting in Kashgar of a man who was supposed to be an old companion of Raja Mahendra Pratap.


Letter from the British Consul-General, Kashgar, H. H. Johnson reporting the appearance of an “anti-British” article in the local Sinkiang Gazette. The article favoured the Indian Independence movement led by Nehru and the Congress Party, which was significant in light of the decision of the INC to not support the Allied war effort in the Second World War. Attached are the English translation of the article and a copy of the newspaper.


Telegrams and letters on the issue of the boycott of the British Consulate at Kashgar, as well as on the visit to India of Dr. T’ai Hsü. Among other things, the Consul-General’s wireless set and electric charging engine were forcibly dismantled, daily supplies of provisions were stopped and sanitary labour withdrawn, and a police party was posted outside the Consulate. Although matters improved a little following Chiang Kai-shek’s intervention, it was noted that the Chungking Government had little effective control on the provincial government in Xinjiang.

Also contains report (p.85) on the visit of T’ai Hsü to India. The British were keen that he visit Hyderabad and Travancore, “the idea being to show him that the Congress is not the only political influence in India.” In another report, Foreign Secretary Caroe reported his meeting with T.K. Tseng, the Chinese Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs and Chao-chin Huang, the Chinese Consul-General in Calcutta, in which Dr. Tseng had apparently said that after his visit to India he realised that the Congress was not the sole representative of Indians and enquired if he could meet other representatives.


Correspondence regarding the refusal of the Xinjiang Government to give a visa to Haji Ghulam Mohammad whose father, Khan Sahib Nur Mohammad, the British Aksakal in Kashgar, had died in Kashgar leaving behind property worth approximately 6 lakhs.

Report on the activities of two prominent Chinese Muslim merchants from Kashgar and Khotan, named Abdul Rashid Hajim Boibachan and Ahmed Hajim Boibachan, who had fled to Srinagar, Kashmir, during the Bolshevik revolution. It was reported that both of them had come to Bombay in January 1939 and had a meeting with the Chinese Vice-Consul, along with Isa Beg.


Correspondence regarding the arrest, torture and deportation of Halifa Jan (alias Abdul Qadir) by the Xinjiang government on the charge of “unlawfully undermining the Sinkiang Provincial Government’s policy by fabricating false rumours.” It was decided to compensate him by paying Rs. 1000/- from the Tungan gold.


Correspondence concerning disposal of the property of Rai Sahib Deepchand Tarachand who was killed during the Xinjiang disturbances of 1933-34.


Telegrams from the British Consulate, Kashgar about the unsettling rumours circulating in Kashgar that Ma Hu-shan had arrived in Gansu with the support of the British, and about disturbances that had broken out in northern Xinjiang and Khotan as a result.


Report of a reference in Turki newspapers which claimed that Gilgit was a possession of the Xinjiang Government.


Correspondence regarding the deportation of Indians from Xinjiang and their maintenance in transit, and the maximum compensation allowed, to be paid out of the proceeds of the Tungan gold. Letters also deal with the question of the deportation from Xinjiang of Afghan, Turkish and Iranian nationals and how to provide for their maintenance in India. Statements and petitions of many deportees are attached in the file.
A list of important people in Xinjiang with brief descriptions of each.

Letter and news report on the speech delivered by Sheng Shih-ts’ai on the 7th anniversary of the April Revolution in Xinjiang which appeared in the Sinkiang Daily News of 25 April, 1940. The speech is anti-British in nature and was made after the visit of Sir Stafford Cripps to Urumchi.

Letters, reports and telegrams on the visit of Sir Stafford Cripps to Xinjiang. Also attached is Cripps’ own report of his visit which he had submitted to the India Office, London. Contrary to reports of dominant Russian influence in Xinjiang, Cripps noted that he did not get any such impression during his visit.

A report from H.H. Johnson, British Consul-General, Kashgar giving a detailed report of the situation in Xinjiang for the period 1 July, 1938 to 21 Oct, 1940.

Intercepted letters between Kashgar and Gilgit with descriptions of the conditions prevailing in Kashgar, including rising inflation, political conditions, Chinese authority in Sinkiang, widespread Russian influence and the conditions of British subjects.

