



Bay Area Friends of Tibet

N E W S L E T T E R

Spring 1997 • Volume 8, Number 1

The Panchen Lama, A Personal View: Is He Still Alive or Is He Dead?

by Max Butler

If a high spiritual leader such as the Pope had been kidnapped by a Communist government of Italy, as the six-year-old Panchen Lama was by the Communist government of China, I am sure that there would be a tremendous outcry on the part of the US government against that action. Catholics in America would feel threatened and outraged. Strong action rather than words would be forthcoming from our politicians and tremendous pressure would be exerted upon the Italian government to have the Pope released. This is not so for the Panchen Lama. That little boy is virtually forgotten by the President, the State Department and most of our legislators.

Unfortunately, the Clinton administration exercises a double standard with regard to human rights issues. In the case of Cuba, rigorous human rights standards are applied by our government to chastise that Communist regime, but those same standards seem to be forgotten when it comes to the activities of the

increasingly oppressive Communist regime in Beijing. Perhaps the reason for this is quite simple. The Clinton presidency is supported by the Chinese Communist leadership in Beijing and the Clinton administration is thereby paralyzed, unwilling to face down the tyrannical Chinese government. How else would the son of a notorious Chinese arms dealer end up having lunch with the President? It has been recently reported in the New York Times that there is the suspicion that the Lippo Group, the Indonesian conglomerate that provided millions of dollars to support President Clinton's re-election, has "direct ties to the People's Republic of China." Even Dianne Feinstein, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, whose husband Richard Blum reportedly has very large business dealings with China, has praised Jiang Zemin as a great world statesman. She praised the person who ordered the rape of Tiananmen Square, and the arrest of the Panchen Lama. She ex-

pressed her admiration for this chief architect and director of the growing repression going on in China and Tibet. She and President Clinton are just one example of the present moral vacuum within the highest leadership of the United States.

Everyone who reads this newsletter knows what happened to the Panchen Lama. We know that in May of 1995 this little boy and his parents were kidnapped by the Chinese Communist Party. We know also that nothing has been heard of them since. No one in the free world knows whether they are alive or dead. Except for Tibet Support Groups and some members of the interfaith community, not much is being said about this kidnapping. The news media in particular seems to view what happened to the Panchen Lama as a non-event. They also apply a double standard when it comes to human rights issues. Atrocities committed by the Chinese Communists are seen as more of the same, to be

(continued on page 6)

His Holiness the Dalai Lama in San Francisco in June for Conference

Tibet House New York has organized a conference entitled "Peace Making — The Power of Nonviolence" to be held in San Francisco on June 9–11, 1997. Nobel laureates His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Rigoberta Menchu will meet with distinguished social advocates, inner city youth, contemplatives, and those from all walks of life concerned with the current epidemic of violence. Participants will examine the causes

of violence and innovative strategies and programs being used to implement peacemaking in local communities.

Effective methods will be shared by those who teach the practices of inner peace and those who work daily to teach nonviolent action as a remedy for social injustice. Professionals and nonprofessionals alike interested in acquiring skills in violence prevention and who wish to learn the tools of inner peace are welcome. Several hundred young people from communities in California and around the nation will participate. The focus of the conference is upon nonviolent action as the most practical key to social change.

In conjunction with this conference, Tibet House New York will be presenting a public talk by His Holiness and Rigaberta Menchu on Monday, June 9. The talk is being co-spon-

sored and coordinated by Bay Area Friends of Tibet, the Committee of 100 for Tibet, the International Committee of Lawyers for Tibet, the Tibetan Association of Northern California, and local chapters of Students for a Free Tibet. Volunteers are needed to assist us with this event. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Bonnie McCalla at (415) 331-7378 or by e-mail: bkmccalla@aol.com.



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President's Message

The Panchen Lama is still missing and his whereabouts unknown. We do not even know if he is dead or alive.

Ngawang Choephel, a Fulbright scholar studying ethnomusicology, was recently sentenced to 18 years in prison by the Chinese for making a documentary film in Tibet on traditional Tibetan music and dance.

