



Bay Area Friends of Tibet

N E W S L E T T E R

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The Panchen Lama Controversy

By Elizabeth Tam and the Editorial Collective

For over five years the Chinese authorities in Beijing and the Dalai Lama have been searching for a little boy, the 11th reincarnation of the Panchen Lama. Their search ended on May 14, 1995.

May 14 is an auspicious day for Tibetan Buddhists because Buddha gave the first Kalachakra teaching on that day. These teachings have a special connection with the Panchen Lamas, thus the Dalai Lama proclaimed the reincarnation of Tibet's second most respected religious figure, by recognizing Gedhun Choekyi Nyima as the true reincarnation of Panchen Rinpoche, on May 14th.

According to Tibetan belief, lamas are reincarnated after death. Therefore after a lama dies a search is conducted to find his reincarnated soul, embodied in a child born close to the time of his death. Gedhun Choekyi Nyima was born four months after the Panchen Lama died, on April 25, 1989, to father Konchog Phuntsog and mother Dechen Choedon in Nagchu, Tibet. Little is known about the six year old boy

except that he comes from Lhari district, Nagchu, near Lhasa and that his father is a doctor and his mother a nurse at the Lahari District hospital. Those responsible for selecting Gedhun Choekyi Nyima as the Panchen Lama's reincarnation included monks and lamas from Tashi Lhunpo Monastery. The Dalai Lama and the Tibetan people have performed all the necessary traditional procedures and rituals to affirm the authenticity of the Panchen Lama.

After the suspicious death of the 10th Panchen Lama on January 28, 1989 at Tashi Lhunpo Monastery, the Dalai Lama proposed to send a ten-member Tibetan religious delegation to the monastery in Shigatse, the second largest town in Tibet, to perform the Kalachakra ceremony. There was no response from the Chinese government. The Chinese government refused to allow the Dalai Lama to travel to Tibet to offer prayers for the Panchen and even blocked his efforts to search for a successor.

China rejected the Dalai Lama's recognition of the Panchen Lama shortly after his announcement and accused him of 'campaigning' to split Tibet from the motherland. The new Panchen Lama and his parents have been taken away by the Chinese authorities in Beijing. His twenty year old brother is being held in custody by the Chinese authorities. Chatral, head of the Beijing appointed search party, and other leaders of the Tashi Lhunpo monastery, are currently under detention for having communicated with the Dalai Lama regarding the search, and for accepting the candidate endorsed by the Dalai Lama. Chartral is the abbot and head of the Democratic Management Committee of Tashi Lhunpo monastery. The Chinese government has falsely claimed that the Dalai Lama's own discovery in 1940 as the 14th reincarnation of the supreme spiritual leader of Tibet was approved by the Beijing government.

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Tibetan Women Banned from Beijing U.N. Conference

By Eva Herzer

When China asked to host the United Nations' Fourth World Conference on Women and it's related NGO (non-governmental organization) Forum, it probably hoped for the international prestige associated with convening such a conference and for the opportunity to showcase its advances to the world. Eager to counteract its

international image as a violator of human rights, China expected that a conference on women would be a safe setting for a badly needed publicity coup.

Two years into the world-wide preparatory process and a mere four months before the opening sessions of these conferences, which is expected to draw more than 40,000 women to Beijing, this rosy image shattered. The All China Women's Federation, the state-funded Chinese "NGO," reported to the Party after "conducting a first-hand study" of the preparatory conferences that "hostile forces at home and abroad will use the NGO Forum...to organize and stir up anti-Chinese activities as well as attack the government of our country." The report concluded that "NGO Forums make trouble wherever they go." In violation of its agreements with the UN, China moved the NGO forum from Beijing to a small town

called Hairou and threatened to refuse pro-Tibetan, lesbian and pro-life groups visas.

One of the major reasons for China's change of heart seems to have been the controversy that erupted over Tibetan women's access to the conference. When Tibetan women first learned that the Fourth World Conference on Women would take place in Beijing, they considered boycotting the event. After much consideration, however, Tibetan women decided that this conference would provide them with an excellent opportunity to build global working alliances with women and to address their pressing concerns in Beijing: Forced and coerced abortions, sterilization, and family planning measures in Tibet, torture of nuns, and the effects of foreign occupation on Tibetan women. These Tibetan women exiles, to-

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President's Message

Tashi Delek! My name is Tseten Lhamo Khangsar. I am the newly-elected President of Bay Area Friends of Tibet and I would like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing president, Jigme Yugay, for his years of hard work and dedication. Jigme Yugay, kindly agreed to stay on the board of directors and I am extremely grateful for his continued support and encouragement.

