Pathfinder

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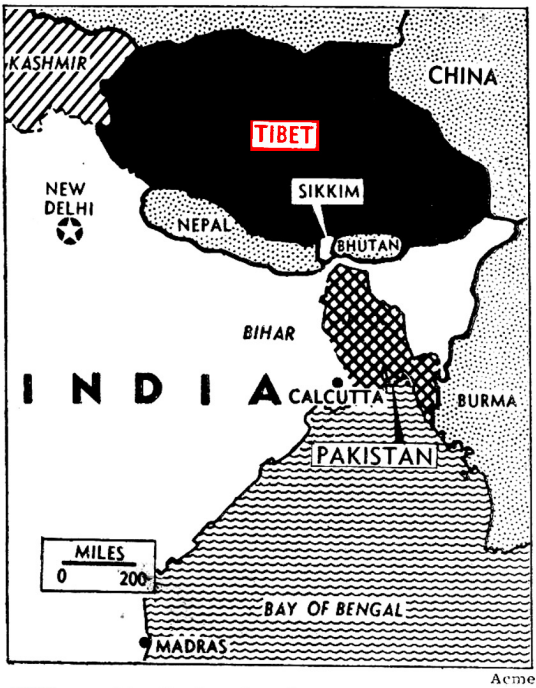
'Liberated' Tibet

Red China, in the process of absorbing another licking in Korea last week, made the most of a minor conquest. Mao Tse-tung's regime announced it had completed the "liberation"—Communist double-talk for conquest—of Tibet, ancient, backward land between China and India.

The Peking radio said Tibet had agreed to become a province of Red China and to let Mao station troops "on the rooftop of the world." The announcement came as no surprise to the West, but it caused concern in India. Last year when the Chinese Reds began their adventure, (PATHFINDER, Nov. 15) India's Prime Minister Nehru said Mao was too busy with problems at home to have any idea of taking over Tibet.

Isolation. Tibet would be a poor base for any Communist aggression against bordering India or Nepal. It has no railroads or highways and its only contact with the outside world is a trickle of trade (principally wool and yak tails) through India. It is a journey of 18 to 24 days on horseback from Lhasa, Tibet's capital, to Gangtok, capital of the Indian state of Sikkim.

But Tibet might be an ideal center



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Tibet. *To India by horseback takes 18 to 24 days.*

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