

WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH

"We Are Independent"

ON March 11 Tibetan men and women again demonstrated, carrying black flags and shouting "We are independent. We owe allegiance only to the Dalai Lama."

A procession then proceeded to the Dalai Lama's summer residence. In response to a mass petition, the Dalai Lama agreed to cancel the dinner invitation.

Meanwhile the people, it is further stated, raided Tibetan arsenals and took away a large quantity of arms and ammunitions.

According to the same sources, a secret pact was reached between the people and Lamas to fight in the present struggle.

—*Statesman, Calcutta, March 21*

Black Flag Demonstrations

Kalimpong

FEELING was still running high on March 11 when more than 5,000 women demonstrated, carrying black flags and shouting anti-Chinese slogans. The Dalai Lama appeared again. This was his last reported public appearance.

Tibetan sources say witnesses of these demonstrations are now in India. The Indian Government says the crowd also asked the Indian Consul-General Major Chibber, to intercede for the Dalai Lama, but Maj. Chibber maintained he could not intervene.

—*Times of India Kalimpong Correspondent, March 25*

Women Demand Freedom

New Delhi

THE Chinese appeal had no effect and the next day women also came out demanding freedom for the Tibetans and hands off the Dalai Lama. The women went to the Indian Consulate-General which is near the summer palace and asked the Indian representative to accompany them to the Chinese headquarters where they wanted to make representations.

—*Political Correspondent, Statesman, March 24*

Independence Proclaimed

ON March 11, 1959, a meeting of all Tibetan Government officials was called at the palace. A

few pro-Chinese officials did not attend and a proclamation was issued in the name of the Cabinet that Tibet was independent. Among the cabinet ministers who were present were : Surkang Naushar, Gastang and Shasur. (These ministers are in India with the Dalai Lama).

Unmoved by the Revolt!

Hong Kong

While the world's press reported the Tibetan revolt, the only statement forthcoming from Peking on Tibet was a 300-word account released by the New China News Agency today about the constructive progress along the Chinghai-Tibet highway.

The Agency said that fertile farmland, ranches, new townships and factories and mines had developed along the Chinghai-Tibet highway, 4,000 metres (roughly 13,000 feet) above sea level. They were the result of the dogged efforts of road maintenance workers on this 2,100 kilometre highway from Sining to Lhasa, it said.

Chinese workers, the Agency reported, used molten snow to wash away the alkaline content of the soil and used gypsum to change its chemical content.

In addition to opening coal mines, Han workers had built salt plants on salt lakes, iron smelting furnaces and brick kilns. Tanneries had been set up to produce fur-lined clothing and leather shoes. Food processing factories had also come into being.

The Agency said that when people first arrived in Garmu, they had hardly a tent. Now the new township had a big automobile repair shop and many small plants were scattered around it.

—*Sudhakar Bhat in The Times of India March, 25*