Correspondence regarding deportees from Sinkiang who arrived in Gilgit during 1940-1941 and the grant of maintenance allowance and compensation to them, debited from the Tungan
Gold. Mentioned that civilians of other nationalities like Afghans, Turks, Arabs etc would be given money to cover their expenses back to their country. Contains a list showing claims for compensation received from 1937 up till that point, as well as a list of people recommended for compensation, and a brief statement of cases of deportation of British subjects.

1942


Extract from a report dated 6 March, 1942, regarding the Eastern Turkistan Association, Srinagar, Kashmir. The report discusses the possibility of approaching the Chinese Government for the opening of trade between Sinkiang and India and the removal of restrictions imposed by the Sinkiang Govt. Also attached are translations of two letters sent by the Chinese Government to a person named Aisa of the Eastern Turkistan Association, Srinagar. The first letter says “Chinese of Sinkiang Province residing in India have to be treated and protected just the same as those of other provinces. This Ministry has instructed the Chinese Consulate-General at Calcutta to this effect.”

Also attached are intelligence reports from Peshawar. Among other things, they report on the arrest of two spies from Sinkiang, Tohkta Akund s/o Hishkam and Turdi Mohammed Akun S/o Rozi Mullah, in Gilgit and the information gathered from these two men.


Censorship interception containing assorted material, including some related to China, and especially Xinjiang. One of the intercepted materials was an article written by Lin Yutang entitled “Britain must practise in Asia what she preaches in Europe.”


Notings on the reports submitted by M.C. Gillett and Eric Shipton to Government of India on their journeys from Chungking to Kashgar and Urumchi respectively. However the reports themselves are not there in the file.

A detailed review and understanding of events in Sinkiang during the last twenty years by the Consul General, Kashgar.


A list and who’s who of important people in Sinkiang.

1943


Refs: 121-X/38(Sec), 121(2)-X/38, 124-X/38, 186-X/38, 24-X/42(Sec), 38-X/42, 418-X/43, 877-X/43(Sec), 565-X/43

Regarding the intended visit to Sinkiang by William Vandiver and Teddy White, American war correspondents of the *Life* and *Time* magazines. Their request for permission to enter Sinkiang from India through Gilgit.


Notes prepared by M.C. Gillet, British Consul General, Kashgar, on the history of Sinkiang from the 8th Century B.C. until 1943. Also contains a bibliography.


The linking of the Sinkiang dollar with Indian currency and its effects on the cost of maintaining the British Consulate General, Kashgar and trade with India. Exchange rate between the Chinese national dollar and the Sinkiang dollar.


Request of R.E McEwen, Economic Intelligence, Sikkim GHQ, for information referring to Sinkiang province.

Monthly news summaries regarding Northern Sinkiang sent by the British Consul, Urumchi (Tihwa).


Regarding the development of supply routes to Sinkiang and a Chinese survey party. Contains four photographs taken at Gilgit by the head of the Chinese survey party. Also one taken on the occasion of a tea party organized by the Indian Central Asian Traders for G.H. Turrall, British Consul at Urumchi, on his departure for Central Asia.

1944


Censorship interception of letters related to Xinjiang.


Refs: 152(2)-X(Sec)/35, 442-X(Sec) /35, 90-X/37, 527-X/44, 448-CA(Sec)/43, 889-X/43, 335-CA(Sec)/45, 440-CA(Sec)/46, 474-CA/46

Report submitted by M.C. Gillett, Consul-General, Kashgar on his tour from Kashgar to Keriya. Another report from H.J. Pringle, Deputy Secretary to the Government of India entitled ‘Charas - Import of, from Chinese Turkestan into India- Desirability of reopening the trade’. Letters (April- November‘44) on the wish to legalise the trade incharas to discourage its smuggling.


