

# A new twist to the Karmapa story

SARIKAH ATREYA  
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

## THIRD CLAIMANT TO THE TITLE EMERGES

GANGTOK, Nov. 9. — A third claimant to the Karmapa title has emerged from Sikkim.

Dawa Sangpo Dorji, a 23-year-old monk, says he is the "true" incarnate of the 16th Gyalwa Karmapa of the Karma-Kagyü lineage.

Born in Mangan, North Sikkim, Dorji had made a feeble attempt to come into the limelight in January after the arrival of Ugyen Thinley Dorji, recognised by the Dalai Lama as the 17th Gyalwa Karmapa in India. He had then challenged Ugyen Thinley Dorji and another claimant, Thinley Thaye Dorji, to prove their credentials for the Karmapa title.

Thinley Thaye Dorji has the support of Shamar Rinpoche,

one of the four regents of the Rumtek monastery near Gangtok. Dawa Sangpo Dorji says he was recognised by Jamyang Kongtrul Rinpoche, another Rumtek regent. The Rinpoche was killed in a car accident in 1992. Sangpo Dorji alleges it was part of a plot to dismiss his claim. Sangpo Dorji had also tried to storm into the Rumtek monastery in 1998. But he was not allowed to enter it.

The Karmapa's seat at the Rumtek Dharma Chakra Centre, the headquarters of the Karma Kagyü lineage since 1959, has remained vacant since 1981 after the 16th Gyalwa Karmapa's death. Since then religious leaders are divided over the next Karmapa issue.

In January 2000, Sangpo Dorji held a low-key press conference in which he asked Ugyen Thinley Dorji and Thinley Dorji to prove their worth. He also tried to meet the Dalai Lama a couple of times, but was denied permission.

According to him, no one was paying attention to him because there was a strong lobby behind Ugyen Thinley Dorji and he (Sangpo Dorji) comes from a poor family with no backing of prominent religious leaders.

After lying low for nearly a year, Sangpo Dorji is once again staking his claim. He now has reportedly the backing of an organisation called the "central committee for His Holiness the 17th Gyalwa Kar-

mapa". In September 2001, a statement issued by the committee had said all the three candidates for the Karmapa title should be brought to Sikkim and the state government and the Centre should ensure that they undergo some sort of physical and spiritual test, detailed examination, including forensic tests, to prove that their claims are legitimate.

In an effort to capitalise on the Dalai Lama's recent visit to Siliguri, Sangpo Dorji has once again raised the issue, asking His Holiness to end the "crisis"

Whatever the case may be, Sangpo Dorji's entry into the fight for the Karmapa title has further added fuel to the on-going controversy. Buddhists in the state are depending on prayers and divine interference for an early end to the matter.

THE STATESMAN

10 NOV 2001

# 'Use of force cannot curb terrorism'

HT Correspondent  
Kolkata, September 17

THE DALAI Lama has urged US President George W Bush not to use force on the terrorists responsible for Tuesday's attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

The Tibetan spiritual leader, who reached Kolkata this morning for a three-day visit, said he had wrote the US President that use of force was not the answer to the "complicated" problem and suggested that only a non-violent method could bring a lasting solution to the problem of terrorism.

The Dalai Lama told reporters that the "shocking, sad and horrific" terrorist attack in the US was the culmination of many factors, including colonialism and exploitation of natural resources by developed countries and the widening gap between the rich and the poor.

"The 19th and 20th centuries witnessed a lot of exploitation and the rise of imperialism and communism and they did not help bridge the gap. Years of negligence and indifference may be the causes for the growing terrorism," he felt.

The Dalai Lama said it was very difficult to stop terrorism by eliminating some people, involved in the acts of ruthless destruction and things became more difficult when the enemies were "invisible".

"I think that violence is of no use to defeat terrorism and it needs a well-thought-out coordinated long-term strategy."

The Dalai Lama said though the basis of all religions was tol-



The Dalai Lama digs into a plate of chowmein at Choubhaga Chinese Temple in Kolkata on Monday after a holding a special prayer meting for the victims of the terror attacks in the US.

SUBHENDU GHOSH/HINDUSTAN TIMES

erance, but the religious divide had of late been dangerous to the society.

