



Twentieth session
Agenda item 91

QUESTION OF TIBET

Letter dated 19 October 1965 from the Permanent Representatives of
El Salvador, Nicaragua and the Philippines to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to forward herewith the text of the message addressed to His Excellency the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 23 September 1965 by His Holiness the Dalai Lama of Tibet, through Mr. Thubten Tharpa Liushar, Tibetan Representative in New York, concerning recent developments in Tibet.

We would be grateful if Your Excellency would kindly have this note circulated as an official document of the General Assembly in connexion with the consideration of the agenda item entitled "Question of Tibet".

(Signed) Héctor ESCOBAR SERRANO
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of El Salvador to
the United Nations

(Signed) Luis Manuel DEBAYLE
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Deputy Permanent Representative of Nicaragua
to the United Nations

(Signed) Salvador P. LOPEZ
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the Philippines
to the United Nations

Swarg Ashram
Upper Dharmasala
Kangra/Punjab
India

23 September 1965

Your Excellency,

Kindly recall my appeal to the United Nations last year regarding the question of Tibet, sponsored by the Governments of El Salvador, Nicaragua and the Philippines. At that time, as the United Nations General Assembly meeting was postponed the question of Tibet could not be brought before the august body.

It distresses me very much to learn that the situation in Tibet has deteriorated since then and the people of Tibet are now facing immense hardships. Of these, the present food crisis in Tibet, which is not confined to just one or two regions but engulfs the country as a whole, is a case in point. The entire food supply of Tibet is now under the complete control of the Chinese communists. As a result of the lack of food there has been an increased influx of refugees, escaping from Tibet in spite of the extremely tight control of the border areas. Those who are unable to come out, as Your Excellency may have seen in the Press, have boldly staged demonstrations against the Chinese authorities at the risk of their lives.

Another very alarming recent news is the danger which looms on the head of the Panchen Lama. According to information, the Panchen Lama publicly refused to collaborate with the Chinese communists, sometime in December 1964, in the destruction of our race, religion and culture. As a result of this, I am told that the Panchen Lama was imprisoned and ill treated. And though he is still kept in the so-called People's Consultative Committee, this organization has no real influence in any matter. I, therefore, fear that the Panchen Lama's life is in grave danger.

The recent announcement from Peking of Tibet becoming fully autonomous on 1 September 1965 will possibly deceive many people. "Autonomy", however, means little if Tibetans are not given genuine authority for self-determination. Even

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New York, U.S.A.

independence will have no value unless China stops interfering in the affairs of Tibet. Hence, I feel that the recent reports on the so-called "autonomy of Tibet" are nothing more than a veil to cover the crimes committed by the Chinese communists and to strengthen their power for suppressing the people.

If the Chinese occupation of Tibet is allowed to continue unchecked, it would not only encourage the Chinese to resort to still more brutal means of exterminating the Tibetan race but would also increase the Chinese threat to the peace of South-East Asia.

Under these circumstances I appeal to Your Excellency, and to the Member nations of the world Organization, for their sincere sympathy and support on the issue of Tibet in the coming session of the General Assembly.

As this alarming and most distressing news from Tibet compels me to bring before Your Excellency my fresh appeal, I hope Your Excellency will forgive me for this intrusion on your most valuable time. May I also request Your Excellency to be good enough to circulate this appeal among the Members of the United Nations Organization.

With the assurances of my highest esteem and consideration,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) The Dalai Lama
