

Canada Sells Out Tibet Represented at People's Summit

The 1997 Peoples's Summit on APEC (November 17-24, 1997), welcomed over two thousand women and men from the 18 APEC countries to Vancouver, British Columbia to share and debate their concerns on some important issues: labour rights, child poverty and labour, universal access to education and health care, indigenous peoples' rights and human rights - to name a few.

These are all issues which are affected by the economic policies agreed upon at the APEC Leader's Meeting - but they are not discussed there. Representing countries which account for 50% of the world's trade, the leaders avoid these contentious issues by participating as "economic leaders" rather than as "heads of state".

...Continued on page 4



Photo: Kay Ohta

Tibetans and Canadians protest Canada's lack of support for Tibet.

Where does Canada raise human rights issues with China? Not at the UN's Commission on Human Rights but at a secluded resort two hours from Vancouver. How will Canadian NGOs participate in that dialogue? Sorry, not invited, but Chinese government-organized NGOs are welcome. How can we address the detention without charge or trial of the 8 year-old Panchen Lama? Too confrontational, but we can provide money and technical assistance for the reform of China's criminal justice system. How can the voice of the Tibetan people be heard? Canada's "plurilateral symposium" will address freedom of expression.

Human rights is one of the pillars of Canada's foreign policy, says Minister of Foreign Affairs Lloyd Axworthy. ...Continued on page 7

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New Tibetan Sight Program



Photo: Seva

The goal of SEVA'S TIBETAN SIGHT PROGRAM is to improve the quality of eye surgery performed in Tibet and to increase the number of operations each year thereby reducing the backlog of 30,000 cataract cases. Seva estimates that each year, more than 2,000 Tibetans become needlessly blind. Seva hopes to lower this number by assisting Tibetans to establish their own comprehensive and sustainable eye care programmes. To accomplish this goal, Seva is:

- TRAINING OF TIBETANS by volunteer eye surgeons;
- PROVIDING RESOURCES to help Tibetan teams establish and equip operating rooms and run eye departments;
- CONDUCTING EYE CAMPS to supplement the limited eye care services available and reduce the backlog of cataract cases.

Seva's principal activities focus on the prevention and reversal of blindness in developing regions, particularly India, Tibet and Nepal and economic and community development in the highlands of Guatemala and Mexico.

For more information, contact Seva Service Society, Suite 100 - 2000 West 12th Ave., Vancouver, Canada V6J 2G2. Telephone: (604)733-4284, Fax: (604)733-4292, Email <sevacan@axionet.com>.

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Canadian Company Seeks to Mine Tibet

by Chokey Tsering



Photo: CTC

An existing mine located in Kham, Sept. 1997.

Plans for Tibet's first foreign mining venture, led by Breckenridge Resources Canada, are underway in eastern Tibet. The Xiacun silver-based metals mine is located 450 miles west of Chengdu, Kham. With no mention of environmental concerns in the feasibility studies, Tibetans fear the project will damage Tibet's sensitive ecosystem and undermine the rights of local Tibetans.

According to an exiled Tibetan back from a recent visit to Kham (Sichuan), the province is already experiencing an influx of Chinese settlers with Chinese merchants dominating the towns adjacent to the mine. Overpopulation of Chinese in Tibet is a serious threat to the survival of the Tibetan nation. Projects like Xiacun, which has not yet begun operating, promote immigration of Chinese workers.

Located atop a plateau 14,000 feet above sea level, Xiacun will operate within an extremely fragile ecosystem. Planned industrialisation of the area - the creation of an airstrip, a new road, a hydro plant and a town to accommodate new labour - could devastate this pristine landscape.

Xiacun also raises issues of land and labour rights violations since Tibet is an illegally occupied country and, in the past, Tibetans have been pressed into unpaid service for infrastructure building.

These concerns were shared by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) during a special session on mining at the November People's Summit on APEC conference in Vancouver. Members from 22 NGO's from North America, Australia and Asia signed a petition urging Breck-

enridge to act in the interests of Tibetans and Tibet's environment when operating Xiacun. The petition was sent by the Canada Tibet Committee (CTC) to Breckenridge president, James Kermeen, who promised to provide CTC with a technical report on the mine (see "An Appeal to Breckenridge" on page 6).

With foreign economies clamouring for a slot in China's lucrative market, Xiacun will set the precedent for what is likely to be a proliferation of foreign ventures in Tibet. In 1991, China's Ministry of Metallurgical Industry announced plans to increase mining investment in Tibet. The announcement came shortly after the Xinhua news agency predicted that China is expected to exhaust all its mineral supplies by 2001. Without necessary safeguards to protect Tibet and its people, the new focus on the country as a wellspring of untouched minerals is likely to worsen its already dire conditions.

The legacy of foreign mining ventures throughout the Asia Pacific is notorious. To name a few, the Ok Tedi mine in Papua New Guinea has spewed 80,000 tonnes of untreated tailings a day into the Ok Tedi river since it opened in 1984. In the Philippines an accidental spill at the Marcopper mine, owned by Canadian-based Placer Dome, released four million tonnes of mine waste into major rivers. The corporations responsible for these mines are based in countries where environmental protection laws generally protect against such spills. These tragedies are examples of multinationals running amok under the auspices of free trade. If unheeded they are also the fate that could await Tibet.

Tibet at the APEC People's Summit

by Lara Braitstein

...Continued from page 1

The People's Summit conference which annually parallels the Leaders' Meeting, is the people's corrective to this outrage. Building on the CTC's participation in parallel events in the Philippines in 1996, a strong delegation of CTC members and other Tibet support group representatives attended the Vancouver People's Summit. Hosted by CTC Vancouver, which coordinated the monumental effort in the months leading up to the conference and managed all the logistics and media responsibilities during it, the Tibet delegation was a visible presence throughout the week.

The Tibet delegation was comprised of T.C. Tethong, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Tibetan government-in-exile (and former President of CTC Victoria), Bhuchung Tsering of the International Campaign for Tibet, Phuntsok Dolma and Janice Martel from the International Committee of Lawyers for Tibet, Josh Schrei from the Milarepa Fund, Dorji Dolma from the Australia Tibet Council, and several CTC representatives from Vancouver and Montreal. All participants shared the pleasure of meeting the unforgettable special guest speakers and former political prisoners, Ven. Palden Gyatso and Ama Adhe who travelled from Dharmasala, India to join us.

Tibet delegates attended several People's Summit events including those on Youth, Sustainable Development, Women, Corporate Responsibility, Labour and Human Rights.