Refs: 433-X (Sec)/43, 519-X/44, 520-X/44, 435-C.A.(Sec)/44, 374-C.A/44, 358-CA/44, 306-CA/44,330-CA/45, 323-CA/45, 494-CA(Sec)/46

Letters and telegrams on the subject of Soviet activities in Sinkiang and Outer Mongolia and the reactions of the local authorities to it. Also contains a report by G. R. Turrall, British Consul, Urumchi, dated 7 April, 1944, in which he reports an incident on the Sinkiang-Outer Mongolian border where the Sinkiang authorities had opened fire on Kazakh refugees, and about the tension created by it between the Sinkiang Government and the Russians. Another report on the same subject by Sir. H. Seymour, British Ambassador, Chungking.

Report entitled ‘11th anniversary of ‘April Revolution’ by G. R. Turral, British Consul, Urumchi reporting the celebrations held on the anniversary of the coup by which Governor Sheng Shih-ts’ai had come to power in Sinkiang.


Correspondence on the situation in Sinkiang leading up to the departure of Sheng Shih-ts’ai as the Governor of Sinkiang and his temporary replacement by Chu Shao-liang, Commander, Lanchow War Zone. Also contains a map showing the Sinkiang-Mongolian frontier.


Telegrams sent from the British Embassy, Chungking to the British Consulate at Urumchi regarding the political situation in Xinjiang.

[879] File No: 378-C.A(Sec). Sr. No: 1-120. Pp.1-226. Refs:13-X(Sec)/42, 37-X(Sec)/42, 411-X/43, 166- C.A/44, 589- CA(Sec)/44, 425-C.A(Sec)/44, 378(2)-C.A(Sec)/44

Correspondence on the supply of certain products like tyres, textiles and fuel bags to Sinkiang.


A letter to the British Ambassador, Chunking from G.R. Turrall, the British Consul at Urumchi, informing him about a circular which was found in Urumchi from the Late Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia addressed to orthodox Christians in Sinkiang. The circular according to Turrall was an example of Russian influence in Sinkiang.


Extracts of letters regarding suggestions given by the British Consul-General at Kashgar, M.C. Gillett, to improve trade relations with Sinkiang following the decline of Soviet influence there. In the letters, the possibility of conducting trade in articles like tea, cigarettes, dyes and spices is discussed. Due to the increase in popularity of Indian cigarettes vis-à-vis Russian cigarettes, a suggestion to encourage the Imperial Tobacco Company of India to enter the China market is also given.
Documents regarding the commercial activities of the Sinkiang tyre caravan that had visited Leh to buy tyres. Translation of a vernacular report on the Sinkiang tyre caravan is also attached.

Telegram sent by K.P.S. Menon thanking M.C. Gillett and G. Turrell for their hospitality during his sixty-four days tour of Sinkiang. Also contains a letter from O.K. Caroe to Gillett in which the question of his successor is raised and the possibility of the revival of the charas trade in Sinkiang is discussed.

Correspondence regarding the Sinkiang Government’s offer of silk and wool in payment for the tyres provided to them by the Government of India. Government of India decided to purchase silk in exchange for the tyres.

Report on the subject of the Sinkiang Government’s alleged negotiations with foreign firms for trade in the month of March 1944.

Correspondence on the publication of a book on Sinkiang entitled *Gateway to Asia* by Martin Norris. A letter from M.C. Gillett heavily criticizes the book and calls it “a piece of absolute nonsense”. Also contains an issue of the *Far Eastern Survey* (11 April, 1945, Vol. XIV, No.7) in which an article ‘Report on Sinkiang’ by Eleanor Lattimore was published.
Detailed reports on the visit of K.P.S. Menon, Agent-General for India in China, to Sinkiang, submitted by Menon and by the British Consul, Kashgar, M.C. Gillett. Also enclosed is a list of officials Menon met or “heard of” during his visit.


Correspondence on the situation in Sinkiang after the collapse of Soviet influence in the province. Correspondence also contains suggestions on how to use the opportunities created by a favourable situation to promote the interests of the British Government in that province. Correspondence also on the visit of K.P.S. Menon, Agent-General for India in China, to Sinkiang.


**[890]** File No: 428-C.A.P.1-5

Inclusion of material from the Ladakh trade report in publicity material issued by the Bureau of Public Information. The draft indicates the government’s decision to avoid publicity in reference to the question of the construction of motor road from India to Sinkiang.