The US State Department recently released its annual report on human rights. The section on China is 53 pages long, documenting the increasingly worsening situation in Tibet and China.

What's being done, what are we really doing to help?

Yes, we organize demonstrations and present annual expositions of Tibetan culture in the form of our Tibet Day event. Yes, we encourage our members to write letters to their representatives and to the Chinese government.

We must do more.

Remember the words of Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it's the only thing that ever has." And Gandhi, who said: "Your act may be very small, it may seem insignificant, but it is very important that you do it."

First, forgive me if you feel I am preach-

ing to the converted. I feel this preaching/persuasion/encouragement is part of my responsibility as president of this organization. Second, thank you for being a member of Bay Area Friends of Tibet and for caring about Tibet. But if you haven't done so already, it's time to take the next step and turn the concern into action. We do not have the luxury of time anymore. We never did. Things are indeed dire. Tibet needs us, each and every one of us. But please remember, we need Tibet more. The teachings of the Buddha, the teachings that the Tibetan people embody, those of loving kindness and compassion, are far more important to the survival of our species than Middle Eastern oil. If Tibet is lost through our inaction or complicity, we will have no one to blame but ourselves.

Genocide is not a word people like to hear. 1.7 million Tibetans out of a population of only 3 million Tibetan people have died in the last 30 years. This is not only cultural genocide, this is literal genocide. How can this be happening in this day and age? Didn't we all say after Nazi Germany, "never again"?

You can help by writing letters protesting all of the above to our government and the Chinese government. You can boycott goods made in China (remember it worked in South Africa!). You can join us at demonstrations (please see the calendar). You can tell people about the struggle of the Tibetan people for self-determination. You can volunteer for BAFoT. The important thing is to get involved. We must all re-dedicate our energy to this just cause in the name of oppressed people everywhere.

Thank you again for your concern and your compassion. I look forward to seeing you on March 10, Tibetan National Uprising Day.

—Bonnie McCalla

Third Annual Western Region Tibet Support Group Conference

by Bonnie McCalla

On Saturday, January 17, 1997, the Third Western Region Tibet Support Group Conference was held at the offices of BAFoT and ICLT. The conference was co-sponsored by the International Committee of Lawyers for Tibet, Bay Area Friends of Tibet, the Milarepa Fund, Tibet Alliance San Diego, Los Angeles Friends of Tibet, the Tibetan Rights Campaign

(Seattle), and Central Coast Friends of Tibet. Thirty Tibet-related organizations from 14 states sent representatives from as far away as Alaska. Fifty people attended.

The conference brought together the leaders of the western region Tibet support groups ("TSGs") to enable us to meet and discuss our organizations' missions, goals, strategies, projects, and plans for the future.

At this critical juncture for the Tibetan cause, we are endeavoring to continue establishing more effective channels of communication between our organizations in order to further cooperation and minimize duplication of effort.

It was an ambitious agenda. After introductions and presentations by representatives of each organization as to missions and current and future projects and plans, the first plenary session commenced with a report from the International TSG Conference held last summer in Bonn, Germany. As stated by His Holiness the Dalai Lama at the Bonn conference, the continued goal of the Tibetan government in exile is to commence negotiations with China. We discussed the present and future strategies and tactics to be employed towards these negotiations.

The illegal detention and subsequent trial and sentencing of Ngawang Choephel were discussed. In September, 1996, prior to the trial, 45 members of the U.S. Congress wrote a letter to Chinese president Jiang Zemin requesting either Ngawang's immediate release or a "fair and public trial before a civilian and impartial court." Ngawang received neither. He has been sentenced to 18 years in prison for simply traveling to Tibet to make a nonpolitical documentary film on traditional Tibetan dance and music.

We discussed the upcoming United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva. Once again, the adoption of a resolution by the Commission on Human Rights condemning China's human rights violations in Tibet and China is being proposed. This resolution was narrowly defeated in 1995. With the increasingly worsening situation within Tibet and China as documented in the recent release of the U.S. State Department's annual human rights report, the urgency of passing such a resolution has been made more clear than ever.

The topic of economic action was discussed: the boycotting of Holiday Inn and REI; and the strategy of municipal and state selective purchasing.

