

UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/4848
18 August 1961

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Sixteenth session

SUPPLEMENTARY LIST OF AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE SIXTEENTH REGULAR SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY: ITEM PROPOSED BY MALAYA AND THAILAND

THE QUESTION OF TIBET

Letter dated 18 August 1961 from the Permanent Representative of
Malaya and the Acting Permanent Representative of Thailand to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On the instructions of our Governments we have the honour to propose, under rule 14 of the rules of procedure, the inclusion in the agenda of the sixteenth regular session of the General Assembly the following item:

"The question of Tibet".

An explanatory memorandum, as required by rule 20 of the rules of procedure, is attached.

(Signed) Dato Nik Ahmed KAMIL
Permanent Representative of the
Federation of Malaya

(Signed) Somchai ANUMAN-RAJADHON
Acting Permanent Representative
of Thailand

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. The General Assembly at its fourteenth regular session discussed the question of Tibet and adopted by an overwhelming majority resolution 1353 (XIV), the terms of which are as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling the principles regarding fundamental human rights and freedoms set out in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the General Assembly on 10 December 1948,

"Considering that the fundamental human rights and freedoms to which the Tibetan people, like all others, are entitled include the right to civil and religious liberty for all without distinction,

"Mindful also of the distinctive cultural and religious heritage of the people of Tibet and of the autonomy which they traditionally enjoyed,

"Gravely concerned at reports, including the official statements of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, to the effect that the fundamental human rights and freedoms of the people of Tibet have been forcibly denied them,

"Deploping the effect of these events in increasing international tension and in embittering the relations between peoples at a time when earnest and positive efforts are being made by responsible leaders to reduce tension and improve international relations,

"1. Affirms its belief that respect for the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is essential for the evolution of a peaceful world order based on the rule of law;

"2. Calls for respect for the fundamental human rights of the Tibetan people and for their distinctive cultural and religious life."

2. In view of the continued systematic disregard of the fundamental human rights of the Tibetan people and of the sustained attempt to destroy their traditional and distinctive way of life and their religious and cultural autonomy, as confirmed by the report to the International Commission of Jurists by its Legal Inquiry Committee on Tibet published on 8 August 1960, the question of Tibet was again proposed for inclusion as an item in the agenda of the fifteenth regular session of the General Assembly. The General Assembly subsequently approved the item's inscription by a vote of 49 in favour to 13 against. However, because of the

extreme pressure of work to which the Assembly was subject in the concluding stages of the session, the Assembly did not find it possible to consider the item and consequently no positive action was taken on the "Question of Tibet" at the fifteenth regular session.

3. The situation in Tibet today has not improved and remains a source of grave concern. The Governments of the Federation of Malaya and of Thailand, deeply convinced that the United Nations has an obligation and duty to address itself once again to this question, and hoping that the renewed consideration of the question will pave the way for the restoration of the religious and civil liberties of the Tibetan people, propose the inclusion of an item entitled "The question of Tibet" in the agenda of the sixteenth regular session of the General Assembly.