Special intelligence survey about Sinkiang. The report talks about the disappearance of Russian influence, and about Chinese measures to control Sinkiang, with indications of improving relations between Sinkiang and Britain.


On Indo-Sinkiang trade. Export to Sinkiang of certain commodities by the firm of Shadilal Dwarkanath.
Supply of tyres to Sinkiang and transfer of textiles and fuel bags for the Chinese government via Leh and Sinkiang.


Regarding supply of petrol to the British consulate general in Kashgar. Correspondence regarding shortage of petrol in Urumchi and Kashgar, Sinkiang.

Request from Sinkiang government for the supply of paper and rubber cylinders, for printing provincial government currency notes.

Inauguration of the branch of the Chinese Customs at Tihwa (Urumchi) in Sinkiang, and the reopening of the Leh trade route.

Regarding military posts on the Sinkiang border. A confidential letter from Major E.H.Cobb, Political Agent, Gilgit, states that 300 Chinese troops had arrived at Tashkurgan, and that the posts reoccupied were those facing the Russian frontier and Afghan Pamirs.

Request from Sinkiang government for the supply of paper and rubber cylinders, for printing provincial government currency notes.
A letter from M.C. Gillett discussing the administrative organization in Sinkiang.


Two letters addressed to H.Weightman, Joint Secretary, External Affairs Department, and M.C. Gillett, British Consul General, Kashgar, from D.Pilditch, Director, Intelligence Bureau, Home Department, Government of India, in relation to intelligence about Sinkiang.

1945


Telegram from G. Turral, British Consul-General, Urumchi to the British Embassy, Chungking saying that negotiations were in progress in Urumchi with a view to resume Indo-Sinkiang trade.


Monthly reports from the British Embassy, Chungking on events and conditions in Szechuan and Sinkiang during the year 1945.


Letters regarding publication of a book entitled *Introduction to Turki*, a work on Turki Grammar written by M.C. Gillett, British Consul-General, Kashgar.


Report entitled ‘Observations on Medical and Sanitary Conditions in Kashgar, 1944-45’ submitted by Captain T.P. Binns, Medical Officer to the British Consulate-General, Kashgar. In the report, Captain Binns discusses the condition of public health in Kashgar, the supply of drinking water, sewage problems, various kinds of diseases, infant mortality etc., besides giving recommendations on how to make improvements.


A report by G.R. Turral, British Consul-General at Urumchi, on the visit of K.P.S. Menon, Indian Agent General at Chungking. The report throws light on the itinerary of Menon while in Urumchi, and the impression Turral had of the effect of his visit to Urumchi.
Correspondence on the possibility that charas was being smuggled into Leh by the Sinkiang caravan. However, on inspection, no charas was found.

A note by M.C. Gillett called ‘Outline History of Sinkiang’, and another memorandum on the same subject.

Letters telling British subjects who had Sinkiang currency on deposit at the British Consulate, Kashgar, that they should authorize the Consulate to dispose of their Sinkiang dollars at the most advantageous price available, due to depreciation of the Sinkiang dollar.

Correspondence on the disturbances that occurred in Sarikol (Tashkurgan and Dafdar), and in Subashi and Bulun Kul in Southern Sinkiang, as well as in the territory between Kashgar and Urumchi. Letters on the attack on Tashkurgan by one thousand Russians headed by Russians from Murghan. Letters also discuss the relief assistance given to the Chinese refugees affected in these disturbances.

Documents on the Kazakh rebellion in Sinkiang. The Kazakh rebels were allegedly aided by the Russians and attacked the Han Chinese population in the city of Ining and Tihwa. The
letters discuss the extent of the attacks, the casualties, the attitude of the Central Government, the evacuation of foreigners from the region, etc. A report from M.C.Gillett, British Consul-General, Kashgar on the political situation in Sinkiang since November 1943 is also attached. Another summary of the disturbances which occurred in Northern and Southern Sinkiang since August 1945 is also attached. Intelligence reports and newspaper reports on the same subject are also in the file.