BAFoT is beginning another major endeavor. We are happy to report that our families are finally going to begin moving to the United States in the fall of this year. Therefore, the local Tibetan community will be in need of jobs and other help. Please contact BAFoT or the Tibetan Association of Northern California if you know of any jobs or other means of helping the family reunification project.

In March, we held our annual Tibet Day at Fort Mason. We had a great turnout and the momos were the best ever! Many thanks to all of the volunteers and Cafe Fanny and Jim Shepard at Oakland Museum Cafe for their facilities.

Currently BAFoT is also helping to raise funds to send five delegates to the Women's Conference in Beijing in September and we have had great success. Thank you for your contributions!*

Recently, we have become aware that the Peace Walk that was scheduled to go from New Delhi to Lhasa was rerouted from Dharmasala to New Delhi. His Holiness felt that now is not the appropriate time for a march into Tibet. Many of us were disappointed, but we feel that His Holiness knows best about what we should do.

Lastly, we are very sad to announce the departure of Diane Winslow from the office. Diane is moving to Santa Cruz and we will miss her presence in the office and her commitment to BAFoT work. Good luck and we will miss you.

I really want to thank all of you for your great support and concern for Tibet. As you know, it is people like you who are making the difference. Please continue to support our cause. Thank you very much.

Tseten Lhamo Khangsar

* See "Tibetan Women Barred from Beijing UN Conference" on page 1.

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The 10th Panchen Lama was a controversial figure, regarded by some Tibetans as a puppet of the Chinese government. After the Dalai Lama fled Tibet in 1959, the Panchen Lama remained in Tibet under Beijing's influence. During the 1960s and '70s, he became a reluctant supporter of the Chinese government but was later imprisoned for nine years for attacking Mao and the Party's policies in Tibet.

What right does an atheist Chinese government have to choose Tibet's next living Buddha, when the Chinese government has destroyed more than 6,000 Tibetan monasteries, described religion as 'poison,' and repeatedly criticized the Dalai Lama for 'politicizing' religion? It is obvious that China is attempting to use the Panchen Lama to limit the Dalai Lama's abilities and control Tibet. Beijing's hand-picked candidate for the next Panchen Lama would be under the government's control; working with them to pacify Tibet's deeply religious and anti-China population.

The Dalai Lama's choice of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima as the 11th Panchen Lama is accepted by all Tibetans. It is difficult to predict what China will do next, however it seems that China's sudden infatuation with religion is just another tactic to control Tibet. They have tried violence and torture, but Tibetan resistance to communist ideology still remains strong. Now China is seeking to use Buddhism as a tool of oppression.



(continued from page 4)

aiming for an autonomy in which Tibet can combine its status as part of the Chinese state with ethnic, cultural, and religious independence." Furthermore, he ensured that Bonn would continue to press China to respect human rights in Tibet and grant its religious and cultural autonomy.

The information gathered for this article was extracted solely from the World Tibet Network News on the internet. One may have up to date articles e-mailed directly to their personal account via "listserv@vm1.mcgill.ca" by writing SUB WTN-L <your name> in the message field. For more information you may write to rayray@sirius.com



Bay Area Friends of Tibet NEWSLETTER

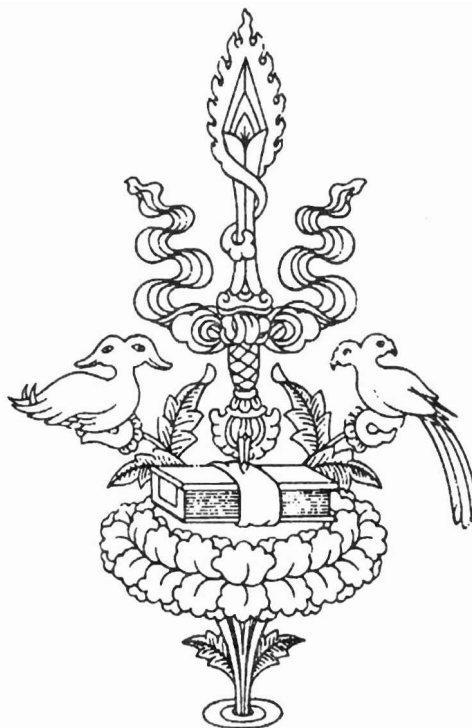
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Tibetans Demonstrate at 50th UN Anniversary

By Ventul Rinpoche

Tibet was an independent country before China occupied it in 1959. Under Chinese occupation Tibetans in Tibet are denied freedom of expression, religion, education, assembly, and association, as well as due legal process and fair trial in contravention to the United Nations Universal Declarations of Human Rights. Tibetans and Tibet supporters, therefore, demonstrated at the United Nation's 50th Anniversary celebrations in San Francisco: first, drawing attention to the failure of the United Nations to address the issue of Tibet; second, protesting against the censorship (due to pressure from China) by the United Nations of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's statement from a commemorating book of the 50th Anniversary.

