MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION
American Embassy New Delhi

SUBJECT: Strains in Indo-Bhutanese Relations: China

PARTICIPANTS: Bhutanese

Embassy, New Delhi
Peter Tomsen, First Secretary, American
Embassy, New Delhi

DATE & PLACE: November 8, 1974, United States Embassy,
New Delhi

DISTRIBUTION: POL-4, AMB/K-2, AMB/S-6, ECON, DCM, NEA/INS,
EA/FA/PBCM, INR/RNA/SAO, INR/REA/NA/, INR/OIL/B,
KATHMANDU, HONGKONG, USLO, PEKING, Amconsul
BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, MADRAS

...dropped in for a briefing on the Secretary's visit to
India. The conversation also covered the following themes
with respect to Bhutan's relations with India and Chinese
influence to Bhutan.

Indian Advisors in Bhutan: stated that Bhutan, as a general
rule of the thumb, is terminating the contracts of all Indian
advisors in Bhutan. Three months ago, the senior Indian
police advisor was tossed out because of questionable
activities. Bhutan would like to rely on its own advisors across the board, look
to the UNDP (which he said is already operating about twenty
projects in Bhutan), or do without. By the end of the year,
Bhutanese will be operating all of the telephone exchanges in
the country. claimed that Indian advisors often refused
to accept instructions from their Bhutanese superiors. For
example, the Indian Director of the large hydroelectric project
in south-western Bhutan has refused to undertake orders from the Secretariat
dealing with the project from Thimphu.

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E.O. 12958, as amended
October 11, 2007
Said I

The Indian Government has since refused to take them. __________ criticized the Tibetans for blatantly proclaiming their allegiance to the Dalai Lama, who is outside of Bhutan, while enjoying the prosperity and pleasures that life in Bhutan has brought. He also alluded to a conspiratorial connection between the Tibetans and the Indian Government. He remarked that the Khampa guerrillas were trained in India, and alluded to a group of Khampas who had successfully left Nepal and were favorably received by the Indian army in Sikkim. He recounted that at a recent dinner party in Thimphu, a Bhutanese asked a high-ranking Indian official point blank why his Government was supporting a Tibetan conspiracy against Bhutan. The Indian, __________ commented, did not respond.

China: Asked what was new in this area, __________ commented that the Chinese continue to butch its whole Bhutanese diplomats abroad about establishing diplomatic relations or accepting Chinese aid. The Bhutanese response is that the lack of official funds prevents the opening of new missions abroad. In what appeared to be a pre-prepared answer, he added that at this point Bhutan has about as much interest in China as it does in France.