**06NEWDELHI3580**

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VZCZCXRO4219 OO RUEHBI RUEHCI RUEHLH RUEHPW DE RUEHNE #3580 1431227 ZNY CCCCC ZZH O 231227Z MAY 06 FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4243 INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 2180 RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 5471 RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 5486 RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 8472 RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 6153 RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 8536 RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 3352 RUEHCI/AMCONSUL CALCUTTA 4069 RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI 3984 RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI 4035 RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE 2653 RUEHBI/AMCONSUL MUMBAI 3242 RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR 3309 RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC RUEIDN/DNI WASHINGTON DC RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0880 RHMFISS/HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 3155 RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI RHMFISS/HQ USSOCOM MACDILL AFB FL RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 003580 SIPDIS SIPDIS E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/19/2016 TAGS: PGOV PREF PHUM IN BT NP SUBJECT: BHUTANESE REFUGEES ON BACKBURNER BUT NOT FORGOTTEN, SAYS MEA Classified By: PolCouns Geoff Pyatt for reasons 1.4 (B,D) [Â¶](http://www.bhutan-research.org/us-diplomatic-cables-on-bhutan/06newdelhi3580#par1) 1. (C) In light of the turmoil in Nepal, the GOI has not recently discussed the refugee situation with the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGOB), MEA Joint Secretary (North) Pankaj Saran told visiting PDAS Camp and PolCouns in a May 17 meeting. Saran indicated that he would visit Bhutan during the week of May 22-26 and the refugee situation would be on the agenda. Saran reported that other recent meetings with the Bhutanese authorities, the GOI has reiterated that if Thimphu would take back a pilot group of refugees, the international community would be ready to assist in finding a durable solution. [Â¶](http://www.bhutan-research.org/us-diplomatic-cables-on-bhutan/06newdelhi3580#par2) 2. (C) Separately, RGOB Second Secretary Karma Jurmin Thinley told us May 23 that his government has not been in contact with the new Nepalese government, but Ambassador Tshering (who is accredited to Nepal) plans to visit SIPDIS Kathmandu in the "near future." While Tshering is still waiting for clearance from Thimphu and his meeting schedule has not been made, Thinley indicated that the refugee issue would likely be discussed. [Â¶](http://www.bhutan-research.org/us-diplomatic-cables-on-bhutan/06newdelhi3580#par3) 3. (C) Comment: The change in government and unstable political situation in Nepal has diverted India's attention away from the Bhutanese refugee problem. Saran's promise to raise the issue while in Thimphu is welcome and we will follow up with the MEA when he returns. End Comment. [Â¶](http://www.bhutan-research.org/us-diplomatic-cables-on-bhutan/06newdelhi3580#par4) 4. (U) PDAS Camp cleared this cable. [Â¶](http://www.bhutan-research.org/us-diplomatic-cables-on-bhutan/06newdelhi3580#par5) 5. (U) Visit New Delhi's Classified Website: (http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/sa/newdelhi/) MULFORD