On Sunday, June 25, 1995, Tibetans and Tibet supporters held a silent demonstration near Herbst Theater, War Memorial Veterans Building in San Francisco, the site of "The United Nations at Fifty: A Colloquium for Reform" a forum opened by UN Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali to examine the UN and its strength and weaknesses. The forum was attended by Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali, authors, scholars and policy leaders who helped to prepare UN studies including Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan and UN ambassadors. Eight Tibetans and an American supporter (Tseten Lhamo, Lhakpa Dolma, Tashi Choedon, Dolma Lhamo, Kelsang Choedon, Tashi Norbu, Pema Tashi, Pema Tshering and Lucas Myers) demonstrated inside the theater. They stood up with a Tibetan flag and "FREE TIBET" signs in their hands and stood silently until the forum was over, and then chanted "Free Tibet" and "UN Observer Status for Tibet" slogans until the security officers on duty stopped them.

On Monday, June 26, members of Tibetan Association of Northern California and Bay Area Friends of Tibet and other supporters demonstrated outside the War Memorial Op-

era House in San Francisco where the Charter Ceremony was held. The Ceremony, fifty years to the day that the UN Charter was signed, was attended by President Clinton, Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali, dignitaries and ambassadors from the current 185 UN member nations. President Clinton gave an address and Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali made a presentation. This was the most important of all the events to mark the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations in San Francisco, so there was extensive media coverage. The demonstrators implored the United Nations:

1. To grant observer status to Tibet in the United Nations and to invite His Holiness the Dalai Lama to address the UN General Assembly;

2. To tell China to stop the violations of human rights, including the rights of women and children, and fundamental freedoms in Tibet;

3. To make China end the genocide of Tibetan culture inside Tibet;

4. To raise, with the Chinese government, the issue of allowing foreign delegates into Tibet to study the human rights situation, the state of fundamental freedoms, prison conditions and treatment of Tibetan prisoners of conscience;

5. To support the non-violent efforts of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to make Tibet a zone of peace through demilitarization and the protection of Tibet's natural environment;

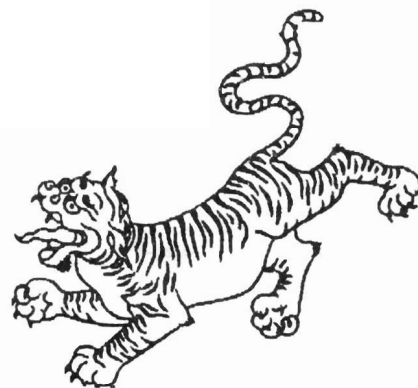
6. To urge the Chinese government to start negotiations with His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan government-in-exile on the future of Tibet without pre-conditions; and

7. To help the people of Tibet regain their legitimate freedom and preserve their unique culture.

Earlier Tseten Lhamo, President of Bay Area Friends of Tibet, participated in the "United People's Assembly" organized by Action Coalition for Global Change. Thirteen Tibetan women and two active supporters (Bonnie

McCalla, Vice President of Bay Area Friends of Tibet, and Lucas Myers) attended the forum, "Women and the United Nations" where Tseten Lhamo and Dolma Lhamo were able to briefly speak about the condition of Tibetan women inside Tibet and the denial of accreditation to Tibetan women for the United Nations Women's Conference in Beijing. Lhakpa Dolma spoke about Tibet at "Unity '95," a family oriented multicultural art, music and technological exposition. In the afternoon of Sunday, June 25, Ventul Rinpoche, Acting President of Tibetan Association of Northern California, was invited to the Interfaith Service of Celebration in Honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Founding of the United Nations at Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, to represent Tibetan Buddhists and to take part in the Opening Procession and the Unity Circle of Interfaith Leaders. The Right Reverend William E. Swing, Bishop of California, and Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali greeted the congregation of world leaders, dignitaries and ambassadors of UN member nations.

The demonstrations were organized by the Tibetan Association of Northern California and Bay Area Friends of Tibet. Tibetan Association of Northern California sent invitations to the demonstrations to all the other Tibetan association in America, and made arrangements for accommodations for Tibetans coming from other places.



