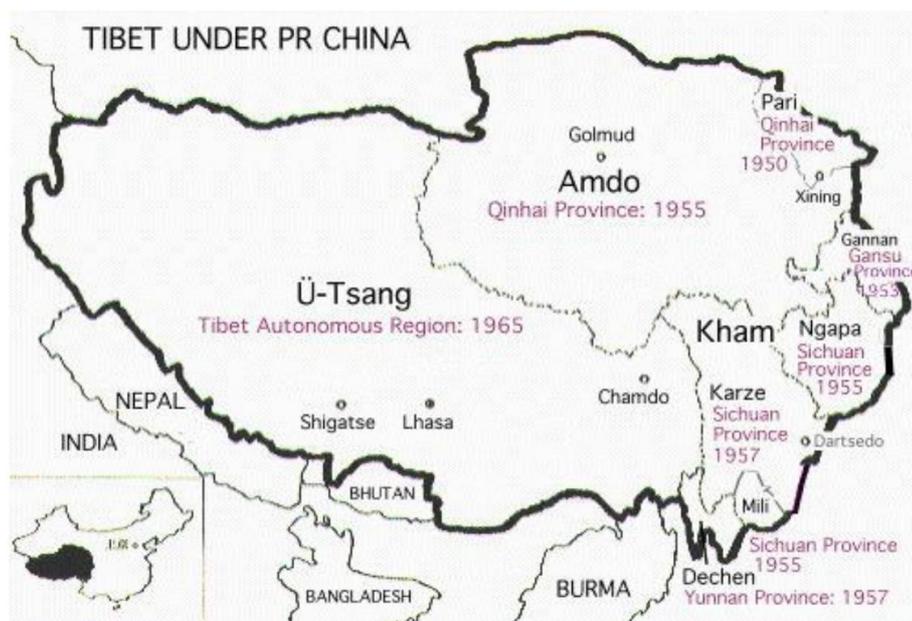
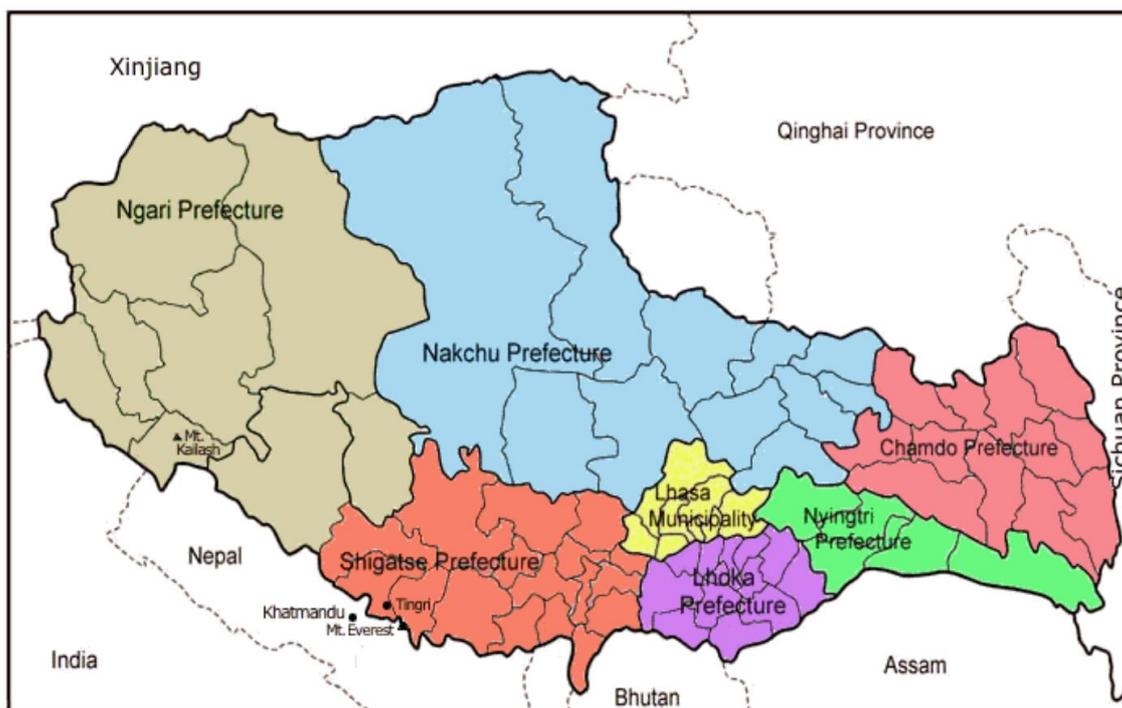