The two-day Human Rights Forum, co-sponsored by the CTC, Amnesty International, the BC Federation of Labour, the East Timor Alert Network and others, was an event graced by the likes of Jose Ramos Horta (1996 Nobel Peace Prize recipient), Pierre Sane (Secretary General of Amnesty International's International Secretariat), and Svend Robinson (Member of the Canadian Parliament). Speakers from all over the Asia Pacific provided moving accounts

Corporate Agenda: Forestry

Friday, 21st - The eight-hour-long forestry workshop had a small attendance of mostly environmental rights activists, including Greenpeace. Although Asian-interest NGOs were outnumbered, two out of a group of approximately 20, the group was receptive and extremely inquisitive about what we had to say about logging activities in that region. Many of the activists there admitted they were surprised to hear of China's deforestation activities in Tibet and its injurious social and environmental consequences for the country. The experience of Tibet was a new lesson for many there.



Photo: Chokey Tsering

Ven. Palden Gyatso attends rally against APEC at Vancouver People's Summit.

of their personal experiences while testimonies from T.C. Tethong and Palden Gyatso vividly portrayed the struggle of the Tibetan people.

The Human Rights Forum reaffirmed the conviction that formulation of trade policy must not, *cannot*, proceed with disregard for the social, economic, cultural, political and civil rights of citizens. That the particular plight of people living under foreign occupation must receive special consideration received wide support following the impassioned speakers representing Tibet, East Timor and West Papua.

One of the most rewarding activities we participated in was staffing the Tibet Booth at the People's Summit. It gave us the opportunity to talk about Tibet with people from all over the world. One of the most touching encounters I had was with a 16 year-old girl from Beijing who asked for as much historical information on Tibet as we

Sustainability Issues: Mining

Thursday, Nov.20th- About 100 activists from 22 NGOs exchanged information and expertise on the issues of mining development. The tragic accounts of recent disasters in the Asia Pacific provoked passionate discussion on how best to respond to these crises, largely incurred by negligent states and locust corporations. The energy in the room was electric and the 9-hour-long session passed swiftly. After extensive discussions, we drafted a resolution that, above all, urged the enforcement of national development laws on all mining ventures without exception, the annulment of weak mining laws and their replacement with more sustainable systems, and the rejection of the new Multilateral Agreement on Investment which would confer upon multinational corporations exemptive powers to flout more sustainable national development laws. Most significant was a strong consensus on a pre-emptive theme to the resolutions. Based on the experience of recent mining tragedies, we demanded more effective monitoring by governments, particularly Canada from where many maverick companies originate.

had available. She explained that, having lived in China until her early teens, the only information she had ever been given about Tibet was what the government produced. After seeing *Seven Years in Tibet*, when she first realized that Tibet was an independent country with a culture and history all its own, she was seized with a desire to learn about Tibet and to help in any way she could.

The last Saturday we were there, Vancouver's Tibetan community hosted an evening of momos and dancing for the Tibet delegation. A huge number of Tibetans and Tibet supporters from all over the Vancouver area took part as well as a big group from Seattle. Everyone had a great time thanks to the generous donation of time and effort by the Tibetan community in Vancouver.

The People's Summit concluded with a demo-filled Sunday for Tibet supporters. In the morning we held a rally at the Vancouver Art Gallery. Despite the cold and rain there was a good turnout and many rousing speakers. From there we marched to the People's Summit where a crowd of 4000 had gathered for street theatre and the March for Global Justice. The march through the streets of Vancouver took us as close to the APEC leaders as the police would allow. The march was characterized by chanting, dancing and shouting. Despite driving, pounding rain we prevailed. Later a small group of Tibet demonstrators returned to the Art Gallery to collect the placards and flags. It just so happened that Jiang Zemin was

touring the Art Gallery at that very time and so we shared the rare pleasure of standing with 20 feet of Jiang shouting: FREE TIBET!

Later that evening, Jiang was keynote speaker at a \$1000 a plate dinner hosted by the City of Vancouver. The dinner provided us another opportunity to demonstrate. All the Tibet support groups and representatives of Chinese democracy and Taiwanese groups gathered together under the tense and watchful eye of local law enforcement to scream and shout with all the energy we had left in us.

All in all, the Tibet delegation to the APEC People's Summit was successful in

developing a profile for the Tibetan issue and for expanding our network of supporters. We were able to make new friends from Asia and to learn about their struggles while sharing the experiences of our own. We also learned that the impact of trade policy as promoted by APEC will be felt by Tibet. As Tibet's economy becomes more and more integrated into China's and thereby into the global economy, Tibet will become more susceptible to exploitation and less able to exercise control over its own development.

For a detailed study at the impact of APEC on Tibet, visit the CTC website, <http://www.tibet.ca>, and read the recently-revised paper "Tibet and the APEC" (or write to CTC Montreal for a paper copy). For more information about the Tibet delegation to the People's Summit and photos, visit <http://www.portal.ca/~ctcvan>. For People's Summit resolutions, visit <http://www.vcn.bc.ca/summit>.

Banning the Tibetan Flag by Deke Samchok

The Canadian government currently finds itself in court defending its heavy-handed tactics to control freedom of expression and association during APEC events last November. One of the issues for which the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) has been condemned is the forced removal of the Tibetan flag at the University of British Columbia's Graduate Student Center. The flag was chosen by the executive of the Graduate Student Society (GSS) to symbolize the exclusion of human rights from APEC's agenda. The RCMP ignored its earlier agreement and removed the flag "for security reasons". The RCMP public complaints department is currently investigating the incident.

On November 26, the flag was raised again by the GSS against the objections of the Chinese Student and Scholar Association (CSSA), a group of students from the People's Republic of China. On November 28, 50-100 Chinese students protested at the GSS and presented a letter demanding the flag be taken down and an apology issued. At a GSS meeting several of the CSSA members made verbal threats to GSS President Kevin Swyer, who later received an anonymous death threat. One of the threatening callers to the GSS admitted that the entire campaign against the Tibetan flag was coordinated by the Chinese consulate in Vancouver. This may explain why CSSA President Congjin Lu stated publicly that no one had died in Tiannenmen Square.

The incident led to a campus wide referendum being held for all graduate students. The Chinese students undertook a rigorous anti-Tibet campaign on campus. Fortunately, this has also coincided with the formation of a Student's for Free Tibet branch at UBC which launched its own supportive campaign. The Tibet supportive position prevailed by a slim margin.