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International News

Efforts From Around the World for Tibet

By Raylene Sampson

Despite China's attempts to convince the world that the Tibet issue has been laid to rest, the international community continues to struggle for Tibetan independence. Conventions, state announcements, projects and resolutions throughout the world "recognizes under international law, that Tibet is today an independent state under illegal occupation, and that the PRC has no legal title to sovereignty over Tibet." (Excerpt from the Second World Parliamentarians Convention on Tibet.) This affirmation is vital to the Tibetan Cause, but often not apparent in mainstream media coverage. A series of news briefs covering the world-wide efforts to free Tibet follow.

In a substantial break from the European Union, a major development project in Tibet was canceled early in June. The Foreign Affairs Committee of the European Parliament had been planning to triple its aid to China as a part of a new effort to improve Europe's image and trading prospects there. The demise of the project cuts 50% of the EU's annual assistance to China. The committee passed a resolution to "deploy resources from the Panam Project to aid which will better serve the Tibetan people" and decided instead to support "small local projects" run by non-governmental organizations. It has been stated that the force behind the decision was the "serious restrictions on civil rights in China." This move represents a vital change from the EU's 1994 "Asia Strategy" policies. The EU now insists that human rights are at the "heart of EU policy world-wide" and that "any initiatives must be effective, and not merely frequent and strident declarations." Regular meetings between the European Parliament and the Chinese have begun at Beijing's request.

Another pivotal event was the World Parliamentarians Convention on Tibet held in Lithuania late in May: The Conference was attended by 21 parliaments and supported by more than one thousand parliamentarians world-wide. The theme of the convention was "Tibet: Saving a People from Annihilation," conferences focused on:

- the "denial of fundamental rights and freedoms, such as the lack of adequate educational facilities, discrimination against Tibetans wishing to study their own language and customs,

and the forceful recall of Tibetan children studying in schools outside Tibet and China,

- violations of women's rights including forced sterilization and mandatory abortions,
- denial of religious freedoms,
- the destruction of the rich cultural heritage of Tibet, commonly referred to as "cultural genocide," all of which are contrary to the United Nations declarations of human rights.

Furthermore, the Convention passed a great number of resolutions which included:

- "the initiation of investigations, hearings and inquires of the legitimacy of the P.R.C.'s claim that Tibet is a part of China in every Parliament represented at the convention and to persuade other Parliaments to do the same as a prelude to according recognition to the Tibetan Government in exile.

- an international delegation of Parliamentarians to visit Tibet, Beijing, and Dharamshala to investigate and publicly report on the current situation; to meet the Chinese government; the Tibetan Government in exile; and to call on the UN Secretary General in order to urge and promote a prompt start to a substantive comprehensive solution to the Sino-Tibetan conflict in accordance with the terms of this resolution.

- to call on the P.R.C. to stop immediately all policies and practices which violate human rights and fundamental freedoms of Tibetans, in particular population transfer and the use of all forms of violence against Tibetans."

In Ottawa on June 15, the Canadian Senate passed a resolution to urge the government of Canada to "encourage negotiations between the People's Republic of China and representatives of the Tibetan-government-in-exile without preconditions. It also instructs the government of Canada to extend support to Tibetan people in their struggle to regain their freedom and the preservation of their culture." It is the first such recognition from Canada.

His Holiness, the Dalai Lama, was received by the German Parliament for the first time on June 19th. This may be evidence that Germany, which has good relations with China, may act as an ally to Tibet. Kinkel, the German foreign minister, told the Dalai Lama in May that Bonn "believed China should start discussions (continued on page 2)

53 Tibetan Escapees Deported

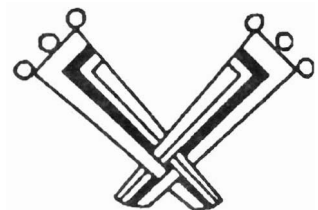
By Elizabeth Tam and Sara Chamberlain

On May 13th of this year, Nepalese authorities handed 53 Tibetans, including at least 12 children, over to the Chinese police after they escaped across the Himalayan mountains from Tibet to Nepal. Four Tibetans did, however, reach Kathmandu. They had been deported along with 27 other Tibetans in early May, but had escaped from police custody after being imprisoned by the Chinese authorities and made to work in a road gang.

Officials at the Nepalese Immigration Office claimed that they could not stop the police from seizing the 53 deportees. Nepalese government officials are also denying any knowledge of the incidents. However diplomatic sources say that by June 14th, at least 14 groups of refugees, totaling around 210 people, are known to have been handed over by the Nepalese police to the Chinese authorities at the border town of Dram.