In the afternoon we broke up into small working groups. The topics discussed in the first session included economic action; urgent action; and humanitarian and cultural assistance, including resettlement and family reunification.

The second plenary session revolved around coordination, cooperation and communication

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



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We The People

TM

Presents

Robert Thurman

Join renowned author Robert Thurman in a discussion of his own spiritual journey and the *Peacemaking : The Power of Nonviolence* conference to be held this June in San Francisco. The conference will bring together Nobel Peace Laureates Rigoberta Menchu, Jose' Ramos-Horta and His Holiness the Dalai Lama with inner city multicultural communities for dialogue and sharing of violence prevention techniques.

*Thurman is a professor of religion at Columbia University.
and co-founder of the Tibet House.*

Hosted by:	Jerry Brown
Date:	Thursday, March 13, 1997
Time:	8:00-10:00 p.m.
Location:	We The People Auditorium 2nd & Harrison Streets, Oakland

Suggested donation \$10 at the door. Book signing will follow presentation.

DIRECTIONS

From Marin: Cross the San Rafael Bridge, take 80 South to 580 East (see below for further directions)

From San Francisco: Cross the Bay Bridge, take 580 East to 980 to 880 (downtown Oakland). Exit at Jackson St; right on Jackson; right again on 2nd; proceed two blocks to Harrison.

From 880 South: Exit Oak, left at Oak to 2nd, right on 2nd to Harrison

By BART: 12th Street exit; continue by 72 bus on Broadway to Amtrak Station

We The People Auditorium is located across the street from the Amtrak parking lot.



Bay Area Friends of Tibet
presents

The Thirteenth Annual Tibet Day

Sunday, March 23, 1997
10 AM to 4 PM

at Fort Mason Center, Building A, in San Francisco
free, convenient parking available

Featuring
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reading from her new book *Conjuring Tibet*

Program includes:

- BAZAAR:** featuring Tibetan arts, crafts, dharma items, jewelry and clothes
- FOOD:** - authentic Tibetan food (delicious "momos" and more)
- ENTERTAINMENT:** live performance of traditional Tibetan dance and music
- PRESENTATIONS:** lecture on Tibetan medicine; panel discussion on political action for Tibet; slide show on Tibetan culture in Ladakh
- INFORMATIONAL BOOTH:** sponsored by local Tibet support groups working in the areas of: humanitarian assistance, economic action, political action, education and the environment

Donation at the door: \$5 adults/\$3 children
For more information, please call (510) 548-1271.

International News

EU Urged to Sponsor UN Resolution

BRUSSELS, Jan. 22 (Kyodo) — An international human rights organization urged the European Union (EU) on Wednesday to declare immediately its readiness to sponsor a resolution on condemning China's human rights record at an upcoming UN conference.

The Brussels branch of Human Rights Watch made the call on the eve of a meeting of the EU human rights working group to be held in the Belgian capital Thursday.

It also comes at a time when China is actively lobbying to prevent such a resolution being adopted at the UN Human Rights Commission to be held from March 10 to April 18 in Geneva.

"Unless the European Union acts now and begins lobbying other members of the commission to take a similar stand, any effort to hold China accountable for its worsening human rights record will be doomed," said Lotte Leicht, Brussels director of Human Rights Watch.

The group said there has been a stepped-up campaign in China over the last six months to arrest dissidents and hand out extraordinarily harsh sentences, with Tibetan activists particularly hard hit.

Leicht said that thus far, both the EU and the United States seem to be holding back on the kind of high-level lobbying needed to push a resolution through.

"There are some countries in the EU that are in favor (of adopting a resolution), but there is no agreement yet within the EU," Leicht said. "Some countries are not yet convinced, such as France and Italy, probably for business reasons."

She said the EU needs to demonstrate more than ever that "it will not let commerce silence its concern for victims of human rights abuses in China."

