



Bay Area Friends of Tibet

N E W S L E T T E R

Spring 1994 • Volume 5, Number 2

Dalai Lama Captivates Thousands in the Bay Area

By Elizabeth Tam

A smiling Buddhist monk dressed in maroon and saffron robes walked into the Hearst Greek Theater at UC Berkeley on the sun-baked Wednesday afternoon of April 20. His philosophy is simple: practice kindness and compassion. Escorted by representatives of the Tibetan community, the president of the Graduate Theological Union, the UC Berkeley chancellor, the mayor of Berkeley, and the Secret Service, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama was welcomed by 8,000 people and drew many standing ovations from the capacity crowd throughout his appearance.

In commemoration of his tireless dedication to nonviolence and religious tolerance, chancellor Chang-Lin Tien presented the Dalai Lama with the Berkeley Medal, the University's highest honor. Berkeley's newly elected mayor Jeffrey Leiter declared April 20 "Tibetan Heritage Day" in Berkeley. The Dalai Lama returned the gestures of respect by presenting each of the men with a kata — a white scarf signifying a blessing and good luck.

Dance Greets Dalai Lama

After a beautiful performance by immigrant Tibetan folk dancers and introductory greetings by the hosts, the exiled Buddhist leader of Tibet and winner of the 1989 Nobel Peace Prize gave a public talk on "Human Rights and Moral Practice." The address was sponsored by the Graduate Theological Union and UC Berkeley. Local Tibet support groups that helped organize the event included: Bay Area Friends of Tibet, American Himalayan Foundation, International Committee of Lawyers for Tibet, and Tibetan Association of Northern California.

"Human compassion is the most important factor," the Dalai Lama said. "Moral practice and religion tie together. Basic human good nature and affection is the basis of morality... When cultural practices come into conflict with democratic ideals it reflects the backwardness of these customs and cultural practices; these need to be modified, not democratic and human rights."

Other topics of his talk included the international arms trade, overpopulation, birth

global level, we must all think coherently, not as individual nations alone."

Northern California was the Dalai Lama's second stop in a two-week, tour across the US. His other stops along his tour included teachings, public talks, and symposiums in Hawaii, Michigan, Kentucky, and New York.

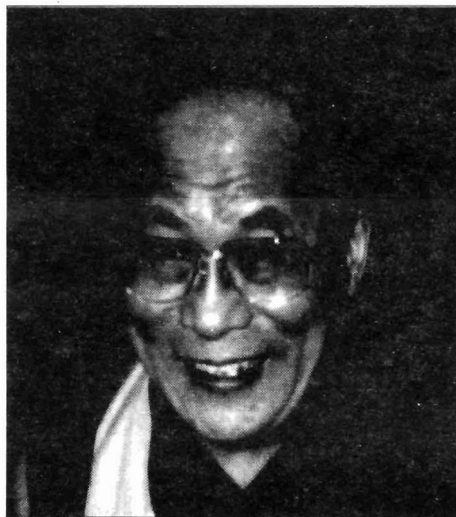


Photo by Elizabeth Tam

The Dalai Lama at his Stanford appearance.

control, and animal rights activism. "I am a simple Buddhist monk, no more, no less," said the Dalai Lama. He concluded, "If you feel my talk is irrelevant, then just forget it — no need to worry about it." Throughout his 45-minute speech, the Dalai Lama treated the audience with a mixture of seriousness and down-to-earth humor. His warmth and directness touched everyone in the amphitheater.

On April 18, His Holiness appeared at Stanford University and participated in a symposium on science and religion with a group of Stanford professors. He also gave a public talk, entitled "The Global Community and the Need for Universal Responsibility," to 1,400 members of the Stanford community at Memorial Church on April 19.

At Stanford, the Dalai Lama said, "At the

China Does Not Deserve MFN Trade Status

By Kunzang Yuthok

Most favored nation (MFN) trade status is supposed to be a tool that uses the United States' tremendous economic leverage to encourage democracy and discourage dictatorship. Unfortunately, U.S. workers, as well as the Tibetans and the Chinese, have had to watch the U.S. business establishment hijack MFN and replace it with a profitable trickle-down theory of human rights that has not worked.

It is time to change our policy of granting MFN on a yearly basis — not by granting it to China permanently, however, but by finally taking it away.

Last year we exported only \$8.6 billion worth of goods to China. Discounting for inflation, there has been almost no growth in U.S. exports since 1980. By contrast, we imported goods valued at \$31.5 billion from China last year — 29 times more than in 1980.

Meanwhile, communist China uses every gimmick imaginable to restrict U.S. imports, pirate U.S. products (such as recordings and software), and cheat on everything from textile quotas to fishing rights.