He criticised the killings or

any act of destruction in the name of Islam. "This is not religion. Some people are using religion as a cover to fulfil their vest-

ed interests," he added.

The whole of America is burning with cries of revenge. Polls reveal that as many as 80

per cent of Americans feel that the country should hunt/down the masterminds behind the attack.

## FIRST PERSON ACCOUNT

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

18 SEP 2001

# Dalai Lama calls for middle-path approach to Kashmir tangle

Times News Network

CHENNAI: Dialogues with a positive approach, value for human life and following a middle path could help find a solution to the violence in Jammu and Kashmir.



Dalai Lama

Participating in the South Asia Peace Conference, various religious leaders have stressed on this aspect, while condemning the Doda killings on Friday night.

Appreciating the dialogues Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee had with the Pakistan President Parvez Musharraf, Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama said that though no solution has been reached, it would be useful in the long run, as it would spread the message of humanity.

He said that the people of his homeland had decided on a middle-path approach with the Chinese government. He said that when such talks are held — whether it is the Kashmir issue or any other such issues — it was important that the wishes of the people of the place is known before the dialogue. It is also important that representation of these people are included to participate in such dialogues.

As the wishes of one side alone cannot be fulfilled, the Tibetans have decided to take the non-violent middle-path approach. Similarly, he would suggest the middle-path approach for Kashmir.

“Though I have no association with the Kashmir issue, yet I feel that it is my moral duty to comment on it. I feel that it (middle-path approach) should not be ignored without a try,” he said.

Human values and religious harmony are the important matters to maintain peace in a society. Millions of people have benefited from this earlier, millions are benefiting from this now and millions would benefit later. Religious beliefs are “individual business” and it has nothing to do with society. While religion and tradition lends variety to society, there is a common ground where everyone should work together, and that is human values.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

THE STRAITS TIMES

- 6 AUG 2001

# China to quadruple subsidies to Tibet

Beijing, July 3

CHINA PLANS a massive increase in state subsidies to Tibet over the next five years to boost the economy of the Himalayan region and maintain social stability, state media said on Tuesday.

The announcement followed a special meeting of the Communist Party Central Committee and the Cabinet last week, when Chinese leaders unveiled a development blueprint to draw the barren but resource-rich region into the mainstream Chinese economy.

The central government would invest 31.2 billion yuan (\$3.8 billion) in 117 projects covering agriculture, infrastructure, technology, education and the environment, the official Xinhua news agency reported. It gave no details.

Other regions of China would spend a further 1.06 billion yuan on projects in the region, it said.

The investment plan dwarfs that of the last five years, when subsidies to Tibet totalled just 8.02 billion yuan, and reflects concerns about a growing disparity in wealth between China's eastern coastal regions and the impoverished west.

But Tibet activists say Beijing is also trying to strengthen its grip on the region by luring Chi-

nese labourers to work on infrastructure projects such as a high-altitude railway linking the Tibetan capital Lhasa to the rest of China.

President Jiang Zemin told last week's conclave, the fourth such meeting on Tibet since the Communist government took control of it in 1950, "the fate of Tibet and the Tibetan people is and will continue to be tightly linked with the motherland and the whole Chinese nation". Xinhua said.

"We will continue to pay attention to two major issues in Tibet—economic development and social stability," he said.

Jiang said that the development, stability and safety of Tibet were of "extreme importance" for China.

China has invested 50 billion yuan in Tibet in five decades of Communist rule.

But Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, and his supporters say the investment has merely attracted a flood of ethnic Han Chinese immigrants while doing little to benefit ordinary Tibetans.

"They clearly hope that investment in those areas will provide the mechanisms to consolidate their political power," said Alison Reynolds, director of the London-based Free Tibet Campaign. **The Guardian**

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

# Karmapa issue: Monk asks Centre to intervene

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE 5/18

CHANDIGARH, June 29. - Dawa Tsangpo Dorje, a 25-year-old Sikkimese monk, today called for the Centre's intervention to settle the row over the succession of the spiritual head of the Tibetan Kagyu Sect.

