



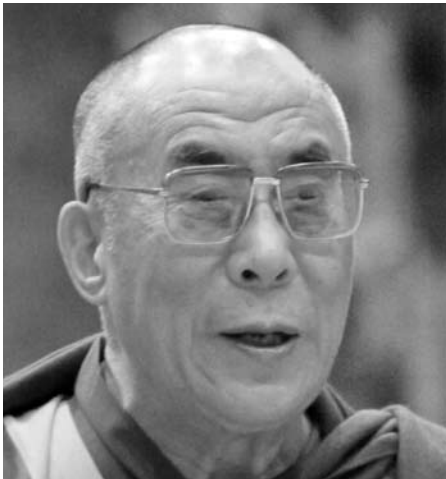
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The Statement of His Holiness the Dalai Lama on the Forty-Ninth Anniversary of the Tibetan National Uprising Day



His Holiness the Dalai Lama Photo: John Sones

On the occasion of the 49th anniversary of the Tibetan people's peaceful uprising in Lhasa on 10 March 1959, I offer my prayers and pay tribute to those brave men and women of Tibet who have endured untold hardships and sacrificed their lives for the cause of the Tibetan people and express my solidarity with those Tibetans presently undergoing repression and ill-treatment.-I also extend my-greetings to Tibetans in and outside Tibet, supporters of the Tibetan cause and-all who cherish justice.

For nearly six decades, Tibetans in the whole of Tibet known as Cholkha-Sum (U-Tsang, Kham and Amdo) have had to live in a state of constant fear, intimidation and suspicion under Chinese repression.-Nevertheless, in addition to maintaining their religious faith, a sense of nationalism and their unique culture, the Tibetan people have been able to keep alive their basic aspiration for freedom. I have great admiration for the special characteristics of the Tibetan people and their indomitable courage. I am extremely pleased and proud of them.

Many governments, non-governmental organisations and individuals across the world, because of their interest in peace and justice, have consistently supported

the cause of Tibet. Particularly during the past year, governments and peoples of many countries made important gestures that clearly expressed their support to us. I would like to express my gratitude to every one of them.

The problem of Tibet is very complicated. It is intrinsically linked with many issues: politics, the nature of society, law, human rights, religion, culture, the identity of a people, the economy and the state of the natural environment. Consequently, a comprehensive approach must be adopted to resolve this problem that takes into account the benefits to all parties involved, rather than one party alone. Therefore, we have been firm in our commitment to a mutually beneficial policy, the Middle-Way approach, and have made sincere and persistent efforts towards achieving this for many years. Since 2002, my envoys have conducted six rounds of talks with concerned officials of the People's Republic of China to discuss relevant issues. These extensive discussions have helped to clear away some of their doubts and enabled us to explain our aspirations to them. However, on the fundamental issue, there has been no concrete result at all. And during the past few years, Tibet has witnessed increased repression and brutality. In spite of these unfortunate developments, my stand and determination to pursue the Middle-Way policy and to continue our dialogue with the Chinese government remain unchanged.

A major concern of the People's Republic of China is its lack of legitimacy in Tibet. The principal way to lend weight to their position is for the Chinese government to pursue a policy that satisfies the Tibetan people and gains their confidence. If we are able to achieve reconciliation by treading a path of mutual consent, then, as I have already stated many times, I will make every effort to win the support

of the Tibetan people.

In Tibet today, due to the Chinese government's numerous actions, driven as they are by a lack of foresight, the natural environment has been severely damaged. And, as a result of their policy of population transfer the non-Tibetan population has increased many times, reducing native Tibetans to an insignificant minority in their own country. Moreover, the language, customs and traditions of Tibet, which reflect the true nature and identity of the Tibetan people are gradually fading away. As a consequence, Tibetans are increasingly being assimilated into the larger Chinese population. In Tibet, repression continues to increase with numerous, unimaginable and gross violations of human rights, denial of religious freedom and the politicisation of religious issues. All these take place as a result of the Chinese government's lack of respect for the Tibetan people. These are major obstacles the Chinese government deliberately puts in the way of its policy of unifying nationalities

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Tibet News

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which discriminate between the Tibetan and Chinese peoples. Therefore, I urge the Chinese government to bring an immediate halt to such policies.

