



सत्यमेव जयते

NOTES, MEMORANDA AND LETTERS EXCHANGED
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENTS OF INDIA AND CHINA

JULY 1963—JANUARY 1964

WHITE PAPER No. X

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Price

Inland
Re. 0·50 nP.

Foreign
1 Sh. 2 d. or 18 Cents.

In the face of this aggressive and militant attitude of China, the Government of India has to continue its efforts to strengthen its defences against the continuing Chinese threat to India's territorial integrity and independence. The Government of India hopes that eventually wiser counsels will prevail and China will revert to the paths of peace. Meanwhile, it is obvious to everyone that it is not India but China who waged a hot war and disturbed the peace on the India-China frontier and it is not India but China who is continuing in its determination to wage a long-term cold war in total violation of all principles governing international relations.

The Ministry of External Affairs renews to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China the assurances of its highest consideration.

Note given by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Peking, to the Embassy of India in China, 25th June 1963

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China presents its compliments to the Indian Embassy in China and, with reference to the Indian Government's note of May 27, 1963, has the honour to state the following:

The Indian Government's allegations in its note that Chinese soldiers entered areas south of Longju on April 26, 1963, is purely a deliberate slander. The Chinese frontier guards have long since completely withdrawn from the twenty-kilometre zones on the Chinese side of the line of actual control of November 7, 1959. As for Longju, it has always been part of China's territory and is situated on the Chinese side of the line of actual control. However, in order to create an atmosphere conducive to direct negotiations between the two sides, China has vacated it as one of the four disputed areas and has not even established any civilian checkpost there. This is a fact known to the whole world. The Indian note first alleged that on April 26, 1963, "20 Chinese in blue uniform" went to areas south of Longju, and then asserted that they were "Chinese military forces". This obvious contradiction belies the Indian assertion. In fact, no Chinese whatsoever went to any area south of Longju on April 26. The Chinese Government categorically rejects the unwarranted Indian protest.

The wanton slanders made by India against China are obviously intended to reduce the influence of China's peace efforts and create tension so as to cover up its unwarranted refusal to settle the Sino-Indian boundary question peacefully. However, facts are more eloquent than words. India will never achieve its desired goal no matter how many lies it may tell.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Indian Embassy the assurances of its highest consideration.

Note given by the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, to the Embassy of China in India, 5th July 1963

The Ministry of External Affairs presents its compliments to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China and has the honour to state that on three successive days, from 21st June to 23rd June, Chinese military patrols intruded into Sikkim State across Nathula. The most serious of these intrusions occurred on June 21, 1963 at 1300 hours when a Chinese patrol consisting of about 25 persons intruded into Sebu La 100 yards inside Sikkim State. On being challenged by the border defence personnel, the patrol retired.

The Government of India lodge a strong protest against these latest provocations by Chinese forces.

The Ministry of External Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew the assurances of its highest consideration.

Note given by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Peking, to the Embassy of India in China, 30 July 1963

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China presents its compliments to the Indian Embassy in China and has the honour to state the following:

On July 4 and 11, 1963, Indian troops twice intruded into Hsialinkung terrace (south of Sama) on the line of actual control of November 7, 1959 in the eastern sector of the Sino-Indian border, erected military structures on Chinese territory north of the line, and carried out reconnaissance towards the Chinese civilian checkpost at Sama.

Following the measures of ceasefire and withdrawal taken by the Chinese Government on its own initiative, the Indian Government repeatedly stated that it would not take any action to impede the Chinese side in effecting the ceasefire and withdrawal. Facts, however, have shown that India has failed to abide by its statement. Indian troops have not only repeatedly intruded into Chinese territory in the western sector of the Sino-Indian border, but have recently extended their intrusions to the eastern sector. Shortly after the Indian troops had intruded on June 20 into the Chinese side of Tungmulla on the line of actual control in the eastern sector, they further intruded into Chinese territory at Hsialinkung terrace. The Chinese Government hereby lodges a strong protest against the Indian provocative act of persisting in intruding into Chinese territory and deliberately creating tension in disregard of the Chinese Government's repeated warnings. The Chinese Government hopes that India would not mistake the measures of ceasefire and withdrawal taken on China's own initiative for a chance to renew Indian military intrusions and demands that India immediately put an end to these intrusions.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Indian Embassy the assurances of its highest consideration.

Note given by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Peking, to the Embassy of India in China, 31 July 1963

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China presents its compliments to the Indian Embassy in China and, with reference to the note of the Ministry of External Affairs of the Indian Government dated July 5, 1963, has the honour to state as follows:

In its note, the Indian Government baselessly alleged that Chinese personnel intruded into Sikkim across Natu La from June 21 to 23, 1963, and that about 25 Chinese intruded into "Sebu La 100 yards inside Sikkim" at 2300 hours late at night. This is nothing but a sheer fabrication. China and Sikkim have always lived together in peace and no Chinese forces have ever crossed into Sikkim; this is a fact not to be distorted. In its note dated June 15, 1963, the Indian Government itself admitted that its troops had constructed many military structures around Natu La, thus interrupting normal traffic across the border between Tibet and Sikkim. In these circumstances, one may ask how could Chinese personnel possibly have intruded into Sikkim across Natu La on three successive days? The Chinese Government categorically rejects the unwarranted Indian protest based on lies.

As a matter of fact, it is the Indian troops that crossed Natu La and constructed many military structures inside China. The Chinese Government has time and again lodged serious protests with India against this and asked for a joint investigation. The present slanderous allegation fabricated by India that Chinese personnel had crossed Natu La was obviously made with the ulterior motive of trying to cover up its own aggression against China. Nevertheless, to whatever cunning tricks India may resort, it will absolutely not be able to turn lies into facts.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Indian Embassy the assurances of its highest consideration.

Note given by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Peking, to the Embassy of India in China, 31 July 1963

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China presents its compliments to the Indian Embassy in China and,

with reference to the Indian Government's note of June 15, 1963, has the honour to state the following:—

In its note of June 4, 1963, the Chinese Government lodged the third serious protest with the Indian Government against the Indian troops crossing Natu La on the China-Sikkim boundary, intruding into Chinese territory and illegally constructing military structures there. Confronted with a mass of conclusive and powerful evidence furnished by China, the Indian Government had to admit in its note that India did build military structures around Natu La and this "had led to the interruption of normal trade and traffic across the border between Sikkim and Tibet".

