



BAY AREA FRIENDS OF TIBET NEWSLETTER

Quarterly

Bay Area Friends of Tibet - 2288 Fulton St., Suite 312, Berkeley, CA 94704 510-548-1271

SPRING 1998

US - CANADA 1998 MARCH FOR TIBET'S INDEPENDENCE

The fourth annual "Walk For Tibet's Independence" will begin on March 10th, 1998 in Portland Oregon. For forty-five days marchers will go from Portland through Olympia, Tacoma, Bellevue, Seattle, Everett, and Bellingham, Washington to Vancouver, Canada. The walk will end April 25th, the ninth birthday of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima (the Panchen Lama), the world's youngest political prisoner.

The walk is led by the 76 year old Thubten Jigme Norbu, the Dalai Lama's elder brother. Long a great and courageous advocate for the just cause of the Tibetan people to overcome the illegal occupation and despoliation of their homeland by the Communist Chinese government, Thubten Jigme Norbu will bravely step forth to lead a band of young and old Americans on a walk through the Great Northwest of the Pacific coast. Thousands of marchers and supporters will go with him and form a wave of humanity that cries out for the freedom and independence of Tibet.

To join this historic walk at any time during its progress from Portland to Vancouver BC., all you have to do at least seven days before you plan to join the walk is phone: 317-579-9015 or E-mail Rangzen@aol.com.

The rate of the walk is 8 to 12 miles per day (not taxing and allows for plenty of time to talk with the locals).

Bring with you a sleeping bag, rain gear, hiking shoes, warm clothing, money for food and personal expenses.

Expect to assist at chores like cooking, cleaning, driving, laundry and maintenance of signs, flyers and flags.

You must provide your own transportation to and from the walk.

on Florida's "Splendid China" a statement by Taktser Tulku

The lies and deceptions put forth by the Chinese government started when they invaded the independent and sovereign nation of Tibet and called it a peaceful liberation. Throughout the years, China has attempted to silence the voices of Tibetans who want freedom and independence and the theme park known as Florida Splendid China continues the same lies and deceptions.

Tibetans are not Chinese. Tibetans are not happy under the cruel and brutal occupation of China.

Recently released documents show a direct link between the State Council of the People's Republic of China and [the developers of] a theme park [Florida Splendid China] that is portrayed as an educational experience to the school children of Florida and tourists. The treasures of Tibet, Southern Mongolia and Eastern Turkestan do not belong in a Chinese theme park because they are not Chinese. This is why the Chinese government hid their involvement in Florida Splendid China - so they would not have to admit the true [propaganda] purpose of the park.

I urge that the proper authorities investigate the matter and work in a positive manner to punish any and all violations of the law committed in hiding the true [propaganda] purpose of the theme park [as a mouthpiece of Chinese Communism].

For more information contact: Jack Churchward, Coordinator, CACCP, PP Box 6812 Clearwater, Florida 34618-6812 Phone: 813-441-3982

YOUR FINANCIAL DONATION TO THE 1998 MARCH FOR TIBET'S INDEPENDENCE is needed to make this historic march a great success. Coordinating a project like this march is quite expensive. The operating budget of the march is \$100,000, including administrative costs and funds to assist the participants. **Please send financial contributions to International Tibet Independence Movement, PO Box 194 Fishers, Indiana 46038-0194 United States.** You can also contact the march by phone 317-579-9015 or by fax 317-579-0914. E Mail Rangzen@aol.com Web www.rangzen.com