Dawa Tsangpo had claimed to be the 17th incarnation of Gwyala Karma-pa in 1991. Now he is alleging that the Dalai Lama, who has sided with Urgyen Trinley Dorje of Tibet, is not capable of settling the succession issue.

He accused the Dalai Lama of favouring Tibetans and ignoring "the

poor Sikkimise boy" (himself) in laboured and broken Hindi at the Chandigarh Press Club. Alleging that some politicians were trying to get hold of the untold wealth of the Kagyu sect, he also accused some monks of colluding with the Chinese. He alleged that these monks were conspiring with the Chinese to gain control over Tibet as an autonomous state and, in return, were parting with the Kagyu assets.

Born to parents who are labourers, Dawa Tsangpo claimed to have been recognised in December 1991 as the 17th reincarnation of the Gwyala Karma-pa by Zamyang Kangturl Rimpoché,

who handles Sikkim's Rumtek Monastery affairs. "Convinced of my claim, he assured me that he would communicate the facts of my birth to the Dalai Lama," Dawa Tsangpo said. But Rimpoché was killed on his way to Dharamsala, he added. Expressing displeasure over the interest of politicians in the matter because a huge amount of wealth was involved, he said he wanted to donate the money to the poor in India and Tibet.

"I have no wish to possess the monastery. I'll continue to be the Karmapa whether I live in a small hut or in a grand gompa," Dawa Tsangpo said.

He lamented that during the Kaal-

chakra of 1992 when he tried approaching the Dalai Lama, some people ensured that he failed to do so.

Challenging his rivals, Urgyen Trinley Dorje and Thaye Trinley Dorje, to a discourse in the presence of the people and the dharlam shastris, he added the people be allowed to decide who the real Karmapa is. Dawa Tsangpo wants Mr LK Advani to ensure such a discourse takes place. Otherwise he said he would wait till he turns 35. He has dreamt that he will enter the Rumtek Monastery and reclaim the Kagyu crown, said to be woven from the hair of a thousand celestial maidens and valued at \$ 30 million.



Urgyen Trinley Dorje

# 3rd Karmapa attacks Dalai Lama

BY ASIT JOLLY

AA 29/6  
Chandigarh, June 28: Dawa Tsangpo Dorje, a 25-year-old Sikkimese monk who laid claim to being the 17th reincarnation of Gwyala Karmapa or the spiritual head of the Tibetan Kagyu sect as early as in 1991 and is one among three claimants, has sought India's intervention to resolve the succession tangle.

Speaking in barely intelligible, broken Hindustani, Dawa Tsangpo contended that the Dalai Lama — who has extended his patronage to the rival Karmapa, Orgyen Trinley Dorje from Tibet — was not capable of settling the succession issue because "he (Dalai Lama) is very easily influenced by the power of big money."

Alleging that "the Dalai Lama is biased towards Tibetans and would never agree to recognise a poor Sikkimese boy like me as the Karmapa," Dawa Tsangpo charged the Dalai Lama, Trinley Dorje's mentor Situ Rimpoche and certain Sikkimese

politicians like Nar Bahadur Bhandari of "conspiring to enthrone Trinley Dorje as the 17th Karmapa and to lay their hands of the untold wealth and assets of the Kagyu sect."

He also charged that "Situ Rimpoche is hand-in-glove with the Chinese and part of a larger conspiracy to emerge as the political head of a more autonomous Tibet in exchange for parting with control over Kagyu assets." Dawa Tsangpo explained that this would become possible because

no further reincarnations of the Dalai Lama had been ordained.

Born to Sikkimese labourer parents, Dawa Tsangpo claims to have been recognised in December 1991 as the 17th reincarnate by Zamyang Kangturl Rimpoche, who handled the affairs of Sikkim's Rumtek monastery when it was home to the 16th Karmapa. "Fully convinced of my claim, he assured me that he would communicate the facts of my birth to the Dalai Lama. However he was assassinated while on his way to Dharam-

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## SPOTLIGHT

# 3rd Karmapa on Dalai Lama

Continued from Page 1

AA 29/6  
-sala." Expressing his displeasure over the "politicising because of the huge Kagyu wealth," Dawa Tsangpo said he wished to give away all the money among the poor people of India and Tibet. "I personally have no desire to possess any of the money," he said. "I will continue to be the Karmapa whether I live in a small, poor hut or within a grand Gompa."