Nevertheless, the Indian Government prevaricated that the military structures built by India at Natu La were "protective defence works" "on its own side of the border", (meaning on the Sikkim side). This allegation is utterly untenable. It has been admitted by India itself that according to the relevant provisions of the Sino-British Convention of 1890, the boundary between China and Sikkim runs along the watershed, and that Natu La is located on the only watershed in that area, which can be identified at a glance, and there can be no misunderstanding about it. The military structures built by India at Natu La clearly lie beyond this watershed and extend to the slope on the Chinese side of the pass (see attached photograph). How can it be said that they lie on the Sikkim side and were erected for "defence" purposes? The Indian aggressive acts are further borne out by the following fact: On June 12, 1963, i.e. three days before India sent out its note, about fifty Indian soldiers crossed Natu La and, taking advantage of the fog, levelled out part of the military structures illegally built by India on Chinese territory; later, the Indian side reinforced and camouflaged the rest of the military structures on Chinese territory. This shows that the aggressive acts of the Indian side are so glaring and unveiled that it had to seek ways and means to obscure them on the spot in order that it may entrench itself there indefinitely, while continuing to make denials. The Chinese Government once again lodges a protest with India against its occupation of Chinese territory across Natu La and once again demands that India immediately demolish its military structures on Chinese territory and withdraw its troops which have intruded into Chinese territory.

The Indian note admitted that the former United States Ambassador to India had visited Sino-Sikkim border. This unusual action took place at a time when India was stepping up its aggressive activities along the Sino-Sikkim border, when India was redoubling its efforts to beg the United States for military aid and when the United States and India declared jointly that they share "a mutual defensive concern" with regard to China. How can the Chinese Government remain indifferent to it?

In its note the Indian Government had no scruples in vilifying China and invoked the questions of the Sino-Indian boundary and the Colombo proposals which have nothing to do with this subject.

This only shows that India is finding itself devoid of all sound arguments, and vainly attempting to use these questions to divert people's attention from the Indian aggressive activities. The Chinese Government has long ago repeatedly and sternly refuted Indian lies and slanders on these questions and there is no need to make any more refutation here.

In view of the fact that India in its note continues to adopt an unreasonable attitude of denying the facts and turning things upside down, the Chinese Government hereby reiterates that in order to remove the tension now existing on the Sino-Sikkim border and distinguish right from wrong, India should immediately dispatch officials to conduct with Chinese officials a joint investigation of the case of Indian troops crossing the Natu La and encroaching on Chinese territory. An investigation will readily clarify the facts as to whether or not the military structures built by the Indian troops have extended beyond the watershed, whether they are within Chinese territory or within Sikkim territory and who are "confusing world public opinion". If India is not afraid of the revelation of truth, there should be no reason for it to reject this reasonable demand of the Chinese Government.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Indian Embassy the assurances of its highest consideration.

Note given by the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, to the Embassy of China in India, 8 August 1963

The Ministry of External Affairs presents its compliments to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China and with reference to its Note of 30th July, has the honour to state as follows:

The Government of India are surprised at the constant repetition by the Chinese Government of brazen and utterly false allegations. In its note of July 16th, the Indian Government has already categorically refuted the Chinese charge of an intrusion at Tungmula. It is not understood why the matter should once again be raised by the Chinese Government.

The further allegation that Indian troops have intruded across the international frontier into Tibet in the region Sama is equally unfounded. The border in this area is well-defined and there has been no instance of Indian personnel having crossed the border, much less erected military structures.

The Chinese protest is apparently made to cover up their own intrusion on 10th July when 13 persons in Lama robes were observed carrying out reconnaissance near Dichu in the Lohit Division of NEFA.

It would appear that the Chinese objective in making baseless charges is to cover up their reconnaissance activities and to continue tension on the border. This is also clear from the increased concentration of Chinese troops along the Tibetan areas of the India-China border and feverish construction of barracks and communications by Chinese forces in these areas.

The Ministry of External Affairs takes this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China the assurances of its highest consideration.

Note given by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Peking, to the Embassy of India in China, 13 August 1963

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China presents its compliments to the Indian Embassy in China and, with reference to the note of the Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India dated June 11, 1963, has the honour to state as follows:

In its note of June 2, 1963, the Chinese Government has factually pointed out that the entry on three occasions of so-called Chinese soldiers into the Spanggur Lake area as alleged in the Indian note of May 11, 1963 was actually the sending out by the Chinese side of a number of civil police to that area, which is on China's side of the line of actual control, to clear obstacles and mines and repair the road so as to ensure smooth progress of the work of repatriating captured Indian military personnel. This is a matter purely within China's sovereignty. Nevertheless, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs twice furnished the relevant information to the Indian Embassy in China on April 29 and May 3, 1963. The Indian Government was clearly aware of the above on May 11, yet it lodged an unwarranted protest with China, slanderously charging China with "intrusions" and "provocative activities". What is more, even after the Chinese Government gave a detailed account of the facts in its reply to India on June 2, India still kept on haggling in its latest note in regard to this matter. While no longer daring to mention the so-called "intrusions" by Chinese soldiers on May 4 and 5, it continued, in disregard of facts, to assert that the Chinese "frontier guards" resorted to "provocative firing" on April 27. The Chinese Government wishes to point out once again that the Chinese frontier guards had already withdrawn from the area mentioned by India by the end of last February, and the assertion that they had resorted to "firing" is an utter fabrication. In its note of June 2, the Chinese Government categorically rejected the unwarranted protest of India. The allegation made in the Indian note that China has not denied the intrusion is obviously a distortion and an attempt to impose its view on others.

The Spanggur Lake area has always been part of China's territory. This has been convincingly proved by the conclusive evidence cited by China at the meetings of officials of the two countries and in many documents and by the map of 1956 mentioned in Premier Chou En-Lai's letter of December 17, 1959. It is also an undeniable objective fact that this area is situated on China's side of the 1959 line of actual control. Even Prime Minister Nehru himself has admitted in his letter to Premier Chou En-Lai dated November 14, 1962, that China had set up a post at Spanggur before 1959. How then could it have suddenly been turned into an area which was "forcibly seized" by China in 1962?