Although the areas inhabited by Tibetan people are referred to by such different names as autonomous region, autonomous prefectures and autonomous counties, they are autonomous in name only; they actually have no real autonomy. Instead, they are governed by people who are oblivious of the regional situation, and driven by what Mao Zedong called "Han chauvinism". As a result, this so-called autonomy has not brought the concerned nationalities any tangible benefit. Disingenuous policies that are not in tune with reality are causing enormous harm not only to the respective nationalities, but also to the unity and stability of the Chinese nation. It is important for the Chinese government, as advised by Deng Xiaoping, to "seek truth from facts" in the real sense of the term.

The Chinese government severely criticises me when I raise questions about the welfare of the Tibetan people before the international community. Until we reach a mutually beneficial solution, I have a historical and moral responsibility to continue to speak out freely on their behalf. However, it is common knowledge that I have been in semi-retirement since the political leadership of the Tibetan Diaspora has been directly elected by the general Tibetan populace.

China is emerging as a powerful country due to her great economic progress. This is to be welcomed, but it has also provided China an opportunity to play an important role on the global stage. The world is eagerly waiting to see how the present Chinese leadership will put into effect its avowed concepts of "harmonious society" and "peaceful rise". For the realisation of these concepts, economic progress alone will not suffice. There must be improvements in observance of the rule of law, transparency, and right to information, as well as freedom of speech. Since China is a country of many nationalities, they must all be given equality and freedom to protect their respective unique identities if the country is to remain stable.

On 6 March 2008, President Hu Jintao stated: "The stability in Tibet concerns the stability of the country, and the safety in Tibet concerns the safety of the country." He added that the Chinese

leadership must ensure the well-being of Tibetans, improve the work related to religions and ethnic groups, and maintain social harmony and stability. President Hu's statement conforms to reality and we look forward to its implementation.

This year, the Chinese people are proudly and eagerly awaiting the opening of the Olympic Games. I have, from the very beginning, supported the idea that China should be granted the opportunity to host the Olympic Games. Since such international sporting events, and especially the Olympics, uphold the principles of freedom of speech, freedom of expression, equality and friendship, China should prove herself a good host by providing these freedoms. Therefore, besides sending their athletes, the international community should remind the Chinese government of these issues. I have come to know that many parliaments, individuals and non-governmental organisations around the globe are undertaking a number of activities in view of the opportunity that exists for China to make a positive change. I admire their sincerity. I would like to state emphatically that it will be very important to observe the period following the conclusion of the Games. The Olympic Games no doubt will greatly impact the minds of the Chinese people. The world should, therefore, explore ways of investing their collective energies in producing a continuous positive change inside China even after the Olympics have come to an end.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my pride in and appreciation for the sincerity, courage and determination of the Tibetan people inside Tibet. I urge them to continue to work peacefully and within the law to ensure that all the minority nationalities of the People's Republic of China, including the Tibetan people, enjoy their legitimate rights and benefits.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Government and people of India, in particular, for their continuing and unparalleled support for Tibetan refugees and the cause of Tibet, as well as express my gratitude to all those governments and peoples for their continued concern for the Tibetan cause.

With my prayers for the well-being of all sentient beings.

The Dalai Lama, 10 March 2008

The Statement of the Kashag on the Forty-Ninth Anniversary of the Tibetan National Uprising Day

Today, 10 March 2008, is the 49th anniversary of the Tibetan people's peaceful uprising for their freedom. On this occasion, the Kashag pays its tribute to those heroic men and women of Tibet who have sacrificed their lives for the cause of the Tibetan people, as well as express our solidarity with those Tibetans who are presently suffering under Chinese repression. The Kashag also extends its greetings to all the Tibetans in and outside Tibet