According to World Tibet Network News, security patrols have been intensified around the Tibet-Nepal border, and in June of this year, M-17 helicopters were introduced to carry out border patrols in the Xinjiang military district, which includes western Tibet.

According to the "deportation reverse" policy of the last three years, Tibetan escapees must have their cases assessed by UN officials in Kathmandu before being allowed safe transit into India, where Tibetan refugees are granted asylum. The Nepalese authorities have agreed to this policy, which is in accordance with international norms. However since April 23rd this year, Nepal has repatriated over 200 Tibetans, including three well known Tibetan dissidents, who had entered Nepal seeking asylum. According to World Tibet Network, the real figure for forced deportations this year is likely to be as high as 400. The deportations continue in the face of strong protests from the US, Australia and the UN's High Commission for refugees (UNHCR), and could have repercussions on western aid to Nepal. According to the Tibet Information Network, the US has urged the Government of Nepal at a senior level to handle Tibetan cases according to international procedures and practices.



Increased Human Rights Abuses Against Tibetan Women

By Sara Chamberlain

Two Tibetan nuns died this February, shortly after being released from prison. Sherab Ngwang, Tibet's youngest political prisoner, was only 12 years old when she was arrested for participating in a pro-independence demonstration in 1992. She served a three year sentence before her release and subsequent death. Gyaltzen Kelsang was also arrested for protesting against the Chinese occupation of Tibet. She served three quarters of her two-year sentence in Drapchi prison before being sent to a prison hospital. According to the doctors who treated them and the undertakers who disposed of their bodies, both nuns died from lung injuries and kidney malfunctions, the results of torture, hard labor and a lack of medical attention in prison. Three other nuns have also died recently in Tibet from illnesses or injuries received in prison.

In May 1995 Amnesty International's update on Tibet, entitled "Persistent Human Rights Violations in Tibet," grave concern is expressed about the treatment of women, especially nuns, in prison. According to the report, "torture during interrogation, beatings, electric shocks, deprivation of food or drink, exposure to cold, handcuffing or shackling for long periods and denial of medical treatment," are common occurrences. Damchoe Pemo, a Lhasa trader in her mid-twenties, miscarried a week after police forced her to remain standing for

twelve hours and beat her with electric batons.

Concern is also expressed in the Amnesty International report about the imprisonment of Tibetan children. There are eighteen Tibetan girls under eighteen years of age in Chinese prisons. Amnesty International's report states that "The treatment of juvenile detainees in Tibet violated both Chinese law and international human rights treaties which China is legally bound to observe." Juvenile prisoners are illegally held with adults, forced to do hard labor, and like adults are "subjected to electric shocks, solitary confinement and deprivation of sleep, food or drink as punishment." A fifteen year old novice nun, described in the report as "former detainee E," explained how she was "beaten very badly by a Chinese official who kicked me with his boots on my thighs" during her interrogation in the Gutsa Detention Center.

According to the report, there are currently 182 women (mainly nuns) in Chinese prisons. Several of these women are serving jail terms of up to fifteen years. A nun in Lhasa's notorious Drapchi prison, Phuntsog Nyidron, had her nine year sentence increased to seventeen years because she sang and allegedly recorded pro-independence songs.

Conditions faced by Tibetan women have deteriorated since President Clinton "delinked" human rights issues from China's Most Fa-

vored Nation Status in 1994. Amnesty International reports that in the wake of increased demonstrations in early 1994, the Chinese government renewed their efforts to suppress Tibet independence supporters.

Pro-independence demonstrations have apparently increased due to additional official limitations placed on religious activities. In May 1994, TAR Communist Party members were told to remove any religious signs from their homes. In September 1994, photographs of the Dalai Lama on display in Lhasa markets were confiscated. TAR authorities also published new security regulations targeting Tibetans engaged in "splittist" activities. According to Amnesty International, "Taking over the management of temples and monasteries is explicitly cited in this document as a major objective." In November 1994, the Propaganda Committee of the TAR Communist Party Committee published a directive stating that the numbers of monks and nuns in monasteries must be frozen, while the unauthorized construction of monasteries and religious interference in education and birth control must be "corrected." Young monks and nuns who have been detained or imprisoned are also being expelled from schools. As a result of these measures, pro-independence protests "usually taking the form of demonstrations by monks and nuns," have spread from Lhasa to rural areas.



