



Bay Area Friends of Tibet

NEWSLETTER

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MFN Action Separates Human Rights and Trade

By Elizabeth Tam

As far back as 1989, U. S. intelligence analysts were reporting that the Chinese never believed President Bush's or Clinton's threat to pull the plug on lucrative U.S.-Chinese commerce by revoking China's Most Favored Nation trading status (MFN).

President Clinton abandoned his policy of using MFN trade status as leverage to promote the protection of Tibet's religious and cultural heritage, as well as human rights in China. Instead of demonstrating his support for Tibet on May 26, Clinton chose to renew China's trading privileges and sanctioned imports of Chinese-made guns and ammunition, despite appalling human rights conditions in Tibet and China.

Echoing the argument made by George Bush when he was president, Clinton said he was convinced the Chinese would take more steps to improve human rights if the issue were separated from the threat of trade sanctions. "This decision offers us the best opportunity to lay the basis for long-term sustainable progress on human rights and for the advancement of our other interests with China," Clinton said at a news conference. To demonstrate his continuing concern about human rights in China and Tibet, Clinton said he was taking several other small steps to support the pro-democracy cause in China.

Lodi Gyari, president of the International Campaign for Tibet (ICT), said, "We deeply regret the President's decision and are very concerned that it could demoralize the Tibetans and Chinese who are struggling for democracy and freedom. However, we have been assured by administration officials that the

President remains committed to helping the Tibetan people, and to supporting negotiations between the Dalai Lama and the Chinese leaders."

ICT indicated that the package of policies announced by Clinton in late May fails as an effective human rights policy. The President's decision falls far short of his stated commitment that human rights and democracy constitute one of the four pillars of his foreign policy.

Tibetan government-in-exile representative Rinchen Dharlo said, "We are very disap-

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pointed that the president did not follow through with his MFN Executive Order, but hope that he will not back down in his efforts to promote a resolution to the Tibetan problem."

It is obvious from his decision that President Clinton has severed the link between trade and human rights in U.S. foreign policy. Despite the broken link, the Clinton administration said that promoting human rights would remain a central element in U.S. relations. "We have focused a brighter spotlight on human rights practices in China. That scrutiny will continue, and our human rights dialogue with China will intensify," Secretary of State Warren Christopher said. His remarks were part of an effort by the administration to rebut suggestions by opposition politicians and human rights groups that by renewing China's MFN trading status unconditionally, Clinton caved in to Beijing.

Christopher also said China had told the U.S. that greater progress on human rights could be made even without the MFN linkage and "now we will give them a chance." Revoking

MFN status, he said, would have led to a "downward spiral" in U.S.-China relations. Christopher put the China decision in the context of what he called a "comprehensive U.S. strategy of engagement and leadership" in the Asia-Pacific region.

This approach also includes new trade negotiations with Japan, efforts to solve nuclear problems with North Korea and a U.S.-Vietnamese agreement on establishing liaison offices in each other's capitals.

Human rights and Tibet support groups have condemned Clinton's decision, accusing the President of acquiescing to big business. Many were discouraged, disappointed and frustrated. A strong lobby in Congress had pressed Clinton to adhere to the goal he set last year in an Executive Order that made renewal of China's MFN status dependent on "overall significant progress" in human rights.

On the other side, not surprisingly, the business world was overjoyed. Analysts had warned that revoking China's tariff benefits could cost up to 200,000 American jobs as well as billions of dollars in trade and potential markets. Clinton in his presidential campaign had sharply attacked Bush for extending trade privileges to China in the years following the 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy activists in Beijing's Tiananmen Square, accusing him of "coddling criminals."

But Clinton said he has had a change of heart. "Let me ask you the same question I have asked myself," he said, "Will we do more to advance the cause of human rights if China is isolated?"

"What the U.S. policy should do is to intensify and broaden its relations, not isolate them." He acknowledged that the one sanction he was imposing—the ban on imports of guns and ammunition from China (involving about \$200 million in sales)—constituted little more than a "discrete" symbol of U. S. displeasure.

The other measures he announced include increased broadcasts for Radio-Free Asia and the Voice of America, increased support for
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Directors' Messages

Dear Members,

Recent Board meetings have concluded that our grassroots activities are urgent and timely. Each Board member is actively involved in at least one committee besides executing his or her normal role of directing the organization. In order to augment its efforts, BAFoT would like to ask each and every member to get involved. Please call the BAFoT office for more information. We invite you to participate in any of our committees, which encompass a broad range of opportunities, or join us as a volunteer. We also need help in the office during weekdays or evenings.