"However, it is my desire to convince the people at large about the authenticity of my claim."

Dawa Tsangpo lamented the fact that "men like the Dalai Lama can be so brazenly partisan in exclusively favouring Buddhists of Tibetan decent." Narrating how he was deliberately excluded because he is Sikkimese, he said, "I tried to go and see the Dalai Lama during his Kaalchakra in 1992, but his associates and the men surrounding him ensured that I was never given a chance to get near him. There was simply no question of getting an audience."

He challenged both Orgyen Trinley Dorje and Thaye Trinley Dorje — the two rival claimants to being the 17th Karmapa — to an open, public discourse "where the people and the dharam shashtris will have an equal opportunity to apply their minds and decide who the real Karmapa is." It is for this kind of a joint discourse that Dawa Tsangpo wants the direct intervention of Union home minister L.K. Advani.

However, pending such an intervention, the 25-year-old monk is patiently awaiting the day he turns 35. According the divine prophecy of his own lucid dreams, Dawa Tsangpo Dorje will enter the Rumtek Monastery and reclaim the Kagyu Crown or priceless black hat, which is woven from the hair of a thousand celestial maidens and is valued at some \$30 million.

# Beijing blueprint for modern Tibet

Shanghai, May 18

CHINA HAS embarked on a vigorous campaign to publicise its vision of a modern Tibet, under the guidance of Beijing that will embrace tower blocks and apartment buildings, private enterprise and tourism.

The urban district of Lhasa, the ancient Tibetan capital, will expand by 50% in the next 15 years, its head of planning, Danba Qida, was quoted as saying by the official Chinese news agency yesterday. The new Lhasa would be "dotted with towering buildings and dwelling houses in a distinct Tibetan style", although building heights around the Potala palace and main monasteries would be restricted.

Next week will be the 50th anniversary of the "17-point Agreement" signed between Beijing and the Government in Lhasa on May 23 1951 after the Chinese army occupied Tibet.

In a news report yesterday, the official People's Daily website described how "girls dressed in fashionable styles, Lamas wearing cassocks and foreigners with travelling bags" rub shoulders

in Lhasa. This contrasted with the past when "there were no pavements in Tibet, only rough roads running parallel to slots emitting a bad odour".

The advertising sector in Tibet, said another recent report, has taken off, with 12m Yuan (£1m) worth of business last year.

But Beijing acknowledges that living standards for most of the 2.6m ethnic Tibetans still lag behind the rest of China, with the per capita income of Tibet's "farmers and herders" only half the national average.

The solution, say Chinese officials, is to promote a market economy, which will allow private enterprise to become "the most dynamic factor in Tibet".

They urge the Tibetans to take up "simple forms of private enterprise", such as cottage industries and services for tourists, following the example of ethnic Chinese migrant entrepreneurs.

In spite of restrictions on foreign tourists seeking to visit Tibet independently, Tibet is forecast to become one "of the world hot spots of tourism".

The Guardian

## China sentence for Dalai 'spies'

CHINA TODAY claimed that it had crushed a plot in Tibet and sentenced one of the two 'spies' of the Dalai Lama's "clique" who were sent last year to carry out self-immolation to attract world attention towards the Tibet issue.

"The exiled separatist group's conspiracy to create a self-immolation incident in the Tibet region has been completely crushed," the official Xinhua news agency reported on Friday.

According to the report, on July 25, 2000, Tugyi and Cengdan Gyaco, both 'spies' of the Dalai "clique", crossed the Sino-Nepalese border.

On orders of the "security ministry" of the Dalai clique, Cengdan Gyaco was to set himself on fire on the square of the Jokhang monastery in Lhasa, the regional capital, while Tugyi would videotape the whole process before sending the film to the UNHRC.

After the two 'spies' sneaked into Xigaze prefecture, Cengdan Gyaco was soon captured by local police. But Tugyi fled and went into hiding. However, he was caught on May 5, this year, the report said.