—The Associated Press

The Referendum: Tibetans Choose the Direction of the Cause

by Raylene Samson

His Holiness the Dalai Lama has long guided Tibetans through their spiritual and political odyssey, and now, with the coming Referendum, he has asked for the voice of the Tibetan community to offer their opinion on the direction of the cause. In 1994 and 1995 during the Uprising Day speeches, the Dalai Lama first initiated the notion of holding a Referendum. At that time he stated that "the middle-way approach has failed to bring the Chinese to the negotiating table and [so] I will consult the Tibetan people in determining the future course of the Tibetan struggle."

In January of 1997, Dharamsala began the process of uniting the Tibetan voice by holding a three-day workshop with participants from various organizations. Organized by the Kashag and the Assembly of Tibetan People's Deputies, representatives from the Offices of Tibet, settlement heads, local Tibetan assemblies, leaders of various NGOs, government officials from above the Joint Secretary level, principals of Tibetan schools, and directors of the Amnye Machen Institute presented their views, brought active debate, and a myriad of ideas to the table. More than two hundred representatives of Tibetan communities attended, spoke and asked questions on behalf of their constituents. The Referendum has four sample options: one, the middle-way approach; two, complete independence; three, self-determination; and four, Satyagraha or truth insistence (non-violent civil disobedience). Each path had an advocate at the workshop and the group began to establish the groundwork for the Tibetan people to make a decision. An opinion poll is to be completed by July 31 of this year,

with the actual Referendum to be held, according to the Kashag Secretariat, "when the time is ripe".

Snow fell onto Dharamsala during the Referendum workshop and His Holiness called it an "auspicious symbol." Lhasang Tsering of the Amnye Machen Institute saw it as a clear sign, a reminder of the Land of Snow, and a warning against moving slowly with "an issue as important as the Referendum."

Various media reports have provided contradictory information regarding the weight the Dalai Lama has placed on the Referendum causing some confusion within the Tibetan community. Although His Holiness inspired the Referendum, recent reports from Taipei's United Daily News have quoted him as saying that the Tibetan government-in-exile will continue practicing the middle-way approach and that if China were to proceed towards democracy, he would "accept increasing autonomy from China, rather than full independence." Despite the uncertainty of the outcome of the Referendum, what is clear is that the Referendum is a step in the direction of democracy for Tibetans.

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within the TSG movement. We discussed the imminent hiring by the International Campaign for Tibet of a national coordinator, a position long advocated within the movement; a proposal for a regionally based Tibet coalition; the need for better coordination locally, regionally and nationally; and future regional and national conferences.

The second small working group session topics were the national coordinator job description; communication tools employing the worldwide web and the Internet; and fundraising.

As with most, if not all, conferences, it was a day of intense conversation and concentration. The challenge, as always, is to take the talk and turn it into action. Now more than ever, we are all called upon to turn the thoughts of the head into the deeds of the heart. May we all, for our Tibetan friends and for all oppressed people, endeavor to meet the challenge.

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, 2288 Fulton St., #312, Berkeley, CA 94704 / (510) 548-5879 / fax (510) 548-3785 / E-mail BAFOT@IGC.APC.ORG



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- Newsletter Only \$10
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Opinion

Independence vs. Autonomy, A Personal Opinion

by Jigme Yugay

Time and again, the question has been raised as to whether BAFoT should support an independent Tibet or push for other alternatives within the Chinese domain. This question should never have arisen for the following reasons:

A fifth of the entire Tibetan population has perished in their struggle to regain independence.

China is the only world power practicing colonization in the world today. A China based upon corruption and disrespect for human rights will become increasingly dangerous and unstable.

Without independence, Tibetan culture, language, environment and its very identity are doomed.

China is brimming over with masses of people and their hunger for land and resources is insatiable and oblivious to the environmental and ecological sensitivities of any region they squander.

China reneged on every article of the 17 Point Agreement (signed by Tibet under duress). What makes anyone think that future agreements will be honored?

As a government, they have demonstrated no honor or shame. Remember what they did to their own people at Tiananmen Square. They do not believe in human rights, they believe in the state's right to control anyone and everyone's life. Tibet, on the other hand, has a history of over a thousand years of dedication to peace and respect for all forms of life and nature.

We have to convince the world that such a rich and noble culture is worth saving. Compassion, respect for all life and the search for genuine peace will ensure human survival. Greed, power and materialism are the path to eventual human destruction.