The second phase of the Resettlement Project—reunification of families—needs volunteers in many areas: ESL instruction, employment, housing, schools, medical, etc. We hope you will join us in bringing this project to its successful conclusion.

Thank You and Tashi Delek!

Jigme Yugay, President, BAFoT



Thank You, Volunteers

Many thanks to the volunteers who have provided office assistance: Marie Favorini, Nancy Hiland, Ingrid Lockowandt, Kathy Newitt, Patricia Pigman, and Joji Shields. Our *Little Buddha* volunteers were honored in the program; they are too numerous to mention. Pam Meyers did a great job distributing postcards in the financial district opposing the renewal of MFN. Cat Romance organized flyers for petitioning at *Little Buddha* theaters throughout the Bay Area, and we thank Adam Schwartz for leafletting at the San Francisco theater. We are indebted to intern Elizabeth Tam for coordinating our first Tibet Day East Bay, and to all those who participated to make the day a success. Special thanks to Peter O'Donnell and Leni Miller for spearheading our Save Tibet Catalogue Fundraiser, and to Michael Zipkin for his desktop publishing expertise.

Leslie Kean, Executive Director

Bay Area Friends of Tibet NEWSLETTER

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Editorial Collective

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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

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nongovernmental organizations working on human rights in China and the development with U. S. business leaders of a voluntary set of principles for business activity in China.

Congressional Response and New Bill

Members of Congress, including top Democratic leaders Pelosi, Gephardt and Bonior, announced that they are introducing legislation to compensate for the weakness of the President's decision. With the lever of MFN status abandoned, the administration is now obligated to design other ways to promote substantive support for Tibet, including the process of negotiations between China and the Dalai Lama's government-in-exile.

Representative Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) has introduced a bill in the House to impose targeted trading sanctions on China as a result of its failure to comply with Clinton's MFN Executive Order last year. The bill raises tariffs on targeted goods made by the Chinese military and some state-run industries. The legislation specifically mentions that the Chinese government has made

no progress on the issue of Tibet and stresses the importance of negotiations between the Dalai Lama and Beijing.

Pelosi's bill would revoke China's trading privileges for:

- all products produced, manufactured or exported by the People's Liberation Army and Chinese government-owned defense industrial trading companies, and

- certain products of state-owned enterprises from the following categories:

- plastics and plastic articles

- wood articles

- paper and paperboard

- apparel and clothing

- footwear

- glass and glassware

- articles of iron and steel

- machinery and mechanical appliances

- arms and ammunition parts,

- and accessories

- furniture: lamps and lighting fittings

These items have all previously been identified by the United States Trade Representatives as possible targets for retaliatory tariffs during trade negotiations. Favorable nondiscriminatory MFN tariff rates would continue for products exported by private enterprises and joint ventures.

When and if enacted into law, the legislation will affect the roughly \$5 billion of China's exports to the United States, but would have no impact on U.S. exports to China.

Pelosi and others in Congress will be working over the next months to garner sufficient support to pass this legislation in both the House and the Senate.

The Clinton administration is opposed to this bill since it directly contradicts President Clinton's decision to de-link human rights and trade. Moreover, much of "corporate America" will lobby against it. Tibet supporters will need a very strong response from all over the country to counteract the lobbying efforts. Now is not the time to give up.

You can help by writing, faxing or calling your Representatives and asking them to cosponsor H.R. 4590. If you would like a copy of the bill or if you have any questions, please contact International Campaign for Tibet at (202) 628-4123. Call Bay Area Friends of Tibet at (415) 241-9197 for more information on how you can help.

The Tibetans need tutoring in English, computer skills, and driving. If you would like to help, please call Diane Winslow at (510) 848-7731.

New U.S. Legislation to Benefit Tibetans

By Todd Barber

On April 30, 1994, President Clinton signed the 1994-95 Foreign Relations Authorization Act, commonly known as the State Department Authorization Act. This bi-annual bill contains several historic provisions which call for extended relations with the Tibetan government-in-exile and establish programs designed to benefit Tibetans inside Tibet.

