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On 24 April, while a Tibetan delegation was in Peking negotiating the treaty announced in late May, Peking more than doubled its broadcasts in Tibetan. Formerly the schedule consisted of one half-hour program on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and now it consists of a daily half-hour broadcast. Chungking relays this program six days a week. The content of the broadcasts indicates that Peking is primarily concerned to reassure Tibetan listeners of the kind treatment they are receiving and will continue to receive from the Central Government in Peking. Developments in Tibetan or adjacent localities receive primary attention; only occasional references are made to other Chinese or international affairs.

Structure of Programs: The daily programs usually include about four news items, a commentary, and some musical interludes. The programs broadcast on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays are regularly repeated on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, respectively. Frequently, however, a given day's program is repeated as often as three times; and one transmission was rebroadcast six times. Peking broadcasts are given in the Lhasa dialect.

Chungking originates its own Sunday program. It follows Peking's lead in concentrating on local news, but the program is given in the Kham dialect of eastern Tibet.

Content of Programs: The subject-matter of the Peking and Chungking programs is limited in scope, repetitious, and frequently old. News items and commentaries make a marked attempt to heroize Chairman Mao Tse-tung as the leader of China and of all its racial groups. The Panchen Lama is seldom mentioned and the Dalai Lama is ignored. The Central Government's protective attitude toward minorities is directly stressed in commentaries. It is also stressed indirectly in news reports of such developments as the opening of language schools in Peking or the sending of an inspection mission to some remote section of Northwest China. The Peking Government's constructive concern in matters of regional or minority interest is illustrated in reports of medical care offered isolated groups or of studies being made of a newly-discovered disease of the yaks.

Primary emphasis is given to developments of local interest. Events concerned with minorities in Tibet, Sinkiang, Sikang, or Kansu make up the bulk of the news items. The Korean war is discussed only occasionally in delayed battle reports or accounts of American losses. Both types of references tend to call attention to the strength of the Communist forces and a similar tendency occurred in broadcasts commemorating the 1 August anniversary of the People's Liberation Army. Other domestic problems of the Peking regime, e.g., counter-revolutionaries, are not discussed.

Religious matters are not discussed; but frequent news reports of Peking's protective attitude toward Moslems have obvious implications for Buddhist listeners. One departure from the avoidance of religious affairs occurred in a commentary describing the Communist regime's efforts to ensure the Tibetans' tea supply; it closed with the claim that many people now consider Mao Tse-tung to be a modern Buddha.

New Stations: On 27 July Peking announced that new regional radio stations had been in operation since 1 July at Yaan and Paochi. This announcement typifies the two major characteristics of Peking's Tibetan broadcasts: (1) their delay in reporting news; and (2) the regional nature of the news that is reported.

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REFERENCES

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