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Authority ANN 989505

By SG NARA Date 10/21/03

The Secretary's 8:00 a.m. Staff Meeting  
Wednesday, April 16, 1975

PRESENT:

THE SECRETARY OF STATE -- HENRY A. KISSINGER

D - Mr. Ingersoll  
P - Mr. Sisco  
M - Mr. Eagleburger, Acting  
C - Mr. Sonnenfeldt

AF - Ambassador Davis  
ARA - Mr. Rogers  
EA - Mr. Habib  
EUR - Mr. Hartman  
NEA - Mr. Atherton

INR - Mr. Hyland  
S/P - Mr. Lewis, Acting  
EB - Mr. Katz, Acting  
S/PRS - Ambassador Anderson  
PM - Mr. Vest  
IO - Ambassador Buffum  
L - Mr. Leigh  
S/S - Mr. Springsteen  
S - Mr. Bremer

[Omitted here is material unrelated to Sikkim.]

  
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MR. ATHERTON: The next step in the disappearance of Sikkim has taken place. There was a plebiscite and as expected they have asked to join India as a constituent state.


SECRETARY KISSINGER: What is the Indian obsession with annexing Sikkim?

MR. ATHERSON: It is their obsession with the Himalayan frontier.

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Then why not Nepal? Is that next?

MR. ATHERTON: That would be a little more difficult. They are a member of the United Nations. In fact, I don't think they really wanted to take this last step, until the Chogyal tried to assert more authority than he had. And he made some statements at the coronation of the King of Nepal publicly, which upset the Indians. So they just finally decided that they had gone too far, and disarmed his palace guard. The Sikkim Assembly voted to request inclusion -- a plebiscite. And it will become just another Indian state. And the Chogyal will probably -- you may well get a request for him to come here since his wife is here.

SECRETARY KISSINGER: We will accept it, won't we?



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MR. ATHERTON: I think so. It has a nice esoteric complication, because his wife gave up her citizenship to marry him.

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I think the country can stand the Chogyal of Sikkim.

MR. ATHERTON: There are enough people in Congress interested in this.

*effective  
end of  
Sikkim*

[Omitted here is material unrelated to Sikkim.]

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