In the previous 10 March statement of the 13th Kashag, we have dwelled, among other things, on the status of the Tibetan people, the structure of the exile Tibetan administration, plans to sustain the Tibetan struggle should it drag on for a long time, the role of Tibetans in and outside Tibet and on the status of the Sino-Tibetan dialogue. While reiterating all these points, the Kashag would like to express its appreciation for those Tibetans who have, in the recent period, undertaken numerous activities in Tibet — activities that are both peaceful and law-abiding — with sincerity and courage for the benefit and the protection of the Tibetan religion and culture. All Tibetans — be it monks, lay people, young or elderly and particularly the majority of the communist party cadres and civil servants in Tibet — who are always in a state of great fear, intimidation and suspicion have been able to keep alive, with great courage, the Tibetan spirit and their ultimate hope for the resolution of the Tibetan issue. While acknowledging and appreciating this remarkable quality, the Kashag as well as the entire exile Tibetan community firmly believe that this Tibetan spirit will continue to remain so in the future as well.

Similarly last year, many governments and countries across the world — who have great faith in His Holiness the Dalai Lama and who are concerned about the issue of Tibet — have carried out a number of activities which reflected their support to us Tibetans. The Kashag, on behalf of all the Tibetans in and outside Tibet, would like to express heartfelt thanks to all of them.

The mutually beneficial Middle-Way Approach, which is envisioned

by His Holiness the Dalai Lama, has been framed into a policy with the support of the great majority Tibetans in and outside Tibet. This was further unanimously supported by the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile. On the basis of this policy, dialogue with the Chinese government is on going. Subsequently six rounds of talks have been conducted since 2002. These talks have been helpful to us in clarifying our respective positions. These talks have also benefited the international community and Tibetans in Tibet. However, no concrete results have been achieved on the fundamental issue of Tibet. Moreover there is, today, a heightened repression in Tibet and stepped up vilification campaign against His Holiness the Dalai Lama. We are extremely disappointed by these unfortunate developments.

In the course of these exchanges, we have categorically stated to the Chinese government that we do not have any hidden agenda, or issues other than the basic demand that they should implement the conditions for National Regional Autonomy as set forth in the constitution of the People's Republic of China by granting a meaningful self-rule for all Tibetans under a single administration. We have also made it very clear that this demand is in line with the legitimate rights of all the minority nationalities. Based on the present reality, this demand is only a means to accomplish the aspiration of both Tibet and China; it is not something that is based on the past history of Tibet.

History is a set of records of past happenings that cannot be amended. However, no independent countries or autonomous regions have remained in the same status as in the past. There is also no reason to remain so. For example, the current scope of the sovereign power and territorial boundary of the People's Republic of China is something that never happened in its history spanning some centuries prior to 1949. Insisting on history to decide the prospects of the future is simply indulging in a blame game, or finding excuses. It is not at all in tune with the reality. Since we are not stubbornly clinging to the idea

that the future of the Tibetan people should be based only on our version of history, the gap in the Tibetan and Chinese viewpoints on this issue is not unbridgeable.

Since the status of National Regional Autonomy is a condition by which the individual minority nationalities are benefited, it should be uniformly granted to all Tibetans. There is no reason for scattering them. There is also no need to follow a historical basis on this matter. In a nutshell, if the future of the Tibetan people were to be decided on the basis of its past history, then there is no way that the Middle-Way policy can be adhered to.

The problem of Tibet is neither related to the personal issue of His Holiness the Dalai Lama nor concerned with the benefit of the Tibetans in exile alone. This is universally known. Currently the situation of the Tibetan people inside Tibet is not at all satisfactory. Anybody can see this. Therefore, for the happiness of all Tibetans and for the preservation of their national identity, language, customs, culture and the traditional sciences, His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the organisational set-up of the Tibetan Diaspora — both based in a free country — have the responsibility to act as the spokespersons of the Tibetans in and outside Tibet. To do so is, in fact, their historical responsibility. Due to the reasons cited above, although there may not exist an issue of Tibet's sovereignty, both the Tibetan and Chinese sides have to accept the truth about the existence of the main issue concerning the welfare of the Tibetan people.