Currently, there is increasing public support and student awareness worldwide. We at BAFoT must grasp this window of hope and go all out to help the Tibetan people achieve freedom. As long as His Holiness lives, we believe that they will not abandon the path of non-violence, but patience is running short. World citizens must support the Tibetans' method of regaining freedom as a model to reverse violence in the world.

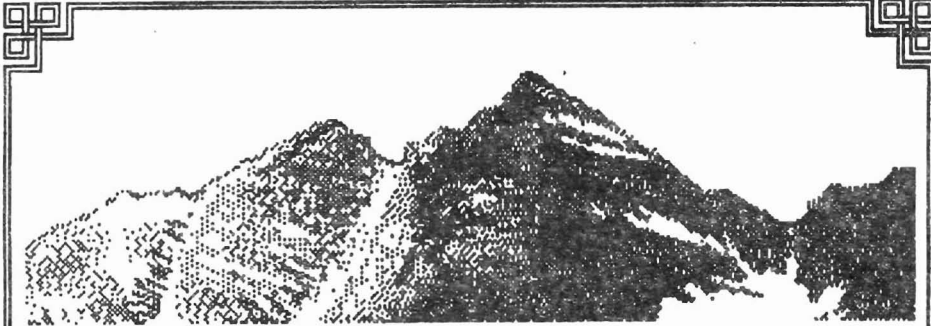
Please Help Two Tibetan Children!

Dear BAFoT Membership:

Tashi delek! Can anyone help me out this year? I have been sponsoring two Tibetan children that I met in Shabru Bensi in Nepal for the past 12 years. They are Norbu and his sister, Nyima whose mother had died a few months before I met them. The father's whereabouts are unknown. I have been receiving classroom reports and detailed payment receipts from their boarding schools each year. I send payments to Gadhen Khangsar, the Dalai Lama's organization located in Kathmandu. It costs \$600 a year for both of their schooling, housing, food, and clothing expenses. A very small portion of that goes to their grandparents. I would be most grateful if there were a kind donor to cover this expense for 1997. Unfortunately, having just completed graduate school myself, I cannot afford to support them this year. I am hoping that by next year I can resume payments. Thank you for considering this. I believe it could be a tax-deductible expense. Also, Nyima would like to have a penfriend from America. She is 16 years old and her English is very good. If you know of a teenager who would be interested, please let me know. Thank you and blessings to you. Please call Louisa Gluck at (510) 258-4823.

Your Chance to Tutor

BAFoT provides resources for Tibetans who are joining their families and settling into their new lives in the Bay Area with our new Family Reunification Project. One of our primary concerns is helping Tibetans learn or improve their English skills. English as a Second Language (ESL) classes are fundamental to learning the new language, but sometimes the classes are inconvenient, due to scheduling or location. Sometimes people need a more personal approach to learning or a supplement to the class work itself. Once again, we at BAFoT would like to offer one-on-one tutoring for Tibetans. Volunteers are vital in this service. We will organize training and reference books on the how-to's of ESL tutoring. Each Tibetan's level of proficiency will be assessed as to beginning, intermediate and advanced, and the tutors may request the level at which they feel most comfortable. Tibetans and tutors will be matched according to need and location at times which are mutually convenient. We need volunteers and greatly appreciate your support. Please contact Gretchen at the BAFoT office at (510) 548-1271.



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More Than Meets The Eye

Local Spotlight

The Reunification Program: One Family's Story

by Gretchen Zahn

The Khangsar family of Albany, California is an incredible family dedicated to working for the freedom of Tibet. Tseten arrived in Minneapolis at the end of 1992 during the resettlement project, but quickly moved to the Bay Area for better weather conditions. Tseten had to wait nearly two and a half years for the arrival of her only child, Tenzin, and even longer for her husband, Tsewang, to join her this past June through the family reunification program.

