

From National Archives of India

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT NOTES.

SECRET-E., MAY 1906.

Nos. 854-856.

**PROPOSAL TO ERECT BOUNDARY PILLARS ON THE SIKKIM-TIBET
FRONTIER IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF GIAOGONG.**

*Extract from a demi-official letter from S.M. Fraser, Esq., C.I. E.,
Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, to
Captain W.F. O'Connor, C.I.E., British Trade Agent at Gyantse, dated the
4th July 1905.*

Let me briefly sketch the measures which remain to be carried out. The following terms of the Lhasa Convention have not yet been fulfilled:

- (1) Demarcation of the boundary between Sikkim and Tibet.

Speaking generally it would appear that our own interests do not require us to push to a conclusion either (1) or (2), but it may be desirable from disciplinary considerations to lose no time in reminding the Tibetans that the Convention imposes an obligation upon them in these respects which it is not intended to ignore.

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Extract from a letter from Captain W.F. O'Connor, C.I.E., British Trade Agent at Gyantse, to S.M. Fraser, Esq., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, dated the 22nd July (received 3rd August) 1905.

The demarcation of the Sikkim boundary is of no importance to us and

might be as well done next year as this.

Captain O'Connor's letters are interesting. There are already separate files relating to several of the questions dealt with and extracts from the present letters should be taken and dealt with on those files: -

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(4) The demarcation of the Sikkim boundary. Paragraph 6 of the first letter.

R.E. HOLLAND, - 11.8.1905.

In connection with this please see No. 82 in Secret E., August 1905, Nos. 81-83, and Captain O'Connor's diary for the 28th August.

We may await a communication from Mr. White in regard to the Jongpen's message referred to in the diary.

K.F., - 26.10.1905.

R.W.S., - 26.10.1905.

R.E. HOLLAND, - 27.10.1905.

For orders as to whether we should take any action now in the matter.

K.F., - 9.3.1906.

R.W.S., - 9.3.1906.

We had better ask Mr. White how the matter now stands.

R.E. HOLLAND, - 10.3.1906.

L. RUSSELL, - 13.3.1906.

L.W. DANE, - 14.3.1906.

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LETTER TO THE POLITICAL OFFICE IN SIKKIM, NO. 1232-E.C., DATED

THE 19TH MARCH 1906.

Enquires how the matter now stands

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LETTER FROM THE POLITICAL OFFICER IN SIKKIM, NO. 2968, DATED THE 26TH (RECEIVED 31ST) MARCH 1906.

Intimates that he will now communicate with the Lhasa authorities to arrange for the deputation of officials of suitable rank to meet him with a view to a discussion of the questions connected with the Sikkim-Tibet boundary.

For information. Await result of the communication to the Lhasa authorities.

K.F.,—7.4.1906

R.W.S.,—7.4.1906

R.E. HOLLAND, — 9.4.1906.

Please add copy of the Lhasa Treaty.

L. RUSSELL, —9.4.1906.

A copy of the Lhasa Treaty is put up as ordered.

K.F., —11.4.1906.

R.W.S., —11.4.1906.

This seems to be all right. Under article I of the Lhasa Treaty the Tibetans are bound to erect pillars on the boundary. Under the terms of the subsidiary declaration of the 7th September 1904, failure to comply with this requirement would entitle us, should it be deemed expedient, to postpone withdrawal from the Chumbi Valley, even though the indemnity instalments should have been duly paid. It seems reasonable therefore to

remind the Tibetans of their obligations and to offer facilities for their fulfillment.

Copy of the correspondence might perhaps be sent home with a brief forwarding dispatch.

L. RUSSELL, - 12.4.1906.

Draft dispatch submitted for approval.

K.F., - 1.5.1906.

R.W.S., - 1.5.1906.

R.E. HOLLAND, - 4.5.1906

L. RUSSELL, - 5.5.1906.

I have thought it better to put the case differently. The draft is for approval.