Unabashed advocates of free trade — whose own comfortable livelihoods are dependent on the China trade — pretend that their interest is deeper. Democracy will follow the paramount freedom, trade, they say. Unfortunately, while we wait for Beijing's 70-year-old dictators to replace the 80-year-

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Executive Director's Message

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MFN Not Deserved

The last few months have been extremely busy and productive. Following our successful annual Tibet Day celebration and the March 10th demonstration, we were graced by the inspiring visit of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama to the Bay Area. We welcome the many new members who joined BAFoT as a result of the Dalai Lama's visit.

Los Angeles Friends of Tibet sponsored a western regional conference of Tibet Support Groups (TSGs), which was attended by BAFoT's President Jigme Yugay, Vice-President Sharon Bacon and myself. Discussions focused on: opposing renewal of China's MFN status, boycotting goods made in China and strategizing for the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women. The importance of strengthening ties and unifying action

among TSGs was also discussed. Representatives from 11 western TSGs attended, along with members of national and international groups, including the International Campaign for Tibet, Office of Tibet and the Canada Tibet Committee.

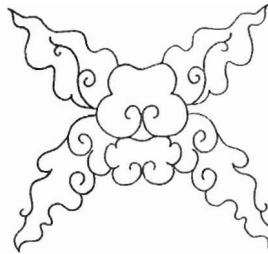
Diane Winslow has recently replaced Nancy Ableser as coordinator of BAFoT's English tutoring program. All of us at BAFoT extend our heartfelt thanks to Nancy for her tireless hours spent on the resettlement project since its inception.

We appreciate your continuing support for the Tibetan cause at this crucial time.

Tashi Delek,

Leslie Kean

Resettled Tibetans are looking to develop skills and to find career-oriented employment. We urge friends to keep an eye open for suitable jobs that pay a minimum of \$6.50 per hour. We also need tutors in English, computer skills, and driving. Those with job leads, please contact Gyalden Yuthok, (510) 559-9756. If you would like to tutor, please call Diane Winslow at (510) 848-7731.



Bay Area Friends of Tibet NEWSLETTER

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Bay Area Friends of Tibet
Volume 5, No. 2
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Editorial Collective

Greg Alling
Deborah Bruce
Diane Hume
Justin Lowe
Christine Schneider
Elizabeth Tam
Chimi Thonden

The Editorial Collective seeks more volunteers. The Newsletter accepts, at its discretion, Tibet-related advertisements which do not necessarily represent the views of BAFoT. Please contact Leslie at BAFoT for information.

♻️ PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Thank You, Volunteers

Thanks to everyone who helped make Tibet Day and the visit of His Holiness the Dalai Lama successful. Many thanks to Ingrid Lockawandt, Kathy Newitt and Joji Shields for their dependable office support; and to Bonnie McCalla, Larry Chiang, Marie Favorini and Nancy Hiland for many hours spent tabling. We are also grateful to a team from the California Institute of Integral Studies led by Diana Schweickart, which is making an organizational assessment of BAFoT. We extend thanks to Hadyn Reiss for donating a large picture frame, and we welcome Diane Hume and Deborah Bruce to the newsletter committee. In addition, Tibet Day could not have happened without the help of many volunteers. Thanks to all who participated.

Interns Wanted

BAFoT is seeking office interns to work on various projects. Learn skills and help Tibet. Call Leslie at the BAFoT office at (415) 241-9197 for further information.

old dictators, it is democracy's enemies who are growing more powerful.

The People's Liberation Army — noted for rape and genocide in Tibet and crushing the democracy movement in Tiananmen Square — is setting up joint ventures, and generals' children are lining their pockets and developing the kind of power that will allow a transition from communism to free-market fascism, with the same despots in control. All that is trickling down each year that MFN is renewed is the blood of those who stand in the way of the enrichment of China's anti-democratic elite. Whether they are called communists, socialists, fascists or capitalists makes no difference.

By revoking MFN, we will make it clear to Beijing that we do not condone the gross human rights abuses perpetrated upon the people of China and Tibet. Each time we extend MFN, they interpret it as weakness on our part and conclude, rightly so, that we are insincere when we talk about democracy and human rights.

It is time to cut the trade cord that keeps communist China afloat. It worked in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. It can work for China and Tibet — eliminating a vast, artificial pool of slave and cheap labor.

Let this nation, which serves as a beacon for democracy and human rights throughout the world, follow through by enforcing our law and refusing to give China MFN trade status until it is deserved.

Kunzang Yuthok of Seattle, a Tibetan-American born in exile in India, is executive director of the Tibetan Rights Campaign.



Photo by Sharon Bacon

Monk Jamphel Tsultrim protesting China's occupation of Tibet.

MFN Stew Simmers

by Greg Alling

By June 3, President Clinton must decide whether to renew China's most favored nation (MFN) trade status with the U.S. Since last June, when the Clinton administration imposed conditions on MFN calling for "overall significant progress" in specific areas concerning human rights, China has made few concessions in order to secure MFN benefits. China's hard-line response — backed by U.S. international businesses seeking cheap labor and high profits overseas — has left Clinton's State Department team scrambling for influence and respect.