Since the restoration of direct contact with the Chinese government in 2002, no positive change has taken place in Tibet. Moreover the Chinese authorities have taken, and are continuing to take, many actions that can be described as inhuman behaviour. Beside the fact that there has been a heightened repression and brutality in Tibet since 2006, baseless accusations are being hurled against His Holiness the Dalai Lama. The innocent Tibetans in general, and particularly the monks and nuns are exposed to unlimited restrictions and harassment under the pretext of "patriotic re-education". In

spite of being an atheist state, the Chinese government interferes in the religious affairs by issuing a decree on the recognition of Trulkus. It also uses a section of the Dholgyal propitiators as a tool to separate the Tibetan people. And those who express their honest views in a non-violent and peaceful manner are beaten and incarcerated. These actions are the true behaviour of separatists that uproots the co-operation between the Tibetan and Chinese peoples. Harmony and unity should be created through mutual trust by unifying the minds. There is no historical precedence that a unity enforced through repression has sustained. Neither will it be sustained in the future. The recent developments in Tibet have greatly harmed the environment of the Sino-Tibetan dialogue. The Chinese government's assertion that it attaches importance to the current process of dialogue also appears to be nothing more than empty talk. Consequently, it has made it more difficult for the exile Tibetan administration to guide the Tibetans in and outside Tibet to abide by the Middle-Way policy.

So far the Chinese government has not given a definite response to the demands put across by the envoys of His Holiness the Dalai Lama during the sixth round of talks. Therefore, it is doubtful whether the Chinese side is really willing to resolve the current problems of Tibet. However, the Kashag will not change the current policy of the Middle-Way Approach, irrespective of whether the dialogue with the present leadership of the People's Republic of China will lead to any solution on the issue of Tibet or not. We are firmly committed to the continuance of the

ongoing dialogue process with the Chinese government.

Employing numerous channels, the different agencies of the Chinese government have been sending various signals and gestures to us. However, unless we receive a clear and unambiguous message through a recognised official channel, there is no way that we can respond to these signals and gestures.

Following the objections raised by many highly-realised and recognised spiritual masters of the earlier period — including the Great Fifth Dalai Lama, Trichen Ngawang Chokden, Changkya Rolpai Dorjee, the Thirteenth Dalai Lama, etc., — His Holiness has very kindly advised us against the propitiation of the Dholgyal on numerous occasions. However few monastic institutions of the Gelug tradition have still not clarified their positions on this issue, as a result of which the propitiators and non-propitiators of Dholgyal live together under the same roof. A broad section of the enlightened monks has, therefore, expressed their views through a number of campaign activities that this matter must be resolved once and for all. As such, during his recent visit to Mundgod, South India, His Holiness the Dalai Lama has suggested to the Gelug monastic institutions that for the future convenience of all concerned a referendum among the monks be conducted. The responsible authorities of the monastic institutions have unanimously supported this idea and a referendum was conducted by relying on the Buddhist Vinaya system of voting by administering Tsul-shings (Sangha voting sticks). Subsequently, most of the Gelug monastic institutions, including the three Great Monastic Seats, have

disassociated themselves completely from the Dholgyal propitiators. While expressing our appreciation for this, the Kashag would like to urge the monastic world that they should not be negligent on this matter in the future as well. There is, still, a tiny number of monks who are not able to stop the propitiation of Dholgyal. Since they cannot live within the compounds of the Great Monastic Seats, they should move out to make a separate living elsewhere. Towards this end, the Central Tibetan Administration will provide them necessary assistance as we provide to all other Tibetans.

The Kashag would like to express its heartfelt thank you to the government and people of India for providing unmatched assistance and shelter to all the Tibetan exiles over the last almost fifty years. The Kashag would like to urge that, as a way of expressing our gratitude, the Tibetan exiles should contribute to, and assist in, the religious and cultural spheres of the host country as much as they can. Similarly, the Kashag would like to take this opportunity to express its gratitude to the justice and peace-loving governments and peoples across the world for supporting the issue of Tibet.

Finally, the Kashag prays for the long life of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the immediate resolution of the issue of Tibet. The Kashag also prays that the day may dawn soon, when the Tibetans in and outside Tibet will join in a celebration of their re-unification.