PTI, Beijing

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

19 MAY 2001

# Unprecedented reception for Dalai Lama in U.S. angers Chinese govt.

The Times of India News Service

WASHINGTON: If diplomatic distress is manifested in aneurysms, there were plenty of blood vessels popping in Beijing this week, as Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama — China's bugbear on the world stage — strode into Washington and was greeted in unprecedented style by the Bush administration.



Dalai Lama

The Dalai Lama is a frequent flyer to the US, but his receptions in Washington have always been circumspect, with previous administrations taking care not to offend Beijing by being too effusive. But amid the current frazzled relationship with China, President Bush did his own thing by directly receiving the Tibetan leader to the White House instead of going through the usual protocol sham of "dropping-in" on meetings with other senior officials.

China's discomfort must have been further compounded with the Dalai Lama going straight from the White House to the residence of the Indian Ambassador Lalit Mansingh, for what was described as a private lunch. Among the private guests at the private lunch were Paula Dobriansky, the newly appointed special coordinator for Tibet, her predecessor Julie Taft, and co-chairman of the India Caucus, Congressman Jim McDermott.

But it was the White House meeting, coming coincidentally on the 50th anniversary of China's annexation of Tibet, that was the cynosure of all eyes. Mr Bush, along with his National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice, hosted the Dalai Lama at the Yellow Oval Room in

the White House residence and backed the Tibetan leader's fight to preserve the ethnic, cultural and religious identity of his people.

The White House later released a statement saying, among other things, "The President said he would seek ways to encourage dialogue and expressed his hope that the Chinese government would respond favourably."

Predictably, the episode outraged China, which considers Tibet its internal affair. It responded by calling in the US envoy in Beijing and lodging a strong protest. The Dalai Lama is considered by many as a master tactician and the Tibet lobby in the US is well-heeled and well-connected, but the ongoing visit of its leader has been among the most intriguing in recent years.

The responses of the Bush administrations, including its decision to allow Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian to visit the US at the same time, in the face of Chinese protests, has indicated that unlike previous governments, the Bush dispensation will not back off from looking China in the eye.

"The president continues to believe that we can work with China on issues where we have an agreement such as trade," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said later. "There will be other areas such as human rights and religious persecution where the US and China will differ and the president will not hesitate to discuss those issues in an effort to ameliorate them."

If at all there was any note of conciliation, it came from the Dalai Lama, who told reporters outside the White House that he had asked President Bush "whenever he had the opportunity to meet Chinese leaders, to assure the Chinese government that I am not seeking independence."

THE TIMES OF INDIA

25 MAY 2001



# 'Hold a plebiscite in Tibet'

BY THE DALAI LAMA

**D**haramsala: More than 50 years ago, Tibet was occupied by China. More than 40 years ago, in 1959, thousands of Tibetans began their life in exile after suppression of a national uprising against the occupation. Three generations of Tibetans have lived through this darkest period of our history, undergoing tremendous hardship and suffering. Yet the Tibetan issue is still very much alive.

Whether the Chinese government admits it or not, the world is well aware of the grave problems inside Tibet. Besides being a constant source of international embarrassment to China, the Tibetan problem is harmful and detrimental to the stability and unity of the People's Republic of China.

The Chinese government continues to whitewash the sad situation in Tibet through propaganda. If conditions inside Tibet are as the Chinese authorities portray them to be, why do they not have the courage to allow visitors into Tibet without restrictions? Instead of attempting to hide things as "state secrets," why do they not have the courage to show the truth to the outside world? And why are there so many security forces and prisons in Tibet?

I have always said that if most Tibetans in Tibet were truly satisfied with their state of affairs I would have no reason, no justification and no desire to raise my voice against the situation in Tibet. Sadly, whenever Tibetans speak up, instead of being listened to, they are arrested, imprisoned and labelled as counter revolutionaries. They have no opportunity and no freedom to speak the truth.

If the Tibetans are truly happy, the Chinese authorities should have no difficulty in holding a plebiscite in Tibet. Ultimately the Tibetan people must be able to decide the future of Tibet. I would wholeheartedly support the result of such a referendum.



The Tibetan struggle is not about my personal position or well-being but about the freedom, basic rights and cultural preservation of six million Tibetans, as well as the protection of the Tibetan environment. In 1992 I stated clearly that when we return to Tibet with a certain degree of freedom I will not hold any position in the Tibetan government. I have always believed that Tibet should follow a secular and democratic system of governance.

