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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
Sub-Commission on Prevention of  
Discrimination and Protection  
of Minorities  
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Agenda item 6

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL  
FREEDOMS, INCLUDING POLICIES OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND  
SEGREGATION AND OF APARTHEID, IN ALL COUNTRIES, WITH  
PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT  
COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION  
UNDER COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION 8 (XXIII)

Written statement submitted by the International Association  
of Educators for World Peace, a non-governmental organization  
on the Roster

The Secretary-General has received the following communication, which  
is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council  
resolution 1296 (XLIV).

[2 August 1995]

1. In this written statement the International Association of Educators for World Peace (IAEWP) would like to address the situation in Tibet, where gross and systematic violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms have been taking place for the past four decades. The predicament of Tibet has reached a point where time is now running out for the survival of the national identity of the 6 million Tibetan people.

2. Our organization is of the opinion that the human rights situation in Tibet will not improve unless and until the international community shows the political will and courage to deal with the People's Republic of China.

The international community must have this will in order to stop the violations before it is too late. International bodies like the United Nations, including the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities must realize that the Tibetan question is a situation of a country that has been occupied and colonized by China for the past 45 years. Unless this question is addressed the ongoing genocide in Tibet will continue, with the Tibetan identity slowly disappearing from the Tibetan plateau.

3. If the Tibetan people have been denied their inalienable right to self-determination and fundamental freedoms, it is because the Chinese authorities claim to have "liberated" Tibet and made the Tibetans "masters". If Tibetans have been denied the regaining of their independence, it is because of the military invasion of their country in 1949 which was ignored by the international community. What the Tibetan people today resent is the colonial rule of their country by the Chinese Government, which claims "earthshaking progress" there. Today the Tibetan people have not only lost their country and seen the destruction of their religious tradition, but they have also experienced the environmental degradation of their land. If the number of political prisoners are increasing, so is the number of forced abortions and sterilizations of Tibetan women. And now, in the name of "development" the Tibetan plateau is being occupied by millions of Chinese settlers who are increasing their control on the economic and social lives of the Tibetan people.

4. If we were to look back into the accounts of extrajudicial killings, for example, in north-eastern Tibet in the late 1950s and 1960s, some official Chinese documents give a vivid picture of the unfortunate events. According to one such document, 1/ in 1958 the Chinese forces used heavy artillery and machine-guns, backed by fighter planes, to wreak havoc on Labrang and Choney regions for 8 months: 996 attacks were made between mid-March and mid-November 1958. Study of this document reveals that in the 1950s and the 1960s the Chinese authorities tortured and killed at least 468,700 Tibetans in Amdo province alone. A current popular saying has it that in those days Tibetans died from artillery and machine-guns and now, in the 1980s and 1990s, the next generation of Tibetans are dying from scalpels on operating tables (a reference to the policy of forced abortions).

5. On 19 June 1995, the Foreign Affairs Committee of the German Parliament held an all-party hearing on Tibet to study the overall situation in the country. Addressing the hearing, Tibet's undisputed leader, the Dalai Lama said: "Violations of human rights in Tibet have a distinct character. Such abuses are aimed at Tibetans as a people asserting their own identity and their wish to preserve it. Thus, human rights violations in Tibet are often the result of institutionalized racial and cultural discrimination. If the human rights situation in Tibet is to be improved, the issue of Tibet should be addressed on its own merits. It should be seen as distinct from the overall situation in China. Undoubtedly, the Chinese in China suffer from human rights abuses, but these abuses are of an entirely different nature."

6. China is invading Tibet - again. Four decades after the People's Liberation Army seized the kingdom and crushed an uprising by the Dalai Lama's followers, Beijing has found a more effective tool of conquest: money.

In 1992, the Government lifted controls on Chinese migration to Tibet, then made it worthwhile by offering jobs that paid two or three times the rate of the same work in China's interior. Last year alone, Beijing invested some \$270 million in 62 projects - including the plaza near the Potala and a solar-powered radio and television station that will broadcast Communist Party propaganda in Tibetan. Thanks to such inducements, Lhasa's population is now at least 50 per cent non-Tibetan, according to western analysts. 2/

7. In May 1995, Amnesty International released another detailed report, entitled "Persistent human rights violations in Tibet", saying that repression of political dissent has increased in recent years in Tibet. The report, which identified 628 Tibetan political detainees as held in Tibet in December 1994, said that Tibetans "involved in activities in support of Tibetan independence" were considered to be "splittists" by the Chinese Government and consequently subjected to "arbitrary arrests and detention".