One aspect of the new law requires the State Department to issue an annual report "on the state of relations between the United States and those recognized by Congress as the true representatives of the Tibetan people: the Dalai Lama, his representatives, and the Tibetan government-in-exile, and on conditions in Tibet." (Congress declared Tibet an occupied country in the 1992-93 Authorization Act.)

Another provision expresses "the sense of Congress" that "whenever a report is transmitted to the Congress on a country-by-country basis, there should be included in such report...a separate report on Tibet listed alphabetically with its own state heading."

These two provisions send a strong message to the Clinton administration, the Chinese Government, and the Tibetan people that Congress is committed to its position that Tibet is an occupied country and should be treated as such.

United States Information Agency

There are several provisions in the act that call for expanded programs for Tibetans through the United States Information Agency (USIA.) The directives include establishing a USIA office in Lhasa in order to: disseminate information about the U.S., promote discussions on human rights, facilitate U.S. private sector involvement in educational and cultural activities in Tibet, and advise the U.S. Government with respect to Tibetan public opinion.

If the Chinese approve, this office would create a permanent U.S. presence in Lhasa and could be a source of information for Tibetans about events in the outside world. It would also allow the U.S. to gather first-hand information about current events in Tibet.

Another USIA provision calls for new "programs of educational and cultural exchange between the U.S. and the people of Tibet..." Such programs would be "for persons of Tibetan heritage and not for Chinese immigrants or temporary Chinese workers in Tibet."

Radio Free Asia

The bill orders a complete restructuring of international broadcasting by the United States, and establishes a new Radio Free Asia. As a result, all U.S. government broadcasting will now fall under the jurisdiction of USIA.

Radio Free Asia will broadcast to the Peoples Republic of China, Burma, Cambodia, Laos, North Korea, Tibet, and Vietnam. Radio Free Asia will provide local and relevant international news to these countries and will be an invaluable forum for peoples in Asia to learn about democracy movements in neighboring countries.

Benefit Premiere of "Little Buddha" A Smashing Success!

By Leslie Kean

On May 23, Bay Area Friends of Tibet and the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO) sponsored the Bay Area premiere of Bernardo Bertolucci's new film *Little Buddha* at the Bridge Theater in San Francisco. The film brings to mass audiences the story of an American boy recognized to be the reincarnation of a Tibetan Lama. Following extensive publicity prior to the event, the 400 seat theater was sold out in advance, and interest



© Alison Wright

Lama Tarchin Rinpoche and Geshe Tsultrim Gyeltsen greet each other at BAFoT and UNPO's Little Buddha Benefit Premiere.

in a possible second show generated a waiting list of more than 200. As a result of this enthusiastic response, BAFoT and UNPO raised considerable funds to benefit Tibet and others without a voice on the world stage.

A pre-screening reception for about 200 guests opened the evening, with catering donated by the Straits Cafe. Our guests of honor, who spoke to the audience prior to the film, were actor Peter Coyote, "Frontline" correspondent Orville Schell, and Geshe Tsultrim Gyeltsen from Los Angeles, who appears in the film. Scoop Nisker, author and radio personality, was a brilliant and witty master of ceremonies. Additional special guests included Lama Kunga Rinpoche and Lama Tharchin Rinpoche from the Bay Area, as well as renowned photographer Galen Rowell.

BAFoT and UNPO are very grateful to our sponsors of the premiere, who contributed \$500 or more: Sharon Brown Bacon, Dr. Aubrey Degnan, Annette Gellert, American Himalayan Foundation, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi and husband Paul Pelosi, Susie Tompkins, and Sally Unterberger. We also extend our thanks to Miramax Films, Lesley Cootes of Bill Lanese Public Relations, Glen Gilbert, and the numerous volunteers without whom the event would not have been possible.

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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Congressional Delegation Visits Tibet

In early April, a congressional delegation spent ten days in Tibet and Nepal assessing China's treatment of the Tibetan people. The delegation included Robert Gustafson (for Rep. John Edward Porter, R-IL), Michael Lostumbo (for Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-NY) and Lawrence Holland (for Rep. Jolene Unsoeld, D-WA), accompanied by Rachel Lostumbo of the International Campaign for Tibet (ICT). The Nepal trip was sponsored by the Tibet Fund, the Tibet trip by ICT.

An official request for a Senate Foreign Relations Committee visit to Tibet was denied by China, so the group traveled as tourists and was thereby able to conduct confidential interviews.

