

From National Archives of India

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT NOTES.

SECRET-E., AUGUST 1905.

Nos. 81-83.

QUESTION OF THE ERECTION OF BOUNDARY PILLARS BETWEEN SIKKIM AND TIBET, AND OF THE GRAZING RIGHTS WHICH WERE CLAIMED BY THE TIBETANS.

FROM THE POLITICAL OFFICER IN SIKKIM, NO, 47-B.M., DATED THE 5TH (RECEIVED 11TH) JULY 1905.

Replies to Foreign Department letter No. 1632-E.C., dated the 1st May 1905, regarding the question of the erection of boundary pillars between Sikkim and Tibet and of the grazing rights which were claimed by the Tibetans.

Mr. White has not furnished the information asked for as to the strength of the demarcating party, but this will not be required now if demarcation is to be postponed till next year.

In connection with the present questions, please see Secretary's note, dated the 18th May 1905, and Secretary's demi-official to Captain O'Connor, dated the 4th July 1905.

The question of the erection of boundary pillars and of grazing rights will perhaps be held over, pending the result of negotiations with Mr. Tang. A copy of the correspondence may be sent to India Office with Secretary's weekly letter.

K.F., - 13.7.1905.

R.W.S.- 13.7.1905.

Seen.

E.C. WILTON, - 14.7.1905.

In paragraph 6 of Secretary's note, dated the 13th May 1905, it is suggested that we should take early steps to intimate to Lhasa that we intend to take up the question of demarcation, but without fixing any definite date.

It is for orders whether such intimation should now be conveyed to the Lhasa authorities.

R.E. HOLLAND, - 15.7.1905.

Mr. White proposes to visit the boundary this year with a view to a preliminary discussion on the spot of the questions connected with it. This proposal may be approved. It may be added that it is assumed that due notice of his intended visit will be given to the Lhasa authorities in order that arrangements may be made for the deputation of Tibetan officials of suitable rank to meet Mr. White.

L. RUSSELL, - 17.7.1905.

I think the reply may be as proposed by Mr. Russell. There seems to be a distinct advantage in spreading the boundary settlement over two years in order to make the most of our few points of contact with the Lhasa officials.

S.M. FRASER, — 19.7.1905

C[URZON],— 19.7.1905.

LETTER TO THE POLITICAL OFFICER IN SIKKIM, No, 2908-E.C., DATED THE 26th JULY 1905.

Approving of the proposal

*MEMORANDUM TO SECRETARY, POLITICAL DEPARTMENT, INDIA OFFICE,
SENDING PAPERS UNDER COVER OF FOREIGN SECRETARY'S, No. 30-M.,
DATED THE 27th JULY 1905.*

Exd.— W.G.B.

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No. 47B. M., dated the 5th July 1905.

From—J. C. WHITE, Esq., C.I.E., Political Agent in Sikkim,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.
In reply to your letter No. 1632 E.-C. of the 1st May 1905, I have the
honour to report

(1) The question of grazing rights at or near Giagong, now that the boundary has been finally settled, can easily be arranged amicably between the people of the Lachen valley and the Tibetans. I would interfere very little, if at all, with the old customs, and would allow the Tibetans to bring in their yaks to graze at certain times of the year, provided they allow the Sikkim people to do the same in Tibet, as was formerly done.

(2) The number of pillars required would be only ten—one on the Naku La, one on the Sebu La, and eight along the remaining northern boundary from near the Sebu La to Kangchung La. They would be situated approximately as shown on the accompanying map. There is no necessity for any pillars along the western portion, as it is an inaccessible ridge.

(3) The time required to erect the pillars would be two to three weeks, as I would send up all the necessary materials beforehand to Giagong.

(4) There appears to me no urgency. I would go up this year and talk over the question of grazing rights, and think the erection of pillars might be postponed till next year, and in this way I would keep up more constant interview with the local officials.

(5) This letter has been delayed owing to my having to send to Captain O'Connor regarding the attitude of the Lhasa authorities. I have now received his reply. Captain O'Connor is of opinion that "the Lhasa Government will raise no objection to the proposed demarcation, as the erection of pillars on this frontier, as defined in the Convention of 1890, is clearly legislated for in clause I of the Treaty signed at Lhasa in September last. The co-operation of the Lhasa Government in the determination of the actual boundary line and the erection of pillars thereon might, in my opinion, be requested to meet you at a time and place convenient to yourself".

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOREIGN DEPARTMENT, AUGUST 1905.

Question of the erection of boundary pillars between Sikkim and Tibet.
Pro. No.82.

No. 2908·E.C., dated Simla, the 26th July 1905.

From- The Assistant Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department,

To- J. C. WHITE, Esq., C.I.E., Political Officer in Sikkim.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter· No. 47·B·M., dated the 5th July 1905, in which you propose that you should visit the

Sikkim-Tibet boundary in the neighbourhood of Giaogong this year with a view to a preliminary discussion on the spot of the questions connected with it.

2. I am to say that your proposal is approved. It is assumed that due notice of your intended visit will be given to the Lhasa authorities in order that arrangements may be made for the deputation of Tibetan officials of suitable rank to meet you.

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MEMORANDUM.

The papers specified in the margin were transmitted to the Secretary, Political and Secret Department, India Office, London, for the information of His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, under cover of the Foreign Secretary's letter No. 30-M., dated the 27th July 1905.

Proposed erection of boundary pillars between Sikkim and Tibet.

1. Letter from the Political Officer in Sikkim, No. 21-C., dated the 31st December 1904.
2. Letter to the Political Officer in Sikkim, No. 1632-E.C., dated the 1st May 1905.
3. Letter from the Political Officer in Sikkim, No. 47-B.M., dated the 5th July 1905.
4. Letter to the Political Officer in Sikkim, No. 2908-E.C., dated the 26th July 1905.