Ama Adhe Brings Message Of Tibet To Women's Conference

November 17-18, 1998. The Second International Women's Conference Against APEC was a smashing success. Hundreds of women representing APEC countries participated in workshops and attended lectures about the status of women in the Asia Pacific region.

Guest speakers included Bella Galhos from East Timor and Aung San Suu Kyi in Burma (via video-tape).



At a workshop called 'The Disappeared', Tibetan activist Adhe Tapontsang - known to all as Ama (mother) Adhe - gave an account of her 27-year imprisonment by Chinese authorities in Tibet. Her stunning testimony of the gender-specific horrors, which left the audience speechless, inflicted on Tibetan women inside Chinese prisons - in-

cluding systematic rape and sterilization without anaesthetic (or, needless to say, consent) - had a huge impact on the general receptiveness of people to the issue of Tibet. As a result, the Tibetan delegation was able to secure a clause in the forum document about women living under foreign occupation, composed with the help of the East Timorese women present:

The unregulated movement of investment capital into occupied countries results in the exploitation of the workforce, displacement of peoples and environmental devastation. Women find themselves suffering numerous gender-specific abuses at the hands of the occupying forces - among them: forced abortion and sterilization; systematic rape; sexual torture in prison; separation from family and no support system to help them deal with the trauma; while women are being detained and raped their children are left to fend for themselves.

Clearly these women are suffering tremendously. Increased trade with the occupying country without any attention given to the furthering of human rights legitimizes the occupation of countries like East Timor and Tibet, and perpetuates the systematic abuse of the women living there.

-from "Women Oppose Corporate Globalization"

With many thanks to Ama Adhe for her courage and inspiration.

An Appeal to Breckenridge

The following organizations recently signed a petition urging Breckenridge Resources (Canada) to consult the Tibetan Government-in-Exile and to make public its plans for operations in Tibet (see "Canadian Company Seeks to Mine Tibet" on page 3).

- Anglican Church of Canada
- Task Force on Churches and Corporate Responsibility, Canada
- Okanagan Public Interest Group, Canada
- International Institute for Sustainable Development, Canada
- Community Aid Abroad, Australia
- Mineral Policy Institute, Australia
- Canadian Environmental Law Association, Canada
- Consortium for Agrarian Reform, Indonesia
- Indonesia Environment Forum, Indonesia
- Synapses, USA
- United Steelworkers Union (BC), Canada
- Centre for Environmental Concerns, Philippines
- Cordillera Peoples Alliance, Philippines
- National Council of Churches in the Philippines
- El Colegio de Sonora, Mexico
- Mexican Action Network on Free Trade, Mexico
- Strategic Network for Indigenous Peoples, Canada
- West Coast Environmental Law Association, Canada
- Milarepa Fund, USA
- Canada Tibet Committee, Canada
- Project Underground, USA

Canada Sells Out

Trade Not Rights for Tibet and China

...Continued from page 1

Although 1998 is the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international support for the "China Resolution" at the UN's Commission on Human Rights (CHR), has finally died following the failure of countries such as Canada to maintain their commitment to the mildly-worded resolution again this year. In a final blow to any chances the resolution might have had at this year's session of the CHR, United States President Bill Clinton cited the weakening of support among western allies as a reason for his decision to end a seven year effort to censure China in the United Nations body created to protect human rights.

Last month the European Union also retreated from the resolution even going as far as warning individual EU members not to break ranks with the decision. In view of China's global campaign of dangling business deals and aid packages like carrots in front of CHR member states, the backing down of both the EU and the US provides China with the ultimate triumph - proof that western commitment to human rights can be bought for the right price.

Canada was long out of the picture having given in a year ago to pressure from commercial interests. Since then it has maintained a soft human rights policy dialogue with China, a dialogue which is headed nowhere. Prior to last year's CHR session, the Canadian government announced that it would not co-sponsor the China resolution and in the same press release outlined a package of bilateral initiatives aimed at addressing the human rights violations in China and Tibet.

But the process has been less than transparent. Instead it has been charac-

terized as "government-to-government" eliminating the possibility of democratic participation or monitoring by citizen groups. No benchmarks to measure concrete results of the initiatives have been articulated and no date has been set when the government will assess its new approach.

Instead, the bilateral process has consisted of two closed meetings attended by a small number of mid-level bureaucrats from China and Canada. Most recently, a larger session was co-hosted by China and Canada at the Harrison Lake Spa outside of Vancouver. The "plurilateral symposium" also included delegates from Malaysia, Korea, Mongolia, Indonesia, Pakistan, Thailand, Norway and Australia. The very private affair addressed the following issues: the inter-relationship of rights; the limitations on freedom of expression; the role of the judiciary in the protection of human rights; the role of NGOs in society and policy development. The symposium will be followed up in China next fall with another symposium on corruption issues.

According to Government of Canada officials, China has agreed to the bilateral process not to derail the CHR resolution, but rather to increase its chance for admission to the World Trade Organization. However, this seems to be unlikely when membership to the WTO depends on the opening of China's markets and not on improvements to its human rights record. The Government of Canada website is clear on the distinction between the two objectives. In describing why Canadian businesses should look to China for investment, the site points to the "recent Canadian government decision not to tie its economic relationship with China to the question of human rights."

At the annual NGO consultations hosted by the Department of Foreign Affairs in Ottawa on February 19, Canada Tibet Committee President Thubten Samdup said in his statement, "This is the end of any reasonable hope for the multilateral process as a means of achieving human rights for Tibetans."

Sadly, it appears that unlike the glossy media attention our government covets during Team Canada missions, it prefers secrecy and protection from public scrutiny when human rights accountability is on the agenda. Minister Axworthy would do well to consider that with such a weak human rights pillar in place, the future of Canadian foreign policy is becoming increasingly shakey.

List of Chinese delegates to the Canada-China "Plurilateral Symposium"

- **Mr. Li Baodong** Head of Delegation (and also head of China's delegation to the CHR) Deputy Director General, Human Rights Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- **Mr. Bu Zhongxing** Director General, Prison Bureau, Ministry of Justice
- **Ms. Zoe Xiaoqiao** Deputy Director, General International Liaison Department, All China Women's Federation (note: The ACWF, often portrays itself as an NGO, especially at UN meetings. On this occasion the ACWF attends as a government agency.)
- **Ms. Xin Chunying** Deputy Director, Institute of Law Science, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
- **Mr. Xie Bohua** First Secretary, Permanent Mission to the UN
- **Mr. Wu Jinguang** Division Director, Foreign Affairs Department, State Nationalities Affairs Commission
- **Ms. Li Nan** Staff Human Rights Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Statement of His Holiness the Dalai Lama on the 39th Anniversary of Tibetan National Uprising Day, March 10, 1998

Great changes are taking place all over the world at the dawn of a new millennium. While there are instances of new conflicts breaking out, it is encouraging that we are also able to witness the emergence of a spirit of dialogue and reconciliation in many troubled parts of the world. In some ways, this twentieth century could be called a century of war and bloodshed. It is my belief that humanity in general has drawn lessons from the experiences gained during this century. As a result, I believe the human community has become more mature. There is, therefore, hope that with determination and dedication we can make the next century a century of dialogue and non-violent conflict resolution.