The Kashag, 10 March 2008

His Holiness' Message to East Timorese President

Dharamshala: His Holiness the Dalai Lama has sent a message to Dr. Jose Ramos-Horta President of Democratic Republic of Timor, who was injured in an assassination attempt, outside his Dili home on 11 February.

His Holiness, in his email message on 11 February, said: "I am sorry to learn that you have been injured in an attack earlier this morning. I hope that you recover fully and swiftly so that you

may resume your duties as soon as possible."

According to media reports President Ramos-Horta is undergoing medical treatment in a hospital in Darwin, northern Australia.

President Ramos-Horta, 58, won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1996 for his struggle for East Timor's independence from Indonesia.



His Holiness expresses deep concern over tense situation in Tibet

Dharamshala: His Holiness the Dalai Lama said: "I am deeply concerned over the situation that has been developing in Tibet following peaceful protests in many parts of Tibet, including Lhasa, in recent days."

His Holiness stated "These protests are a manifestation of the deep-rooted

resentment of the Tibetan people under the present governance."

As I have always said, unity and stability under brute force is at best a temporary solution. It is unrealistic to expect unity and stability under such a rule and would therefore not be conducive to finding a peaceful and

lasting solution.

His Holiness said: "I therefore appeal to the Chinese leadership to stop using force and address the long-simmering resentment of the Tibetan people through dialogue with the Tibetan people. I also urge my fellow Tibetans not to resort to violence."

An Appeal to the Chinese People from His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama

Today, I extend heartfelt greetings to my Chinese brothers and sisters round the world, particularly to those in the People's Republic of China. In the light of the recent developments in Tibet, I would like to share with you my thoughts concerning relations between the Tibetan and Chinese peoples, and to make a personal appeal to you all.

I am deeply saddened by the loss of life in the recent tragic events in Tibet. I am aware that some Chinese have also died. I feel for the victims and their families and pray for them. The recent unrest has clearly demonstrated the gravity of the situation in Tibet and the urgent need to seek a peaceful and mutually beneficial solution through dialogue. Even at this juncture I have expressed my willingness to the Chinese authorities to work together to bring about peace and stability.

Chinese brothers and sisters, I assure you I have no desire to seek Tibet's separation. Nor do I have any wish to drive a wedge between the Tibetan and Chinese peoples. On the contrary my commitment has always been to find a genuine solution to the problem of Tibet that ensures the long-term interests of both Chinese and Tibetans. My primary concern, as I have repeated time and again, is to ensure the survival of the Tibetan people's distinctive culture, language and identity. As a simple monk who strives to live his daily life according to Buddhist precepts, I assure you of the sincerity of my motivation.

I have appealed to the leadership of the PRC to clearly understand my position and work to resolve these problems by "seeking truth from facts." I urge the Chinese leadership to exercise wisdom and to initiate a meaningful dialogue with the Tibetan people. I also appeal

to them to make sincere efforts to contribute to the stability and harmony of the PRC and avoid creating rifts between the nationalities. The state media's portrayal of the recent events in Tibet, using deceit and distorted images, could sow the seeds of racial tension with unpredictable long-term consequences. This is of grave concern to me. Similarly, despite my repeated support for the Beijing Olympics, the Chinese authorities, with the intention of creating rift between the Chinese people and myself, assert that I am trying to sabotage the games. I am encouraged, however, that several Chinese intellectuals and scholars have also expressed their strong concern about the Chinese leadership's actions and the potential for adverse long-term consequences, particularly on relations among different nationalities.

Since ancient times, Tibetan and Chinese peoples have lived as neighbors. In the two thousand year-old recorded history of our peoples, we have at times developed friendly relations, even entering into matrimonial alliances, while at other times we fought each other. However, since Buddhism flourished in China first before it arrived in Tibet from India, we Tibetans have historically accorded the Chinese people the respect and affection due to elder Dharma brothers and sisters. This is something well known to members of the Chinese community living outside China, some of whom have attended my Buddhist lectures, as well as pilgrims from mainland China, whom I have had the privilege to meet. I take heart from these meetings and feel they may contribute to a better understanding between our two peoples.