But I do consider it my moral obligation to the six million

Tibetans to continue taking up the Tibetan issue with the Chinese leadership and acting as the free spokesman of Tibet until a solution is reached. The trust placed in me by the Tibetan people increases my sense of responsibility.

**S**uccessive leaders of the People's Republic of China, from Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai to Deng Xiaoping and Hu Yaobang, have repeatedly acknowledged the "special case" of Tibet's status. The 17-point agreement of 1951 between the

**T**he Tibetan struggle is not about my personal position or well-being but about the freedom, basic rights and cultural preservation of six million Tibetans, as well as the protection of the Tibetan environment. In 1992 I stated clearly that when we return to Tibet with a certain degree of freedom I will not hold any position in the Tibetan government. I have always believed that Tibet should follow a secular and democratic system of governance. But I do consider it my moral obligation to the six million Tibetans to continue taking up the Tibetan issue with the Chinese leadership...

Tibetans and the Chinese, embodying the original spirit and concept of "one country and two systems," is the best proof of this recognition. No other province or part of the People's Republic of China has any such agreement with Beijing. The Chinese government promised to respect the "unique nature" of Tibet.

Despite these assurances, for the most part Chinese policy in Tibet has been misguided by a deep sense of insecurity, distrust, suspicion and arrogance, and by a glaring lack of understanding, appreciation and respect for

Tibet's distinct culture, history and identity. What is "unique" today about Tibet is that it is the poorest and most oppressed area, where policies implemented by ultra-leftist elements are still active, even though their influence has long been diminishing in China proper.

My position regarding the Tibetan freedom struggle has been to seek genuine autonomy for the Tibetan people. I believe that a resolution of the Tibetan issue along the lines of my approach will bring satisfaction to the Tibetan people and greatly contribute to stability and unity in the People's Republic of China.

**L**ast July, my elder brother, Gyalo Thondup, once more made a personal visit to Beijing and brought back a message from the United Front Department reiterating the well-known position of the leadership in Beijing on relations with me. So far the Chinese government is refusing to accept my delegation in spite of the fact that between 1979 and 1985, the Chinese government had accepted six Tibetan delegations from exile. Yet now it is stalling on acceptance of a Tibetan delegation. This is a clear indication of a hardening attitude in Beijing and a lack of political will to resolve the Tibetan problem.

Patience, courage and determination are essential for us Tibetans in a situation of such challenge and of fundamental importance. I firmly believe that there will be an opportunity in the future to seriously discuss the Tibetan issue and face the reality, because there is no other choice either for China or for us.

*This article was part of a statement the Dalai Lama made this year marking the 42nd anniversary of the Tibetan uprising against Chinese occupation*

*By arrangement with the International Herald Tribune*

THE ASIAN AGE

7 8 MAY 2001

# US warned against holding meeting with Dalai Lama

Anil K Joseph  
Beijing, May 10

CHINA TODAY warned Washington not to damage bilateral ties by meeting officially or unofficially with the visiting exiled Tibetan Spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama.

"The US should not arrange any formal or informal meeting with the Dalai Lama by American leaders and Government personnel," Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Sun Yuxi said.

Sun said China has lodged strong protests with the US administration over Washington allowing the Dalai to visit the US. "We have all along opposed US permission for Dalai Lama's activities in America," Sun said when asked to comment on the Tibetan leader's three-week visit and planned meetings with US officials in Washington. The Dalai Lama is in the US at a sensitive time in Sino-US relations, following the April spy plane incident and the announcement of a major US arms sale to Taiwan.

The on-going visit of the Dalai Lama is his first since George W Bush took office as US President earlier this year.

While it is not clear whether Bush would meet with the Dalai Lama the Chinese leadership, diplomatic sources here did not rule out such a meeting.

While asking Washington to adhere to its commitment recognising Tibet as part of China, Sun demanded that the Bush administration should not support 'Tibet Independence.'

