

INSIDE TIBET:

ICT report: Tensions high in Tibet on serf Emancipation Day: Tensions were high in Tibet on the eve of a compulsory celebration to mark 'serf emancipation Day' declared by authorities in the Tibet Autonomous Region, and intended to mark an end to Tibetan 'feudalism'. Beijing is embarking on a multi-billion dollar media expansion overseas, including the establishment of a 24-hour English language all-news channel modeled after CNN and the opening of more Xinhua offices across the world. A new website to commemorate 50 years of 'Democratic Reform' in Tibet has been created (http://english.chinatibetnews.com/SpecialCoverage/node_2714.htm). For Tibetans, March 28 marks the defeat of the 1959 Tibetan uprising against Chinese rule, the dissolution of the Tibetan government, and 50 years of separation from the Dalai Lama. Beijing justifies its invasion and colonization of Tibet by stating that it wiped out "theocracy, feudalism and slavery" in Tibet. However, the PRC does not allow open discussion of whether Tibet was 'feudal' or 'oppressive.' The Dalai Lama acknowledges that Tibet was an extremely poor society prior to 1959, and that there were grave injustices. This is true of most of Asia, including China, and is still true in many areas. As has been the case with all the countries of Asia, there is no doubt that Tibet would have embarked on its own process of modernization, without Chinese rule. <http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/tensions-high-tibet-eve-%E2%80%98serf-emancipation-day%E2%80%99>

Beijing to reopen Tibet to Tourists, but not diplomats or journalists: On March 30, Tibet's head of tourism, Bachug, said, "Tibet is harmonious and safe now. Travel agencies, tourist resorts and hotels are well-prepared for tourists." Signaling that the risk of anti-Chinese unrest has subsided in Tibet, from April 5, foreigners will be allowed back into a region locked off for nearly two months due to fears of unrest. But one travel agency in Lhasa told *The Times* that any tourist seeking to go to Tibet must receive a police permit. He added, "Diplomats and journalists will not be allowed in." This marks no change from a longstanding policy. <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/asia/article6001045.ece>

OUTSIDE TIBET:

Vast spy system loots computers in 103 countries, including the Dalai Lama's offices: On March 30, the New York Times reported that Canadian researchers from the Munk Center for International Studies at the University of Toronto have concluded that a vast electronic spying operation has infiltrated computers and has stolen documents from hundreds of government and private offices around the world, including those of the Dalai Lama. The researchers said that the system was being controlled from computers based almost exclusively in China, but that they could not say conclusively that the Chinese government was involved. The newly reported spying operation is by far the largest to come to light in terms of countries affected. This is also believed to be the first time researchers have been able to expose the workings of a computer system used in an intrusion of this magnitude. A spokesman for the Chinese Consulate in New York dismissed the idea that China was involved. "These are old stories and they are nonsense," the spokesman, Wenqi Gao, said. "The Chinese government is opposed to and strictly forbids any cyber crime." The Toronto researchers, who allowed a reporter for The New York Times to review the spies' digital tracks, are publishing their findings in *Information Warfare Monitor*, an online publication associated with the Munk Center. <http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/tibet-news/vast-spy-system-loots-computers-103-countries-including-dalai-lamas-tibetan-exile-centers>

EUROPE :

E.U. Commissioner urges China on Tibet talks: Benita Ferrero-Waldner, the E.U.'s External Relations Commissioner said she discussed Tibet in talks with China's Vice President Li Keqiang and Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi on March 29. She said the Chinese tone was less angry than before, but there was no sign of any change in Beijing's hardline attitude toward contact with the exiled Tibetan leader. Referring to the "Memorandum of Genuine Autonomy for the Tibetan People submitted by the Tibetan side during the 8th round of dialogue, Ferrero-Waldner said, "For a long time, the Chinese wanted to see a written position." <http://www.phayul.com/news/article.aspx?id=24326&article=EU+urges+China+to+resume+Tibet+talks>