Both originally from the U-Tsang province of central Tibet, Tseten and Tsewang fled their native country at young ages. Tseten's family decided to leave Tibet when Chinese officials came to take her and her older sister away to Beijing for schooling. After hiding in a basket to deceive the officials, Tseten and her family were on their way across the Himalayas the very next day. Tsewang's father was a merchant between the nomads of the North and farmers of the South. After his father's death, Tsewang's family convinced Chinese officials that they needed to bring back the eldest son, who was a monk, from Nepal to run the household. Never returning to Tibet, both Tseten's and Tsewang's families resettled in India.

Tseten and Tsewang met as teachers in Dharmasala's Tibetan Children's Village (TCV). Tseten worked there 18 years before moving to the US. Awarded a Fulbright scholarship, Tsewang completed a master's degree in education at the University of Massachusetts. After which, Tsewang returned to the TCV to com-

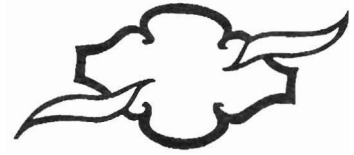
plete a total of 20 years service, including 15 years as principal. Tenzin attended the TCV where his parents worked and is now at Albany High School. Tseten works at a San Francisco cosmetics company and Tsewang is looking for a job.

Finding an enjoyable and challenging job that pays well is perhaps the most difficult aspect of starting their new life in the US. Although Tseten and Tsewang accept the regulations of the American school system, they became discouraged when their qualifications as teachers were not recognized. It is very expensive to attend a credential program. However, they are adjusting to their new environment and appreciating the many comforts offered in the US.

The Khangsar family misses the tight community they were surrounded by in Dharmasala. Tsewang also spoke of a lifestyle in India that is unattainable in the US, as we thrive on adrenaline. Nevertheless, the Khangsars belong to a vibrant community of Tibetans in the Bay Area that is dedicated to preserving its culture. Tseten and Tsewang believe there is more opportunity here for individuals and communities to have their voices heard internationally about the situation in Tibet. They stay politically involved and Tseten has acted as a board member of BAFoT and TANC, as well as president of BAFoT from June 1994 to October 1995.

While Tibet fades into a childhood memory, Tseten, Tsewang and Tenzin all have faith that they will return to live in a free Ti-

bet. As Tsewang said, "China has climbed Mt. Everest, but no matter how powerful she is, she cannot stay on the top. China must come down." The Khangsars' energy and spirit are contagious.



Lhasa Moon Makes Chronicle Top 100, Tsering Wangmo Takes Helm

by Jamie Delman

Tsering Wangmo, co-founder of Chaksam-pa, Tibetan Dance and Opera Company, is the new sole proprietor of San Francisco's only Tibetan restaurant, Lhasa Moon. Tsering and Losang Gyatso opened the restaurant in 1995 as partners. Tsering, familiar to the Bay Area Tibetan community for her frequent performances with Chaksam-pa, is enthusiastic about her new role as sole proprietor. She is proud to be one of the few Tibetan women who owns and operates her own business in America, and hopes that her example will encourage Tibetan women with entrepreneurial ambitions.

Lhasa Moon, located at 2420 Lombard Street in the Marina, was just added to The Bay Area's Top 100 Restaurants (Chronicle Datebook, Feb. 2, 1997). It is one of only a handful of Tibetan restaurants in the country. If you haven't yet tried Lhasa Moon, we highly recommend it. BAFoT wishes Tsering and Lhasa Moon much success!



Tibet Calendar



Tibetan National Uprising Day March and Tibetan Flagraising Ceremony

Monday, March 10: Raising of the Tibetan flag at **Berkeley City Hall** at 9:00 a.m. March from **Powell Street BART** station at 12:00 noon to the Chinese Consulate where we will have a demonstration. Call BAFoT at (510) 548-1271 for information.

Tibet Day

Sunday, March 23, 10 am-4 pm,
Fort Mason Building A, San Francisco
Please see attached flyer.

Tibet Heritage Day

Tuesday, April 22. Please call TANC at (510) 845-6701 or (510) 654-8035 for information.

Himalayan Fair

Saturday and Sunday, May 17 & 18

Live Oak Park, Shattuck/Berryman, Berkeley
This annual event will include Himalayan cultural performances, and arts and crafts from all over the Himalayan region. Enjoy spicy Indian curries and popular Tibetan momos. For more information call (510) 869-3995. Five dollar donations go to Himalayan charities.