Today, as we commemorate the thirty-ninth anniversary of our freedom struggle, I wish to express my sincere appreciation and great respect for the resilience and patience shown by the Tibetan people in the face of tremendous odds. The current situation in Tibet and the lack of any substantive progress in resolving the Tibetan problem is no doubt causing an increasing sense of frustration among many Tibetans. I am concerned that some might feel compelled to look for avenues other than peaceful resolutions. While I understand their predicament, I wish to firmly reiterate once again the importance of abiding by the non-violent course of our freedom struggle. The path of non-violence must remain a matter of principle in our long and difficult quest for freedom. It is my firm belief that this approach is the most beneficial and practical course in the long run. Our peaceful struggle until now has gained us the sympathy and admiration of the international community. Through our non-violent freedom struggle we are also setting an example and thus contributing to the promotion of a global political culture of non-violence and dialogue.

The sweeping changes across the globe have also embraced China. The reforms, initiated by Deng Xiaoping, have altered not only the Chinese economy, but also the political system, making it less ideological, less reliant on mass mobilisation, less coercive, and less stifling for the average citizen. The government is also notably far less centralised. Moreover, the post Deng Xiaoping leadership in China seems to have become more flexible in its international policy. One indication of this is China's greater participation in international fora and cooperation with international organisations

and agencies. A remarkable development and achievement has been the smooth transfer of Hong Kong to Chinese sovereignty last year and Beijing's subsequent pragmatic and flexible handling of issues concerning Hong Kong. Also recent statements from Beijing on restarting cross-strait negotiations with Taiwan reflect apparent flexibility and softening of its stance. In short, there is no doubt that China today is a better place to live in than 15 or 20 years ago. These are historic changes that are commendable. However, China continues to face grave human rights problems and other formidable challenges. It is my hope that the new leadership in China, with this renewed confidence, will have the foresight and courage to provide greater freedom to the Chinese people. History teaches us that material progress and comfort alone are not the full answer to the needs and yearnings of any human society.

In stark contrast to these positive aspects of the development in China proper, the situation in Tibet has sadly worsened in recent years. Of late, it has become apparent that Beijing is carrying out what amounts to a deliberate policy of cultural genocide in Tibet. The infamous "strike hard" campaign against Tibetan religion and nationalism has intensified with each passing year. This campaign of repression - initially confined to monasteries and nunneries - has now been extended to cover all parts of the Tibetan society. In some spheres of life in Tibet, we are witnessing the return of an atmosphere of intimidation, coercion and fear, reminiscent of the days of the Cultural Revolution.

In Tibet human rights violations continue to be wide-spread. These abuses of

rights have a distinct character, and are aimed at preventing Tibetans as a people from asserting their own identity and culture and their wish to preserve it. This Buddhist culture inspires the Tibetan people with values and concepts of love and compassion that are of practical benefit and relevance in daily life and hence the wish to preserve it. Thus, human rights violations in Tibet are often the result of policies of racial and cultural discrimination and are only the symptoms and consequence of a deeper problem. Therefore, despite some economic progress in Tibet, the human rights situation has not improved. It is only by addressing the fundamental issue of Tibet that the human rights problems can be overcome.

It is an obvious fact that the sad state of affairs in Tibet is of no benefit at all either to Tibet or to China. To continue along the present path does nothing to alleviate the suffering of the Tibetan people, nor does it bring stability and unity to China, which are of overriding importance to the leadership in Beijing. Also, one of the main concerns of the Chinese leadership has been to improve its international image and standing. However, its inability to resolve the Tibetan problem peacefully has been tarnishing the international image and reputation of China. I believe a solution to the Tibetan issue would have far-reaching positive implications for China's image in the world, including in its dealings with Hong Kong and Taiwan

With regard to a mutually-acceptable solution to the issue of Tibet, my position is very straightforward. I am not seeking independence. As I have said many times before, what I am seeking is for the Tibetan people to be given the opportunity to have genuine self-rule in order to preserve their civilisation and for the unique Tibetan culture, religion, language and way of life to grow and thrive. My main concern is to ensure the survival of the Tibetan people with their own unique Buddhist cultural heritage. For this, it is essential, as the past decades

have shown clearly, that the Tibetans be able to handle all their domestic affairs and to freely determine their social, economic and cultural development. I do not believe that the Chinese leadership would have any fundamental objections to this. Successive Chinese leaderships have always assured that the Chinese presence in Tibet is to work for the welfare of the Tibetans and to "help develop" Tibet. Therefore, given a political will, there is no reason why the Chinese leadership cannot start addressing the issue of Tibet by entering into a dialogue with us. This is the only proper way to ensure stability and unity, which the Chinese leadership asserts are their primary concern.

I take this opportunity to once again urge the Chinese leadership to give serious and substantive consideration to my suggestions. It is my firm belief that dialogue and a willingness to look with honesty and clarity at the reality of Tibet can lead us to a viable solution. It is time for all of us to "seek truth from facts" and to learn lessons derived from a calm and objective study of the past and to act with courage, vision and wisdom.

The negotiations must aim to establish a relationship between the Tibetan and Chinese peoples based on friendship and mutual benefit; to ensure stability and unity; and to empower the Tibetan people to exercise genuine self-rule with freedom and democracy thus allowing them to preserve and cultivate their unique culture as well as to protect the delicate environment of the Tibetan plateau. These are the principle issues. However, the Chinese government is making consistent efforts to confuse the real issues at stake. They allege that our efforts are aimed at the restoration of Tibet's old social system and the status and privileges of the Dalai Lama. As far as the institution of the Dalai Lams is concerned, I stated publicly as early as 1969 that it is for the people of Tibet to decide whether this institution is to continue or not. In my own case, I made it clear in a formal policy in 1992 that when we re-

turn to Tibet, I will hold no positions in any future Tibetan government. Moreover, no Tibetan, whether in exile or within Tibet, has a desire of restoring Tibet's old social order. It is, therefore, disappointing that the Chinese government continues to indulge in such baseless and distorted propaganda. This is not helpful in creating a conducive atmosphere for dialogue, and I hope that Beijing will refrain from making such allegations.

