



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

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APR 12 2011

Dear Madam Chairman:

On behalf of the Secretary, I am transmitting to you the enclosed report regarding Tibet Negotiations, as required by section 613 (b) of the Tibet Policy Act of 2002 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act Fiscal Year 2003 (P.L. 107-228).

We hope you find this information helpful to you and to other members of Congress. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Macmanus".

Joseph E. Macmanus
Acting Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs

Enclosure:

As stated.

The Honorable
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Chairman,
Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives.

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Report on Tibet Negotiations
March 2011

As Required by

Foreign Relations Authorization Act, 2003

Section 611, "Tibetan Policy Act of 2002"

Report on Tibet Negotiations
March 2010 – February 2011

As Required by
Foreign Relations Authorization Act, 2003
Section 611, "Tibetan Policy Act of 2002"

- I. Executive Summary
- II. Tibet Policy
- III. Steps taken by the President and the Secretary to encourage the government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) to enter into a dialogue with the Dalai Lama or his representatives leading to a negotiated agreement on Tibet
- IV. Status of Discussions between PRC and the Dalai Lama's Representatives

Report on Tibet Negotiations
P.L. 107-228 Section 611 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act of Fiscal
Year 2003

I. Executive Summary

The Dalai Lama's Special Envoys and Chinese officials from the United Front Work Department have not met directly since the ninth round of dialogue at the end of January 2010. The United States continues to encourage both sides to engage in a substantive discussion that will work to achieve concrete results.

The U.S. government believes the Dalai Lama can be a constructive partner for China as it deals with the challenge of overcoming continuing tensions in Tibetan areas. The Dalai Lama's views are widely reflected within Tibetan society and command the respect of the vast majority of Tibetans. His consistent advocacy of non-violence is an important factor in reaching an eventual lasting solution. China's engagement with the Dalai Lama or his representatives to resolve problems facing Tibetans is in the interests of the Chinese government and the Tibetan people. Failure to address these problems will lead to greater tensions inside China and will be an impediment to China's social and economic development.

II. Tibet Policy

Promoting dialogue between Beijing and the representatives of the Dalai Lama is an important U.S. foreign policy objective. We continue to encourage representatives of both the Chinese government and the Dalai Lama to hold direct and substantive discussions aimed at resolving differences, without preconditions. Such a dialogue may lead to a solution or provide the best hope for alleviating tensions in Tibetan areas and contribute to the overall stability of China. The resumption of the dialogue in early 2010 was a positive step, but we are disappointed that dialogue has not continued and that nine years of talks have not borne concrete results. Unfortunately, in 2010 the Chinese government continued making negative statements about the Dalai Lama, as well as issuing religious restrictions in ethnic Tibetan areas. However, we hope to see a tenth round of dialogue that will make progress on questions related to Tibetans' livelihoods and welfare.

The United States recognizes the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR or Tibet) and Tibetan autonomous prefectures and counties in other provinces as part of the

People's Republic of China. The Dalai Lama has repeatedly disclaimed any intention to seek sovereignty or independence for Tibet and said he seeks for China to preserve Tibetan culture, religion, and its fragile environment through genuine autonomy. We consistently urge China to respect the unique religious, linguistic, and cultural heritage of its Tibetan people and to fully respect the human rights and civil liberties of all of its citizens.

The U.S. government does not recognize Tibet as an independent state and so does not conduct official diplomatic relations with the Tibetan "government-in-exile" in Dharamsala, India. We maintain contact with a wide range of political and other Tibet-related groups, including Tibetans in the United States, China, and around the world. U.S. government officials have also met with the Dalai Lama in his capacity as an internationally revered religious and cultural leader and Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

III. Steps Taken by the President and the Secretary

President Obama has called both publicly and privately for substantive dialogue between the Dalai Lama's representatives and the Chinese government to resolve long-standing issues, consistent with the policy of previous U.S. Administrations. President Obama and Secretary Clinton met most recently with the Dalai Lama in February 2010, as recent Presidents and Secretaries of State have done. During their meeting, President Obama expressed his strong support for the preservation of Tibet's unique religious, cultural, and linguistic identity, and the protection of human rights for Tibetans in China. He commended the Dalai Lama's "Middle Way" approach, commitment to nonviolence, and the pursuit of dialogue with the Chinese government. The President and the Dalai Lama also agreed on the importance of a positive and cooperative relationship between the United States and China.