Meanwhile, in a move that

## US PLANE RETURN MAY SPARK PEOPLE'S PROTEST

THE CHINESE Government fears a strong reaction from its people if it allows a damaged US spy plane to leave Hainan island where it landed after it collided with a Chinese fighter on April 3, *The New York Times* said on Thursday. "If we allow such a military plane, which had a mission of spying on China, to be flown back out of China, that will further hurt the dignity and sentiments of the Chinese people," Chinese deputy foreign minister Li Zhaoxing told the daily.

AFP, Beijing

could further strain Sino-US relations, a resolution has been introduced in the US Congress seeking an active American policy to support Tibetan leader, the Dalai Lama's, participation in the UN meetings, promotion of dialogue between China and the spiritual leader on Tibet's future and establishment of an American mission office in Lhasa, capital of Tibet.

The resolution, co-sponsored by both the Democrats and Republicans, also seeks to protect Tibetan cultural and religious autonomy besides encouraging dialogue between China and the Dalai Lama.

"The President and the Secretary of State should initiate steps to encourage China to enter into negotiations with the Dalai Lama or his representatives on the question of Tibet and the cultural and religious autonomy of the Tibetan people," the resolution says. PTI

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

11 MAY 2001

# U.S. faces another challenge as Dalai Lama begins visit

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, MAY 7. At a time when there is the free fall in Washington's relations with Beijing, the Republican Administration is facing yet another challenge in the three-week visit of the Dalai Lama. Starting Monday and through May 28, the Tibetan religious leader will be visiting six cities.

The Dalai Lama will be travelling to Minneapolis, Salt Lake City, Portland, San Jose, Madison, Los Angeles and the District of Columbia. On May 24, he will be deliver the commencement address to graduates of the School of Advanced International Studies of the Johns Hopkins University in the District of Columbia.

The Dalai Lama travels to the United States regularly and as has always been the case, the interest is on his scheduling agenda in Washington which invariably has the White House component. Official level meetings have been arranged for the Dalai Lama and he has a constituency on Capitol Hill that includes the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Mr. Jesse Helms.

In the present instance there are reports that the Dalai Lama will meet the Vice-President, Mr. Richard Cheney. In the last two Clinton administrations anytime the Dalai Lama has had a meeting with the Vice-President, the President has "dropped" by. And the expectation is that the present Republican President will be doing the same. It will be Mr. George Bush's first encounter with the Dalai Lama.

Dropping into the meeting between the Dalai Lama and Mr. Cheney is by itself not as critical as what Mr. Bush is going to say to the religious leader and in general remarks later. Tibet is one of the main topics of interest to the Republican conservatives — with valuable inputs from their Democratic colleagues — who constantly use this issue to hammer China on human rights.

If anything the tone and tenor of the Conservative Right will be more strident given what has been taking place in the U.S.-China relations over the last six weeks. And the right wing has been seething in anger that the United States was voted out of the

Human Rights Commission with the firm conviction that China was one of those nations actively involved in the campaign to oust the United States.

The Dalai Lama's visit to the United States is taking place at a critical juncture in bilateral relations and the onus is on Washington to ensure that the present downtrend is not further aggravated by any remarks of the Bush Administration on Tibet. The Dalai Lama will be utilising the visit to promote his campaign "on a process of peaceful negotiations with the Chinese leadership as a means to resolve the problem of Tibet", says an agency report quoting officials of the Tibet Office in New York.

The Bush Administration's China policy has been meriting a lot of critical attention in the media and elsewhere with many scholars and experts questioning the utility of a hardline approach from a longer term national interests perspective. The Republican Administration came into office making no bones of the fact that it regarded China not as a strategic partner but as a strategic competitor.

Starting with the April 1 collision over the South China Seas involving a Chinese fighter plane and an American surveillance aircraft, the rhetoric on both sides has been sharp. The Administration's unrelenting stance on the National Defence Missile system aside, Washington took a high profile anti-China attitude at the Human Rights Commission in Geneva; and the Bush Administration went through with an arms package for Taiwan even if it did not have the Aegis component. And the President had some plain words on Taiwan and American policy.

The EP-3E Aries II surveillance plane is still in Hainan Island with the U.S. and China taking up the issue of its return at a meeting of the bilateral Maritime Commission, the date for which has not been announced. The technical experts of Lockheed Martin who examined the EP-3E have briefed military officials. The word is that the technicians believe that the plane can be repaired and flown out of Hainan Island. But apparently the Chinese are against this.