After Secretary of State Warren Christopher's turbulent visit to Beijing in mid-March produced enormous criticism from U.S. trade officials and private business interests, the State Department began to consider applying targeted sanctions against Chinese military and government-run business. Thereby, China's privately held businesses would continue to receive low-tariff benefits.

Chinese recalcitrance, U.S. business pressure, and hopes that Clinton can "save face" in Sino-U.S. relations have led anti-MFN congressional members to reevaluate their positions. In late April, representative Nancy Pelosi of San Francisco said, "Targeted revocation is a real answer for the president. Among those in our congressional working group on China, we are reviewing the options, ranging from total revocation to targeted revocation... The U.S. has the opportunity to initiate sanctions which impact the Chinese government the most, the Chinese private sector to a lesser degree and the American consumer the least."

Targeted sanctions or even complete revocation would, however, undoubtedly prove difficult to impose. Legal and administrative procedures are under review, but even with a sufficient method in place, Chinese trade practices will require greater scrutiny. China's ability to disguise its products' origins has been an underlying concern throughout MFN de-

bates and has resulted in specific trade disputes between the countries.

Whatever Clinton finally decides on MFN status for China, Beijing's stance is clear. After the U.S. indicated its interest in targeted sanctions, a Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman stated: "Most favored nation status is the basis for maintenance of normal economic and trade relations between the sides. Any move that damages this basis will seriously affect Sino-U.S. relations and will be no good for the two sides."

Despite the threat of losing its trade surplus with the U.S. (estimated at \$30 billion in 1994), which it desperately needs to fuel its astounding economic growth, Beijing has stepped up its crackdown on Chinese dissidents in an attempt to maintain internal control. In April, authorities rearrested China's most vocal pro-democracy, anti-MFN activist, Wei Jingsheng, for meeting with John Shattuck, the U.S. State Department's human rights official, and for publishing his dissident views.

Tibet Situation Worsens

In Chinese-occupied Tibet, contrary to Clinton's call for "protecting Tibet's distinctive religious and cultural heritage," the situation has deteriorated. For example, in January, the human rights group Asia Watch reported that almost 80% of new political prisoners arrested by China in 1993 were Tibetans. In Lhasa alone, more than 400 prisoners of conscience face well-documented torture methods. Furthermore, the influx of Chinese settlers has accelerated and state control of religious activities has tightened.

Outside of maintaining social control in Tibet and at home, China's priorities remain uncertain. A Western diplomat in Beijing recently commented, "The Chinese seem to be very confident that the Americans wouldn't dare revoke MFN, or it may be that they simply don't care. There is not much evidence that the Chinese have worked out the actual cost of losing MFN."

Underlying China's international intransigence is an economy beset by pervasive corruption, an enormous migrant workforce with-

out steady employment (estimated at over 100 million and growing), loss of farmland due to rapid growth and drastic environmental degradation and mounting dissatisfaction among peasants and farmers. A secret Chinese government report leaked earlier this spring showed that 6,000 illegal strikes and more than 200 riots were recorded in 1993, stemming from the government's inability to pay wages and control prices.

In this light, any capitulation to U.S. pressure for human rights reform could trigger not only greater cries for democracy, it could fuel a new labor movement in China.

For information on conditioning MFN, see the Urgent Action Section on page 8. Sources: ICT, New York Times, wire services.



Dalai Lama Meets Clinton, Gore

On April 28, President Clinton joined a 30-minute meeting between the Dalai Lama and Vice President Gore. In what the Dalai Lama called a "very positive" discussion, Tibet's Buddhist leader reportedly stressed "morality" in foreign policy. A White House press release stated that Clinton met the Dalai Lama "...to discuss efforts to initiate a dialogue with the Chinese leaders and to inquire about efforts to preserve Tibetan religion and culture.... The United States continues to urge high level talks between the Chinese Government and the Dalai Lama or his representatives to resolve differences." For the first time, the White House press release did not say whether the Dalai Lama was received as a religious or spiritual leader. This implicit recognition of the Dalai Lama's political role is seen as a step forward for Tibet. China reacted angrily, saying the meeting meant "instigation and support of separatist activities." The Dalai Lama also met with congressional leaders, thanking them for their recognition of Tibet as an occupied country. — ICT

Are You a BAFoT Member?

BAFoT operates through the generous contributions of its members. If you are not a member, please join today. Send to: Bay Area Friends of Tibet, 347 Dolores Street, Suite 206, San Francisco, CA 94110 / (415) 241-9197 / fax (415) 626-0865



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International News

An Appeal for the Gari Fourteen

Report Confirms Nuclear Missiles on Tibetan Plateau

WASHINGTON, ICT — A report issued by the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) confirms the existence of three nuclear missile deployment sites in Tibetan autonomous prefectures on the Tibetan plateau, in what is now called Qinghai Province. The three sites — Da Qaidam, Xiao Qaidam and Delingha — coordinate deployment and launching of DF-4 missiles, the equivalent of limited-range intercontinental ballistic missiles.