In its note, India again repeated its shopworn allegations about so-called Chinese "intrusions" and "massive attacks." But it remains to be an indisputable fact that it is India who has committed aggression against China, who set up a large number of military strongpoints on Chinese territory in 1962 and who finally launched massive attacks on the Chinese frontier guards. This cannot be distorted by an Indian prevarication. As for the allegation that China has acted "in disregard of the Colombo proposals," it has already been refuted in detail by the Chinese Government in its note of June 26, 1963, and no repetition is needed here.

Judging from the Indian notes and from its recent intensified efforts to spread rumours about Chinese "intrusions" and "concentration of Chinese troops", it is not difficult to see that India is trying in a vain attempt to use lies and calumnies to minimise the far-reaching influence of the ceasefire and withdrawal and other peaceable efforts made by China on its own initiative and to cover up India's intrusions. But this attempt will be futile. In this note, the Chinese Government has once again patiently made clear the facts; and if India should for the above purpose continue to haggle over the matter, the Chinese Government will take no more trouble to answer.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Indian Embassy the assurances of its highest consideration.

Note given by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Peking, to the Embassy of India in China, 26 August 1963

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China presents its compliments to the Indian Embassy in China and has the honour to state the following:

In its notes of June 28 and July 30, 1963, the Chinese Government lodged strong protests with the Indian Government against the Indian troops' intrusion into Tungmula Pass and Hsialinkung

Terrace on the line of actual control in the eastern sector of the Sino-Indian border, their crossing of the line of actual control for reconnaissance activities and their crossing of that line at Hsialinkung Terrace to build military structures. In its reply notes of July 16 and August 8, the Indian Government resorted to its usual practice of flat denial. However, on August 10, just two days after India had sent out its second note, two more Indian soldiers intruded into Hsialinkung Terrace at about 11.20 hours. They crossed the line of actual control and carried out observations with field glass towards the Chinese civilian checkpost at Sama for about forty minutes, and did not leave until around 1200 hours. This fresh intrusion has belied India's prevarication.

In its note of August 8, India claimed that the "borders" in the area of Sama "is well-defined." This is, of course, untrue. However, the line of actual control between China and India in this area is clear indeed. The Indian troops had definitely crossed this line of actual control, and the military structures they built at Hsialinkung Terrace are definitely beyond that line. The Chinese Government once again lodges a strong protest against the Indian provocative act of continuously violating the line of actual control and creating tension.

In the above two notes, India not only tried hard to deny its own intrusions, but attempted to make false counter-charges against China. When the Chinese Government protested against the Indian troops' intrusion into Tungmula Pass on June 20, India falsely counter-charged in its note of July 16 that "two Chinese intruders who were in plain clothes" proceeded to the south of what is called Dom La on June 20. When the Chinese Government protested against the Indian troops' crossing the line of actual control at Hsialinkung Terrace on July 4 and 11, India groundlessly alleged in its note of August 8 that "13 persons in Lama robes" had been observed near Dichu on July 10. It is precisely these strange and fantastic assertions that constitute the "brazen and utterly false allegations" as described in the Indian note. Moreover, the Indian Government, after nearly one month, suddenly mentioned in equivocal terms these so-called instances in its notes aimed at denying its own intrusions; this also exposes the unjustifiable position and guilty conscience of the liar. Thus it is not difficult to see that it is the Indian Government, and nobody else, which has tried to cover up its own intrusions by telling lies. As for the trumped-up story about the "concentration" of Chinese troops, etc., it cannot deceive any one, no matter how often India may repeat it.

The Indian intrusions in deliberate violation of the line of actual control cannot be denied either by a blunt disavowal or by making false counter-charges. The military structures built by the Indian troops at Hsialinkung Terrace north of the line of actual control remain clearly there. Is this not an iron-clad proof of the Indian troops' intrusions? In order to ease the border tension, India must immediately stop its intrusions.

The Ministry avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Indian Embassy the assurances of its highest consideration.

Note given by the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, to the Embassy of China in India, 28 August 1963

The Ministry of External Affairs presents its compliments to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China and has the honour to refer to Chinese Foreign Office's Note dated the 25th June, 1963.

The Government of India's note dated the 27th May, 1963, was sent after careful verification of the facts and it is a matter of regret that the Chinese Government has arbitrarily denied the intrusion by a Chinese party into Indian territory in the area south of Longju, on April 26th, 1963.

The Chinese Government has declared Longju to be one of "four areas" where there is a dispute about cease-fire arrangements and has indicated in its note of March 2nd that both sides should refrain from entering these areas. Yet Chinese forces have not hesitated to cast aside this restriction and to intrude into areas even south of Longju. These activities on the part of the Chinese Government expose the insincerity of China's constant avowals of desiring a peaceful solution of the India-China boundary dispute.

The Ministry of External Affairs takes this opportunity to renew the assurances of its highest consideration.

Note given by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Peking, to the Embassy of India in China, 29 August 1963

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China presents its compliments to the Embassy of India in China and, with regard to the entry into the Wuje area, which is part of Chinese territory, by Indian troops and administrative personnel and their unlawful detention of Chinese border inhabitants, has the honour to state as follows:

The Chinese Government has recently learned that in June 1963 dozens of Indian soldiers and administrative personnel carrying radio sets intruded into the Wuje area, which is part of Chinese territory in the middle sector of the Sino-Indian border, and have illegally set up tents and barracks there for entrenchment. Furthermore, they have unjustifiably harassed and detained Chinese border inhabitants who went or travelled through there for trade. On June 22, 1963, Jongpa Dorje and six other Chinese citizens were unreasonably hindered from moving forward in Wuje by two Indians. They were cross-questioned on June 23 by three Indian administrative personnel who tried to secure military intelligence and information in other fields on China. Thereafter, Jentzen Wongjal and nine other Chinese border inhabitants were unlawfully searched by Indian soldiers on separate occasions and were driven back. On July 26,

Jong Chung and another Chinese citizen were likewise interrogated by three Indian soldiers in Wuje. What is more serious, on July 22 and 25, the Indian personnel illegally entrenched in Wuje went so far as to detain unlawfully Tashi Pengtso and eight other Chinese citizens for several days long and maltreat them, giving them no food and lodgings. They were not released until July 29. The Indian even told them in a threatening tone that no more Chinese citizens would be allowed to go there.