TIBET INSIGHT NEWS, 1-15 APRIL 2019



TAR NEWS

Shigatse City accelerates construction of border (Xiaokang) Villages

April 09, 2019

Shigatse Municipal Party Committee has started construction of 349 border defence villages with an investment of 2.095 billion yuan. The construction project includes sewage treatment in border towns, garbage disposal areas, communication facilities and water supply projects reportedly to ensure that “border villages are well-equipped, prosperous, and secure.”

Building of Xiaokang (well-off) villages in the Border Area was formulated by the TAR Party Committee in 2017 under its three year plan (2017-2019). Shigatse had committed to build 354 border villages, involving 29,900 households with more than 128,500 people. 70 buildings were built in 2017. 175 ‘Xiaokang’ (border) villages were built in in border areas in 2018, and 109 more are planned to be built in 2019. As part of the effort to eliminate poverty and ensure the security of people inhabiting the border areas, infrastructural plans to build water circuits, transportation facilities, water resources and communication facilities are to be completed before or by 2020.

Grassroot Party Building Campaign in Ngari

April 11, 2019

The TAR Party Committee had recently re-launched a campaign in Ngari, titled “Ngari the Western Pioneer of Tibet.” Started in 2017 with an investment of 25 million yuan per year, the campaign has since then adopted measures aimed at improving the grassroots party organization. The campaign included the following measures:

1. construction of the first border defence village in Chegang village in Rithok County;
2. construction of an “anti-terrorism” and riot prevention centre in Tsochen village;
3. to build an establishment which showcases the “achievements of the Party”;
4. mandating the majority of the people living in the border areas to own and raise the national flag and ensure that the national flag flies high on the border, and that every household must have Xi Jinping’s photo;
5. improve the standard of party members including their political discipline; and

6. to create new posts in public affairs for unemployed party members.

Lhasa Launches the "Four Speaks and Four Loves" Mass Education Practices in 2019

April 09, 2019

The annual 'Four Loves and Four Speaks' propaganda campaign started in Lhasa on the 8th April. The campaign was started two years ago by the TAR Party Committee with the objective of instilling in people the 'CCP's kindness,' 'Party's love,' and 'Party's contribution' while expecting them to 'be loyal to the party,' 'feel grateful to the Party,' 'stand united with the party' and 'ideologically be conscious of the party.'" Nearly 600 people including Party officials, Head of the Lhasa Municipal Propaganda Department, farmers and herdsmen, students, monks and nuns attended. Representatives from the departments of the Communist Youth League Committee, Municipal Women's Federation, Municipal Health Committee, Municipal Justice Bureau, Municipal Science and Technology Bureau, Municipal Religious Affairs Bureau, Municipal Agricultural and Rural Bureau participated and helped disseminate propaganda materials at the launch.

Vice-President of Inspection Committee visits Gaden Monastery

April 04, 2019

On April 4, Dorjee Tsedup Vice-President of TAR Inspection Committee, led a team to investigate Gaden Monastery and met cadres of Monastery Management Committee and monks of the monastery.

The Team assessed Tibetan cultural relics in the monastery and told the monks to protect those relics as the Tibetan cultural relics "are an important testimony to the historical development of Tibet and the TAR Party Committee has invested a large amount of manpower, material and financial resources to protect the cultural relics and initiated repair projects." The team requested the monks to "enhance their sense of responsibilities, uphold law and protect cultural relics, cooperate with renovation projects, and ensure safety from hazards."

Campaign orders Tibetan monks to 'repay' gratitude to China

April 12, 2019

Citing official Chinese media reports Radio Free Asia (RFA)'s Tibetan service disclosed that a new campaign is underway at Sera Monastery in Lhasa, which instructs its monks to strictly

obey Chinese laws and take a “stand against separatism” in keeping with the country’s ongoing ‘Sinicization-of-religion’ policy. The report cited Lhakpa Tsering, government-appointed director of the Monastery Management Committee, as having told a news conference on March 13 that “standing against separatism” should be the basis of the monks’ practice of their faith. He was quoted as saying “Monks must feel grateful to the Chinese government and show their loyalty to the nation by obeying the country’s laws.” Tsering was addressing an audience of 320 that included monks, management staff, police officers and security team members.