The report largely confirms information released in *Nuclear Tibet*, a report issued by the International Campaign for Tibet (ICT) in 1993. However, the NRDC press release stated, "Contrary to a recent report [*Nuclear Tibet*], we did not find any evidence of any weapons or nuclear-related activities in Tibet." By "Tibet," NRDC was referring to the Chinese-denoted "Tibet Autonomous Region" (TAR). Qinghai Province (known as Amdo to Tibetans) is also considered to be part of Tibet by Tibetans and the Tibetan government-in-exile.

This area, north of the Tibet Autonomous Region, is ethnically and historically inhabited by Tibetans and has been divided into Tibetan autonomous prefectures by the Chinese government. According to Chinese law, these autonomous prefectures have the same status as autonomous regions, such as the TAR, and were created to recognize and protect the overwhelmingly non-Chinese populations that have traditionally lived there.

Nuclear Tibet, the ICT report, also found no nuclear activity within the TAR, other than Chinese plans for a small nuclear reactor, which have since been scrapped. It debunked previous claims of nuclear activity in Nagchuka (Chinese: Nagqu — in northern TAR) and Hongyuan (in Aba Tibet Autonomous Prefecture) in the historical Tibetan area called Kham.

China's first nuclear weapons design facility, the "Ninth Academy" (akin to Los Alamos) was located near Lake Kokonor (also known as Lake Qinghai) in an area of Amdo inhabited by Tibetan nomads and farmers. The NRDC report said that all of China's nuclear weapons were stockpiled at this facility (which is now almost completely defunct) during the 1960s. This important new information, not contained in the *Nuclear Tibet* report, adds an additional dimension to the information on the earlier activity at the Ninth Academy.

Tibetan Women Protest Forced Abortions

NEW DELHI — As many as 500 Tibetan women attempted to march to the Indian parliament in New Delhi on April 14 to protest the alleged forced sterilization and abortion programs launched by Chinese authorities in Tibet.

"The demonstrators started the three-mile march from the Feroz Shah Kotla cricket ground but were stopped by scores of police in downtown Jantar Mantar before reaching Parliament," A witness said.

The activists said that up to 80 percent of Tibetan women in Tibet have been sterilized "under coercion and subterfuge." They alleged that Chinese mobile teams forced abortions on pregnant women in rural areas. "Mothers delivering a second or even first child without bearing 'a certified-to-bear-children' stamp suffered infanticide," a statement said, adding that "the baby is injected and killed at birth."

The protestors also questioned Beijing's credentials for hosting the UN's Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995. "How can a country that does not respect its women citizens or show any concern about women's conditions, organize a conference whose theme is equality, development, and peace?" they asked. They also accused Beijing of "demographic aggression," saying 7.5 million Chinese have settled in Tibet since 1949. — Agence France Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The 14 Tibetan nuns who were arrested in Lhasa last June 12 and 14 have become known internationally as the "Gari 14." These women are Buddhist nuns from Gari nunnery, located three miles north of Lhasa, who were arrested for staging two separate pro-independence demonstrations.

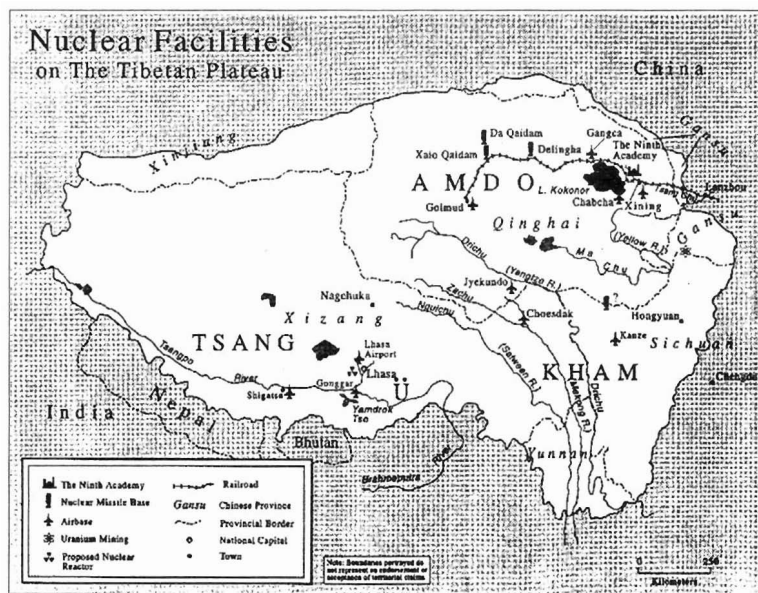
All 14 nuns are being held at Drapchi prison in Lhasa, except for 15-year-old Gyaltzen Pelsang, who is incarcerated in a juvenile detention center at nearby Gutsa prison. Seven of the 14 nuns have been given sentences of two to seven years; the other nuns' sentences are still unknown.