The Chinese Government hereby lodges a serious and strong protest against the aforesaid Indian provocative acts of encroaching on Chinese territory, disregarding China's sovereignty and unlawfully searching and detaining Chinese citizens.

The Wuje area is part of Chinese territory and located on the Chinese side of the 1959 line of actual control. In response to the peaceable call of the six Asian and African countries of the Colombo Conference, the Chinese Government has not only effected a twenty-kilometre withdrawal on its own side of the 1959 line of actual control along the entire Sino-Indian border, but has vacated Wuje and all the other areas where there is a dispute about the ceasefire arrangements, refraining even from setting up any civilian check-post there. However, in disregard of China's conciliatory measures, the Indian side has gone so far as to send its troops and administrative personnel for entrenchment in the Wuje area, which China has vacated on its own initiative, and even flagrantly detained and harassed Chinese citizens on Chinese territory. This further demonstrated the Indian Government's deliberate attempt to take advantage of the conciliatory measures of the Chinese side to create new tensions in the Sino-Indian border areas by repeating its old tactics for upsetting the *status quo* on the border and nibbling away Chinese territory. The Chinese Government cannot but take this seriously. The Chinese Government sternly asks India to withdraw immediately its troops and administrative personnel who have unlawfully intruded into the Wuje area for entrenchment and conduct a thorough investigation into the cases of unjustifiable harassment and detention of Chinese border inhabitants.

The Ministry avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Indian Embassy the assurances of its highest consideration.

Note given by the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, to the Embassy of China in India, 31 August 1963

The Ministry of External Affairs presents its compliments to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China and has the honour to refer to the Chinese Foreign Office note dated the 13th August, 1963.

The Government of India's note dated May 11, 1963 had referred to three clear instances of intrusion in the Spanggur lake area, towards the end of April and early May, 1963, by parties of Chinese

soldiers who were carrying out provocative activities in these areas from which the Chinese Government had earlier claimed to have withdrawn. Subsequently, in their notes, the Chinese Government claimed that these activities were on account of work connected with the clearing of obstacles and mines "so as to ensure smooth progress of the work of repatriating captured Indian military personnel". However, no attempt has been made either in the Chinese Government's note of 2nd June, 1963 or in the note under reply, to explain how or why Chinese "Civil Police" had to resort to provocative firing on April 27, 1963, south of Pimple. There can be absolutely no relation between the act of provocation which occurred on April 27, 1963 and the clearing of obstacles about which mention was made to the Indian Embassy at Peking on April 29th and May 3rd, 1963. It is precisely this act of provocation that belies the Chinese Government's claim that Chinese forces have withdrawn from this area by 20 kilometres.

At the Official Talks in 1960, the Indian side adduced sufficient evidence to prove that the international boundary between India and China in this area cuts across the eastern part of Spanggur Lake and follows the northern and eastern watershed of the river Indus through the Chang Pass upto the Jara Pass. The Chinese note under reply states that the map of 1956 mentioned in Premier Chou En-lai's letter of 17th December, 1959 and the evidence cited by China at the Official Talks in 1960, proves that the Spanggur Lake area has been part of China's territory. What the Chinese note does not and cannot explain is the discrepancy between the Chinese map of 1956 referred to in Prime Minister Chou-En-Lai's letter of 17th December, 1959 and the Chinese map of 1960 produced at the talks between officials in 1960. This only confirms that the maps produced by the Chinese Government do not follow normal cartographic practices but are varied from time to time to suit the aggressive designs or the actual results of aggressive thrusts, of the Chinese army as the case may be.

3. The Chinese note states that in the letter dated the 14th November, 1962, Prime Minister Nehru had admitted that the Chinese Government had set up a post at Spanggur before 1959. This letter exposed the falseness of the Chinese argument that the "line of actual control as on November 7, 1959", i.e. the claim line which the Chinese Government has repeatedly sought to impose upon India, coincides with the Chinese claim line of 1960. The letter clearly proved that, in 1959, the so-called "line of actual control upto which Chinese forces had encroached by then was a line connecting the forward-most Chinese posts as existing on 7th November 1959, i.e., a line connecting the Spanggur post, Khurnak Fort and Kongka La and then northwards to join the main Aksai Chin Road. Prime Minister Nehru's letter of 14th November, 1962 does not support but actually contests the Chinese claim that because there was a Chinese post at Spanggur before 1959, the whole area was under Chinese control. In any case, the area of the latest intrusion which is the subject matter of the current exchange of notes was further to the West even of the place where the illegal Chinese post at Spanggur had been located in 1959. The Chinese Government has

wilfully tried to confuse their so-called line of actual control as it actually existed in 1959 with the boundary line that was claimed by the Chinese side in the Officials Talks in 1960 and with the line that has been physically established by the massive Chinese attacks in the winter of 1962. All these three are, as it is plain to everyone, entirely different.

4. The denials by the Chinese Government of the massive attack by the Chinese forces against Indian defensive positions in the Eastern and Western Sectors of the border is absurd in the face of clearly established facts. That the Chinese Government continues to hold to its aggressive policies is demonstrated by its rejection of the Colombo Proposals after having earlier pretended to accept these Proposals "in principle". The latest increased concentrations of Chinese forces on the India-China border are a further indication of the Chinese Government's aggressive designs.

5. In the light of the above facts, the Government of India reject the baseless contentions in the Chinese Note of 13th August, 1963.

6. The Ministry of External Affairs takes this opportunity to renew the assurances of its highest consideration.

Note given by the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, to the Embassy of China in India, 4 September 1963

The Ministry of External Affairs presents its compliments to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, and has the honour to refer to the Chinese Foreign Office Note of August 29, 1963.

2. In its Note of April 9, the Ministry of External Affairs had clearly stated that since 1958 the Government of India had refrained from sending armed patrols into this area, and that from April 1963, in view of the Chinese Government's assurance in its Note of April 3 that it would refrain from sending any Chinese civilian personnel, the Government of India also decided to reciprocate by suspending the practice of sending civilian personnel to the Bara Hoti plain as had been done hitherto. This decision has been strictly implemented by the personnel of the Government of India. The Government of India wish to state categorically that there has been no Indian military or civilian personnel in this area from April 9, 1963, and any allegation to the contrary is false, baseless and mischievous.