Other Tibetan News



Gendun Rinchen, human rights activist and renowned tour-guide, escaped from Lhasa to India on May 20, 1995. The forty-seven year old guide, who is regarded as one of the leading monitors of human rights abuses in Tibet, was detained on May 13, 1993 for planning to deliver a letter about human rights abuses to a fact-finding mission made up of European Community ambassadors. He was released eight months later, but remained under police surveillance until his escape.

Nepal and Tibet began a bus and truck service between the two Himalayan regions on a trial basis this June. The opening of direct road transport will boost trade, promote tourism, and generate employment, said Devi Prasad Bastola, spokesman for the Nepalese works and Transit Ministry. Public bus and

truck service to Lhasa will begin as soon as vehicles able to operate at such high altitudes are obtained. The road's highest point is 17,220 feet above sea level.

Radio Free Tibet, an hour-long weekly show on 91.7 FM Radio KOOP in Austin, Texas was broadcast for the first time on June 5. The show, dedicated entirely to Tibetan issues, includes Tibetan music, news, poetry readings, speeches and interviews.

A Tibetan prisoner may be executed for staging a pro-independence demonstration in prison. Lodroe Gyatso was sentenced to fifteen years in Lhasa's Drapchin prison for killing a man in self defense in 1993. On March 4th, 1995 he handed out leaflets praising the Dalai Lama and shouted pro-independence slogans. He was handcuffed and se-

verely beaten. Later the Intermediate Court passed a death sentence for his political disposition that now awaits confirmation by the regional High Court.

A five mile long layer of jade has been discovered in Angren county in the Tibetan Himalayas. This potential resource could be mined for more than 10,000 years., the Chinese Guandxi Daily reported.

A new Amnesty International report entitled "Persistent Human Rights Violations in Tibet" was published in May 1995. According to the fifty-six page report, more than 628 political detainees were held in Tibet as of December 1994. More than 1,791 executions occurred in China in 1994. The report is available for six dollars from Amnesty International at (415) 291-9233.

BAFoT Finds a New Home

By Jigme Yugay

Almost five years have passed since BAFoT, ICLT and UNPO moved into our current office space at 347 Dolores Street. It's been a wonderful work environment and BAFoT has made great strides. We've had a "permanent" address (and telephones!) for most of our activities and meetings, which has solved the "find-the-next-meeting place" problem.

For an all-volunteer organization, we've done a lot of work out of this office during the last five years, most notably, the evolution of the resettlement project, coordinated by Julia Shepardson. The hustle and bustle of activities BAFoT experienced during the project's two years has never been matched, and thanks to Julia and all her volunteers, it was a huge success.

BAFoT was fortunate to have Leslie Kean as its Executive Director for over a year. Leslie was the only salaried member and contributed much more than she was ever paid. ICLT's volunteers have also achieved much in the same office. But unfortunately our time here is coming to an end. The Sisters of Notre Dame

are converting the site into a senior citizens facility and all tenants must relocate by September 1995.

We have been looking for a new office to share with ICLT and perhaps two other TSG's since the sisters notified us of their plans about two months ago.

We are very pleased to announce that we have located a new office in Berkeley. Our new address is 2288 Fulton Street, Suite 312, cross street Bancroft, right across from the western edge of the University of California at Berkeley campus. Please join us for a housewarming (officewarming!) party on September 23, beginning at noon and continuing through the afternoon. Refreshments will be provided.

We will miss our current facility: this place isn't just an office, it's a special place, significant because it has been our first proper office... but now we must move on. We are most grateful to the good Sisters of Notre Dame for their kindness, but now it is time to say **THUKJÉ-CHÉ** (Thank You in Tibetan) for having us here and Good Luck with their next good work for the Lord!

An Ancient Tradition Comes to America—Monks of Gyuto Tantric University

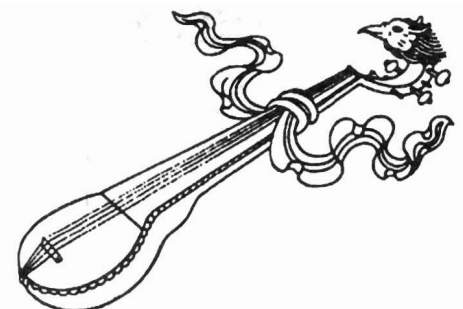
By Elizabeth Tam

Making stops in New York, Oregon, Washington, Arizona and finally California, the Gyuto Monks traveled half way across the world to perform sacred chants for audiences on the West Coast. These chants are a cosmic and spiritual art form, inspired by tantric meditation, and are the product of 500 years of development in the isolated mountainous country of Tibet. Combining creativity and meditation, each of the 12 monks were dressed in maroon robes and didn't sing just a single note, but an entire three-noted chord that was powerfully evocative and enlightening.