PAUSE, THINK & QUESTION TIBET News & Events Throughout the World



FRESH HUMAN BODY PARTS FOR SALE

The New York Times has reported that on February 24th FBI agents arrested two Chinese nationals, Chen Yong Wang and Xinqi Fu, "on charges of conspiring to arrange transplants of kidneys and other organs taken from the bodies of executed Chinese inmates." One of the arrested men, Wang, identified himself as a former prosecutor from Hainan Island, China. The two were set up for a sting operation by human rights activist, Harry Wu. Prior to the arrest Mr. Wu posing as a doctor had a meeting with Mr. Wang, which he secretly taped. Mr. Wu stated that Mr. Wang told him that he could guarantee delivery of the organs of at least 50 of the 200 prisoners executed annually on China's Hainan Island. According to Mr. Wu, Mr. Wang told him that kidney transplants would cost \$30,000. and that eye corneas would cost \$5,000. Wu turned his tape over to FBI agents and the sting operation began. Undercover FBI agents, posing as doctors, met with Mr. Wang, who reportedly told them that he could obtain, "pancreases, livers, lungs and skin." The press office at China's embassy in Washington had no comment when first asked about this matter by the press. The Chinese government has long denied that the practice of selling body parts obtained from executed prisoners is widespread in China. *{That it exists at all is amazing}* According to Harry Wu, Mr. Wang, the former prosecutor, contradicted this denial by telling him that "prisoners have no political rights". China has one of the highest annual rates of capital punishment. The equivalent in the United States would be an annual rate of 200 executions. The actual annual rate in the US is less than 20. In China it is around 2000. In China and Chinese occupied Tibet petty criminals are sentenced to death quite often. It is clearly a form of social control. It is from these victims body parts that former prosecutors and probably others obtain up to a 25% commission.

After the arrests of Mr. Wang and Mr. Fu a State Department spokesman said "we're naturally concerned about these allegations, and we're looking into it." Just a year ago, Stanley O. Roth, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian & Pacific Affairs said in a letter to Sen. Jessie Helms, that if it were true that Chinese prisoners were being killed to sell their body parts, "this would be among the grossest violations of human rights imaginable".

Huh? Religious Freedom Chinese style

On Feb. 23rd, while a US delegation of clergymen was visiting China to investigate religious freedom in China, Chinese Premier Li Peng told the directors of China's Religious Affairs Bureau that socialism must be imposed on all religious work in China. He "stressed the importance of the implementation" of the Communist Party's policies on religious work.

The US delegation consisted of Monseignor Theodore McCarrick, Archbishop of Newark, NJ., Reverend Don Argue, President of the National Association of Evangelicals and Rabbi Arthur Schneier, President of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation. The delegation visited Tibet, Nanjing, Chengdu and Beijing. It was not reported whether this delegation asked the Chinese authorities permission to visit with the eight year old Panchen Lama, Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, the World's youngest religious prisoner of conscience. For the past three years the Panchen Lama has been kept in secret detention by the Chinese government. During that time there has been no reliable evidence that this eight year old boy is still alive.

The Tide Is Turning!

The Geneva State Parliament of the Swiss Federation on Feb. 20th unanimously adopted a resolution that calls upon the Federal Swiss authorities to accord diplomatic status to the Government of Tibet in Exile. The resolution emphatically recognizes that for many centuries the Tibetan people have independently governed their own affairs and that the Government of Tibet in Exile in Dharamsala is the continuation of the state authority that existed in Tibet since at least 1911. The resolution made the following four demands of the Geneva State government:

- 1.) To officially receive His Holiness the Dalai Lama or a delegation of the Government of Tibet in Exile during their next visit to Geneva.
- 2.) To recommend to the Federal authorities to give diplomatic status to the Government of Tibet in Exile.
- 3.) To open economic and cultural exchanges with the Government of Tibet in Exile.
- 4.) To give material support to the representative of the Government of Tibet in Exile.

Jetsun Pema visits the Bay Area

Jetsun Pema, H. H. the Dalai Lama's sister, is visiting the Bay Area during the first part of March. She is here to raise consciousness about the issues of exile Tibetans, freedom for her homeland and raise money for the Government of Tibet in Exile. To learn more about her visit and to contribute to the Government of Tibet in Exile, please contact Tibet Fund.

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BAFoT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The annual general membership meeting of Bay Area Friends of Tibet will take place on Sunday, June 28, 1998 at 11:00 am. At this meeting the membership will elect members of the board. This meeting will be held at the BAFoT office located at 2288 Fulton St., Suite 312, Berkeley, CA 94704.

TIBET DAY 1998 Volunteers and Questions-

BAFoT needs your help to put on a great Tibet Day 1998. If you want to volunteer or otherwise help please telephone Max Butler at 510-235-5984.

Bay Area Friends of Tibet Newsletter

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Editorial Committee

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BONNIE McCALLA

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