Refs: 448-CA(Sec)/44, 322-CA(Sec)/45, 358-CA(Sec)/45, 330-CA(Sec)/45, 364-CA(Sec)/45, 366-CA(Sec)/45, 379-CA(Sec)/45, 400-CA(Sec)/45, 22(4)-E/45, 22-CIA-E/46, 340-CA/47
Documents on the proposal to arrange aircraft to evacuate the staff of the British Consul-General at Kashgar, along with their stores and diplomatic mail, to Kashgar, in view of the disturbances in Sinkiang.

Refs: 561-X(Sec)/42, 134-X(Sec)/43, 431-X(Sec)/43, 433-X(Sec)/43, 450-X/43, 892-X(Sec)/43, 812-X(Sec)/43, 306-CA(Sec)/44, 358-CA(Sec)/44, 383-CA(Sec)/44, 385-CA(Sec)/44, 386-CA(Sec)/44, 400-CA(Sec)/44, 444-CA(Sec)/44, 409-CA(Sec)/44, 330-CA(Sec)/45, 494-CA(Sec)/46
Documents concerned with the possibility of Sinkiang relapsing back to Russian influence, after Russian influence was sharply curtailed in 1942. Attached are reports from M.C. Gillett on the situation in Sinkiang, as well as K.P.S.Menon’s report of his travels in Sinkiang in December 1944.

Correspondence regarding the request received from Haji Abdul Karim, detained under the Defence of India Rules, for increase in his allowance and repatriation to Sinkiang. Haji Abdul Karim and Mohammed Amin Beg, the ex-Amir of Khotan, had been arrested in 1942 on the charge that they were Japanese agents. While Mohammed Amin Beg had already been released and repatriated to China, on the termination of the war the Government of India decided to cancel restriction orders on Haji Abdul Karim, and asked the Chinese Consulate to meet the cost of his maintenance and to make arrangements for his repatriation.
Russian influence in Sinkiang [948]
Payment to Sinkiang authorities by British Consulate [243]
Difficulties of Hindu traders in Yarkand [466]
Registration of Indians in Sinkiang [467]
Russian troops in Sinkiang [949]
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Questions in Legislative Assembly regarding anti-Indian propaganda in Sinkiang [203]
Conditions of Indians in Sinkiang [487]
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Indo-Sinkiang report for 1939 from Kashgar Consul-General [529]
On situation in Sinkiang [261]
Cost of living in Kashgar [584]
Indians in Xinjiang [491]
Complaint of British Consul-General at Kashgar about treatment by Sinkiang authorities [291]

Treatment of Indians in Sinkiang [207]

Trade with Sinkiang [536]

British consul at Urumchi on new nationalities policy [41]

Notes on Sinkiang [50]

Apprehensions in Sinkiang about British policy towards lend-lease goods [153]

On the question of nationality and protection of British subjects in Sinkiang [502]

Kazakh refugees from Sinkiang in Bhopal [428]

Arrest of some persons from Sinkiang in Gilgit [429]

Wireless communication between India and Sinkiang via Peshawar [601]

Death of Mohammad Jan Kashmiri in Yarkand due to beating by an official [508]

Reported agreement between Sinkiang Government and Russia [952]

Shanghai

1939


Correspondence regarding supply of maps of Lahore, Gujarat and Ambala to the British Consul-General at Shanghai for the use of the Shanghai Municipal Police.

1940


Telegram from the British Consulate, Shanghai to the Government of India informing that L. Ovadia, local manager of E.D. Sassoon and Company, offered his services for work in India. The Government of India replied saying that Ovadia’s services could not be utilised.

Twelve monthly reports compiled and sent by the British Consulate in Shanghai. The reports provide information on the political situation in China, Sino-Japanese hostilities, the law and order situation in Japanese occupied territories, activities of the collaborationist Wang Ching-wei Government, the activities of the Nationalist Government of Chiang Kai-shek, etc. They focus particularly on the events in Shanghai and Tientsin, and cover miscellaneous issues such as the condition of the shipping industry etc.

