

1949

Speeches/Documents

Title: Telegram about Panchen Lama

Author: Mao Zedong

Date: 6 August 1949

Source: *A History of Modern Tibet: The Calm Before the Storm: 1951-1955, Volume 2* Door Melvyn C. Goldstein pg. 271-272

Description:

"When you attack Lanzhou you should pay special attention to protecting the Panchen [Lama] and the Tibetans living in Gansu and Qinghai, so that you will be prepared to settle the Tibet issue."

After Lanzhou was liberated on August 1949, Peng Dehuai again instructed Fan Ming about it urgent tasks he had to complete. Reiterating Mao's guidelines he said: First, we should establish good relations with the Panchen Lama . - - and win him over. Second, we should also work closely with (Huang Zhengqing [Aba Alo], the commander of the Tibetan military forces in the south of Gansu [in the area of the monastery town called Labrang]. Third, we must do nationality work well throughout the area. Fourth we should establish good relations and win over and educate the Tibetan intelligentsia as well as select and nurture good minority officials, for example, he suggested we should establish a training class [for Tibetans]. At this meeting, [Peng] took out the telegram of Mao and asked us to study it.