

INSIDE TIBET:

ICT Report: House Committee says no new Chinese consulate in the U.S. until the U.S. gets one in Lhasa, Tibet: On July 20, 2011, the House Foreign Affairs Committee passed the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, which contains provisions to authorize a U.S. consulate in Lhasa and a Tibet section in the U.S. embassy in Beijing. The language states that China cannot build new consulates in the U.S. until it allows a U.S. consulate in Lhasa, Tibet. Lhasa remains a top priority for U.S. consulates in the People's Republic of China, as recently reaffirmed by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Dan Baer in testimony before the Committee on June 2. The Chinese government is seeking new consulates in Atlanta and Boston, but has thus far declined the U.S. request for a consulate in Lhasa. The closest American post to Tibet is Chengdu, Sichuan province, which is farther from Lhasa than U.S. embassies in Nepal and Bangladesh.

<http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/house-committee-says-no-new-chinese-consulates-us-until-us-gets-one-lhasa-tibet>

ICT Report: Xi Jinping reiterates hardline policies: Tibetans detained in buildup to visit of China's next top leader: na's next top leader Xi Jinping, is leading a large delegation of senior Party, government and military officials to the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) on an inspection tour that is expected to last a week. No official itinerary of Mr. Xi's visit appears to be publicly available, with his arrival on July 17, only confirmed that day following several days of rumors. The visit is taking place in an atmosphere of fear and tension, with the TAR closed to tourists and under tight lockdown, and a number of Tibetans being detained in Lhasa prior to the arrival. Xi Jinping presided over a ceremony in Lhasa on July 19 to mark the anniversary of what Beijing characterizes as "the peaceful liberation" of Tibet, and in a speech made in front of the Potala Palace, Jinping reiterated the current hardline position of the Chinese government on Tibet, emphasizing the importance of "the fight against separatist activities by the Dalai clique by firmly relying on all ethnic groups... and [the need to] completely smash any plot to destroy stability in Tibet and jeopardise national unity" according to reports in the state media.

<http://savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/xi-jinping-reiterates-hardline-policies-tibetans-detained-buildup-visit-chinas-next-top-le>

ICT Report: Tibet Support Groups call on Ambassador-designate Locke: Tibet advocacy groups in the United States have called on Ambassador-designate Gary Locke to advocate for Tibet in his tenure as U.S. Ambassador to the People's Republic of China. In a letter to Ambassador-designate Locke the coalition of American Tibet Support Groups requests that he "be a consistent and reliable advocate for the rights and aspirations of the Tibetan people." Currently the Secretary of Commerce, Gary Locke awaits Senate confirmation as Ambassador to China. This letter comes at a time when the Chinese government has intensified its crackdown across Tibet. In connection with celebrations organized by the Chinese Communist Party of its rule in Tibet, Tibetan areas have been made limits to tourists and foreign journalists and diplomats. <http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-press-releases/tibet-support-groups-call-ambassador-designate-locke>

THE DALAI LAMA:

A conversation with the Dalai Lama: by Melissa Mathison, Rolling Stone Magazine The August 2011 issue of the Rolling Stone magazine features an in depth interview with His Holiness the Dalai Lama by ICT Board member Melissa Mathison. Ms. Mathison writes, "The Dalai Lama, despite many heartfelt petitions by his constituents, has finally been granted his wish for official retirement from government duties. The Tibetan Parliament had twice urged His Holiness to reconsider, but he had declined even to read a message from them or meet with legislators. His mind was made up. On May 29th, the papers were signed and the Tibetan charter amended. The act marks a remarkable and voluntary separation of church and state: For the first time in more than 350 years, the Dalai Lama is no longer the secular as well as the spiritual leader of the Tibetan people ... Now, with his signature, his formal title has changed from "Head of Nation" to "Protector and Symbol of Tibet and Tibetan People." Many of his political responsibilities will rest on the shoulders of Lobsang Sangay, a 43-year-old Harvard legal scholar who was elected in April to the post of prime minister." In this interview, His Holiness speaks on his reincarnation, and his decision to step down as head of the Tibetan government. <http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/a-conversation-with-the-dalai-lama-20110721?page=1>