Their report reiterates observations by recent nongovernmental visitors and refugees, affirming that China's policies in Tibet pose a grave threat to the survival of Tibetan religion and culture. The delegation found evidence of significant Chinese civilian population in urban areas in Tibet, Chinese settlement in smaller towns and rural areas, a large military presence in rural and urban areas, severe restrictions on Tibetans' religious and cultural expression, and discriminatory practices against the Tibetan people.

Much of the delegation's report is testimony from monks and nuns recounting conditions in the monasteries in Tibet, such as restrictions on the number of monks or nuns admitted, and duties imposed that restrict time and ability to get a full religious education. Chinese informants are reportedly prevalent. Heavy tax burdens are levied; nuns reported requirements to give or sell one third to half of their farm produce to the government with no compensation or at a deflated rate (similar testimony was given by refugee farmers). About 40% of new refugees entering Nepal are monks and nuns. They report threats of long prison terms for refusing to sign statements against political demonstrations; human rights groups have documented that over 350 monks and nuns have been imprisoned in Lhasa alone for political beliefs or nonviolent demonstrations.

In Nepal, the delegation learned from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) that approximately 4,000 Tibetan refugees made the difficult trip over the

Himalaya in 1993. About 97% of new refugees in Nepal are deemed eligible for assistance and sent on to India. One recent arrival interviewed by the delegation was a 10-year-old who was the only one of a group of four boys to reach the refugee center (his companions were detained by Nepali border guards and police). It is not uncommon for Tibetan parents to send their children out of Tibet alone, to obtain a full Tibetan education in exile. UNHCR statistics show that 20% of those arriving from Tibet are children traveling on their own.

In secular education in Tibet, entrance to high school requires English and Chinese language exams, which cannot be prepared in the Tibetan tract of the school system. At Tibet University the delegation learned that only 19% of the 1,300 students are Tibetan, and the language of instruction is Chinese.

The delegation also visited Yamdrok Tso, a large lake sacred to Tibetans that is being exploited by China for hydroelectric power and mineral deposits. Tibetans have protested this project because of environmental and religious concerns.

Upon return to Washington, the delegation's report was entered into the Congressional Record with recommendations that the U.S. and the international community should use all policy tools to call on the Chinese to immediately:

- enter into substantive negotiations with the Dalai Lama or his representatives;
- end government incentives for Chinese settlers to move to Tibet;
- respect the basic human rights of the Tibetan people, including fundamental rights to freedom of speech and assembly;
- permit the Tibetans to freely practice their religion and pursue their unique way of life;
- provide more opportunities for educational advancement of Tibetans studying in their own language; and,
- cease all discriminatory practices towards Tibetans.

Source: Congressional Record (Senate), May 16, 1994

Tibetans to Vote on Their Future

UPI June 7—The Dalai Lama intends to organize a referendum on the future of the Himalayan region. In talks with Belgian officials in Brussels, the Dalai Lama said such a vote should be put before not only the 100,000 Tibetan exiles in India, but indirectly before Tibet itself, according to a report by the Belgian news agency Belga. He said the need for such a referendum is heightened by a growing intransigence among Tibetans, who are becoming a minority in their own homeland. Tibetans comprise only 6 million of Tibet's total population of 13 million. Thus, over half of Tibet's population is made up of Chinese who have been "imported" since China annexed Tibet in 1959. The Dalai Lama has likened the situation to "cultural genocide." While reaffirming his lifelong belief in change through non-violence, he said he would propose the following questions in such a referendum:

1) Would you favor the nonviolent path backed by the Dalai Lama for a dialogue on obtaining autonomy from and peaceful cohabitation with China?

2) Would you favor any action, violent or not, to achieve total independence?

3) Would you favor another type of solution? While contending that there would be little problem in putting such questions to Tibetan exiles, the Dalai Lama was unclear how people in Tibet would be polled.

A Gari 14 Nun Dies in Tibet

By Elizabeth Tam

Phuntsog Yangkyi, a 20-year-old Buddhist nun, has died from injuries inflicted while she was incarcerated in a Lhasa prison. She was one of 14 imprisoned nuns from Gari nunnery, several of whom were badly beaten by Chinese prison authorities for singing Tibetan nationalist songs in celebration of Tibetan New Year on February 11.

