

U.S. GOVERNMENT:

The Dalai Lama in Washington DC: The Dalai Lama was in Washington DC from October 5-10. There was no meeting scheduled between President Obama and the Dalai Lama during this visit. But his visit included meetings with Speaker Nancy Pelosi and other Congressional Leaders, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the State Department Special Coordinator for Tibetan issues, Chinese-American and Chinese scholars, and other prominent policy makers. On October 6, he received the first Lantos Human Rights Prize for the promotion of human rights. The award is named in honor of the late Congressman Tom Lantos, founder of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus. Before presenting the award, Speaker Pelosi said, "US Presidents, members of Congress and the American people continue to be inspired by His Holiness' message of peace, non-violence, human rights and mutual understanding." China voiced its displeasure at this award by accusing the U.S. of meddling in its domestic affairs. Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ma Zhaoxu said, "We urge members of the U.S. Congress to respect the history and the facts, recognize the true face of the Dalai Lama, stop using Tibet issue to interfere in China's internal affairs."

For a summary of Press coverage of the visit, see the Tibet Update Supplement (10-13-09).

THE DALAI LAMA:

ICT Report: His Holiness the Dalai Lama congratulates President Obama on Nobel Peace Prize: His Holiness the Dalai Lama, who was in Washington DC on October 9, wrote to President Obama to say that he was pleased that the Nobel Committee had "recognized your approach towards resolving international conflicts through the wisdom and power of dialogue." His Holiness said that all of us have the responsibility to make the 21st century a century of dialogue and co-operation and thus the need for concerted efforts from all sides in this highly interdependent world to promote and adopt a more compassionate approach. He further added, "... the founding fathers of the United States have made this country the greatest democracy and a champion of freedom and liberty. It is therefore, important for today's American leaders to adopt principled leadership based on these high ideals. Such an approach will not only enhance the reputation of the United States, but also contribute tremendously to reducing tension in the world." <http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-press-releases/his-holiness-dalai-lama-congratulates-president-obama-nobel-peace-prize>

ICT Report: Statement by the Dalai Lama's Special envoy, Lodi Gyaltzen Gyari, on the arrival of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Washington DC: In a statement released on October 5, the Dalai Lama's Special Envoy, Lodi G. Gyari said that His Holiness the Dalai Lama, due to arrive in Washington that day, will meet with Speaker Pelosi and other Congressional Leaders but he will not be meeting President Obama on this visit. He said, "From the outset, there has been no question of President Obama not at the appropriate time meeting His Holiness, whom he holds in great esteem. Tasking a broader and long-term perspective, His Holiness agreed to meet the President after the November US-China summit." He added, "The Dalai Lama has always been supportive of American engagement with China. Our hope is that the cooperative US-Chinese relationship that President Obama's administration seeks will create conditions that support the resolution of the legitimate grievances of the Tibetan people." <http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/statement-dalai-lamas-special-envoy-lodi-gyaltzen-gyari-arrival-his-holiness-dalai-lama-wa>

ICT Report: His Holiness the Dalai Lama presents Light of Truth Awards in Washington, DC: On behalf of the International Campaign for Tibet (ICT), His Holiness the Dalai Lama, on October 7, presented the Light of Truth Award to two recipients, the late Julia Taft, who was the appointed Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues in 1999 as well as serving on the Board of ICT from 2002; and to Wang Lixiong, the Chinese writer who co-authored and disseminated a petition called "Twelve suggestions for handling the Tibet situation," calling on the Chinese authorities to exercise restraint and caution in their response to the wave of protests that swept Tibet in March 2008. His Holiness the Dalai Lama was presented on stage by Speaker of the United States Congress, Nancy Pelosi. <http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/his-holiness-dalai-lama-presents-light-truth-awards-washington-dc>

News Clips : The Dalai Lama in D.C. - No meeting with Obama

News stories

Obama's Delayed Dalai Lama Meeting Spurs Criticism, by Michele Kelemen, *NPR*, October 8, 2009

“The Tibetan Buddhist spiritual leader went ahead with this visit [to DC], even though his meeting with the White House was postponed until later this year — after President Obama visits China. ...the president has been criticized for kowtowing to the Chinese.”

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=113604856&ps=rs>

China's Economic Leverage Over U.S. Growing, by Frank Langfitt, *NPR*, Oct. 8, 2009

“President Obama's decision not to meet with the Dalai Lama this week is a reminder of Beijing's rising power in its relationship with Washington. Long-time China watchers say it's also a sign of how economic and other interests have come to trump human rights issues.”

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=113604861>

White House: Delay of Dalai Lama meeting mutual. *AP*, October 6, 2009

“White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said Tuesday that a strong relationship between the U.S. and China is in the interests of Tibet because it ‘allows us to talk to them about the cares and concerns of the Tibetan people.’”

