

# THURSDAY 12 MARCH

## Monasteries Join Revolt

*New Delhi*

THOUSANDS of Tibetan women held demonstrations protesting against the Chinese authority.

By March 12 the movement had become very big. The monasteries of Drebung (population 7,700 monks), Ser (5,500) and Ganden (3,300) joined the Lhasa movement and pledged non-cooperation with the Chinese. The Samye Gampa also followed suit.

Thereafter there were daily demonstrations in Lhasa streets and mass signatures to resolutions proclaiming Tibet's desire for freedom.

The temper of the mobs worsened and a lama who was known to be keeping close contact with the Chinese was killed and his body dragged through the streets as a warning of what could happen to collaborators.

During these ominous days the Chinese kept quiet and did not retaliate. They, however, singled out one Cabinet Minister and another acting Cabinet Minister and fastened responsibility for the troubles on them.

This was perhaps the period to which Mr. Nehru referred as one of conflict of wills. On March 20 the real conflict came.

—*The Political Correspondent of the Statesman, Calcutta, March 24*

## People ask for Freedom

A MEETING was held at Shol—below the Potala, on March 12. Almost the entire population of Lhasa attended. At this meeting it was decided to prepare documents regarding the claim of independence. This meeting was almost in continuous session from 12th March to 17th March and the people gathered there were without arms.

## Appeal to the Indian Consul

*New Delhi*

.....After that a number of reports were received about the general excitement in the town, the tense situation, people holding meetings and all that. On the 14th again the Indian Consul-General at Lhasa sent a message that a crowd of 5,000 Tibetan women had come to the Consulate with the same

kind of complaints and asked the Consul-General to accompany them to the Chinese Foreign Office in Lhasa and be a witness of what they had to say. The Consul-General felt embarrassed and said he could not come. He reported to the Foreign Office "and we told him 'you are quite right'—stick to your business and do not get entangled."

—*Mr. Nehru in the Lok Sabha, on May 4*

## Tibetans Rush for Arms

*Kalimpong*

AN uneasy quiet ensued until about March 15, when fears of Chinese manoeuvring, combined with a report that a plane had landed at a nearby airfield, caused the people to rush to the Tibetan national arsenals. Fighting broke out after a few days.

—*Times of India Correspondent from Kalimpong, March 25*

## Marchers' Slogan

*Kalimpong*

This border town was given a new slogan today—"March to Delhi"—by Alo Chomde, an underground resistance leader who escaped from Tibet some months ago.

He told a 300-strong Tibetan gathering in the Town Hall here today: "Sell all your belongings and buy a ticket to Delhi. Our brothers are dying and we have no right to stick to our belongings."

It was decided at the meeting, the second in 24 hours, that each Tibetan willing to go to Delhi must buy his own passage.

A 20-man delegation representing Kalimpong and Darjeeling organisations of Tibetans, various regional areas of Tibet and all important monasteries, met the Indian Political Agent at Gangtok yesterday and returned to report their talks at the Town Hall meeting.

The Political Agent is stated to have told them that all was quiet in Lhasa until yesterday morning. He regretted, however, that he had no new information on the safety or whereabouts of the Dalai Lama.

—*Indian Express, Bombay, March 25*