Telegram from the Press Attache, British Consulate in Shanghai with the request to come up with measures to counteract the “increasingly insidious anti-British propaganda in this part of the world” as reported in the Japanese newspaper Domei and the German Noon Extra which were extremely popular with the Indians in Shanghai.

Regarding postal maps of India supplied for the use of the Shanghai Municipal Police.

Correspondence regarding verification of the particulars of Sikhs who were selected for appointment in the Shanghai Municipal Police.

Correspondence regarding whether trans-border Pathans could be recruited in the Shanghai Municipal Police force. It was noted that the composition of the Indian Branch of the Police was Sikh, and that hence the introduction of other elements of the Indian population was not considered advisable.

Regarding suspicions that the fire in the British ship Alipore, which was carrying 4,000 bales of cotton, could have been caused by Indian seamen who were on board. The British Consulate in Shanghai made a thorough examination of the case and found no evidence of sabotage.

Circular informing that European refugees coming to Shanghai required entry permits issued by the Shanghai Municipal Police for entry into Shanghai.

Dutch company Molnar and Greiner, Shanghai [522]
Political activities of Indians in Shanghai [489]
Conditions in occupied Shanghai [102]
Ill-treatment of Indians in Shanghai [503]
Relief and repatriation of Indians in Shanghai [506]

Hong Kong

1939

Safe hand covers (secret documents) from Colonial Secretary’s office, Hong Kong.

1940

Censorship interception of a weekly economic and political report sent by the Nederlandsch Indische Handelsbank, Hongkong to their branch in Bombay, in which the situation in HongKong is described in the context of the rumour about the Japanese coming to the island.

1944

Letter on the subject of repatriation of British civilian Diana Dodwell from Hong Kong.
Communications from the British Embassy, Chungking on Archibald Zimmerin, a Eurasian British subject who had escaped from Japanese-occupied Hong Kong. The British Government wanted him to be sent to India for full interrogation.

Closing of illegal wireless station in Hong Kong [841]
Reports on Hong Kong [40]
Internees in Hong Kong [100]

Letters regarding decision of Government of India that Indians of limited means should be refused travel facilities for Macao unless they produced written permits issued by the Macao Police authorities and endorsed by the British Consul in Macao. This decision was taken after it was discovered that the number of passports granted for Macao had increased considerably in the year 1938-1939. Also contains a list showing the particulars of the passports granted for Macao to Indians during the period July 1938-May 1939.

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Correspondence regarding not issuing visas for Macao to Indians ‘of limited means’, in order to prevent them from getting into Hong Kong if they failed to find employment in Macao.

1942

Letters and telegrams regarding the whereabouts of certain Indians who were believed to have been in Macao before the arrival of the Japanese.

Issue of the evacuation of a Mrs Simon’s relatives from Macao.

Indians in Macao [501]
An Indian in the Portuguese Colonial Police in Macao [505]

Himalayan states: Sikkim, Bhutan and Hunza

1939

Complaint by the Kashgar authorities that Hunza mail couriers do not use shelters provided for them at Mintaka, Paik and Dafdar. Allegations that the couriers are being used for collecting intelligence. Position of shelters for mail couriers on the Misgar-Tashkurgan route.

Question of the boundary between Hunza and Sinkiang. Chinese claims of Darwaza being on the Chinese side of the border and Hunza being under Chinese suzerainty. A map of Sinkiang from the political atlas of China 1919. Indian government stance on the issue of Hunza border. A note on the boundary dispute in the neighborhood of Shimshal valley along with a map.

Claim for compensation from the Chinese Government for the animals taken away during the Darwaza raids in the spring of 1938 and returned with some missing in the spring of 1939. Return of the Hunza shepherds arrested by the Chinese authorities while grazing their stocks in Chinese territory. Sanction of payment to the Mir of Hunza of Rs.3000/- as compensation for the missing yaks and shepherds by the Government of Sinkiang.

Question of asking the provincial authorities of Sinkiang to refrain from sending soldiers into the Darwaza area till settlement of the boundary question. A confidential draft dated 4 July, 1940, Political Agent, Gilgit, titled “Grazing in Darwaza (Darband) area by Shimshalis”. Government of India’s policy to leave the Hunza boundary question dormant and in case Kashgar authorities raise the question again, the British Consul General Kashgar should suggest that Shimshal valley be regarded as neutral and neither state should send armed forces into it.