According to the Tibet Support Group, UK and Amnesty International, Phuntsog was transferred to the police hospital in Lhasa on June 4, after becoming unconscious. It is suspected that her death was related to the injuries sustained in the February beating. Her body was cremated two days later, against the wishes of her family. This decision by the hospital made it impossible for her family to arrange for an independent medical investigation into the cause(s) of her death.

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Lhasa Protests Intensify

Tibet Information Network—At least four demonstrations and ten arrests, with seven alleged cases of badly-beaten demonstrators, occurred in the Tibetan capital in late May, according to reports from Lhasa.

A demonstration involving between four and nine monks took place on the morning of May 24, the day after the 43rd anniversary of the Tibetan government's surrender to invading Chinese forces. At least four monks were detained after shouting pro-independence slogans and some of the monks were knocked to the ground by the police before being led away, said a report by Japan's Kyodo News Service.

On the following day, which marked an important religious festival commemorating the anniversary of the Buddha's enlightenment, another incident occurred. Five nuns from Gari nunnery near Lhasa, were arrested, apparently for staging a pro-independence protest. A number of other women involved in the demonstration managed to run away before the police arrived.

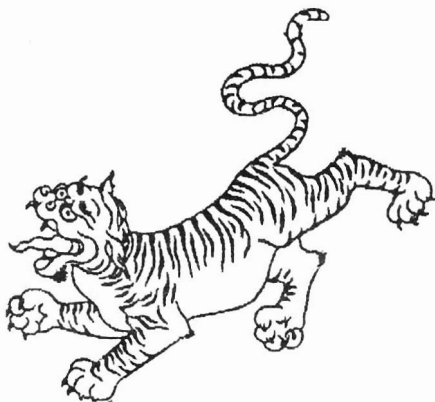
The final protest of May began at about 2pm on the 27th, when Tibetan shopkeepers in the Tibetan quarter of Lhasa, known as the *Barkor*, closed their shops in protest against an abrupt and steep increase in the monthly fees levied on traders. One source claimed the tax on shopkeepers increased by 100%, but others said the increase in this payment to local administrators was 25-30%. All Tibetan shops in the area were closed—some voluntarily and others due to pressure exerted by other traders.

On that same day, in an incident recounted by one western witness, between 100 and 200 shopkeepers gathered outside the offices of the Lhasa Inner City Government, shouting slogans. At least one hundred bystanders gathered in the street to watch the protest. As many as ten police cars converged on the area; after police cordoned off the street, additional police, armed with AK-47s, moved in and established positions around the government office. These troops carried riot shields bearing the logo *Gong An* ("Public Security") in Chinese characters. Although most of the demonstrators were quickly released, an unknown number were detained within the Inner City Government office compound for the night. Seven protesters received "serious injuries" from beatings during the arrest which required hospital treatment, according to Kyodo. The *Barkor* was declared off-limits to tourists, and all shops in that area remained closed after shopkeepers continued a boycott of trade.

The protests were widely believed by sources in Lhasa to be fueled by Tibetans' disapproval

of the U.S. decision to renew China's Most Favored Nation trading status (MFN). This policy had been announced on May 26, the day before the protests began in Barkor. Tibetans cannot legally demonstrate on such issues, and the shopkeepers' strike was reported by some sources to be also a cover for an anti-MFN protest.

A similar tactic was used in a major demonstration on May 24, 1993, when a protest by over a thousand Tibetans against price increases turned into a pro-independence rally. Tourists said they were confined to the capital, suggesting that Chinese authorities fear the spread of unrest to areas outside of Lhasa.



Rock Video Based on Gari 14 Protest Song

By Elizabeth Tam

At the first annual Tibet Day East Bay celebration on July 3, BAFoT had the fortunate opportunity to show a rock video based on the freedom song of the imprisoned Gari nuns by Robin Garthwaite and Dan Griffin of Garthwaite Productions. They participated in the event, showing their video throughout the day, and talking briefly about their other work.

This three-minute rock video, with music by a well-known Seattle-based band called the Posies, is based on a song composed by the Gari 14 nuns, imprisoned in Lhasa's Drapchi Prison. In jail, the nuns recorded a freedom song that was later smuggled out. When Chinese authorities discovered what had happened, the nuns' sentences were doubled.

The rock video, featuring images of Chinese oppression juxtaposed with segments of speeches by H.H. the Dalai Lama, will hopefully receive public airing on television and can be used by Tibet Support Groups throughout the country.