Tsetan Dorje, a government-appointed management official at Sera, listed a set of “20 Prohibitions” introduced in February to remind the audience to abide by the restrictions in their postings on popular media platforms such as WeChat and Weibo. He asked them to take care not to spread information or other materials that the government considered to be politically sensitive. Jampa Kelsang, Director of the monastery’s government-appointed Media and Education Committee, called on the gathering to always “repay China’s generosity” in Tibet with loyalty and love for the top leadership of the Chinese Communist Party.

Separately, China’s official Global Times earlier reported on March 26 that more than 30,000 Buddhist monks and nuns in the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) had been ‘tested’ on March 25 for their knowledge on laws and regulations, with the ostensible aim of improving their legal awareness and consciousness. In other words, analysts said, the Buddhist community was examined for its loyalty and patriotism towards the Communist Party of China and the Chinese state.

TAR Police College convened meeting to exam its past activities

April 19, 2019

On April 16, the TAR Police Officers’ College convened a meeting of its entire faculty and trainees and examined all police training activities carried out by the College since March 2019. The meeting commended and rewarded teams and individuals who had ‘worked hard.’ Four departments, the Academic Affairs Office, Students’ Affairs Office, Police Management Department and School Workers’ Office were rated as ‘excellent’ while six teachers of the college and fourteen trainees were named ‘good students.’

TAR PSB launches Information Training Course across TAR

April 16, 2019

The TAR Public Security Bureau (PSB) held an inaugural ceremony to launch a training course across TAR. The launch was attended by Zhang Hongbo, Director of TAR PSB and Deputy Secretary of TAR Legal and Political Committee and Jing Ming, Deputy Secretary of TAR PSB and TAR Inspection Committee. The training course to be implemented across TAR intends to disseminate and strengthen information on TAR Public Security and its activities. Sixty people attended the launch ceremony.

Aid Exhibition Hall opened in Nyingtri

April 2, 2019

A national level exhibition hall was inaugurated on April 2, In Nyingtri (Linzhi). The ceremony was held at Nyingtri's Lulang International Tourism Town. The construction of the hall began in June 2018 and was completed in February 2019. The hall aims to exhibit the achievement and development programmes of 17 different provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities for the last 20 years. The main purpose is to present a well-developed image of present day Tibet to the tourists. It is described as one of the largest exhibition museums on present day TAR. The People's Daily report also said in the past 20 years, the Central government has invested more the 46 billion Yuan to carry out more than 10, 000 key projects and has sent eight batches of talented cadres. This particular exhibition hall is built by the eighth batch of aid cadres from Guangdong Province to showcase of the success of aid projects in Lulang International Tourism town.

Timeline: Xi and Tibet's Development

March 28, 2019

China's recent White paper on Tibet contained 8 references to Xi Jinping and 6 references to His Holiness the Dalai Lama. The government mouthpiece Xinhua published a timeline of what Xi Jinping has actually said so far about Tibet during the six years of his tenure as Commander-in-Chief:

Just before assuming power in March 2013 a day prior to Tibetan National Uprising Day (10th March), on 9th March, at the first session of the 12th NPC, he joined the Tibetan delegation and said “To govern the country well we must first govern the frontiers well, and to govern the frontiers well we must first ensure stability in Tibet”. To meet this end, a series of border defence village are under construction for the last five years.

In his effort to push forward the western region’s development program, in August 2014 he called for improvements in THE infrastructure development of Tibet on the 60th anniversary of THE opening of the Sichuan-Lhasa and Qinghai-Lhasa railway.

In 2015, he made several comments including on the earthquake relief for the Tibetan people in the border area during the Nepal earthquake; in July he discussed the importance of economic and social development in Tibet to achieve prolonged stability in the TAR during a meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee; he delivered the keynote speech at the 6th National Symposium on the Work of Tibet in August; and again in September, at the founding anniversary of the TAR, he sent a message on ‘enhancing ethnic unity and, building a beautiful Tibet’. He made no comments in 2016.