The purpose of the Gyuto Monks' U.S. world tour is to share their sacred art with the rest of the world and to raise money to support their new monastery located near Dharamsala, India. Their last tour to the Bay Area was in 1992. On May 27, 1995 they performed for a crowd of nearly 500 at San Francisco's Palace of Fine Arts.

Bay Area Friends of Tibet were kindly allowed to set up an informational table outside the auditorium, where volunteers distributed BAFoT newsletters, pamphlets, brochures and urgent action information. The overwhelming majority of those who attended the concert signed petitions for a free Tibet.

Before the performance, the monks wandered throughout the Palace of Fine Arts and walked around the lake, enjoying the weekend weather. When they return to their monastery, the Gyuto monks sincerely hope that their visit to America will inspire people to take action and make others aware of the situation in Tibet. The 370 monks of the Gyuto Tantric University are accepting contributions at the following address: The Society of Gyuto Sacred Arts, P.O. Box 358, San Rafael, CA 94915.



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More Than Meets The Eye

Local Spotlight

Tibet Day A Huge Success

By Elizabeth Tam

For months, San Francisco was hit by rain storms, leaving BAFoT, organizers worried about the main event of the year. Luckily, on Sunday, March 26, Mother Nature was on our side when Bay Area Friends of Tibet held its 11th annual Tibet Day! The sun came out, bright and warm, for the approximately 900 people who attended the celebration.

Highlights of the event included a live performance by Chaksampa Tibetan dance and opera company; a special panel discussion with members of the Tibetan community, including Lhakpa Dolma, Jigme Yugay and Ventul Rinpoche, with Richard Kohn as the moderator; a book-signing and presentation by Ed Lazar; a slide show by Nate Cutler; and a speech by Linda Pfeifer urging a boycott of Chinese goods.

The crowd also enjoyed educational films/videos and an arts and crafts of local vendors throughout the day. TANC volunteers made and sold delicious Tibetan dumplings or "momos" to help with the fundraising. And in the afternoon, a raffle drawing was held. Everyone who attended had a chance to win prizes donated by vendors.

Former BAFoT boardmember, Phil Ladena, volunteered to auction valuable, donated items. Some of the items sold were a Tibetan hat, travel books, jewelry and clothing.

Thanks to all who attended Tibet Day and supported BAFoT's principal fundraising event. Special thanks to the guests who participated and to all the volunteers who made Tibet Day happen. **THUGJÉ-CHÉ!**

Be sure to watch for Tibet Day Santa Cruz on Sunday, August 27!

Katmandu Theatrical Benefit a Smashing Success!

By Leslie Kean

The critically-acclaimed, one-man show "Katmandu" by Josh Schrei had its Bay Area premiere at Fort Mason's Bayfront Theater in May. The opening night gala with guest speaker Scoop Nisker was a benefit for Bay Area Friends of Tibet. The

show ran for two weeks and was then extended a third week "by popular demand." Audience response was overwhelmingly enthusiastic! BAFoT received a portion of the proceeds from the performances. "Katmandu" was produced by the Buddhas Sasana Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing public awareness about Buddhism, Buddhist cultures and the issues that threaten those cultures.

Twenty-four year old performance artist Josh Schrei was raised at a Zen Center in upstate New York. In his teens, he traveled extensively throughout Tibet, India and Nepal. This experience forever altered his view of modern America. His provocative, high-energy show draws on this background, questioning many aspects of contemporary life with raw humor and insight. The theme of Tibetan human rights is woven throughout the piece. In the opening scene, Schrei has an encounter with a Tibetan refugee who describes the horrors of torture in a Chinese prison. At each curtain call, Schrei encourages the audience to become active for Tibet.

I would like to thank the sponsors of "Katmandu" who made the production possible: Hamilton F. Kean, Nancy L. Kittle, Edgar Lansbury, Justin Lazard and SKYY Vodka. Special recognition goes to volunteers Chip Kelly and Bob Martin of the Bayfront Theatre.

"Katmandu" will be shown this fall in Santa Cruz. For more information, please call (415)381-6905.

Tibet Calendar

Tibet Day Santa Cruz

Sunday Aug 27 10AM-4PM.

Come enjoy a day of Tibetan music, films and talks by representatives of the Tibetan Community.

Pacific Cultural Center, 1307 Seabright Avenue, Santa Cruz

For more information call Namkha Yugay (415)493-7388

Tibet Day East Bay

Date Pending

Call BAFoT office for info in August

BAFoT Board Meetings

BAFoT invites members to its monthly meetings on the 1st Wednesday of the month from 7PM till 9:45PM. Board Membership and elections are open to all members. We also need volunteers to help with tabling, urgent action, special events, etc.