Copies of the video are available for a minimum charge from the International Campaign for Tibet office at (202) 628-4123. If you want to see the music video, it will be shown at Tibet Day Santa Cruz, August 28, 10AM to 4PM.



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More Than Meets The Eye

Local Spotlight

General Meeting and Board Elections Held

BAFoT held its annual meeting for members on June 11 in the East Bay, at which the current Board of Directors presented the membership with its slate of new Board nominees. Following presentations from the Executive Director, Board members, Committee representatives, and the Resettlement Project, the membership unanimously elected all the nominees to serve a one-year term. After the meeting, participants enjoyed homemade Tibetan cookies and drinks, while artists Pempa Tsering and Jamphel Tsultrim demonstrated their crafts of wood carving and Thangka painting. members had the opportunity to meet with new Board members, join committees, and further their involvement with the organization.

Approximately two-thirds of the seats on the BAFoT board are now held by the following new members: Michael Bachman, Carol Brighton, Cynthia Chang, Larry Chiang, Thubten Jamyang Lama, Tseten Lhamo, Bonnie McCalla, Alexandra Morgan, Ventul Rinpoche, and Thepo Tulku. Diane Winslow joined as our new Secretary last spring. The retiring board members are: Greg Alling, Samten Choden, Lhakpa Dolma, Carol Fields, Phil LadenLa, Justin Lowe, Richard Kohn, Susan Sopcak, Mark Tatz, Tenki TendufLa, and Chimi Thonden. Needless to say, all of them are still active for Tibet and many will continue to serve on committees; we thank them all for their contributions to BAFoT during their service on the Board. Sharon Bacon (Vice-President), Ralph Davies (Treasurer), Eva Herzer, Chime Lhamo, Chime Wangchuk, and Jigme Yugay (President) currently plan to serve a second term as board members. The new board attended a one day retreat on July 16, facilitated by Diana Schweickart and her team of consultants from the California Institute of Integral Studies.

Tibetans Join Chinese to Commemorate Tiananmen Square Massacre

By Carol Brighton

San Francisco June 8—The Tibetan community of the Bay Area, in a show of solidarity with supporters of the Chinese democracy movement, joined Chinese activists in Portsmouth Square, Chinatown, to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the Chinese authorities' massacre of pro-democracy supporters in Tiananmen Square on June 4, 1989. The gathering was addressed by Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi and Fang Li Zhi, the famed physicist and democracy supporter.

Student leaders from China, Shen Tong, Wu Er KaiQi, and Nick Liang were among those who gave impassioned speeches memorializing their friends who either died at Tiananmen Square or have since been imprisoned, promising that they would never forget them or their cause.

Sonam Choden, secretary of the Tibetan Association of Northern California (TANC), read a letter from His Holiness the Dalai Lama, in which he acknowledged those who have "sacrificed their lives for freedom, democracy and human rights of the Chinese people." The letter stated that the "Tibetan people have great admiration for the millions of Chinese who openly and nonviolently advocated freedom, democracy and human rights at great personal risks...through contact and dialogue, in a spirit of reconciliation, openness and mutual respect, we need to foster a heart-to-heart relationship." In the letter, the Dalai Lama mentioned the steadily growing numbers of Chinese people, inside and outside China, "expressing their concern over the continued support for the Tibetan peoples' rights as a nation..." The reading of the letter was well received with loud applause by the largely Chinese audience.

Lhakpa Dolma, Vice President of TANC, in speaking for her fellow Tibetans, said that "by mutual understanding and joining with the Chinese here, we hope to gain freedom for the Tibetans. We are not against the Chinese people, we are against the dictatorship of the Chinese government."

Lhakpa Dolma said she was "impressed by the Chinese who are so determined to get democracy for China. It was encouraging for us Tibetans to hear them speak out and to be able to join with them."

Lollapalooza 1994

By Elizabeth Tam

The Beastie Boys, George Clinton and the P-Funk Allstars, A Tribe Called Quest... these musicians and many others will be appearing on the 1994 Lollapalooza Concert Tour this summer. But what does Lollapalooza have to do with the situation in Tibet?

Last April, the Beastie Boys—a New York rap group—established a foundation called the Milarepa Fund and presented two benefit concerts on the east coast designed to raise awareness about the repression of Tibet's religious and cultural traditions. The Fund aims to promote universal compassion and assist nonprofit organizations helping Tibetans.