According to the U.N.'s Universal Declaration of Human Rights, everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression. Chinese authorities claim that the nuns have committed a horrendous crime: conducting a peaceful demonstration to promote religious freedom and Tibetan independence.

Tibetan nuns are routinely tortured and subjected to "reeducation sessions" in Chinese prisons and labor camps. There are approximately 50 nuns from Gari nunnery (one quarter of its population) detained in Lhasa as prisoners of conscience. Their only crimes were speaking out and demanding a free Tibet.

— Elizabeth Tam

How you can help: Act now — we are Tibet's only hope. We must continue to demand that China live up to its obligations under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention Against Torture. Write to your government representatives and Chinese leaders and officials. Contact the International Committee of Lawyers for Tibet at (415) 252-5967 for more information.



Map graphic courtesy of International Campaign for Tibet. © 1993 ICT.

AFL-CIO Asks Kmart and Home Depot to Halt Business With China

The president of the AFL-CIO Food and Allied Services Trades department (FAST) released letters in April to the chairmen of the boards of Kmart Corporation and Home Depot, Inc. requesting that they cease doing business with the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) and requiring all of their suppliers to do likewise. In separate letters to Kmart and Home Depot, FAST President Robert Harbrant detailed some of the known PLA business relationships with each company and their suppliers.

"We want Kmart and Home Depot to remove all PLA products from their shelves right away. Their customers are directly and unwittingly subsidizing the PLA when they buy these products."

FAST, which is engaged in a comprehensive study of PLA business in the United States, sent a representative to China posing as a businessman. He spent nearly six weeks negotiating with various PLA companies and visiting their factories.

Both Home Depot and Kmart purchase products from a company called NORINCO (China North Industries Corp.) which the investment bank Bear Stearns has called "a major manufacturing arm of the People's Liberation Army."

NORINCO has supplied Home Depot with more than 127 metric tons of rugs and Kmart and its subsidiaries with rifles, riflescopes, alarm clocks, outdoor lights, miniblinds and rattan furniture.

Harbrant advised Home Depot's Marcus that a worldwide defense-watch journal has published articles in the last year about NORINCO's announcement of a "prototype stage remote control scatterable mine-laying system of the export market," and "its new 203 mm (8 inch) artillery system, which has a longer range than any artillery system currently in service worldwide." Home Depot has denied that NORINCO is a Chinese military entity. Harbrant also presented Marcus with information about a company called Northeast Jincheng Industrial, proving that it is part of the PLA. Northeast Jincheng has supplied both Home Depot and one of its vendors, LDR Industries of Chicago, with hundreds of pounds of oak toilet seats.

Saying Kmart's research into the question of whether it was buying from the Chinese military was "either incompetent or disingenuous," Harbrant cited Kmart's receipt of a 10.9

metric ton shipment of men's blue jeans from Xinxing, the PLA's principal trading company.

Harbrant reminded both executives that the "People's Liberation Army was responsible for the massacre of thousands of workers and students in Tiananmen Square in 1989, and is the force which continues to exercise real repressive power in China, a country which does not allow its people even the most basic of human freedoms."

FAST is a constitutional department of the AFL-CIO representing the 3.5 million members of 16 different unions.

The full text of both letters is available upon request by calling (202) 737-7200 or faxing (202) 737-7208.

A New Alliance for Tibet

By Linda Pfeifer

On April 12, President Clinton approved economic sanctions against Taiwan for its illegal trade in endangered species. One day, economic sanctions might be used to protect endangered peoples as well — specifically, Tibetans living under Chinese occupation. On May 28, 1993, President Clinton signed an Executive Order stipulating that China must make significant progress towards protecting Tibet's distinctive religious and cultural heri-

tage by June 3, 1994, in order to receive an extension of its most favored nation (MFN) trading status. Unfortunately, China's human rights record in Tibet remains dismal. Although there is already talk of "compromise" in Washington. In truth, U.S. administrations have only threatened the Chinese with economic sanctions twice: once when China was surpassing production quotas for sweaters and second when the Chinese were infringing on U.S. copyright laws. On both occasions, the Chinese backed down when they realized that the U.S. was serious. Evidently, sweaters and U.S. copyright laws warrant sanctions, but people do not.

Many human rights activists have grown increasingly disappointed by Washington's inaction on Tibet. Out of this frustration has grown a new organization, T.I.B.E.T. (The International Boycott for Endangered Tibet) Alliance. This organization is the catalyst for an international boycott of all goods produced in China which will continue until Tibet regains full independence; specifically when China removes its troops and officials from Tibet, allows the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan government in exile to return to Tibet, and allows the Tibetan people to organize their own government.

