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Swarg Ashram
Upper Dharmsala
Kangra/H.P.

November 17, 1966.

Ref: DL/7/-1201

Your Excellency,

I write this in connection with the permanent settlement of some of my people in your country. A memorandum relating to this matter is enclosed herewith for your kind perusal.

As stated in the memorandum, it has been extremely difficult for my people to achieve complete self-sufficiency here in India purely through lack of suitable land for permanent settlement of Tibetans in spite of the fact that the Government of India has made every effort to settle the refugees, and has made great progress. However, as Your Excellency will note a large number of Tibetans, about 20,000 in all, are still only in temporary employment in road-building sites and have yet to find a stable form of livelihood. Moreover, it is very unlikely that suitable land can be found in the near future for such a large group of Tibetans enabling them to settle and achieve complete self-sufficiency. Besides, the condition of the Tibetan refugees in Nepal are far worse than those in India. On the other hand, the group of about 300 Tibetans, who immigrated to Switzerland, have been very successful in achieving economic self-support in various ways. We are further encouraged by the fact that Switzerland has generously opened her door to innumerable refugees from all over the world in the past and we hope that she will be able to accept some more Tibetan refugees.

In view of these, I am asking Your Excellency's Government to consider the possibility of immigrating the total number of one thousand Tibetans as originally planned, as a first step, and eventually to accept as



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many of our people as possible. This will greatly alleviate the poor state of conditions existing among my people in India at the present. It will also be a solution towards permanent settlement for many Tibetans who are living from day to day. Above all, it will create a firm understanding between the peoples of Switzerland and Tibet which will be remembered for many generations. The Government of India have already expressed their desire to extend their utmost cooperation for any such schemes. I, therefore, sincerely hope that Your Excellency will consider the matter favourably.

I take this opportunity to express, also, the profound gratitude of my people and myself for the sympathy and generosity of the Swiss people and Government. They have always evinced sincere interest in the problems confronted by my people and have come forth to resolve them on many occasions, in our time of need. In short, we have received special attention from Switzerland during the past seven years ever since our escape from occupied Tibet. This will be cherished for many years to come by the Tibetans.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration and esteem.

*Yours sincerely,
Lama*

THE DALAI LAMA

His Excellency Mr. Hans Schaffner
President of the Confederation
BERN

S W I T Z E R L A N D