Proceeds from these benefited solely Artists for Tibet, a nonprofit group within the Tibet Foundation consisting of a network of artists dedicated to the preservation of the sacred arts and culture of Tibet. Among its goals, Artists for Tibet plans to establish and endow a Tibetan Cultural Center in the United States, which will include an art museum dedicated to Tibetan arts. On the Lollapalooza tour, Artists for Tibet will also sponsor performances by the Tibetan Garden Jangtse Monks. The monks will visit over 35 cities throughout the country during July and August. Local Tibet support groups have been invited by the organizers of Lollapalooza to set up tables at the concerts, converse with fans, and distribute literature.

The Beastie Boys' interest in Tibetan culture is quite evident on their latest album, "Ill Communication," which was released on May 31 on Grand Royal/Capital Records. Royalties from their Buddhism-related songs, "Shambala" and "Bodhisattva Vow" will be donated to the Milarepa Fund and used to assist nonprofit organizations working with Tibetans.

Lollapalooza will present two shows in the Bay Area on August 27 and 28 (Saturday and Sunday) at the Shoreline Amphitheater in Mountain View. Tickets are available from BASS: (510) 762-2277. Please do not call the BAFoT office.

BAFoT plans to table at the concerts to help raise awareness about Tibet. If you would like to volunteer at our booth, please call the office. We hope to see you there!



BAFoT Events

Tibet Day Santa Cruz

Once again, Bay Area Friends of Tibet will hold its annual Tibet Day Santa Cruz at the Pacific Cultural Center on Sunday, August 28. Please see the Tibet Calendar.

This year's highlights will include slide shows by Franz Skinner and Nate Cutler, a talk by Lama Tarchin Rinpoche, presentations by Chaksam-Pa Tibetan Arts company, and folk dancing by the Tibetan Association of Northern California. In addition, various videos will be shown (including a music video on Tibetan human rights issues); Tibetan food will be available; and vendors of Himalayan arts, crafts, books, and clothing will be exhibiting and selling their wares.

Be sure to come to Tibet Day Santa Cruz!

Tibet Day East Bay

BAFoT's first annual Tibet Day East Bay was a great success, drawing 400 people to El Cerrito's Veterans Memorial Association building to celebrate His Holiness the Dalai Lama's July 6 birthday.

Some highlights included a talk on Tibet by BAFoT board member Ventul Rinpoche, a special video of His Holiness' public talk at the Greek Theater on April 20, a performance by Tibetan folk dancers from the Tibetan As-

sociation of Northern California, and a presentation by Chaksam-Pa Tibetan Dance and Opera Company. Delicious Indian food prepared by Ajanta Restaurant in Berkeley was savored by many at this all-day event.

Thanks to the many volunteers and to all who participated in celebrating His Holiness' birthday at Tibet Day East Bay. Mark your calendars for Tibet Day Santa Cruz, August 28.

Announcing The First Annual Save Tibet Catalogue

BAFoT has undertaken an ambitious new auction-by-phone fundraiser. Members have received calls from our volunteer fundraising committee asking for tax-deductible donations to be listed in our first-ever "Save Tibet Catalogue." Sample items donated so far include an in-home performance by a Balinese dancer, 10 passes to the Asian Art Museum, a gourmet Christmas basket, business consulting assistance, astrology sessions, a Tibetan prayer rug, and a week for two at the Rio Caliente Spa in Mexico (value \$1232).

Thanks to all the members, friends, and businesses who contributed. Members will receive a copy of the catalogue in September, so please

call us with your bids for some of the most unusual and creative gifts to be found in the Bay Area. All proceeds will benefit BAFoT's ongoing programs to further the cause of Tibet. BAFoT's goal is to raise \$10,000 annually through this effort.



Gari 14 Nun Dies...

(continued from page 4)

Phuntsog Yangkyi was serving a five-year sentence in Lhasa's Drapchi prison for taking part in a pro-independence demonstration on February 3, 1992. Phuntsog Yangkyi and the remainder of the Gari 14 were unjustly imprisoned and the other nuns remain prisoners of conscience under the Chinese government. Tibet support groups and international human rights groups have appealed many times on behalf of the nuns.

Prison conditions under the Chinese prison system are horrific. A group of nuns in Drapchi prison had the length of their sentences doubled (even tripled in one case), just for singing a pro-independence song in their cells.

Something must be done now before another nun or a Tibetan prisoner of conscience dies in prison in the hands of the Chinese government.