L.W. DANE, - 5.5.1906.

Draft approved.

*SECRET DESPATCH TO HIS MAJESTY'S SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA,
No. 62 (EXTERNAL), DATED THE 17th MAY 1906.*

Forward a copy of correspondence on the subject.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOREIGN DEPARTMENT, MAY 1906.

Proposal to erect boundary pillars on the Sikkim-Tibet frontier.

Pro. No. 854.

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*PROPOSAL TO ERECT BOUNDARY PILLARS ON THE SIKKIM TIBET
FRONTIER IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF GIAOGONG*

No. 1232 E.-C., dated Fort William, the 19th March 1906.

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

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

I am directed to refer to the correspondence ending with my letter No. 2908'E.-C., dated the 26th July 1905, regarding your proposal that you should visit the Sikkim-Tibet boundary in the neighbourhood of Giagong with a view to a preliminary discussion on the spot of the questions connected with it.

2. From Captain O'Connor's diary for the 28th August 1905 it appears that the Lhasa Government were unable to depute officials to meet you last year, and I am to enquire how the matter stands at present.

* * *

No. 2968, dated Gangtok, the 26th (received 31st) March 1906.

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

To— The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign
Department.

With reference to Mr. Holland's letter, No. 1232 E.-C., dated the 19th March 1906, regarding my proposal to visit the Sikkim-Tibet boundary in the neighbourhood of Giagong with a view to a preliminary discussion on the spot of the questions connected with it. I have the honour to report that it was too last year to take up the matter especially as the Lhasa authorities were unable to depute officials of proper standing to meet me

at such short notice as I was able to give them, but I propose on my return from my rains tour in June or July, of which mention was made in my letter to you, to take up this matter, and will now communicate with the Lhasa authorities to arrange for the deputation of officials of suitable rank to meet me on the frontier.

* * *

No. 62 of 1906
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.

SECRET

External

To

THE RIGHT HON'BLE JOHN MORLEY, O.M.,
His Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

SIMLA, the 17th May 1906.

SIR,

We have the honour to forward, for the information of His Majesty's Government, copies of the papers detailed in the accompanying list, regarding the proposal to erect boundary pillars on the Sikkim-Tibet frontier in the neighbourhood of Giaogong.

2. Under Article I of the Lhasa Agreement of 1904, the Tibetans are required to erect pillars on the boundary in question. We consider it advisable, therefore, to remind the Tibetans of their obligations in the matter of the boundary and to offer facilities for their fulfilment before the period of three years fixed for the evacuation of the Chumbi valley expires, so that it may not be necessary merely on this account to retain possession of the valley under the terms of the subsidiary declaration of 11th November 1904 after the indemnity has been paid up, unless for some unforeseen reason this is otherwise desirable.

We have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient, humble servants,

(Signed) MINTO.

(Signed) KITCHENER.

(Signed) A.T. ARUNDEL.

(Signed) DENZIL IBBETSON.

(Signed) H. ERLE RICHARDS.

(Signed) E.N. BAKER.

(Signed) C.H. SCOTT.

(Signed) C.L. TUPPER.

List of Enclosures in Despatch No. 62 (External), dated the 17th May 1906, from the Government of India in the Foreign Department, to His Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

Serial No.	No. and date of paper	From whom, or to whom.
1	No. C.21, dated the 31 st December 1904.	From the Political Officer in Sikkim.
2	No. 1632 E.-C., dated the 1 st May 1905.	To ditto ditto.
3	No. 47 B.M., dated the 5 th July 1905, with enclosure.	From ditto ditto.
4	No. 2908 E.-C., dated the 26 th July 1905	To ditto ditto.
5	Extract from the diary of the 3 rd September 1905.	The British Trade Agent at Gyantse for the week ending
6	No. 1232 E.-C., dated the 19 th March 1906	To the Political Officer in Sikkim.
7	No. 2968, dated the 26 th March 1906.	From ditto ditto.