I also would like to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to the many governments, parliaments, non-governmental organisations, Tibet support groups and individuals, who continue to be deeply concerned with the repression in Tibet and urge to resolve the question of Tibet through peaceful negotiations. The United States has set a precedence of appointing a Special Coordinator for Tibetan Affairs in order to facilitate dialogue between us Tibetans and the Chinese government. The European and Australian parliaments have recommended similar initiatives. Last December, the International Commission of Jurists issued its third report on Tibet, entitled *Tibet: Human Rights and the Rule of Law*. These are timely initiatives and most encouraging developments. Moreover, the growing empathy, support and solidarity from our Chinese brothers and sisters in China as well as those overseas for the fundamental rights of the Tibetan people and for my "Middle-Way Approach" are of particular inspiration and a source of great encouragement for us Tibetans.

Furthermore, on this occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of India's independence I wish to express on behalf of the Tibetan people our heart-felt congratulations and reiterate our immense appreciation and gratitude to the people and government of India, which has become a second home to the majority of the Tibetans in exile. India represents not only a safe haven for us Tibetan refugees, but is also for us a country whose ancient philosophy of Ahimsa and deep-rooted democratic tradition

have inspired and shaped our values and aspirations. Moreover, I believe India can and should play a constructive and influential role in resolving the Tibetan problem peacefully. My "Middle-Way Approach" is in line with the basic Indian policy vis-a-vis Tibet and China. There is no reason why India should not be actively engaged in encouraging and promoting dialogues between Tibetans and the Chinese government. It is clear that without peace and stability on the Tibetan plateau, it is unrealistic to believe that genuine trust and confidence can be restored in the Sino-Indian relationship.

Last year we conducted an opinion poll of the Tibetans in exile and collected suggestions from Tibet wherever possible on the proposed referendum, by which the Tibetan people were to determine the future course of our freedom struggle to their full satisfaction. Based on the outcome of this poll and suggestions from Tibet, the Assembly of Tibetan People's Deputies, our parliament in exile, passed a resolution empowering me to continue to use my discretion on the matter without seeking recourse to a referendum. I wish to thank the people of Tibet for the tremendous trust, confidence and hope they place in me. I continue to believe that my "Middle-Way Approach" is the most realistic and pragmatic course to resolve the issue of Tibet peacefully. This approach meets the vital needs of the Tibetan People while ensuring the unity and stability of the People's Republic of China. I will, therefore, continue to pursue this course of approach with full commitment and make earnest efforts to reach out to the Chinese leadership.

With my homage to the brave men and women of Tibet, who have died for the cause of our freedom, I pray for an early end to the suffering of our people and for peace and welfare of all sentient beings.

The Dalai Lama, 10 March 1998

Panchen Lama Birthday Card Campaign

The Department of Information and International Relations of the Tibetan Government in Exile has launched an international campaign in support of the Panchen Lama, who will celebrate his ninth birthday on April 25. The CTC has joined the campaign which involves sending birthday cards to the Panchen Lama in care of



Photo: Eric Paris

government representatives. In Canada, the campaign has been endorsed by Free the Children and Amnesty International.

The 11th Panchen Lama, Gendhun Choekyi Nyima, was detained on May 17, 1995. Chinese authorities have admitted holding him "for his own protection". At eight years old, he is the world's youngest political prisoner. His whereabouts remain unknown although Austrian press reported on March 9 that China's Vice Governor Yang Chuantang told Austrian Vice Chancellor Wolfgang Schessel that the Panchen

Lama is living with his family in Chali(Jiali) county about 100 km northeast (by air) of Lhasa near Yiong Tshangpo river. The report has not been confirmed.

Canadians should send birthday cards to the Panchen Lama in care of Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Lloyd Axworthy, c/o House of Commons, Ottawa, K1A 0A6. Each card should include a short letter explaining to the Minister that you would like him to use Canada's engaged relationship with China to ensure that the card is delivered directly to the Panchen Lama, wherever he may be.

Encourage your family members, friends and co-workers to join the campaign. Send as many birthday cards as you can.

Cards, addressed envelopes and sample insert letters are available from your local CTC branch. Letters to the House of Commons do not require postage.

TIBETANS NOT PARTICIPATING IN CHINA'S NEW ECONOMY

Canadian Delegation to Tibet Releases Findings

by Carole Samdup

A Canadian delegation was one of several country missions to Tibet this year. Delegations from Norway, Switzerland, Germany and Austria have all conducted fact-finding missions with varying degrees of success.

As part of Canada's package of human rights activities with China, Canadian Ambassador to China, Howard Balloch, led a delegation of six to Tibet from May 26 - June 3, 1997. The delegation's report which the Ambassador himself had promised to the Canada Tibet Committee but which government officials later refused to send, was eventually obtained through Access to Information. It confirms that Chinese outnumber Tibetan residents of Lhasa and that Chinese migrants control most of Tibet's economic activity. Strangely, the report also concludes that Chinese authorities are intent to let Tibet's religious life proceed as long as it does not get in the way of economic development.

In meetings with officials of the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), the Canadians were thanked for not joining the "anti-China plot" of western countries who co-sponsor the China resolution at the UN's Commission on Human Rights. For their part, the Canadians raised several issues, including: Canada's recognition of the Dalai Lama as the spiritual head of Tibetan Buddhists; the interest of Canadians in the well-being of Tibetan Buddhism and its practitioners; the interest of Canadians in specified individuals imprisoned for their roles in Tibetan Buddhism and its religious succession and reincarnation; the challenges being faced by the arrival of larger numbers of relatively

more commercially-versatile migrants from outside Tibet; the delegation's interest in learning more about the management of prisons.

Prisons "humane and rehabilitative" Unfortunately, the Delegation was unable to negotiate permission for a Tibetan translator to accompany it, despite a CTC request that the visit be cancelled if such a minimum requirement could not be fulfilled. Delegation members were therefore unable to interview prisoners during their visit to Drapchi Prison, which is home to over 900 prisoners, 75% of whom are Tibetan. It was nevertheless obvious that something was amiss. According to the report, "The tour of Drapchi Prison was impressive to the point that we were tempted to judge that we were being treated to a Potemkin experience." Nevertheless, the delegation concluded that there was "no reason to judge the facility negatively".