3. The Chinese Note tries to substantiate its allegations by citing the case of 7 Tibetans who came into India for purposes of trade. The Chinese Government is well aware that no facilities for trade between Tibet and India exist at present. If Chinese nationals entered Indian territory, the purpose of their visit must have been other than trade. The Chinese Note itself admits that the party went "through" the area for trade. The fact is that a group of 7 Tibetans with 210 goats came through the Tunjung La from Tibet

into the Bara Hoti area on 22-6-1963 and, as stated in the Chinese Note, proceeded through this area southwards where they were stopped at an Indian checkpost. This checkpost, as has been stated in the Ministry of External Affairs Note of January 17, 1963 is some kilometres to the south of Bara Hoti. The Tibetans were told that there was no trade taking place, and were requested to return to Tibet, which they did.

4. The Government of India has no information regarding the coming into Indian territory of a person called Jentzen Wongjal and 9 other Chinese border inhabitants as alleged in the Chinese Note, nor is there any corroboration of the allegation in the Chinese Note that on July 26, two Chinese citizens crossed the international frontier while coming southwards. The Government of India is, however, aware of another clandestine intrusion of Chinese nationals on July 24 when a group of 8 Tibetans came southwards via Tunjung La through the Bara Hoti plain to the Indian checkpost. They were also asked to return to Tibet, which they did.

5. It will be seen from the above facts that the allegations made by the Chinese Government of incidents concerning Tibetan traders are completely false. The allegation that Indian soldiers have entered the Bara Hoti area and set up tents and barracks is another piece of mischievous falsehood. The Government of India firmly reject the false and mischievous allegations contained in the Chinese Note.

6. The Government of India has scrupulously observed the recommendation made by the Colombo Conference that the *status quo* should be maintained in the central sector in which this area falls. The only aim of the Chinese Government in fabricating such allegations can be the creation of tension in this area which has so far been perfectly peaceful.

7. The Ministry of External Affairs avails itself of the opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China the assurances of its highest consideration.

Note given by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Peking, to the Embassy of India in China, 13 September 1963

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China presents its compliments to the Indian Embassy in China and has the honour to state as follows:

On September 1, 1963 at 1100 hours, eight Indian military personnel bringing field glasses with them crossed the Lo Pass on November 7, 1959 line of actual control between the two sides in the eastern sector of the Sino-Indian border and intruded into the vicinity of the Chinese civilian checkpost at Tamaden which is north of the line for spying. This again is another provocation aimed at creating tension by Indian military personnel following their successive intrusions since last June across the line of actual control at

Tungmula Pass and Hsialinkung Terrace in the eastern sector of the Sino-Indian border. The Chinese Government hereby lodges a strong protest with the Indian Government against this, and demands that the Indian side immediately put an end to such intrusions.

The Ministry avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy the assurances of its highest consideration.

Note given by the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, to the Embassy of China in India, 16 September 1963

The Ministry of External Affairs presents its compliments to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China and has the honour to refer to the Chinese Foreign Office note dated the 26th August, 1963.

2. In their note under reference, the Chinese Government have not only repeated the baseless charges that have already been fully exposed in the Government of India's notes dated the 16th July and 8th August, 1963, but also come up with a new story that "two more Indian soldiers entered into Hsialinkung Terrace at about 11.20 hours" on 10th August, 1963. The location of the area referred to as "Hsialinkung Terrace" had been vaguely stated to be "south of Sama" in the Chinese Note dated the 16th July, 1963. Nevertheless the matter had been carefully investigated by the Indian Government and it had been established that the Chinese allegations were without any foundation. As pointed out in the Indian note of 8th August, 1963, the India-China border is well defined in this area. The Government of India are fully satisfied that no Indian personnel crossed the boundary in the areas specified in the Chinese note, or for that matter anywhere else.

3. The Chinese Government have tried to belittle and deny the charges contained in the Indian notes referred to above, regarding the incidents of intrusion by Chinese to the south of Domla and in the vicinity of Dichu in the Lohit Division of NEFA respectively on the 20th June, 1963 and 10th July 1963. But describing the charges as "strange and fantastic" does not in any way detract from their authenticity.

4. In the light of the above facts the Government of India emphatically reject the allegations contained in the Chinese Government's note of 26th August, 1963.

5. The Ministry of External Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew the assurances of its highest consideration.

Note given by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Peking, to the Embassy of India in China, 18 September 1963

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China presents its compliments to the Embassy of India in China and has the honour to state as follows:

According to reports from the local authorities, three mounted Indian soldiers crossed the line of actual control of November 7, 1959

from Parigas in the western sector of the Sino-Indian border and intruded into the Chinese village of Demchok for reconnaissance and harassment on August 13, 1963. The Chinese Government hereby lodges a strong protest with the Indian Government against that.

Since the cease-fire effected by China on its own initiative Indian troops have made more than twenty intrusions into Chinese territory across the line of actual control. In disregard of the Chinese Government's protests against all those instances, the Indian troops have not yet ceased such intrusions. Following their intrusion and stationing in the Wuje area in the middle sector of the border, which is part of Chinese territory, the Indian troops recently went on to intrude into the Chinese territory of Demchok Village in the western sector of the border. The Chinese Government cannot but express its concern about that. The Chinese Government once again seriously urges the Indian Government to respect earnestly the line of actual control and stop the insatiable encroachment of the Indian troops.

The Ministry avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Indian Embassy the assurances of its highest consideration.

