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CHINA:

Tibet Quiet for Now

The anniversary of the 1959 Tibetan uprising passed quietly yesterday, but the Chinese show no intention of lifting martial law and are sending additional reinforcements.

The Dalai Lama appealed yesterday to world leaders to help end Chinese repression in Tibet and to put pressure on Beijing to begin talks on a solution. A vice director at China's State Nationalities Affairs Commission warned that "foreign instigation" in the riots might reduce any chance of talks with the Dalai Lama.

Comment: Authorities are probably bracing for more trouble by 17 March, the anniversary of the Dalai Lama's flight to India in 1959.

Until Beijing is confident it has the situation under control, it is not likely to make new overtures to the Dalai Lama. Accusations against the Tibetan exile community and its supporters of instigating the unrest, however, will continue, and Beijing is likely to insist that the Dalai Lama give up what it claims is his demand for independence.

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