The T.I.B.E.T. Alliance is actively seeking volunteers. Contact (310) 815-1925 or write to T.I.B.E.T. Alliance, P.O. Box 2355, Stanford, CA 95309-2355.

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Spotlight on Tibetan Women

Watch the Women: Tibetan Protests

International Year of Tibetan Women Begins

On March 9, 1994 the Tibetan cabinet (Kashag) declared the 12-month period that began in mid-March on western calendars as "The International Year of Tibetan Women." Its statement follows:

"The Kashag is pleased to know that the Tibetan Women's Association is carrying out various activities during the International Year of Tibetan Women, which is being observed from March 12, 1994 — the 35th anniversary of Tibetan women's uprising — to March 12, 1995.

"The year is dedicated to Tibetan women in order to draw attention to the situation of Tibetan women under Chinese rule and to generate worldwide awareness and support for the Tibetan struggle for independence.

"Tibetan women have always played a vital role in our society. They stand against the oppressive Chinese occupation of Tibet, actively campaign to draw attention to the deplorable condition of Tibetan women in Tibet, and contribute to the national struggle for Tibet's independence.

"But the fate of Tibetan women in Tibet continues to be grave. They are particularly victimized through forced abortions and sterilizations by the Chinese. This threatens the very survival of the Tibetan people and nation.

"Therefore, the need to highlight these issues to the world is clear. We are confident that the activities being carried out by the Tibetan Women's Association during this commemorative year will create greater awareness of the plight of Tibetan women and our struggle for freedom and justice."

The Tibetan Women's Association released the following statement:

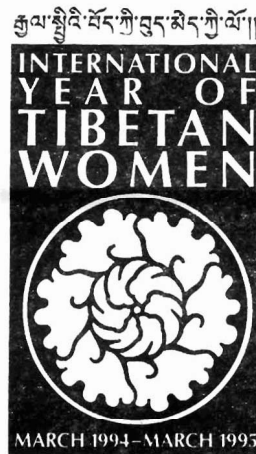
"March 12, 1994 [is] the 35th anniversary of the Tibetan Women's Uprising. Because of the current preparations being made in anticipation of the 1995 United Nations World Conference on Women [to be held in Beijing], Tibetan women need our support now more than ever.

"... The Tibetan Women's Uprising took place during the events that led up to the flight of His Holiness [the Dalai Lama] in March, 1959. As the Tibetans gathered ... and meetings were held to decide what should be done about the mounting frustration and tension resulting from the usurpation of power by the

Chinese, a group of Tibetan women emerged as some of the Tibetan leaders. In this meeting, the women publicly pronounced Tibet's independent status from China, demanded that China leave Tibet, and proclaimed the ability of Tibetans to manage their own affairs.

"By March 18th, there were over 5,000 women gathering ... to demonstrate. Hundreds of the women were subsequently killed when the Chinese opened fire throughout Lhasa. But this Women's Uprising had set a precedence and the Tibetan women have continued to play active roles in political dissent within Tibet as well as in exile.

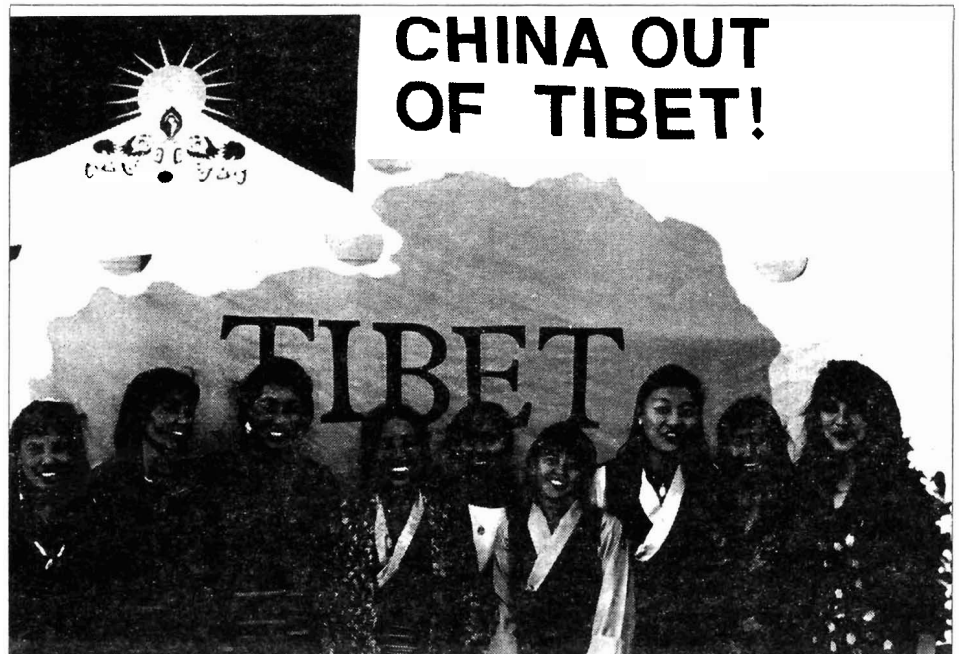
"In order to honor the lives of these women, as well as those still fighting for their rights in Tibet, we are suggesting that groups ... commemorate Tibetan Women's Uprising Day [March 12] and ... support Tibetan women in their preparation for the 1995 Beijing Conference."