Telegram on the Chinese authorities employing as an intelligence agent an official of the Mir of Hunza named Nasran who fled to Tashkurgan. Suggestion that Consul General should endeavour to have him expelled on grounds that he has no passport or rahdari. Consul General replies that asking for his expulsion would only invite a rebuff and a possible reference to previous refusal of GOI to deport defectors who had taken refuge in Indian territory.
Telegram from the Kashgar Consulate dated 3 Aug, 1940 intimating that rumours such as the one about unrest in Hunza are being propagated by Hunza mail runners to the Kashgar Consulate couriers when they meet at Tashkurghan.

Letters and telegrams on the issue of granting passports to agents of the Mir of Hunza for entry into Badakshan, Kashgar, Yarkand and Chitral for the purpose of collecting offerings for the Aga Khan. The Chinese Consul-General in India refused to give these persons visas for Kashgar and Yarkhand, and the government at Chitral and Kabul similarly strongly reacted to this practice. Hence it was decided to continue the old custom of sending the offerings for the Aga Khan directly to Bombay.

Request of the Political Officer in Sikkim for the expeditious disposal of certain outstanding cases relating to Sikkim, Bhutan and Tibet.

List of leading families of Sikkim and Bhutan [631]

Visitors to Sikkim [635]

On employing Hunza men as gatekeepers for Kashgar consulate [288]

Policy towards Raja of Bhutan [753]

Sikkimese medical students being trained in India for service in Tibet [791]
Letter to the Secretary to the Government of Burma from the British Consul at Tengyueh of 16 Feb, 1940 informing about a two-thirds reduction of import duties on all non-prohibited goods, such as raw cotton, cotton yarn, machinery and electrical gear.

A detailed report of the proceedings of the Burma Mission to China dated January 1941, mentioning the subjects that were discussed with the Chinese authorities. These included the petrol requirements of the Chinese Government, transit duties on imports to and exports from China, Burma’s silk requirements, the boundary question, the application of the new Burma passport rules to Chinese subjects, the opium question, railway and road construction, control of traffic on the China-Burma Highway, air freight facilities, and telegraph and telephone communications.

Correspondence regarding the reestablishment of the Chinese Consulate General at Rangoon after the termination of war, in order to look after the interests of the Chinese population. Letters also on the opening of a Chinese bank in Burma as well as the visit of a Chinese mission to Burma to provide relief and assistance to the Chinese population there.

Supply of medical stores to Chinese forces in Burma by the Government of India [128, 136]  
Assam-Burma-China Road [135]  
Transport of supplies to Burma [138]  
Sino-Burmese frontier, Chinese troops in Burma and Chinese infiltration in Burma [72]  
Chinese demand for Burmese currency notes [141]
Thailand

1940


Reply to the Chinese government on the subject of the British Government representing the Chinese's Government’s interests in Thailand through the British Minister at Bangkok. The letter said that since the Thai Government had always refused to receive Chinese diplomatic or consular officers, there was the strong probability that they would refuse to admit the right of any other power to take charge of Chinese interests in Thailand. Secondly, since the Chinese population in Thailand was very large, the protection of their interests would inevitably impose a very big burden on the British Legation in Bangkok. Hence the British Government refused to accede to this request.


Censorship interception of a letter from the Chinese Consul General at Rangoon to abbot Tai Hsu in Chungking, suggesting that since the situation in Bangkok with regard to the Chinese was very bad, the time was not suitable for a Buddhist Mission to Thailand.


Telegrams concerning the establishment of the Wang Ching-wei government in China. Sir J. Crosby of the British Legation, Bangkok reported on his meeting with the Thai Prime Minister in which he was told that the Thai Government did not want to take sides in the War and that it would aspire to take a middle ground, even though its sympathies lay with Chiang Kai-shek.
Russia/Soviet Union

1939


Reported movement of Russian troops into the province of Kansu from Outer Mongolia to organize defensive measures against Japanese.