During the visit of Chinese President Hu Jintao to the United States in January 2011, President Obama said that, "Even as we, the United States, recognize that Tibet is part of the People's Republic of China, the United States continues to support further dialogue between the government of China and the representatives of the Dalai Lama to resolve concerns and differences, including the preservation of the religious and cultural identity of the Tibetan people."

Secretary Clinton has consistently called for the protection of human rights in Tibet and for further dialogue between the Chinese government and the Dalai Lama's representatives in meetings with her Chinese counterparts and in public

speeches. Secretary Clinton raised Tibet in May 2010 during the U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue (S&ED). In her January 14, 2011, inaugural Richard Holbrooke Lecture on a Broad Vision of U.S.-China Relations in the 21st Century, Secretary Clinton urged China "to protect the rights of minorities in Tibet."

Other senior officials in the Administration and at the Department of State have repeatedly raised the importance of Tibetan issues and urged Chinese officials and the representatives of the Dalai Lama to continue their dialogue.

During the reporting period, Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg raised the issue of human rights in Tibet on multiple occasions. The Deputy Secretary stated on May 11, 2010, that the United States uses dialogues, like the S&ED, to discuss "the need for China to have a deeper engagement with the Dalai Lama over Tibet within the framework of the one China policy that we have continued to reiterate."

During a speech on U.S.-China relations, on September 20, 2010, the Deputy Secretary reaffirmed that "we have engaged very intensively with the Chinese in support of building a dialogue more directly between the Dalai Lama and Tibetans and the government in Beijing."

Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs Maria Otero has served as Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues since October 2009. As the Special Coordinator, Under Secretary Otero's responsibilities include promoting substantive dialogue between the Chinese government and the representatives of the Dalai Lama and seeking to assist in preserving the unique cultural, religious, and linguistic heritage of Tibetans.

Under Secretary Otero has met with the Dalai Lama four times since assuming her position, most recently on October 18, 2010, in Atlanta. The Under Secretary met with the Dalai Lama's Special Envoy, Lodi Gyari, seven times during the reporting period, including on March 4, May 7, July 15, August 31, October 4, and December 20 in 2010, and over February 8-9, 2011, to discuss a wide range of Tibet-related issues. She also meets with key civil society leaders active on Tibetan issues. Under Secretary Otero discussed Tibet with French government and European Union officials during her visits to Paris and Brussels from November 2-4, 2010. Under Secretary Otero traveled to India and Nepal from February 7-14, 2011, with a major focus on Tibetan refugee issues. This was the first time an Under Secretary visited Tibetan refugee settlements in Southern

India, and while there, she met with Tibetan farmers, monastic leaders and teachers. In Nepal, Under Secretary Otero spoke with refugees who had recently arrived from Tibet and heard the concerns of Tibetan NGOs and refugee community leaders.

Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, Michael Posner, raised U.S. government concerns about China's counterproductive policies in Tibetan areas during the May 2010 bilateral Human Rights Dialogue with China and reinforced the Administration's call for resumption of dialogue with the Dalai Lama's representatives to solve longstanding issues. In addition, he raised the cases of Tibetan prisoners in his meetings and Tibetans were included on the list of prisoners of concern handed over to the Chinese.

U.S. Ambassador to China Jon Huntsman has continuously engaged the Chinese government on Tibet. He traveled to Tibet in September 2010 to meet with government officials and better understand the current situation. He has ensured that the U.S. Embassy in Beijing and the U.S. Consulate General in Chengdu regularly raise U.S. concerns about human rights and religious freedom in Tibetan areas with Chinese officials. U.S. officials attempt to travel regularly to the TAR and Tibetan areas in other provinces of China to ascertain living conditions, raise our concerns, urge Chinese authorities to engage in dialogue with the Dalai Lama or his representatives, and support the protection of the cultural, religious, and linguistic heritage of Tibetans. However, access to many Tibetan areas remains limited, and permission to travel to the TAR is routinely denied.

IV. Status of Discussions between PRC and the Dalai Lama's Representatives

The Dalai Lama's Special Envoys and Chinese officials from the United Front Work Department have not met directly since the ninth round of dialogue at the end of January 2010. The United States continues to encourage both sides to engage in a substantive discussion that will work to achieve concrete results.

History of Discussions between PRC and the Dalai Lama's Representatives

The last three decades have seen intermittent efforts by the Dalai Lama and the People's Republic of China to resolve concerns and differences through dialogue. For a detailed history of such efforts, please refer to the State Department's 2010 Report on Tibet Negotiations.