On March 10, more than 100 Tibetans and Tibet supporters paraded through the San Francisco rain on the 35th anniversary of Tibetan National Uprising Day. In 1959, thousands of Tibetans in Lhasa rose up against the Chinese occupation. This year's demonstration and march commenced at busy Powell and Market Streets and proceeded to the Chinese Consulate at Geary and Laguna, where Sonam Gonsar, representing the Tibetan Association of Northern California, read the Dalai Lama's March 10th memorial statement and a representative from Congressman Tom Lantos' office delivered a speech.

Two days later, 25 Tibetan women participated in the Bay Area's first Tibetan women's demonstration. On March 12th, 1994, Tibetan women gathered in Lhasa following the March 10th uprising in defiance of the Chinese military crackdown. The Tibetan women's protest was held in conjunction with the International Women's Day Demonstration in San Francisco's Duboce Park. Chimi Thonden, a local Tibetan-American, spoke on behalf of the Tibetan women's plight.

"Tibetan women have always played a vital role in our society."



BAFoT Events

Tibet Day A Huge Success Stay Informed About Tibet

BAFoT's annual Tibet Day celebration at San Francisco's Fort Mason Center proved to be the most successful fundraiser yet. This year's highlights included award-winning photographer Alison Wright's slide show, a live performance by Chaksam-Pa Tibetan Dance and Opera Company at the Bayfront Theater, a talk by Dr. Mark Tatz on the relationship between China and Tibet, and slide presentations by recent travelers to Tibet. Approximately 1,200 people came to this all-day event — a record number for BAfoT. If you missed this Tibet Day, you will have another chance at Tibet Day East Bay and Tibet Day Santa Cruz.

Tibet Day East Bay

Bay Area Friends of Tibet will honor the birthday of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet (July 6) with a special event, "Tibet Day East Bay." The celebration will be held at the Veterans Memorial Association in El Cerrito on Sunday, July 3 from 10 am to 6 pm. Tibetan dance and opera performers Chaksam-Pa will appear, special guests will present talks and slide shows, and delicious regional food will be available. Please call the BAfoT office at (415) 241-9197 for an informational flyer.

It is vitally important that the people who are concerned about saving Tibetan culture know about the key issues. One way to be informed is to read some of the following journals and newsletters, which provide up-to-date news and information.

News Tibet (quarterly, free) newsletter of the Office of Tibet, 241 E. 32nd Street, New York, NY 10016 (tel: 212-213-5010). Political and cultural news.

Tibet Press Watch (bi-monthly, \$25) from the International Campaign for Tibet, 1518 K St NW, Suite 410, Washington, DC 20005 (tel: 202-628-4123). Reproduces news articles from worldwide sources, provides political news.

Tibetan Review (monthly, \$20 includes airmail postage). North American subscriptions through Potala Publications, 241 E. 32nd Street, New York, NY 10016 (tel: 212-213-5010). Independent publication by Tibetans in Delhi, India.

Tibetan Bulletin (bi-monthly, free; donation to defray postage appreciated) by the Office of Information and International Relations,

Central Tibetan Secretariat, Gangchen Kyishong, Dharamsala (H.P.) 176215, India. Official publication of the Tibetan Government-in-Exile.

Tibet Brief (quarterly, free) by International Committee of Lawyers, a legal advocacy organization which promotes self determination for Tibetans. ICLT, 347 Dolores St, Suite 206, San Francisco, CA 94110. (tel: 415-252-5967)

Tibet Monitor (monthly, \$10/year) by Tibetan Rights Campaign. Articles and action items in support of the Tibetan cause. Three-month free trial period. TRC, 4649 Sunnyside Ave. N, #342, PO Box 31966, Seattle, WA 98103 (tel: 206-547-1015)

Snow Lion Newsletter (quarterly, free) by Snow Lion Publications, PO Box 6483, Ithaca, NY 14851 (tel: 607-273-8506). Informative Tibetan buddhist newsletter and catalog.

Bay Area Friends of Tibet Newsletter (quarterly, \$10/year) This is the newsletter that you are reading. If you or someone you know would like to receive it on a regular basis, please fill out and send in the membership coupon in this issue.