Peacemaking Conference with H.H. Dalai Lama and Rigaberta Menchu

Monday through Wednesday, June 9-11
Power of Non-Violence Conference, organized by Tibet House New York, **Bill Graham Civic Auditorium, San Francisco**. Please see article on page 1. Please call Commerce Travel for registration at (800) 937-8728.

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

H.H. Dalai Lama and Rigaberta Menchu Public Address

Monday, June 9, 6:30 p.m. **Bill Graham Civic Auditorium**. See article on page 1. Please call Bonnie McCalla at (415) 331-7378 for information.

H.H. Dalai Lama Birthday Celebration

July 3, 4, 5, and 6
Four days of fun in celebration of the Dalai Lama's birthday. This annual event is co-sponsored by the Tibetan Association of Northern California and BAFoT. Call TANC at (510) 845-6701 or (510) 654-8035 for the location and details.

Ongoing Tibetan Language Classes

Taught by Mark Tatz. Please call UC Berkeley Extension for information.

(continued from page 1)

expected, and no big deal. It seems as if people in our government and news media believe the Chinese Communist argument that there should be different human rights standards for different ethnic and cultural groups—that not all human beings should be treated equally with regard to human rights. This reminds one very much of the Nazi viewpoint that some groups of the human species are superior to others.

It is a deadly point of view, because as humanity approaches the end of the 20th century, we must have a clear and united idea of what will sustain the human race and what will destroy it. Certainly, the selective enforcement of international law and the selective protection of human rights will only lead to the further degradation of the earth and the possible extinction of the human race. In reality, the fate of the little Panchen Lama is a litmus test for the fate of our own humanity. At least for the world's youngest political prisoner, the free world must demand access to him, if only to verify whether or not he is still alive. What is the mighty Chinese government trying to hide by keeping the Panchen Lama in secret detention? Could it be that he that he has been subjected to some pretty heavy brainwashing? Or, is it because shortly after his kidnapping, he and his parents were murdered? Although

Gedun Choekyi Nyima and his parents should be released immediately, shouldn't those of us who are concerned with their fate be demanding of the People's Republic of China proof that they are still alive?



Seeking Jobs For Tibetans

With the success of the family reunification project, many hard-working Tibetans are now seeking employment. The newly-arrived Tibetans have a wide variety of skills and backgrounds.

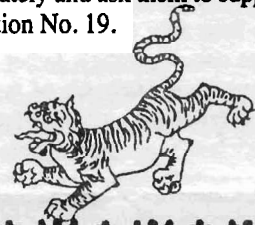
BAFoT is serving as a clearinghouse. If you have a position to be filled or know of one, please contact BAFoT at (510) 548-1271.



Another Opportunity to Help Tibet TODAY!

Senator Daniel Moynihan (D—NY) has introduced a resolution asserting that Ngawang Choephel and other prisoners of conscience in Tibet, as well as in China, should be released immediately and unconditionally. The resolution also insists that in all official meetings with representatives of the government of the People's Republic of China, US officials should request Mr. Choephel's immediate and unconditional release and the United States government should take prompt action to sponsor and promote a resolution at the UN Commission on Human Rights regarding China and Tibet which specifically addresses political prisoners and negotiations with the Dalai Lama.

So far, Senate Resolution No. 19 has the signed support of two Republicans and six Democrats. However, no California senator has signed the resolution. Please call you senator immediately and ask them to support Senate Resolution No. 19.



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Tibet Day

Sunday March 23, 10AM—4PM
Fort Mason Building A, San Francisco

BAFoT's 13th annual Tibet Day. The event this year will focus on issues in Tibet with a panel discussion about political action for Tibet. Cultural performances, delicious Tibetan food (momos!), tabling by a variety of support groups, and arts and crafts will also be featured. Charlotte Painter will be reading from her new book, *Conjuring Tibet*. Come party with your Tibetan friends.

Jigme and Nima Yugay
256 Ventura Ave
Palo Alto CA 94306