Note given by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Peking, to the Embassy of India in China, 19 September 1963

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China presents its compliments to the Embassy of India in China and has the honour to state the following:

The Chinese Government has received a report, which has been verified after checking the facts, that on the morning of August 5, 1963 a group of Indian soldiers crossed the Sino-Sikkim boundary at the Tagi La and intruded into the Chiehma pasture ground, which is situated north of the Pass in Tibet, China. They forcibly kidnapped two Tibetan shepherds, Zlaba Mgonpo and Tshe Dbang, and seized all the 800 and more sheep which they were pasturing there. The whereabouts of Zlaba Mgonpo and Tashe Dbang is so far still unknown. The Chinese Government hereby lodges a strong protest with the Indian Government against the above-mentioned intrusion by Indian soldiers and their atrocious acts of openly ignoring China's sovereignty and seizing persons and sheep on Chinese territory, and asks the Indian Government promptly to conduct a thorough investigation into the case, release the kidnapped Chinese shepherds and return the robbed sheep.

It must be pointed out that the Sino-Sikkim boundary has long been formally delimited and that the border there had all along been tranquil. In recent years, India has repeatedly made use of Sikkim territory to violate Chinese territory and deliberately created incidents along the Sino-Sikkim border in vain attempt to undermine the friendly and good-neighbourly relations between China

and Sikkim. The Chinese Government wishes to tell the Indian Government squarely that this scheme definitely will not succeed.

The Ministry avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Indian Embassy the assurances of its highest consideration.

—————

**Note given by the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, to the
Embassy of China in India, 19 September 1963**

The Ministry of External Affairs presents its compliments to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China and has the honour to refer to the note of the Chinese Government of 31st July presented to the Indian Charge d' Affaires at Peking.

Ever since the Prime Ministers of India and China met in 1960 when in reply to a question at a Press Conference Premier Chou En-lai stated "China respects India's relations with Sikkim and Bhutan", the Chinese Government has, on one pretext or another, been challenging the position that the Government of India is responsible for the defence and external relations of Sikkim. It was pointed out by the Indian side at the Official Talks held in 1960 that "the Chinese Government had recognised the continued validity of the Anglo-Chinese Convention of 1890 between Great Britain acting for the Government of India, and China, regarding Sikkim. This Convention itself recognised by both sides, lays down the boundary between Sikkim on the one hand and the Tibet Region of China on the other". The same Convention also recognised the responsibilities of the Government of India for the external relations of Sikkim.

The note of 31st July, which is the latest in the series of notes beginning with the Chinese note of 2nd July, 1960, making baseless allegations about Indian intrusions into Chinese territory in this sector, has the same mischievous design of contesting the treaty-relations between India and Sikkim. This pernicious move has, as its further objective, the covering up of China's aggressive concentrations in the Chumbi Valley where Chinese troops have been pouring in, garrisons have been established and barracks have been constructed replete with gun emplacements, pillboxes and other military installations.

The Chinese note refers to interruption of normal trade and traffic across the border between Sikkim and Tibet as a result of India building up military structures around Nathu La. The responsibility for the disruption of normal trade and traffic in this sector of the India-China boundary rests squarely on the shoulders of the Chinese Government who mounted unprovoked massive attacks against India in October-November, 1962. The Government of India, in the discharge of their responsibility for the defence of Sikkim, had to take appropriate action for the defence of this sector of the boundary against the threat of Chinese aggression.

That these Indian troops and military structures are located entirely on the Indian side of the boundary in this sector should be

clear from the attached photostat which presents a clear picture of the highest watershed ridge passing through Nathu La which is the international frontier between India and China in this Sikkim sector. The stone marker, referred to in various Chinese notes, which commemorates the opening of the Gangtok-Nathu La road on September 18, 1958, is marked with a cross in the photostat. This is 74 feet on the Indian side of the border along the Gangtok-Nathu La Road. Indian military installations in this sector are at a considerable distance away from this stone marker on the Indian side of the border. The travellers in this region who are familiar with the rough location of the boundary along the watershed ridge have been placing pilgrim prayer flags approximately along this ridge. These flags can be seen clearly in the photostat.

The allegation that Indian forces have occupied Chinese territory across the international boundary in the Nathu La region is false and baseless. The international boundary in this sector is well defined and well known. The Indian defence forces are a considerable distance away from the international boundary, on the Indian side. The Chinese demand for a joint investigation of the baseless and mischievous Chinese allegations must, therefore, be rejected.

The Chinese Government has also referred in its note to the question of removing tension on this Sikkim sector of the Indian border. It is for the Chinese authorities to stop this series of vexatious and mischievous notes which are solely designed to create and maintain tension on the Sikkim sector of the India-China border. That the Chinese Government is bent on maintaining an atmosphere of tension and conflict all along the India-China border, including this Sikkim sector, would be obvious to anyone from the hostile and aggressive attitude the Government of China has adopted, or the recommendations made by the six non-aligned countries, for the acceptance of both parties, with a view to easing the tensions along the India-China border and creating an atmosphere in which a purposeful attempt could be made to resolve the differences on the boundary question between India and China, by peaceful talks and discussions in accordance with the procedures suggested by the Government of India in its note of 3rd April, 1963.

The Ministry of External Affairs takes this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China the assurances of its highest consideration.

Note given by the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, to the Embassy of China in India, 1 October 1963

The Ministry of External Affairs presents its compliments to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China and has the honour to refer to the Chinese Foreign Office Note dated the 31st July, 1963, regarding the intrusions across Sebu La by Chinese military patrols between 21st and 23rd June, 1963.

2. The facts had been conveyed to the Government of China in the Ministry's note of 5th July, 1963 after a careful and detailed investigation. These intrusions are a direct result of the increase in concentrations of Chinese troops over the last few months across the Sikkim sector of the India-Tibet border which has led to an increase in provocative Chinese activities in this region.

3. The Government of India again reiterate their strong protest against the intrusions committed by Chinese military patrols across Sebu La.

The Ministry of External Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China the assurances of its highest consideration.

Note given by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Peking, to the Embassy of India in China, 14 November 1963

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China presents its compliments to the Indian Embassy in China, and, with the honour to state the following:

It has been verified by the Chinese Government that at noon time, September 22, 1963, four Indian militarymen with five horses illegally crossed the Karakoram Pass at the western extremity of the western sector of the Sino-Indian boundary and intruded about two kilometres into Sinkiang, China, for reconnaissance.