The twentieth century witnessed

enormous changes in many parts of the world and Tibet, too, was caught up in this turbulence. Soon after the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, the People's Liberation Army entered Tibet finally resulting in the 17-Point Agreement concluded between China and Tibet in May 1951. When I was in Beijing in 1954-55, attending the National People's Congress, I had the opportunity to meet and develop a personal friendship with many senior leaders, including Chairman Mao himself. In fact, Chairman Mao gave me advice on numerous issues, as well as personal assurances with regard to the future of Tibet. Encouraged by these assurances, and inspired by the dedication of many of China's revolutionary leaders of the time, I returned to Tibet full of confidence and optimism. Some Tibetan members of the Communist Party also had such a hope. After my return to Lhasa, I made every possible effort to seek genuine autonomy for Tibet within the family of the People's Republic of China (PRC). I believed that this would best serve the long-term interests of both the Tibetan and Chinese peoples.

Unfortunately, tensions, which began to escalate in Tibet from around 1956, eventually led to the peaceful uprising of March 10, 1959, in Lhasa and my eventual escape into exile. Although many positive developments have taken place in Tibet under the PRC's rule, these developments, as the previous Panchen Lama pointed out in January 1989, were overshadowed by immense suffering and extensive destruction. Tibetans were compelled to live in a state of constant fear, while the Chinese government remained suspicious of them. However, instead of cultivating

enmity towards the Chinese leaders responsible for the ruthless suppression of the Tibetan people, I prayed for them to become friends, which I expressed in the following lines in a prayer I composed in 1960, a year after I arrived in India: "May they attain the wisdom eye discerning right and wrong, And may they abide in the glory of friendship and love." Many Tibetans, school children among them, recite these lines in their daily prayers.

In 1974, following serious discussions with my Kashag (cabinet), as well as the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the then Assembly of the Tibetan People's Deputies, we decided to find a Middle Way that would seek not to separate Tibet from China, but would facilitate the peaceful development of Tibet. Although we had no contact at the time with the PRC - which was in the midst of the Cultural Revolution - we had already recognized that sooner or later, we would have to resolve the question of Tibet through negotiations. We also acknowledged that, at least with regard to modernization and economic development, it would greatly benefit Tibet if it remained within the PRC. Although Tibet has a rich and ancient cultural heritage, it is materially undeveloped.

Situated on the roof of the world, Tibet is the source of many of Asia's major rivers, therefore, protection of the environment on the Tibetan plateau is of supreme importance. Since our utmost concern is to safeguard Tibetan Buddhist culture - rooted as it is in the values of universal compassion - as well as the Tibetan language and the unique Tibetan identity, we have worked whole-heartedly towards achieving meaningful self-rule for all Tibetans. The PRC's constitution provides the right for nationalities such as the Tibetans to do this.



Monks from Qinghai peacefully demonstrate

In 1979, the then Chinese paramount leader, Deng Xiaoping assured my personal emissary that "except for the independence of Tibet, all other questions can be negotiated." Since we had already formulated our approach to seeking a solution to the Tibetan issue within the constitution of the PRC, we found ourselves well placed to respond to this new opportunity. My representatives met many times with officials of the PRC. Since renewing our contacts in 2002, we have had six rounds of talks. However, on the fundamental issue, there has been no concrete result at all. Nevertheless, as I have declared many times, I remain firmly committed to the Middle Way approach and reiterate here my willingness to continue to pursue the process of dialogue.

