

U.S. GOVERNMENT:

ICT Report: Obama Dalai Lama meeting an opportunity for “an engaging and constructive dialogue”:

ICT welcomes the meeting announced on February 11, between President Obama and His Holiness the Dalai Lama as an opportunity both to deepen their relationship and discuss forward steps in U.S. support for the Dalai Lama's leadership and his approach of seeking a solution for Tibet through dialogue with the People's Republic of China. White House spokesman Robert Gibbs has said that the White House meeting is set for February 18 and "The Dalai Lama is an internationally respected religious leader and spokesman for Tibetan rights, and the President looks forward to an engaging and constructive dialogue." It will be the first meeting between President Obama and the Dalai Lama as two Nobel Peace Laureates (2009 and 1989, respectively). The meeting reflects an historic and internationally-shared recognition of the Dalai Lama as an important and valued spokesperson for human rights and human dignity, a record of U.S. programmatic and political support for the Tibetan people's struggle against oppression, and the precedence of meetings between U.S. Presidents and the Dalai Lama. The Dalai Lama arrives in Washington, D.C. on the afternoon of February 17. His visit is primarily to meet with President Obama. On the 19th morning, he will receive the Democracy Service Medal from the National Endowment for Democracy at a ceremony at the Library of Congress. He departs Washington, D.C. thereafter.

<http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-press-releases/obama-dalai-lama-meeting-opportunity-engaging-and-constructive-dialogue>

White House Briefing; President Obama to meet His Holiness the Dalai Lama:

At the White House press briefing on February 11, Press Secretary Robert Gibbs announced that the President will meet with his Holiness the Dalai Lama on February 18 and the meeting will take place in the Map Room at the White House. Gibbs said, "The Dalai Lama is an internationally respected religious leader and spokesman for Tibetan rights. And the President looks forward to an engaging and constructive dialogue."

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/briefing-white-house-press-secretary-robert-gibbs-and-cea-chair-christina-romer-211>

China opposes Obama-Dalai Lama meeting: On February 10, China again urged President Barack Obama not to hold the planned meeting with the Dalai Lama, saying it would further hurt already strained bilateral relations.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Ma Zhaoxu said, "China resolutely opposes the visit by the Dalai Lama." It was the second successive day that China spoke out against the meeting. On February 9, Ma had said that United States should not allow its territory to be used by "Tibetan separatist forces."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/02/02/AR2010020200374.html>

INSIDE TIBET:

ICT Report: Tension in Tibet as Tibetans mark New Year with prayers for the dead: On February 14, several hundred Tibetan monks and laypeople were surrounded by armed troops yesterday on the first day of Tibetan New Year (Losar) as they gathered together and prayed for those killed in the Ngaba area of Sichuan and other Tibetan areas after the crackdown following protests began in March, 2008. According to reports from inside Tibet, Tibetans in Lhasa too, held somber and devotional commemorations of Losar (Tibetan New Year) amid tension as security was stepped up. Thousands of Tibetans in Lhasa went to the Jokhang temple to make traditional offerings for Losar, with crowds queuing in the Tibetan Barkhor area observed by plain clothes and uniformed armed security personnel. In a Tibetan New Year address yesterday in Dharamsala, India, the Dalai Lama said: "We are not celebrating the New Year, Losar, in a very grand way; we are only performing the religious ceremony and rituals. I wish all the Tibetans inside and outside Tibet and also forward my greetings of Losar to all followers in Himalayan regions, and to all the friends and Buddhist followers."

<http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/tension-across-tibet-tibetans-mark-new-year-prayers-dead>

DALAI LAMA:

The Dalai Lama in the U.S.: The Dalai Lama will be in the United States from February 17 till 24. He will be visiting Washington DC, California and Florida. The Dalai Lama's upcoming schedule can be viewed at

<http://www.dalailama.com/teachings/schedule>