The Karakoram Pass is a pass on the boundary, and the area to its north has always been indisputable Chinese territory. The Indian Government itself has explicitly admitted this at the meeting of Chinese and Indian Officials in 1960. While making incessant intrusions into Chinese territory during the past few years, Indian troops had never dared to cross that Pass. Yet now the Indian side has flagrantly extended its activities of intrusion into this area, an area which India itself has definitely acknowledged as Chinese and where tranquility long prevailed. This is obviously a deliberate attempt to create tension and broaden the boundary dispute. The Chinese Government hereby lodges a strong protest with the Indian Government and urges the Indian Government to put an immediate end to all its intrusions into Chinese territory.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Indian Embassy the assurances of its highest consideration.

Note given by the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, to the Embassy of China in India, 23 August 1963

The Ministry of External Affairs presents its compliments to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China and with reference to

the Note from the Chinese Foreign Office dated the 13th September, 1963, has the honour to state as follows:

The allegation contained in the note of intrusions in the vicinity of the Chinese Checkpost at Tamadem is a further instance of baseless fabrications resorted to by the Chinese Government to keep alive a state of tension on the India-China border. The Lo Pass is situated on the international boundary between India and China and on Indian military personnel have crossed this line.

The earlier baseless allegations of the Chinese Government that Indian military personnel crossed the so-called line of actual control near "Tungmula Pass" and "Hsialinkung Terrace" have been replied to by the Government of India in notes dated 16th July, 8th August and 16th September, 1963. It is evident that the Chinese Government is continuing to make these allegations to suit its own purpose.

The Ministry of External Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China the assurances of its highest consideration.

Note given by the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, to the Embassy of China in India, 22 October 1963

The Ministry of External Affairs presents its compliments to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in India and with reference to the note from the Chinese Foreign Office dated the 18th September, 1963, has the honour to state as follows:—

A reference to the Government of India's earlier notes dated the 31st October and 9th December, 1961, 21st May and 18th August, 1962, would make it clear that the Demchok area of Ladakh has always formed part of India. Indian border defence forces had also been stationed there to protect the area from Chinese intrusions until they had been overrun by the massive Chinese attacks on Indian territory during October/November, 1962. Though the Chinese forces had, ever since 1957, been making surreptitious advances in various areas of Ladakh, there had been no Chinese presence of any kind on the Indian side of the traditional customary boundary south of Rezang La, till the massive Chinese invasion last winter.

Despite the above clear position and the fact that even recent Chinese maps also show Demchok clearly on the Indian side of the so-called Chinese "line of actual control of 7th November 1959", the Chinese Government has alleged that Indian personnel have "intruded" into the area which is admittedly within Indian territory even according to the fantastic Chinese claims of the so-called "line of actual control of 7th November 1959".

The Chinese Government has tried to confuse the issue by drawing a distinction between a location it refers to as Parigas and the village of Demchok, acknowledging Parigas as being on the Indian side of the so-called "line of actual control", and maintaining

that Demchok is on the Chinese side. This is yet another instance of the Chinese Government attempting to lay claim by devious means to areas acknowledged by it to be Indian territory.

The Government of India has confirmed after detailed investigations that no Indian military personnel crossed the so-called "line of actual control" in the Demchok area on 13th August, 1963.

The Government of India has, in various other notes, clearly exposed the baselessness of the Chinese Government's allegations of so-called intrusions by Indian personnel. While rejecting the protest, the Government of India would stress that the repetition of these baseless allegations only serves to intensify the already existing tensions on the India-China border created by Chinese aggression.

The Ministry of External Affairs takes this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in India the assurances of its highest consideration.

Note given by the Ministry of External Affairs to the Embassy of China in India, 2 November 1963

The Ministry of External Affairs presents its compliments to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, and has the honour to refer to Chinese Foreign Office Note dated the 14th October, 1963.

2. The Government of India has carefully investigated the allegation by the Chinese Government that on 22nd September, 1963 "4 Indian military men with 5 horses" had crossed the Karakoram Pass and "intruded about two kilometres into Sinkiang, China, for reconnaissance". It has been established that this allegation is without any basis whatsoever.

3. As the Chinese Government is aware, the India-China boundary in this portion of the western sector starts from the trijunction of the boundaries of India, China and Afghanistan at approximately Longitude 74° 34' East and Latitude 37° 03' North and runs eastward through the Kilik Pass, Mintaka Pass, Kharchanai Pass, Parpik Pass, and the Khunjerab Pass, after which it follows the spur down to the north-western bend of the Shaksgam or Muztagh river which it crosses at that point and ascends the crest line of the Aghil mountains. It then runs along the crest of the Aghil watershed, through the Aghil Pass, the Marpo Pass, and the Shaksgam Pass to the Karakoram Pass. From the Karakoram Pass the boundary lies along the watershed between the Shyok and the Yarkand and runs through the Qara Tagh Pass to cross the eastern bend of the Qara Qash river (north west of Haji Langar) and ascends the main Kuen Lun mountains. Thereafter, the boundary runs through the Yangi Pass along the crest of the mountains separating the Yurungkash basin from those of the lakes in Aksai Chin. It leaves the main crest of the Kuen Lun mountains at a point approximately Longitude 74° 21' East and descends in a South-Westerly direction, separating

the basins of the Amtogor and Sarigh Jilganang lakes in India from those of Leighton and Tsoggar lakes in Tibet. The Government of India is fully satisfied that there has been no case where Indian defence personnel have crossed into Chinese territory anywhere along this international border.

4. In the light of the above facts, the Government of India rejects the Chinese Government's note under reference.

The Ministry of External Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China the assurances of its highest consideration.

Note given by the Ministry of External Affairs to the Embassy of China in India, 12 November 1963

The Ministry of External Affairs presents its compliments to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China and has the honour to refer to the Chinese Government's note dated the 19th September, 1963.

2. The Chinese Government's allegation of "intrusion" by a group of Indian soldiers across the Sikkim border of the India-China boundary is entirely without foundation. The allegation that Tibetan shepherds have been "forcibly kidnapped" is also entirely baseless.

3. One Tsewang Topgya and one Dawa Gombu, residents of village Keyo in Tibet, had illegally crossed the border through Bamchho La into Sikkim territory. They had been apprehended on 4th August, 1963, and as their entry was in violation of local laws, they were arrested. The Chinese note is a deliberate distortion of this factual position.

4. Tsewang Topgya and Dawa Gombu will be allowed to return to their native village after they have served their sentences for the offence of having illegally crossed the international border for which they have been convicted.