This year the Chinese people are proudly and eagerly awaiting the opening of the Olympic Games. I have, from the start, supported Beijing's being awarded the opportunity to host the Games. My position remains unchanged. China has the world's largest population, a long history and an extremely rich civilization. Today, due to her impressive economic progress, she is emerging as a great power. This is certainly to be welcomed. But China also needs to earn the respect and esteem of the global community through the establishment of an open and harmonious society based on the principles of transparency, freedom, and the rule of law. For example, to this day victims of the Tiananmen Square tragedy that adversely affected the lives of so many Chinese citizens have received neither just redress nor any official response. Similarly, when thousands of ordinary Chinese in rural areas suffer injustice at the hands of exploitative and corrupt local officials, their legitimate complaints are either ignored or met with aggression. I express these concerns both as a fellow human



Tibetan University students peacefully demonstrate

being and as someone who is prepared to consider himself a member of the large family that is the People's Republic of China. In this respect, I appreciate and support President Hu Jintao's policy of creating a "harmonious society", but this can only arise on the basis of mutual trust and an atmosphere of freedom, including freedom of speech and the rule of law. I strongly believe that if these values are embraced, many important problems relating to minority nationalities can be resolved, such as the issue of Tibet, as well as Eastern Turkistan, and Inner Mongolia, where the native people now constitute only 20% of a total population of 24 million.

I had hoped President Hu Jintao's recent statement that the stability and safety of Tibet concerns the stability and safety of the country might herald the dawning of a new era for the resolution of the problem of Tibet. It is unfortunate that despite my sincere efforts not to separate Tibet from China, the leaders of the PRC continue to accuse me of being a "separatist". Similarly, when Tibetans in Lhasa and many other areas spontaneously protested to express their deep-rooted resentment, the Chinese authorities immediately accused me of having orchestrated their demonstrations. I have called for a thorough investigation by a respected body to look into this allegation.

Chinese brothers and sisters - wherever you may be - with deep concern I appeal to you to help dispel the misunderstandings between our two communities. Moreover, I appeal to you to help us find a peaceful, lasting solution to the problem of Tibet through dialogue in the spirit of understanding and accommodation.

With my prayers, Dalai Lama, March 28, 2008

Note: translated from the Tibetan original



Scene from March 10 protest in Lhasa

Dharamsala Refutes Charges of Being Involved in Lhasa Protests - Calls for Investigation

The state-controlled mouthpiece of the Communist Party of China, Xinhua News Agency, ran a story yesterday March 30 on the "involvement of the Tibetan Government in exile and the Dalai Lama in the recent demonstrations in Lhasa and other parts of Tibet." The article, which was purportedly written by Yedor (Ch: Yi duo), accused His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Department of Security of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) for stirring up violence and disturbance in Tibet.

The Central Tibetan Administration strongly refutes the charges. These charges are concocted and premeditated with no inkling of a truth in it. China has since the beginning of the incident in Lhasa on March 10 started to blame it on His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the CTA, without any conclusive proof, and this article is the same. Therefore, His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Central Tibetan Administration has from the very beginning urged for an immediate and independent inquiry into the Tibetan demonstrations from an international organization. Central Tibetan Administration repeats its request for an independent inquiry to ascertain the truth.

Chinese intellectuals urge China to rethink of Tibet Policy

Dharamshala: A group of Chinese intellectual in China had publicly urged the country's leaders to rethink of Tibet Policy, in a petition entitled 'Twelve Suggestion for Dealing with the Tibetan Situation' released on 22 March 2008, reported International Campaign for Free Tibet.

The leading intellectuals point out that the recent demonstrations by Tibetans since 10 March 2008 have spread across Tibet. This deterioration indicates that there are serious mistakes in the work that has been done with regard to Tibet. The relevant government departments must conscientiously reflect upon this matter, examine their failures, and fundamentally change the failed nationality policies. The petition further states that the language used by the Chinese government to describe His Holiness the Dalai Lama is not "in keeping with the situation, nor is it beneficial to the Chinese government's image," saying: "As the Chinese government is committed to integrating into the international community, we maintain that it should display a style of governing that conforms to the standards of modern civilization."

"The one-sided propoganda of the official Chinese media is having the effect of stirring up inter-ethnic animosity and aggravating an already tense situation," the group said.

The letter strongly urge the Chinese government to "stop the violent suppression" in Tibet, and appeals to the Tibetan people likewise not to engage in violent activities. They called the Chinese government to engage a dialogue with His Holiness the Dalai Lama to resolve the issue of Tibet.