HOW YOU CAN HELP: Act now—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.



Tibet Calendar



Tibet Day Santa Cruz

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

Enjoy a festival of Himalayan arts, crafts, food, and lectures at this fun and educational annual event. Please call (415) 241-9197 for a flyer or directions.

Lollapalooza 1994

Saturday, August 27 and Sunday, August 28
Shoreline Amphitheater, Mountain View
Enjoy two stages of live music including the Tibetan Ganden Jangtse Monks, co-headlined by the Beastie Boys. See article on page 6. BAFoT will be tabling, if you want to volunteer, please call (415) 241-9197.

Speakers' Bureau Training

October 1, 1994

For information call Eva Herzer (510) 526-5144 or (510) 527-1535. See article on page 8.

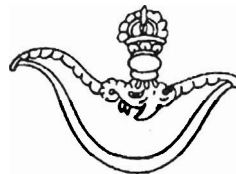
In Xanadu

(Shadow Play Theater Company, with Chaksam-Pa Tibetan Dance and Opera Company)

October 19-23 and 26-30, 1994

The Cowell Theater, Fort Mason

Chaksam-Pa will perform in an original, collaborative shadow production on the last two weekends in October. Set in medieval Mongolia, **In Xanadu** tells the story of Khublai Khan and his wife Chabui through the medium of shadow on a giant screen. Script by Larry Reed and Zara Houshmand; directed by Larry Reed. For more information, call (415) 648-4461.



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

Heinrich Harrer Coming to Bay Area

Wednesday, November 2

Fort Mason Conference Center

Author of *Seven Years in Tibet*, Mr. Harrer's Northern California visit will be sponsored by the International Committee of Lawyers for Tibet. For more information, please call the ICLT office at (415) 252-5967.

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.

Bay Area Friends of Tibet Board Meetings

First Wednesday of Every Month, 7 pm

Bay Area Friends of Tibet Office

347 Dolores Street, #206

(between 16th & 17th Streets)

All members are welcome!



URGENT ACTION

Jobs Wanted Bulletin Board

The arrival and assimilation of the 60 new Tibetans as part of the Tibetan Resettlement Project has been a great success. BAFoT, as the local sponsoring organization, would like to let YOU, as a Bay Area Friend of Tibet, know how things are going. At this time, most of the resettled Tibetans are getting used to life in America, and will be able to send for their families soon. However, many of the new arrivals still need your help.

Currently, the greatest need of the Tibetan newcomers in the Bay Area is full-time employment. The following list describes the skills and jobs sought by some of these Tibetan newcomers:

- Registered nurse and recent graduate from San Jose State University seeks employment in a medical setting. Call Tashi at (408) 356-7649.
- All India Class 8 graduate with Tibetan rug weaving experience needs full time employment. Stockroom, packing and shipping, cashier trainee, elder care, housekeeping, or restaurant work desired. Call Tsering at (415) 567-1698.
- Experienced housekeeper, assembly line worker and Tibetan rug weaver desires full time employment in housekeeping, packing and shipping, elder care, restaurant, storeroom or other. Call Jampa at (415) 348-7398.
- Recent arrival from Tibet, experienced farmer and driver, seeks full-time employment in warehouse, restaurant, house painting or other. Call Jamyang at (510) 843-2507.

- All India Class 12 high-school graduate with packing and shipping experience seeks entry level job as a dental assistant, cashier, office clerk or other. Call Tsundue at (510) 525-9537.
- College graduate in commerce with experience in bookkeeping and accounting seeks entry level office job. Call Phuntsok at (510) 843-4964.

Speaker's Bureau Training

October 1, 1994

One of BAFoT's major missions is to educate the public about conditions in Tibet. Unfortunately, many people still don't know about the atrocities which take place regularly. Without education, we cannot expect supportive action. BAFoT's Speakers' Bureau gives presentations to school and university classes, business associations, social clubs, and religious groups. We would like to expand the pool of speakers so that we may reach a wider audience.

With this goal in mind, we will offer a training for BAFoT members on October 1, 1994, from 10 am to 1 pm. All members are invited! No particular expertise or prior experience is necessary. Please do not hesitate to come if you feel that you may not know enough! The training will provide you with everything you need to become a part of this educational process.

For more information, call Eva Herzer at (510) 526-5144 or (510) 527-1535.



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