While in Vancouver to attend APEC events, former Drapchi prisoner of 33 years Palden Gyatso, recalled being forced to prepare and clean certain sections of the prison for various visiting delegations such as this one. Gyatso met with Canadian government officials during a visit to Canada last year and described the years of torture he endured in Drapchi.

Monks and nuns forced to study patriotism Tibet's monasteries are compelled to allocate 20% and more of their time to courses on "patriotism" according to the delegation report. These courses focus on excluding the Dalai Lama from public reference, formally denouncing him not only as a political but as a religious leader, accepting the official view of Tibetan history and Tibet's status as an inalienable part of China. The delegation was able to speak unsupervised with monks at Ganden, Sera, Drepung and Tashilunpo (although without a Tibetan translator) and noted support for the Dalai Lama's choice of the Panchen Lama. However, the delegation seems to have been unable to obtain any information from its Chinese hosts regarding the whereabouts or safety of the Panchen Lama.

The report reaches several conclusions. Notably it argues that both the Chinese and Tibetans have to respect a clearer separation between church and state. Nevertheless, the report encourages a dialogue between Chinese authorities and the Dalai Lama with the objective of permitting the Dalai Lama to return to Tibet as a religious leader. While this represents the first time that the Government of Canada has encouraged negotiations between Tibetan and Chinese authorities, the report also describes Canada's position as one of not challenging China's claim that Tibet is a part of China. This contradicts previous wording that Canada "neither challenges nor endorses" China's claim to Tibet.

Copies of the full delegation report can be obtained from the Canada Tibet Committee National Office.

CANADA FUND PROJECTS IN TIBET

In the Tibet delegation report, the Canadian Embassy in China commits to augmenting its presence on the ground in Tibet through a number of Canada Fund (ie. Embassy-administered) projects. These projects will focus on providing for basic physical needs and establishing income generation projects which will assist Tibetans to participate in the economic development of the TAR. The visit report encourages increased involvement in developmental activity in Tibet by Canadian non-governmental organizations.

The Next Generation

The State of Education in Tibet Today

by Carole Samdup

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) has released a report which uses the testimonies of over 50 children who have fled Tibet for India during the past 2-3 years to assess China's adherence to articles 28 and 29 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child - the specific rights related to education. The children were not pre-selected and were all asked the same set of questions. Although the report's impact is limited by the relatively small number of interviews and the impossibility of reaching schoolchildren in Tibet, the testimonies are largely supported by other sources. The children, who were from many different parts of Tibet, reported similar situations and the violations referred to appeared to be common and widespread.

Over 2000 Tibetans fled Tibet in 1996 to seek exile in India. Of these, approximately 45% were children and nearly 80% of these were sent unaccompanied by their parents in the hope that they would receive education in exile. This situation continues in spite of the dangers. In December/January 1997, two young children died from illness and hypothermia attempting to reach Nepal and others have been robbed, beaten or deported by the Nepalese authorities.

The Peoples' Republic of China signed the Convention on the Rights of the Child on August 29, 1990. It was ratified in December 1991 and formally took effect in China on April 1, 1992. In 1994, in the initial report of the PRC on its adherence to the Convention, the PRC described itself as a "consistent respecter and defender of children's rights".

Article 28 of the convention emphasises the child's right to education on the basis of equal opportunity and the State's duty to ensure that at least primary education is free and compulsory for every child. Article 29 is an affirmation of the aims of education, recognizing that education should be directed at developing a child's personality and talents as well as the child's own cultural and national values. The TCHRD report concludes that both of these articles are systematically violated in Chinese-occupied Tibet.

The interviews conducted with the children revealed that in all regions of Ti-

bet children are refused the right to education. China itself acknowledges that 30% of children in Tibet receive no education at all (Amnesty International puts this figure at 40%) while the corresponding figure for Chinese children only



Photo: Paula Ford

reaches 1.5%. The reason partly relates to the remoteness of many regions of Tibet. But that is not the sole cause. The main factor consistent in the testimonies was an economic one; primary school fees imposed by the authorities were so high that the parents could not afford to send their children to school. Over and over, the interviews revealed that while Tibetan children were subjected to high school fees, Chinese children in Tibet did not have to pay anything.

Beyond primary schooling, the largest barrier to attending middle school was language according to the report. Interviewees stated that most of the entrance examinations are held completely or mostly in Chinese language. Even if a Tibetan has sufficient command of Chinese and passes the entrance exam, the final deciding factor in gaining admission

was the amount of bribes the parents were willing and able to pay.

Systematic discrimination in favour of Chinese students is also evident at the university level. In December 1996 Chinese authorities announced that the University of Tibet in Lhasa's course entitled "History of Tibet" would henceforth be taught in Chinese rather than Tibetan. All except one of the 17 courses taught at the University are now taught in Chinese. The use of bribery remains prevalent in the four modern universities in Tibet. While these institutions were established to educate Tibetans, all except the Tibetan Medical Institute have a disproportionate representation of Chinese in the student body.

A striking element of the children's testimonials was the extent to which they were simply unaware of Tibet as a free country, and of Tibetan history pre-1949. For many it came as an absolute shock to be told, only after reaching exile, that Tibet has not always been controlled by Chinese forces and that once Tibetans spoke only in Tibetan and openly worshipped the Dalai Lama.

The children reported that they were regularly taught about the greatness of Mao Tse Tung, Li Peng, Chinese socialism and China's achievements in general. Even the Tibetan language books covered Chinese subjects almost exclusively. The possibility of children dissenting from opinions provided in school books was completely unknown. Students reported that, if they chose not to answer ideological questions "properly", they risked failure or beatings.

The report concludes that China's educational policy in Tibet is used as a political tool aimed at stripping Tibetans of their culture and dignity while keeping them out of positions of economic power or political influence.

To obtain a copy of the full 88 page report, *The Next Generation*, please write to CTC Montreal or to the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy at <tchrd@dsala.tibet.net>.

