

CIA-Inspired Tibet Raids Wind Down

By Jack Anderson

In mountainous Nepal, least bloody war is winding America's least known and down. The warring tribesmen and the Central Intelligence Agency, which recruited them, are losing interest in the adventure.

After the fleece-clad Red Chinese legions crushed a revolt in Tibet in 1959, the fiercest of the Tibetan clans fled on wiry ponies into the high fastness of Nepal.

CIA agents slowly gained the confidence of the mountain fighters, known as Khampas or "warriors," and began organizing them against the Chinese. In the cloud-capped regions of Mustang and Dolpa, the Khampas were outfitted with American saddles, small arms and other equipment.

Then, out of the craggy highlands, they swooped down into Chinese military encampments in Tibet, disrupting communications and stealing supplies. This distressed the Nepalese authorities, who never authorized the raids and feared Chinese retaliation.

We spoke to sources who were invited to participate in a raid on Chinese army facilities in Tibet. The Khampa leader claimed he learned his English and was trained in guerrilla tactics in the United States.

In past years, Indian intelli-

gence agents were used to parachute American supplies to the Khampas' mountain bivouacs. The bright orange supply parachutes were converted into shirts by the Khampas and quickly became a "Red Badge of Courage" in Tibetan refugee restaurants in Khatmandu.

But now the Tibetan refugees, when they gather in the restaurants for marijuana stew and cakes, are forlorn. The American aid is drying up, and the Khampas have to depend on the penurious Indian intelligence services for supplies. This has so weakened them that the Nepal government, branding them "bandits," has been able to move them from the border areas. Now when the tribesmen feel war-like, they prey on peasants instead of Chinese soldiers.

Thus has a faraway war flared up and died down, virtually unknown to the American people, whose dollars supported it and whose secret agents encouraged it.

Washington Whirl

Campaign Finances—We recently reported that most of the Nixon scandals, from ITT to Watergate, were outgrowths of the 1972 presidential campaign and the corruptive method of financing politics in this country.

We suggested that the taxpayers would be better off if

they earmarked a dollar of their taxes for the political party of their choice. They can do this simply by filling out the Presidential Election Campaign Statement, Form 4875.

But a spot check by IRS disclosed that only two of 29 employees, assigned to assist taxpayers with their returns, bothered to inform the taxpayers of the campaign checkoff. This would seem to confirm Democratic National Chairman Robert Strauss' complaint that IRS, under Republican rule, is de-emphasizing the dollar contribution because it would give the debt-ridden Democrats an even financial break with the Republicans in the 1976 presidential election.

Where's the Jewelry?—In 1968, the prestigious Smithsonian Institution obtained a collection of precious 19th Century jewelry. The national curators were so excited that the 1969 Smithsonian report promised "a spectacular jewelry exhibition" and, as a teaser, showed illustrations of three gem-laden brooches. But instead of becoming part of a grand display, 150 pieces of the historic jewelry that seemed so irreplaceable in 1969 have been auctioned off in Geneva for some \$140,000.

Sold, for example, was awesome jewelry that once belonged to J. P. Morgan. The public wasn't told about the auction; indeed, the auction catalogue identified the seller

only as "an American institution."

We asked the Smithsonian why the treasure hadn't been loaned out to less fortunate museums instead of consigned for display on the bosoms of rich men's wives. A spokesman explained that the collection had been acquired with the intention of auctioning it off, that the Smithsonian had netted about \$30,000 on the sale and had retained a small, representative assortment of the gems.

Perjury Probe—A year after the celebrated ITT hearings, the Justice Department is finally getting around to investigating who committed perjury. The FBI has been assigned, for example, to rewrite the history of the infamous Dita Beard memo.

Agent James Elder has called upon Susan Lichtman, Mrs. Beard's former secretary, who typed the memo. He asked whether her affidavit, claiming she didn't recall typing all portions of the damaging memo, was "in your words and in your language?" She acknowledged it had been prepared for her by an ITT attorney. The FBI is also planning to question ITT employees Beverly Sincavage and William Merriam. But the investigation hasn't reached as high as former Attorney General John Mitchell, who has been caught in the most glaring inconsistencies.

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