Situation in Tibet is a challenge to the 'conscience of the world'

Dharamshala: The Tibetans in Dharamshala yesterday, despite in somber mood of the urgent situation inside Tibet, gave a warm welcome to the Speaker of the US house of Representative Nancy Pelosi and prominent delegations of the US congress, who appealed Chinese leadership to hold negotiation with His Holiness the Dalai Lama to resolve the issue of Tibet.

Expressing appreciation for the warm welcome extended by the Tibetans, Speaker Pelosi said, "It is our destiny, that we are here with you at this difficult time to help the people of Tibet."

Speaker Pelosi underlined that the "situation in Tibet is a challenge to the conscience of the world" and the world should know what is happening inside Tibet.

Demonstration in Indonesia

In Jakarta, The Indonesian Society For A Free Tibet, an alliance comprising of various non-governmental organizations and concerned citizens, staged a solidarity action in front of the Chinese Embassy in Mega Kuningan with various orations, inter-faith prayers, performances and theatrical plays, ending with the delivery of an open letter to Hu Jintao which was read earlier.

"Carrying the Olympic Torch through Tibet would be a callous provocation to Tibetans who have already risked their lives in recent days to show the world that China's policies in Tibet cannot be borne," said Enrico Soekarno. "The events of the last few weeks prove that China's attempts to assimilate Tibetan hearts and minds have failed, and the Tibetan spirit remains unbroken."

More pictures from Tibet



This Amdo Ngapa man was killed by Chinese forces



Chinese military in Lhasa



Aftermath of March 10 demonstrations

Media Release from Australian Foreign Minister

20 March 2008

Continuing Violence in Tibet

The Australian Government remains deeply concerned about Tibet and neighbouring areas and continues to monitor the situation closely.

The Government is particularly concerned by reports of violence extending into neighbouring provinces. I reiterate calls for calm and restraint by all parties, and for the unrest to end quickly and without further casualties. It would be a tragedy for all sides if this situation were to deteriorate even further.

The Australian Government believe it is in China's own interests to resolve the situation peacefully and constructively. Dialogue is the way ahead. Constructive and meaningful talks must take place as a matter of priority.

The Australian Government has expressed our continuing concerns at the situation in Tibet directly to Chinese officials in Beijing and Canberra. This has been in addition to the public remarks made by myself and the Prime Minister.

I have instructed officials in Beijing to again speak with Chinese officials to urge restraint, and to seek further clarification of events in Lhasa and

other Tibetan areas.

I urge the Chinese Government to respect the human rights of detainees.

The Australian Government has urged China to allow free access to Tibet and other affected areas so the international community and foreign media may gain an accurate understanding of what is occurring there.

Australian Senate & NZ Parliament Passes Resolution on Tibet

Monday, 17 March 2008

The Tibet Information Office and Australia Tibet Council welcomes the motion passed on Monday by the Australian Senate calling on China to respect human rights as it deals with protests in Tibet.

Government Support for Green's Motion

Greens Senator Bob Brown moved the motion which urged the Government to pressure China to insist that rights are protected and not to deny the media access to hotspots.

The Government supported his motion and the Special Minister of State, John Faulkner, called on China to do more.

"We do believe... that an open and transparent approach to human rights issues would greatly assist China strengthen its standing in the international

arena," Senator Faulkner said.

Democrats Senator Andrew Bartlett also backed the motion, but his criticism of China was much stronger. "This is a totalitarian regime that practices serious repression and oppression on its own people and supports serious repression and oppression in many other countries around the world," he said.

"Its not alone in that but it is certainly up there as one of the most serious."

Text of Senator Brown's Motion:

"That, in the opinion of the Senate, the following is a matter of urgency:

The bloodshed in Tibet and the need for strong, decisive action by the government to insist that international laws and norms, including those safeguarding human and political rights and media access are observed by China."

Helen Clark, New Zealand Prime Minister

We want to see an end to the violence. We have long urged China to engage in meaningful dialogue with representatives of the Tibetan people, as we think this is the best way to achieve a lasting resolution of problems in Tibet.

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