Tibetan Women Participate in UN Session

by Chokey Tsering

In 1995 a delegation of Tibetan women in exile ventured boldly to China to speak out against the brutality engulfing Tibetan women in Tibet. Being the first to protest on behalf of Tibet on Chinese soil, the 18 women, nine of whom were Tibetan, left in their wake an indelible imprint in Tibetan history. Three years

"It's important that Tibetan women be [at the conference] so as not to be forgotten. No one can really speak for us since no others are in the same situation. This is our focus."

later they are determined to ensure that promises made in Beijing are carried out. Three of the women who took part in the 1995 United Nations Conference on Women in Beijing participated as Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) delegates at the recent 42nd Session Of UN Commission On The Status Of Women (CSW) in New York. Tenzin Jimpa (Canada Tibet Committee), Phuntsok Dolma, and Eva Herzer (International Committee of Lawyers For Tibet) were also joined by Yudon Aukatsang, a Fulbright Scholar at Boston University and Tsering Yangdon (Tibetan Women's Association). The CSW conference, which took place from March 2-13, considered four of the "critical areas of concern" from the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action: 'Women and Armed Conflict', 'Human Rights of Women', 'The Girl-Child' and 'Violence Against Women'. All of these areas,

says Tenzin Jimpa, directly concern Tibetan women. Jimpa, 26, says the Tibetan delegates succeeded in one of their most important tasks: the implementation of their "preferential language" which addressed the "exceptional situation of occupation within the context of armed conflict." Linguistic details such as this are crucial, she explains, because they speak of the unique situation of Tibetan women in Tibet - a situation which is steadily deteriorating.

Tenzin Jimpa

Currently, Tibetan women in Tibet live in grinding poverty. Illiteracy among this demographic is, by some estimates, as high as 80%. Reproductive and religious rights are systematically violated and female prisoners, the majority of whom are nuns, are subjected to gender-specific forms of torture and repeated rapes. The systematic violence that attacks Tibetan women in virtually all spheres of life is part of reality faced by women living under foreign occupation. Attempts at eliciting world awareness are stifled by the lack of freedom of expression or association and the absence of independent media.

"This is what makes the case of Tibetan women so urgent," declares Jimpa. "It's important that Tibetan women be [at the conference] so as not to be forgotten. No one can really speak for us since no others are in the same situation. This is our focus."

World Briefs

More Plans for Tibet's Waters

According to the German TV-show *Die Welt*, as soon as China finishes the Three-Gorges dam at the Jangtsekiang (Yangtze), a river coming from the Tibetan high plateau is to be subdued. The generation of electricity using water-power is planned to exceed the one at the Jangtsekiang by about two-fold.

The river arises on the Tibetan high plateau at an altitude of 5600 metres and carries the name Jarlung Tsangpo for 1250 kilometers. When it reaches the Indian state Assam it is named Brahmaputra.

The planners estimate the dam would provide enough electricity to pump water over a distance of 800 kilometers (497 miles) to Northwest China which is largely infertile due to its arid climate. For this, other rivers east of the Tsangpo could also be tapped.

Resolution on Tibet in Czech

Republic Senate MARCH 20, 1998
The Resolution on Violations of Human Rights in China and Tibet (No. 45/1998) was accepted by a majority of the Czech Senate on Friday March 20, 1998. In the resolution, Czech Senators request that the Chinese government: release political prisoners and respect human rights in China and Tibet; start negotiations with H.H. Dalai Lama about the future of Tibetan autonomy; allow safe and free return of all Tibetan refugees; and stop the Chinese population transfer into Tibet.

Hunger Strike in India

The Tibetan Youth Congress (TYC) organized an unto-death hunger strike at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi, which began on March 10, 1998. There are six Tibetans undertaking the fast, representing the six million Tibetans and their sufferings. Those participating in the unto-death hunger strike are: Mr. Dawa Gyalpo, 50; Mr. Dawa Tsering, 53; Mr. Karma Sichoe, 25; Mrs. Palzom, 68; Mr. Yungdung Tsering, 28; and Mr. Kunsang, 70.

The Tibetan Youth Congress, organizer of the hunger strike, has sent memoranda separately to the UN Secretary-General, the Chairman of the UN General Assembly, and the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights. The memoranda request them to implement the 1997 ICJ report on Tibet (see below).

Jurists Call for Referendum on Status of Tibet

In December, 1997, the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) recommended that China allow a United Nations-supervised referendum in Tibet to determine the future of the region which it invaded in 1950 and has occupied since.

In a 365-page report, "Tibet: Human Rights and the Rule of Law", the ICJ describes the Tibetans as a "people under alien subjugation," entitled under international law to the right of self determination. The jurists found that the autonomy which China claims Tibetans enjoy is "fictitious," as real power is in effect in Chinese hands.

The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), headquartered in Geneva, is a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, UNESCO, the Council of Europe and the OAU.

To obtain the full report, contact Nicolas Bovay of the ICJ at 81A avenue de Chatelaine, P.O. Box 216 Geneva Switzerland Tel (41 22) 979 38 00 Fax (41 22) 979 38 01. Email: <bovay@icj.org>. A summary is available in English and French from CTC Montreal.

Major Snowstorm Threatens

Tibetan Nomads TIN 13 March, 1998 Western aid organisations have been asked by the Chinese authorities to help with a major relief operation in Tibet as severe snowstorms create the threat of starvation for thousands of nomads and herdsman. European charities that have gained access to Nagchu prefecture in the Tibet Autonomous Region estimate that more than 20 per cent of the

total number of yaks in the region have died and hundreds of Tibetans are suffering from disease, snow-blindness and frostbite.

U.S. Religious Leaders in Tibet

For three weeks in February 1998, a delegation of three U.S. religious leaders made an historic visit to the People's Republic of China. Selected by President Clinton, specially invited by President Jiang Zemin, they undertook a mission to begin a dialogue with top government officials in China on the subject of religious freedom -- the first of its kind.

They recommended that special attention should be paid to the problems of freedom of religion in Tibet, and to promoting a dialogue between the Chinese government and the Dalai Lama.

China Rejects Talks With Dalai Lama

On 17 March, China rejected talks with His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Despite the Dalai Lama's repeated assurances that he is seeking only autonomy for Tibet and wishes to dedicate his life to spiritual practice once Tibet gains that autonomy, Zhu Bangzao, the spokesperson for the Chinese foreign ministry said, "For him the first step is to resume his rule over Tibet. The second step is to realize Tibetan independence." The spokesperson also said, "The facts prove that the Dalai Lama has not abandoned his plot for Tibetan independence and is still continuing these kinds of activities abroad."

Third Tibetan Freedom Concert

The Milarepa Fund has announced plans for a third Tibetan Freedom Concert to take place at Washington DC's RFK Stadium on Saturday, June 13th and Sunday, June 14th. Slated to perform are Beastie Boys, Beck, Chak-sam-Pa, Radiohead and more. For info: Phone (212) 343-2314, Email: per-ry@nlmpr.com

News from the Branches

March 10 Across Canada

As always, demonstrations and rallies were held in cities across Canada to commemorate the Lhasa Uprising (March 10-12, 1959). CTC Vancouver hosted a large gathering of Pacific-Northwest Tibetans and supporters from Seattle and Calgary. CTCs Montreal and Ottawa joined together for a peaceful demonstration at the Human Rights Monument in Ottawa, which was inaugurated by the Dalai Lama in 1993. There they participated in the traditional long-life ceremony for His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Panchen Lama. Following the reading of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's message, the demonstrators marched to the Chinese Embassy. Brightly coloured ribbons, each symbolizing 1000 Tibetans who have died under the occupation were tied to the Embassy gates.