8. For the first time, this Amnesty International report shows that juveniles have been detained and imprisoned for peacefully taking part in demonstrations in Tibet - some of them were only 12 years old. The report describes in shocking detail the cases of 45 Tibetan juvenile political prisoners who were detained by the Chinese authorities. One of these children, Sherab Ngawang, a child-nun, died in April 1995, two months after her release. She was sentenced to three years' imprisonment for taking part in a 1992 demonstration calling for Tibetan independence. She was only 12 years old at the time of her arrest. By these violations, the Chinese Government has routinely ignored the safeguards provided in Chinese law, and of course, international human rights standards (for example the Convention against Torture and Convention on the Rights of the Child, which China has ratified) to protect minors. In the so-called "Tibet Autonomous Region", juveniles constituted 60 per cent of the arrests in 1994, according to Tudeng Caiwang, the region's acting chief procurator. 3/

9. For the past more than four decades, the Tibetan people have been deprived of their rights to peaceful assembly, freedom of expression and freedom of association, which form the most basic conditions for the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any society. Furthermore, the protection and promotion of human rights in Tibet was neglected owing to the international community's lack of will to scrutinize China over its repeated failure to comply with its own Constitution and more than 10 United Nations conventions which China had ratified. The Chinese Government's total disregard of an internationally accepted standard of the rule of law gives the current regime in Tibet a free hand to deny human rights and fundamental freedoms to the Tibetan people.

10. According to the Chinese authorities, there are no political prisoners in Tibet. However, they charge Tibetans who advocate or initiate activities for the realization of Tibet's independence as "criminals" who are "counter-revolutionary" or "splittist" or "separatist" or who have committed acts of "espionage" or "stealing State secrets" or "incitement of reactionary propaganda". These Chinese laws are being used systematically to deprive the Tibetans of their political rights, resulting in the arrests of hundreds of

Tibetan human rights activists. Unless the Chinese authorities eliminate these laws, Tibetans will face routine detention for speaking out against Chinese rule.

11. In recent years, the Chinese authorities have been making statements that activities for Tibetan independence were on the rise "from cities to the countryside". According to an official Chinese report delivered by justice officials in May 1994 on their treatment of "counter-revolutionary" cases in the so-called "TAR", it was stressed that such activities had been on the rise in recent years: "We cracked down hard on the sabotage activities of separatists in accordance with law. Cases involving counter-revolutionary propaganda and incitement handled by the region's courts have been on the rise in recent years ... [A] handful of separatists who were swollen with counter-revolutionary arrogance carried out activities aimed at splitting the motherland and gradually spread their counter-revolutionary from the cities to the countryside." 4/

12. The Chinese officials were later quoted as saying that 765 cases of "splittism" and other serious crimes were "handled" in the TAR in 1994. In this report, the Tibet Daily, the official newspaper of the TAR government, made no distinction between the two categories and gave no numeral breakdown. "All prosecutors in the region ... fully recognize that the legal assault on the destructive activities of the Dalai Lama clique and splittist factors is a priority task and a sacred duty bestowed on them by law", the official newspaper said. 5/

13. In another sign of increased political repression in Tibet, Tudeng Caiwang, the acting chief procurator in the so-called "TAR" confirmed that the Chinese authorities arrested 164 Tibetans (87 per cent of them were monks and nuns) for "counter-revolutionary" activities, almost double the 85 detained in 1993. Tudeng Caiwang said that "the struggle against splittism is still serious" reasoning that "cases of counter-revolutionary are still increasing". 6/

14. The International Association of Educators for World Peace supports calls for the realization of democracy in China. We also firmly support the Dalai Lama's recent message of 4 June 1995 to the Chinese democracy movement in which he said: "I believe strongly that the international community has an obligation to morally and politically support the Chinese democracy movement. It has been wise not to isolate China but instead to make efforts to bring her into the mainstream of the world economy. But economic integration alone is not sufficient. China needs human rights, democracy and the rule of law. These values are the foundation of a free, dynamic, stable and peaceful society."

15. In conclusion, we call upon the Chinese Government to take measures to immediately stop all violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Tibetan people. The Chinese leadership should begin negotiations with the Tibetan leadership to reach an amicable solution to the Tibetan question, without preconditions. This will be the best way to end the human rights abuses of the Tibetan people.

Notes

1/ Strategy of the 11th Infantry Division of the People's Liberation Army, p. 227.

2/ "Chinese keep coming", Newsweek, 3 April 1993, p. 18.

3/ "China arrests many more Tibet separatists in 1994", Reuter, 22 June 1995.

4/ Report by the president of the Tibet Autonomous Region High People's Court on High People's Court activities since January 1993, issued in May 1994. The report was originally published in Tibet Daily on 12 June 1994.

5/ Tibet Daily, 24 December 1994.

6/ "China arrests many more Tibet separatists in 1994", Reuter, 22 June 1995.

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