On October 28, 2017, in a reply to a letter from the two sisters Dolkar and Yangzom, a herding family in Lhunze County, he praised them and told them to set their roots at the border area and safeguard the national territory while developing their hometown. On the 60th anniversary of the Tibet University, on October 15, 2018, in his congratulatory message, he told the university to fully implement the ‘thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era’, and the spirit of the 19th CPC National Congress, by promoting the core socialist values, and improve education quality in general.

United Front to continue with Party’s strategy of managing Tibet

April 3, 2018

The China Tibetology Research Centre republished an article by the Party’s United Front Work Department (UFWD), which says, “the strategic goals and specific tasks have properly responded to the “314 ” serious violence in 2008, and Tibet’s economic and social development has shown a brighter future” while referring to the post March 10 protest inside Tibet in 2008 -- the largest protest after the 1959 and 1989 revolts in Tibet”. The report also

says ‘we must always be confident in the party's strategy of managing Tibet, and continue to enrich, improve and develop it in practice. Practice has fully proved that our party’s theory, principles and policies on Tibet’s work are completely correct. The party’s strategy for managing Tibet is completely correct. It conforms to China’s national conditions, conforms to the reality of Tibet, conforms to the fundamental interests of the broad masses of the people of Tibet, and embodies the new era of Tibet. The basic laws of work, with rich theoretical connotations and strong practical guiding significance, not only pointed out the direction for Tibet's economic and social development and long-term stability, but also played an important role in safeguarding the motherland's reunification, consolidating the southwest frontier, and promoting national unity’.

The party’s strategy of managing Tibet, it says, was first proposed by Xi Jinping in the Tibet Work symposium, when he said ‘to adhere to the leadership of the Communist party of China, adhere to the socialist system, and uphold the system of regional ethnic autonomy. And also adhere to strategic thinking ‘to govern the nation, one must secure the border first’.

To open up a new situation in Tibet’s development in the new era, the United Front emphasised the following:

1. Adhere to the establishment of political awareness and focus on strengthening the party's leadership over Tibet's work
2. Adhere to the people-centered thinking and focus on the welfare of all ethnic groups in Tibet. The people's heart is the greatest politics.
3. Adhere to the clear-cut struggle against separatism and strive to achieve long-term stability in Tibet. Tibet's work is of special importance in the overall work of the party and the state. Tibet's national unity and social stability are of great significance to national unity and security. At present, the Dalai clique has not given up its position of splitting the motherland and has not stopped infiltrating and destroying Tibet.
4. Adhere to the new development concept and focus on promoting economic and social development. Development is the key to solving all problems in Tibet.
5. Persist in consolidating and developing the most extensive united front, and strive to gather strength for Tibet's development and progress.

Jiang Jie inspects Milin County ‘Xiaokang’ villages

April 4, 2019

Jiang Jie, a member of the Standing Committee of the Party Committee of the District and Executive Vice Chairman of the Autonomous Region, went to Linzhi City for an on-the-spot investigation on the construction of the Xiaokang Village on the border of Milin County, face-to-face exchange with grassroots cadres, to listen to Linzhi City's special report, and coordinate research related matters.

He said the “well-off village on the border is related to the stable development of the border areas, to national sovereignty and territorial integrity, to border security and border defense. It is related to getting rid of poverty and building a well-off society throughout the country by 2020”. He also stressed that Linzhi should thoroughly implement the important instructions of Xi Jinping on civil-military integration and comprehensively promote the construction of the border Xiaokang village to ensure the consolidation of the frontier, national unity, national sovereignty and territory integrity. He said it is necessary to continue to strengthen the working ideas of "solid border, stabilize the border, and rejuvenate the border" in combination with its own reality, to carry out precise poverty alleviation for the frontline people, to implement industrial construction projects according to local conditions, and to implement them safely and prudently, so that they can live in a good house and be safe and secure.