CTC Ottawa President in Japan

Gurme Wangda, President of CTC Ottawa, has been appointed to the Office of Tibet in Tokyo as Director of Information and International Relations. Gyurme has previously spent 14 years studying in Japan and is fluent in the language. He is also a judo expert. Following his study, Gurme served as a security

guard (known as "lifeguard") for His Holiness the Dalai Lama and he taught judo to other lifeguards in Dharamsala. Gurme's wife Angela remains in Ottawa with their two children. Congratulations Gurme!

CTC Newfoundland James Pilgrim in St. John's, Newfoundland reports that the new CTC office there held its first fundraising event - a benefit concert - and that it was a smashing success. Over \$1000 was raised and Tibet information was distributed around town. It was a fitting beginning for CTC-SJ in every way. People danced until the wee hours and no one went home disappointed! The CTC plans to make use of the money it raised by joining the Panchen Lama birthday card campaign and bringing a Tibetan speaker into town for a public event.

CTC Sarnia Greg Foisie of CTC Sarnia has launched a campaign asking local video stores to help increase public awareness about Tibet by distributing various documentary films. Over 30 movie renters in the city have been contacted. In addition to brochures, video stores

have been given copies of "Song for Tibet", "Compassion in Exile" and other documentaries at no charge, which they in turn loan for free to their customers. The CTC has also written to the three big video chains here - Blockbuster, Roger's, & Jumbo - asking them to support this campaign. CTC Sarnia is also participating in the Panchen Lama campaign, and working with the Equity and Di-

versity Committee of the local community college.

CTC Vancouver CTC Vancouver held its Annual General Meeting on January 18, 1998. We thank all our members for their tireless work in 1997. 1997 was indeed the Year of Tibet in Vancouver. It started off in February and March with "The Spirit of Tibet" series at the Museum of Anthropology at the University of British Columbia. This included exhibits from the museum's collection, video presentations, Tibetan food and momo making demonstrations and the highlight of all this was the weekly performances by the Tibetan cultural society dancers. We also distributed leaflets at *7 Years in Tibet* and *Kundun* attracting many new members and helping to sell out the public meetings of Palden Gyatso and Ama Adhe that we sponsored. Our biggest project was the coordination of APEC events when we welcomed Tibet supporters from across the Asia-Pacific. About 500 turned up for March for Global Justice and a small group of us fortuitously encountered President Jiang entering the Vancouver Art Gallery. Jiang Zemin certainly heard the Tibetan message in a loud and impassioned manner.

CTC Welcomes 4 New

Branches The Canada Tibet Committee is proud to announce the opening of four new branches, expanding the national network from coast to coast. Welcome to Sarnia, Ontario; St. John's, Newfoundland; Golden, British Columbia; Regina, Saskatchewan. You can find contact information for these newest members on page 2 of this issue.

Celebrating Our 10th Anniversary

I had no idea that you had begun so rapidly after the events in Lhasa of 1987. I want to offer my personal congratulations and wish you the very best.

Robbie Barnett, UK

Congratulations to the CTC on its tenth anniversary! My prayers are with you as you continue your struggle and I know that one day the Tibetan people will be free again.

Senator Consiglio Di Nino

It is a matter of great pleasure that the Canada Tibet Committee (CTC) is celebrating its tenth anniversary in November this year.

It is with the deep admiration that we have followed the development and progress made by CTC since its inception in 1987. The achievements made by CTC in the past years are remarkable. CTC's achievement in creation of information network for Tibet Support Groups worldwide, the creation of World Tibet News, and delegation to the UN Women's conference in Beijing and etc helped further the Tibetan cause to a great extent.

*Tempa Tsering,
Department of Information and International Relations, Tibetan Government in Exile, India*

This is a belated but very sincere note of congratulations from Australia Tibet Council for your fantastic efforts over the last ten years. You are a source of inspiration to us, especially as you share with us the challenges of operating a national TSG in a federal system which covers a vast geographical expanse. Warmest regards, and open a bottle of champagne for us!

Alex Butler, Australia Tibet Council

I would like to add my thanks and congratulations to CTC members for all their hard work and dedication all these years. They deserve all the praise people have sent them and more.

Tsering Yangdon, Tibetan Women's Association, USA

To all the members of the board and all provincial office holders, present and past, all supporting members, and the editors of World Tibet News, my sincerest congratulations for a job very well done for a considerably long period of ten solid years. This is the type of effort we need for the Tibet movement. It informs, educates, communicates, and connects hundreds and thousands of individuals and groups. It is truly a work that is service for Tibet and the Tibetan people. We look forward to ten more years of leadership and example.

*Tenzin N. Tethong,
Former Minister of International Relations,
Tibetan Government in Exile*

Congratulations for the happy anniversary of the Canada Tibet Committee! I just wanted to tell you that I really appreciate your work. Since more than one year I am subscribing to WTN... It is a great source of information. It is also extremely useful for my present research on the political relations between India and Tibet. I wish you would have started in 1949!! Bravo also for the TSG coordination. Once more thanks and congratulations.

Claude Apri, Auroville, India

Canada Tibet Committee Membership Form

- I wish to join the Canada Tibet Committee and am enclosing a \$25.00 annual membership fee (\$10.00 for students).
- I am renewing my annual membership in the Canada Tibet Committee and am enclosing my \$25.00 fee (\$10.00 for students).
- I wish to become a donor member and am enclosing a minimum of \$50.00
- Please accept this donation to cover CTC Newsletter costs \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____

Telephone Number _____

Email address _____

I would like to volunteer

Please mail your cheque or money order to the CTC branch in your province. (See addresses on page 2).

If you do not have a CTC branch near you, kindly send your contribution to the Montreal office.

Win Two T-shirts of Your Design!!!

Hey, all you talented people! We would like your help designing our new CTC T-shirts. The design can be anything related to Tibet whether it's a small design for the chest or a large design for the back... we would like your input. Our committee members will select the winning design(s). Send your submission to CTC Montreal, attention Kay Ohta. Please include your name, address and telephone number. The contest deadline is June 1, 1998.