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hJ3Bno-u9F5aSPm0e4tOH_AcaZBOD9B5O9680

Critics Protest Gap in Dalai Lama's Schedule, by Mark Landler. *The New York Times*, October 6, 2009

“Greeting the Dalai Lama, whom Beijing condemns as a separatist, weeks before Mr. Obama's first presidential trip to China could be ‘substantially damaging to the relationship,’ said this official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the delicate nature of the issue.”

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/06/world/asia/06dalai.html>

Was Dalai Lama snub debt-related? by Eamon Javers, *Politico.com*, October 6, 2009

“That leads one former Federal Reserve official to suspect that Chinese fiscal leverage over the American government is at the root of the decision. ‘Bottom line,’ says the official, ‘don’t piss off your banker.’”

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/1009/27942.html>

Obama 'snubs' Dalai Lama meeting. *BBC*, October 6, 2009

“US President Barack Obama has been accused of bowing to Chinese pressure by delaying a meeting with the Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama.”

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/asia-pacific/8291782.stm>

GOP chides Obama over Dalai Lama. by Mike Soraghan, *The Hill*, October 5

“The U.S. is kowtowing to Beijing again by refusing to meet with His Holiness,” said Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (Fla.), the ranking Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. “This is a policy turned upside down.”

<http://thehill.com/homenews/administration/61731-gop-chides-obama-over-dalai-lama>

Obama's Meeting With the Dalai Lama Is Delayed: Move Appears to Be A Nod to Chinese. by John Pomfret, *Washington Post*. October 5, 2009

“In an attempt to gain favor with China, the United States pressured Tibetan representatives to postpone a meeting between the Dalai Lama and President Obama until after Obama's summit with his Chinese counterpart, Hu Jintao, scheduled for next month.”

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/04/AR2009100403262.html>

US Denies Policy Shift in Deferring Dalai Lama Meeting, by David Gollust, *VOA*, 05 October 2009

“The State Department said President Obama's decision to put off a meeting with the Dalai Lama until after he visits China next month does not signal a change in U.S. policy on Tibet.”

<http://www.voanews.com/english/2009-10-05-voa29.cfm>

Dalai Lama aide defends aloof Obama, *AFP*, October 5, 2009

“The Dalai Lama's top negotiator [Lodi Gyari] on Monday defended President Obama's decision not to meet the spiritual leader, saying that warm US-China ties were in Tibetans' interests.”

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5j1CmMFGAr-7BT4wKIEOctMRtazfQ>

Statement by the Dalai Lama's Special Envoy, Lodi Gyari, on the arrival of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Washington, DC. International Campaign for Tibet. October 5, 2009

“Taking a broader and long-term perspective, His Holiness agreed to meet the President after the November US-China Summit... Our hope is that the cooperative US-Chinese relationship that President Obama's administration seeks will create conditions that support the resolution of the legitimate grievances of the Tibetan people.”

<http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/statement-dalai-lamas-special-envoy-lodi-gyaltse-gyari-arrival-his-holiness-dalai-lama-wa>

Opinion

The meeting that wasn't. by Fred Hiatt, *The Washington Post*, October 12, 2009

“Our concern is that the Obama administration is perceived to be softening on human rights.”

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/11/AR2009101101554_pf.html

The White House chickens out: No meeting with the Dalai Lama – China might object. by Ellen Bork, *Weekly Standard*, October 19, 2009

“[No meeting with the Dalai Lama] ... was the product of an elaborate rationalization by the Obama Administration. Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg outlined a new policy of ‘strategic reassurance’ The United States, he said, has struck a ‘core, if tacit, bargain’ with China According to Steinberg, ‘bolstering that bargain’ – which apparently includes snubbing the Dalai Lama – ‘is a priority.’”

<http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/017/064elnrl.asp?pg=1>

Obama bows again. *The Washington Times* (editorial), October 6, 2009

“The Obama team reportedly is telling the Tibetans that it supports them too but wants to deliver substance, not symbolism. Yet Mr. Obama should understand that in this case, the lack of positive symbolism has a substance of its own.”

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2009/oct/06/obama-bows-again/>

No Time for the Dalai Lama: Obama is willing to anger China on tire tariffs but not on Tibet. *Wall Street Journal* (editorial), October 5, 2009

“In nearly nine months in office, President Obama has found time to meet with Hugo Chavez, Daniel Ortega and Vladimir Putin. But this week he'll have no time to see the Dalai Lama, a peaceful religious leader who has for decades been a friend to the United States and an advocate of human rights for China's six million Tibetans.”

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704471504574449420327844600.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

Treading carefully on China and Tibet, by David L. Phillips, *Boston Globe*, October 4, 2009

“One thing is sure. China will not resume negotiations unless Obama can convince Hu that changing course is in China's national interest.”

http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2009/10/04/treading_carefully_on_china_and_tibet/