Re-educating monks and nuns on ‘Four Standard Policy’

Tibet Watch recently translated some of the recent trends of the main theme of re-education of the Tibetans where they have to know by heart and follow in their daily practices the following:

‘Four Standard’ Policy

- 1) Comply with the standard on political reliability, and strive to be advanced monks and nuns with a steady and distinctive stance.
- 2) Obey the standards on religion by creating harmony, and strive to be advanced monks and nuns for diligent study and strenuous training.
- 3) Follow the standards of moral integrity capable of obedience to public, and strive to be advanced monk and nuns for law-abiding and noble morality.
- 4) Obey the standard that work at the critical times, strive to be advanced monks and nuns for playing active role.

‘Four Speaks and Four Loves’

- 1) Speak the party’s gratitude while loving the core.
- 2) Speak unity while loving the motherland.
- 3) Speak contribution while loving home.
- 4) Speak civilization while loving life.

The Twenty Prohibitions Notification

- 1) To forbid the use of communication network tools to organize, participate, incite the subversion of the country, undermine national unity and activities related to overthrow of the socialist system.
- 2) To forbid the use of communication network tools to insult and defame others.
- 3) To forbid the use of communication network tools to organize, participate, incite religious extremism, violent terror, fraud and illegal activities.
- 4) To forbid the use of communication network tools to illegally provide undisclosed information of the state to domestic and foreign organizations, institutions and individuals.
- 5) To forbid the use of communication network tools to collect, produce, download, store, release, spread and disseminate subversive information including undermining national unity and overthrowing socialist system.
- 6) To forbid the use of communication network to collect, produce, download, store, release, spread, publicize the information of the religious extremist thoughts, violent terror and deception and fraud.
- 7) To forbid the use of communication network to provide aid and facilities, funds, places, personnel, transportation and communication network for the activities of the subversion of state power, violent terror and religious extremism.
- 8) To forbid the use of communication network tools to fabricate and disseminate the information of provoking ethnic relations, making ethnic contradictions and inciting ethnic hatred.
- 9) To forbid the use of communication network tools to organize and use superstitious cult and religious organization for example by undermining the implementation of law.
- 10) To forbid the use of communication network tools to incite violence against the implementation of law and people to be gathered and mob to disrupt the social order.
- 11) To forbid the use of communication network tools to organize and participate in illegal gathering, demonstration and marches.
- 12) To forbid the use of communication network tools to illegally accept funds from domestic and foreign organization, institution and individual.

- 13) To forbid the use of communication network tools to establish, participate in illegal organization for conducting illegal financial activities.
- 14) To forbid the use of communication network tools to fabricate and disseminate information about the false and unreal dangers, epidemics or disasters.
- 15) To forbid the use of communication network tools to operate unauthorized international networking by establishing and using illegal channel through international networking.
- 16) To forbid the use of communication network tool to illegally obtain, sell, provide, use personal and citizen's information.
- 17) To forbid the use of communication network tools to engage with hackers attacks, theft and fabricate or spread false information.
- 18) To forbid the use of communication network tools to participate, cheat citizens, to get involved in guns, ammunition, flammable, explosive goods including activities of pornography, gambling and drug crimes.
- 19) To forbid the use of communication network tool to provide technical support to illegal Internet access, server hosting, cloud storage and communication transmissions, or advertising promotion for cyber-crime activities.
- 20) To forbid the use of communication network tools to set up illegal websites, communication group (e.g Wechat groups), spreading secret information or the use of communication network tool to join such websites, communication group(s) to browse, receive and release illegal information, or the use of communication network tools to disrupt public network facilities.

DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBETAN ETHNIC AREAS OUTSIDE TAR

China plans to begin yellow river diversion project to Xilling in 2019

April 9, 2019

The Chinese government plans to initiate a massive Yellow River diversion project from Tsasumchudo to Xilling (Xining) this year. The project is being implemented under the equal regional development and overall poverty alleviation schemes. The project is planned to be completed in 8 years, or by 2026. It is described as an important part of China's western development project.

The project expands beyond Xilling and covers a total of 412 administrative units including many counties, towns and administrative units outside and surrounding Xilling. On April 9, the Qinghai Provincial government announced the project, and the Qinghai Deputy Party Committee and Governor Liu Ning said that “The yellow river diversion project is related to 53 towns and counties in Qinghai like central and eastern Xilling, Tsongkha Dzung, Tsoshar town, Tsoho etc. and 412 administrative units. The project budget is 374 billion Yuan.” In the meeting, he also said that ‘it is a project initiated by the Central authority for the China’s western development model and it also for the ecological conservation and poverty alleviation’. This was initially decided in 2017 and the actual project will begin this year. The mechanism of how they are going to divert the river, was not discussed.

Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang responds on His Holiness Reincarnation

April 10, 2019

At the regular press conference of the Chinese Foreign Ministry on April 10, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lu Kang responded to a question “The Dalai Lama has been admitted to hospital with a lung infection. What's the Foreign Ministry's comment on this? Does China have a plan to appoint a successor to the Dalai Lama in China?” Lu Kang denied any knowledge of his physical condition. He said, “We are not aware of what you said about the physical condition of the 14th Dalai Lama. Second, in China's history, clear rules have been established concerning the reincarnation of the living Buddha. Reincarnation of living Buddhas, as a unique institution of inheritance in Tibetan Buddhism, comes with a set range of rituals and conventions. The Chinese government implements the policy of freedom of religious belief. The reincarnation system is respected and protected by such legal instruments as Regulations on Religious Affairs and Measures on the Management of the Reincarnation of Living Buddhas” (a reference to the document issued by the State Religious Affairs Regulations in 2007).

He further said that the institution of reincarnation of the Dalai Lama has been in existence for several hundred years. The 14th Dalai Lama himself was found and recognized following religious rituals and historical conventions and his succession was approved by the then central government. Therefore reincarnation of living Buddhas including the Dalai Lama

must comply with Chinese laws and regulations and follow religious rituals and historical conventions. He clearly indicated China's plan to decide on Dalai Lama's reincarnation despite whatever he may decide on his reincarnation and his institution.

Urgent improvement in Tibetan standards, Qinghai

April 3, 2019

According to a circular issued by the Chentsa Dzung Advisory Committee, the schools under the county were told to urgently improve the quality of general conduct, teaching and particularly the standard of the student's Tibetan language. On April 2, Chentsa County, Qinghai announced that all the primary and secondary schools in the county were not up to the standard in Tibetan language. During their inspection of the schools, they found that the standards of Tibetan language in primary and secondary schools are below average in writing, reading, grammar and handwriting. The schools were instructed to conduct extra classes in the evening and even on weekends to make quick progress and avoid graduating students who failed to meet the standards, as they will 'infest' the society without quality education. Teachers were warned of transfers or suspension if they don't make required progress or shift blame on external factors. They warned of serious consequences if they indulge in any such activities.

(Comment: Tibetans in exile have long advocated language rights in Tibet and some major protests occurred inside Tibet such as the 2010 protests in Rebkong, Chabcha and Tsolho. The Chinese government has recently increasingly trying to propagate the bilingual system in Tibetan areas outside TAR.)

EXILE TIBETAN NEWS

U.S. Congress will not accept China's Dalai Lama, says U.S. Senator Cory Gardner

April 11, 2019

Republican Senator Cory Gardner, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Asia Subcommittee, said at its meeting recently "Let me be very clear: The United States Congress will never recognize a Dalai Lama that is selected by the Chinese". He said this in

response to the Chinese government claim recently that it would decide the Dalai Lama's reincarnation.

The U.S. also issued its first report on Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act (RATA) that was signed in December 2018. The report says there is an increased restriction on American visitors and in 2018, very few were granted access and those allowed were under constant monitoring from Chinese officials. Five out of nine were denied diplomatic missions in Tibet and only one journalist was allowed on a closely monitored trip.

TWA to mark Panchen Lama's 30th Birthday with Pan India peace march

April 18, 2019

On the occasion of Panchen Lama Gedhun Choekyi Nyima's 30th birthday, the Tibetan Women's Association (TWA) announced a peace march to be carried out simultaneously in five regions across India to highlight the issue of his incarceration as a 6-year-old. TWA President Dolma Yangchen said "Turning 30 for a leader means being ready to lead now. It is both a sad and joyous occasion. We, in our hearts, pray that he is healthy and will mark his birthday." adding "although no information has been provided by China on his well-being, despite the efforts by all Tibet advocacy and human rights groups in the world." The peace march in five different zones is set to start on April 25 to reach five different destinations on different days depending on the length of the routes. Around 1,000 Tibetans have registered to participate with age group ranging from thirty to eighty.