Telegrams from the British Consulate-General, Kashgar informing about the desertion of Russian Khirgiz troops from Kashgar and asking the Government to make arrangements to see that the troops do not cross the frontier.


An intelligence report (Hong Kong Intelligence Report No. 10 of 1939) stating that Marshal Blucher, former Chief Russian adviser to the Kuomintang Army and later Commander-in-Chief of the Soviet Far Eastern Forces, was presently in Sinkiang as Chief Military Adviser to the Provincial Government.


Extract about Russian influence in Sinkiang from the Naval and Military intelligence summary received from Shanghai. An extract talks about the growing Russian influence in Sinkiang, and reports the presence of a Russian military mission at Urumchi.


Reports regarding massing of Soviet troops in Sinkiang. Enquiries about a Russian said to be spreading Communist propaganda in Tibet. A news clipping with the heading ‘Soviet troops enter China’. A telegram dated 18 Oct,1939 by Consul General, Kashgar, mentions "fairly reliable reports of a motor road being constructed from Murhab to Khushbel near Chinese side of Kilik Pass.”
Views expressed by the Mehter of Chitral to Deputy Director, Intelligence, Peshawar, regarding Soviet influence in Sinkiang affairs. It suggests that Indian expulsion from Sinkiang was engineered by the Russians.

Telegram and letter on increased troop movement on the border of Sinkiang. Also talks about lending of American dollars to the Chinese Government by the Soviet Union, and Hitler’s alleged urging of the Soviet Government to intensify pressure on the British in Sinkiang.

Sinkiang Intelligence Report, (No.1/SIN/9804-07, dated 27 Sept, 1939) stating that the Sinkiang Provincial Government had concluded an agreement with the Soviet Union as a result of a recent visit to Urumchi by 3 Russian officers. More details given.

Report submitted by the acting British Consul-General, Shanghai on the information he gathered during his visit to Chengtu on Russian involvement in the Chinese Air Force. The report noted that the “Soviet airmen retained independent control of their units operating in China.” It also claimed that Soviet officers were engaged in spreading propaganda amongst Chinese officers and junior members of the Kuomintang against Britain and France, even though no attempts were made to do so with the higher Chinese officials.

French interception of a letter in Teheran containing news of the organisation of a Russian counter-espionage centre at Kashgar.
Extract of a letter from Butterfield and Swire, Shanghai discussing the extent of Russian influence in Xinjiang and Gansu.

1943


Grant of an emergency commission to J.M.Horkoff, a former Russian national, at present a refugee who fled from Hong Kong to Macao.

1944


Sino-Russian civil aviation deal [573]
Soviet influence in Sinkiang [836, 841]
Alleged Muslim anger against Soviet troops in Sinkiang [4]
Japanese report on Soviet troops in China [89]
Proposed visit of Russian Mikhail Pashoff to Tibet [693]
Russian interest in Tibet [696]
Russian influence in Sinkiang [845, 860]
Movement of Russian troops in Sinkiang [846]
Stafford Cripps’ views on Russian influence in Sinkiang [858]
Russian opposition to Indo-Sinkiang trade [536]
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United States/America

1942

Correspondence on the arrival in India of Wendell Wilkie, personal representative of the President of the United States to China.

1943

Letters from the British Embassy, Chungking, reporting on the visit of the United States Vice-President Henry Wallace to China. Also included are transcripts of various speeches and statements of Wallace and Chiang Kai-shek during the occasion.

Telegram from the British Ambassador, Chungking to China Relations Officer, Calcutta informing that Dr. Arthur Young and Solomon Addler, the American Treasury Representative and Member of Stabilisation Board, would reach India on August 28 on urgent business.

1944

Concerning the proposed Consular Convention between the United States and China. The draft of the Consular Convention is also attached.


Documents regarding the invitation of the Government of India to Dr. E. A. Tunnicliff, veterinarian, and Dr. Donald Vincent Shuhart, soil conservation expert, who were travelling in China, to pay a visit to India before they returned to the United States. Documents also on the Government of India’s decision to extend such invitations to American scientific experts visiting China to spend some time in India en route.


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