Protest Anniversary of TAR

September 1, 1995 is the 30th Anniversary of the illegal creation of the so-called Tibetan Autonomous Region. Please call BAFoT office in August for local activities... A demonstration will be held in Washington DC. Individuals and groups interested in going to the demonstration please contact Laura Jennings, International Tibet Independence Movement (317)925-8069 for more info.

Tibetan Democracy Day

Saturday, September 2, 1995

Tibetan Association of Northern California will celebrate this day with a traditional ceremony and cultural program followed by a feast.

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



Tibetans in the Bay Area Need Jobs!

There are Tibetans in the Bay Area who need both skilled and unskilled jobs. They are dependable, honest and hard-working. For job offers or information please contact: Ventul Rinpoche, 729 College Ave, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Tel: (415) 321-1494. Fax: (415) 323-1201. E-Mail: ventul@darwin.stanford.edu.

Tibetan women... *(continued from page 1)*

gether with their supporters, have attended preparatory conferences in Manila, Jakarta, Vienna and New York; have applied for accreditation to attend the UN conference (separate from the NGO Forum for which no accreditation is necessary), and have gathered the support of hundreds of NGO's for their cause. For Tibetan women from India, Australia, Norway, Holland, Switzerland, Canada and the USA, this process has offered invaluable opportunities to educate, learn and create lasting working alliances with women across the globe.

China reacted by placing pressure on the UN to deny accreditation to Tibetan women, by informing Tibetans that visa requests would be dealt with in accordance with "Chinese law," and by trying to engage in hostile arguments with Tibetan delegates. China sought to undermine the legitimacy of the exiled Tibetan womens' request to attend the conference by recruiting 500 Tibetan women from Tibet to represent Tibetan concerns at the conference. These women, living under occupation, will not be free to speak the truth but will instead have to laud their "liberators." What China did not count on was the reaction of the NGO community and UN government delegates. Thus, when the conference secretariat's recommendation to deny accreditation to all Tibet-related NGO's became known, the NGO community made its position clear: 1,500 women gave a rousing standing ovation to Lhakpa Dolma, from the S.F. Bay Area, who requested NGO's to lobby their governments to oppose this move at the conclusion of the last worldwide preparatory conference in New York this March. The next day, at the opening session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, the official preparatory body for this conference, the European Union, joined by Australia, Canada, the USA, Switzerland, Sudan, Tunisia and Algeria, in an unprecedented move within the UN, opposed the recommendations of the secretariat and called for a transparent accreditation process and for a meaningful review process. As a result, the Commission unanimously moved (with China abstaining) to open up the accreditation process for review. Denied NGOs now have an opportunity to supplement their appeals, to argue their case and to lobby the UN's Economic and Social Council, which

will make the final accreditation decisions in Geneva this July. As of early July, six Tibetan womens' groups had been denied accreditation, while three had been accepted.

Fear and paranoia about this conference have lead the Chinese government to place its Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister, Qian Qichen, in charge of the conference. Under his direction, China has notified its embassies abroad to deal with visa requests from "groups unwelcome" in China through "technical means". These groups include not only Tibetans but also Taiwanese, Chinese dissidents, human rights and lesbian groups and pro-choice and avid anti-abortion groups.

In a move to further protect itself from "unwelcome elements", China announced in April of this year that the centrally located site for the NGO Forum was "structurally unsound" (the Chinese selected and offered this site three years ago). They offered to relocate the NGO Forum to Hairou, a "resort" located an hour away from Beijing. Not only is this NGO site far from the UN conference site, but it can only hold 16,000 people, lacks contiguous meeting facilities and has a stadium for plenary sessions seating only 10,000. With 40,000 women expected, this facility is physically insufficient and it will prevent an exchange of ideas and inspirations between women at the two conferences. The Chinese Organization Committee presented three other sites to the NGO mission when they visited Beijing in late April. Although each site met with the NGO's approval, later they were all "unavailable."

The Chinese government has, however, made recent efforts to accommodate NGO demands. A shuttle bus will transport women between the two conference; supposedly accommodation for all 40,000 women will be provided in either Beijing or Hairou; and China claims that all the women who have been accredited will receive visas.

A delegation of five women and activists from the Bay Area were planning to travel to Beijing. Since this article was written, Bay Area Friends of Tibet has learned that all Tibetan groups have been denied accreditation, and that no Tibetan delegates will be attending the Women's Conference.



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