Tibet Calendar



Himalayan Fair

**Saturday, May 21, 10 am-7 pm &
Sunday, May 22, 10 am-5:30 pm**

Live Oak Park, North Berkeley (Shattuck at Berryman)

This annual event features arts and crafts from the Himalayan countries of Tibet, Nepal, India and Bhutan; food; travel information; a raffle and live entertainment. For more information, call (510) 527-3960.

"Little Buddha" directed by Bernardo Bertolucci

**Monday, May 23. Reception 5:30 p.m.;
Speakers 6:30 p.m.; Screening 7:00 p.m.;**
The Bridge Theater, 3010 Geary Blvd., S.F.

Tickets for speakers and screening: \$25

Tickets including reception: \$50

Co-Sponsored by BAfoT and Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO), this opening night premiere will benefit both

organizations. Guest speakers include Peter Coyote and Orville Schell. Contact the BAfoT office to purchase tickets.

Tibet Day East Bay

Sunday, July 3, 10 am-6 pm

Veterans Memorial Hall, El Cerrito

Donation: \$5 adults, \$3 children

Tibetan performances, arts and crafts, food and lectures.

Please call (415) 241-9197 for more information.

Celebrate His Holiness the Dalai Lama's Birthday

Date and specific place to be announced

Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley

Join Tibetans and friends in an offering ceremony to celebrate the Dalai Lama's birthday. Contact the BAfoT office for more details in June.

Tibet Day Santa Cruz

Saturday, August 28, 10 am-4 pm
Pacific Cultural Center, Santa Cruz

Enjoy Tibetan performances, arts and crafts, food and lectures at this annual event. It will be fun and educational! Please call (415) 241-9197 for more information.

Kalachakra Initiation for World Peace Given by His Holiness the Dalai Lama **December 11-19**

Barcelona, Spain

Please send name and address to: Kalachakra Organizing Committee '94, Sepulveda, 45-47 08015 Barcelona, Spain.

Volunteers are needed for all BAfoT-sponsored events. Join the fun!



URGENT ACTION

Revoke China's MFN Trading Privileges

By Greg Alling

A personal call or letter is the most effective way for individuals to influence U.S. government policy. By June 3, President Clinton must decide whether China has met conditions placed on the renewal of its most favored nation (MFN) trade status. One such condition is that China must make "significant progress [in] protecting Tibet's distinctive religious and cultural heritage." Over the past year, China's treatment of occupied Tibet has clearly worsened. If Clinton passes MFN, Congress will have the chance to override his decision.

Over the past year, the influx of Chinese settlers to Tibet — the greatest threat to Tibetan culture — has accelerated. In fact, a secret Chinese government meeting held in May, 1993 called for increased Chinese settlement in Tibet and further measures to divide the Tibetan people.

Human rights abuses committed by China in illegally occupied Tibet stand out: according to Asia Watch, nearly 80% of political prisoners arrested in 1993 by Chinese authorities were Tibetans. For example, the Gari 14 — 14 young nuns from near Lhasa — were sentenced for up to 7 years for non-violent, pro-independence demonstrations. Twelve of the nuns, including 15-year-old Gyaltzen Pelsang, were arrested and sentenced for a protest witnessed by no one. The nuns face well documented torture methods: rape by electric cattle prods, vicious attack dogs, and other unspeakable atrocities. This abuse violates international human rights norms and falls short of protecting Tibet's cultural and religious identity.

The U.S. has called for China to begin substantive negotiations with Tibet's exiled leader, the Dalai Lama. China has not budged on this critical issue. The Tibetan people demand and deserve regained independence. Please stand up for Tibet by revoking MFN for China. Furthermore, I urge you to support measures that call for the end of the Chinese occupation of Tibet. Revocation of MFN will tell China that the American people put fundamental rights and freedoms above economic concerns, and send a clear signal to China that they must begin now to redress their occupation of Tibet.

Sincerely,
[Please include your name, address and signature.]

**Please call the White House comment line at
(202) 456-1111 . . .**

or use the following sample letter as a guide to voicing your support for Tibet. *Personal letters handwritten or on your own letterhead receive the most attention.* Thank you.

Senator Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senate
Hart Street Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

President William Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear _____

China has not complied with the executive order of May 28, 1993, which stated that China must make progress in "protecting Tibet's distinctive religious and cultural heritage" in order to receive renewal of Most Favored Nation (MFN) trade status.



**Tibetan Art
Demonstration at
Upcoming BAFoT
Board Elections
Meeting
June 11**

Local Tibetan artists will demonstrate the art of woodworking and Tibetan thangka painting at the Board of Directors Election Meeting on Saturday, June 11, 11-1 pm, Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1606 Bonita Street, Berkeley. Call the BAFoT office for details on board nominations and the meeting.

BAY AREA FRIENDS OF TIBET
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San Francisco, CA 94110

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