The Ministry of External Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, the assurances of its highest consideration.

Note given by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Peking, to the Embassy of India in China, 14 October 1963

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China presents its compliments to the Indian Embassy in China and, with reference to the note of the Indian Government dated October 1, 1963, has the honour to state as follows:

The Indian Government's note contains nothing new; it only repeats the lies fabricated in its note of July 5, 1963, alleging that

to accept a joint investigation precisely reveals its guilty conscience, for it is afraid that its lie will be exploded in the face of the evidences.

In its note, the Indian Government again dwelt on such irrelevant matters as Indian-Sikkim relations and repeated its lies about alleged concentrations of Chinese troops. Since the Chinese Government has in its previous documents made clear its position on those matters and thoroughly refuted the Indian slanders, there is no need to make any repetition here.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy the assurances of its highest consideration.

Note given by the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, to the Embassy of China in India, 11 December 1963

The Ministry of External Affairs presents its compliments to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China and with reference to their note dated the 14th November, 1963, has the honour to state as follows:

2. In its note dated the 5th July, 1963, the Government of India had lodged a protest against intrusions into Sikkim State by a Chinese military patrol in the Nathula region. It was also pointed out in this note that the most serious of these intrusions had occurred on 21st June, 1963, at 23-00 hours when a Chinese patrol intruded into Sebula, 100 yards inside Sikkim State.

3. In its note of 1st October, 1963, the Government of India had reiterated the above position. As the Chinese Government is aware, Sebula is only about a mile from Nathula and there can, therefore, be no doubt in the mind of the Chinese Government about the area where these intrusions have taken place. It is futile for the Chinese Government, in these circumstances, to try and evade these established charges by pretending that they are "contradictory".

The Ministry of External Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, the assurances of its highest consideration.

Note given by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Peking, to the Embassy of India in China, 26 December 1963

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China presents its compliments to the Indian Embassy in China and, with reference to the note of the Ministry of External Affairs of the Indian Government dated November 12, 1963, has the honour to state the following:

The Indian note begins with the vehement denial stating that the Chinese Government's protests against the crossing of the China-Sikkim border by a group of Indian soldiers and their abduction of

two Chinese shepherds, Zlaba Mgonpo and Tshe Dbang, "is entirely without foundation". However, it then admits that the two shepherds have been "apprehended" and "arrested" by the Indian side. It can thus be seen that the Chinese protest is not "without foundation", and that the Indian side is prevaricating without any reasonable ground.

As the Chinese Government stated in detail in its note of September 19, 1963, Zlaba Mgonpo and Tshe Dbang, together with the 800 and more sheep which they were pasturing, were carried away by force from the Chiehma pasture ground inside Chinese territory north of the Tugi La, which is located on the China-Sikkim boundary, on the morning of August 5 by a group of Indian soldiers who had illegally intruded into that area. The Indian note conversely charged that the two Chinese shepherds were apprehended because they had "crossed the border into Sikkim territory". This is nothing but an attempt to confound right and wrong and a false counter charge.

The Chinese Government once again seriously asks the Indian side to release immediately the Chinese shepherds in question and return the seized sheep.

The Ministry avails itself of the opportunity to renew the Embassy the assurances of its highest consideration.

Note given by the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, to the Embassy of China in India, 22 January 1964

The Ministry of External Affairs presents its compliments to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China and with reference to the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs' note dated the 26th December, 1963, has the honour to state as follows:

The detailed facts regarding the arrest of Tsewang Topgya and Dawa Gombu, who had illegally crossed the border through Bamchho La into Sikkim territory, have been given in the Indian Government's note dated the 12th November, 1963. It is completely incorrect for the Chinese Government to state, as they have done in the note under reference, that this is a case of "abduction". It has already been pointed out in the Indian Government's note dated the 12th November, 1963, that the Chinese Government's allegations in this regard are entirely without foundation. Any further notes by the Chinese Government on the subject, repeating such unfounded and meaningless allegations, will not merit a reply.

The Ministry of External Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, the assurances of its highest consideration.

Note given by the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi to the Embassy of China in India, 23 January 1964

The Ministry of External Affairs presents its compliments to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China and with reference to

the Chinese Government's note dated the 30th November, 1963, has the honour to state as follows:

The International boundary in the Nathula region of the Sikkim-Tibet border is well defined and well-known. Indian defence forces are stationed at a considerable distance away from the boundary on the Indian side. As has been reiterated in the Indian Government's note of 19th September, 1963, any request for a joint investigation of this region is merely propagandistic in nature and, therefore, unacceptable to this Government as completely unnecessary. In point of fact, it is Chinese military personnel who have been guilty of crossing over into Indian territory in this area. The Government of India have protested against these intrusions in their note dated the 5th July, 1963. The most serious intrusion was when a Chinese military patrol intruded into Sebula which is on the frontier about a mile south of Nathula.

The Chinese note under reference makes the absurd complaint that the photostat attached to the Government of India's note dated the 19th September, 1963, "shows only the Sikkim side of Nathula". Obviously the photostat could not show the Chinese side of Nathula, which must be on the other side of the pass. Any photograph, taken by Indian authorities in this area has, naturally, to be only from the Indian side of the pass, to which Indian personnel and forces are always strictly confined.

The Chinese Government's note dated the 30th November, 1963, succeeds merely in further exposing the baseless nature of the allegations made against the Indian Government. In the light of the above facts, the Government of India categorically reject the note in question of the Chinese Government.

The Ministry of External Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China the assurances of its highest consideration.

Note given by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Peking to the Embassy of India in China, 8 July 1963

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China presents its compliments to the Indian Embassy in China and, with reference to the Indian note of June 26, 1963, has the honour to state as follows:

The allegation made by the Indian Government in its note to the effect that Chinese aircraft had flown over Bameng and Koloriang of the so-called North East Frontier Agency of India on May 27 and June 5, 1963, is a pure fabrication. The two places mentioned in the Indian note are Chinese territory under Indian occupation lying south of the illegal McMahon Line. Although China has never recognised the so-called McMahon Line, Chinese aircraft have never flown beyond that illegal line. In the interest of a relaxation of the border situation, Chinese aircraft have never even flown over