THE HINDU

- 8 MAY 2001

# How Karmapa made his great escape

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**Uttara Choudhury**  
Siddhanti, April 27

THE TEENAGED Karmapa Lama, one of the highest-ranking figures in Tibetan Buddhism, gave his first public account today of his escape by foot, horse, jeep and helicopter from China to India.

In a written statement issued before his first ever press conference, the 16-year-old Karmapa recounted how he and unidentified "companions" had planned his flight from the Tibetan capital

Lhasa in 1999 "using various stories to cover our true activities."

Once the plan was in place, the Karmapa said he told the Chinese authorities he was entering a strict, traditional retreat — a ruse that gave him several days' headstart before his absence was detected.

"On December 28, around 10.30 pm, I climbed down from my room and jumped to the ground where a jeep was waiting nearby. We left immediately," he said.

The Karmapa went on to

recount how he travelled by a variety of means over the Himalayas, before finally arriving in Dharamsala — the seat of the Dalai Lama and his exiled government — on January 5, last year.

At the beginning of his flight to freedom, the Karmapa said he and his companions travelled to western Tibet along a little used route so as to avoid Chinese army checkpoints.

"Driving day and night, we stopped only to change drivers," he said. He arrived in Mustang,

Nepal on December 30. The journey continued on foot and horseback, high into the Himalayan foothills.

"During this time I was tired and not very well physically."

After reaching the mountainous Nepalese district of Manang, "a close friend" helped the Karmapa's group hire a helicopter and fly to Nagar-kot, some 30 km north of Kathmandu.

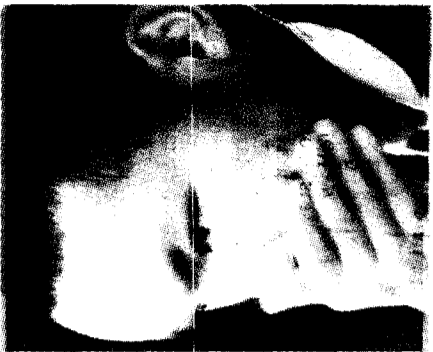
From there they drove across the border into Bihar, where they continued by train through Lucknow and New Delhi, before

finally arriving in Dharamsala on January 7.

"I went straight to meet His Holiness the Dalai Lama — the very embodiment of compassion — and he received me with great love and affection," he said. "My joy knew no bounds."

Many Tibetan exiles regard the Karmapa's escape as a kind of 'second coming' because it mirrored the Dalai Lama's own flight into exile in 1959, following a failed uprising against Tibetan rule.

APP



**KARMAPA URGEN TRINLEY DORJE**  
Flashback

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

28 APR 2001

# Hindus and Buddhists are twin brothers, says Dalai Lama

By Dhiman Chattopadhyay  
The Times of India News Service

KOLKATA: "I have two very important things to do today: eat and sleep, but before that I am ready to talk to you. I am sure you were



**Dalai Lama**

The Dalai Lama, the supreme spiritual head of Buddhism, was at his humorous best on Monday during a brief overnight stopover in the city. Speaking to TOINS at the Oberoi Grand where he is staying, the septuagenarian head of the Tibetan government-in-exile said he was on his way back to Delhi from Taiwan where he spent six days spreading the message of Buddhism.

Dressed in the familiar maroon and golden robe and surrounded by security personnel and devotees, the Dalai Lama spoke to the media, shook hands with overawed bystanders and even shared a few jokes with the crowd. On a more serious note he spoke on all topics ranging from the destruction of Bamiyan Buddha statues in Afghanistan to conversion of 'lower caste' Hindus into Buddhism.

"It is very sad," he said when asked to comment on the destruction of Bamiyan Buddha statues by the Taliban militia in Afghanistan. "What has been done, is done. I hope they (Talibans) will not do it again," he added. But the Dalai Lama was quick to add that he did not support the act of "Hindu fanatics in India" who he said had attacked Muslims in some areas in retaliation. The Buddhist community however, would not seek international help to punish the Taliban militia, he said. "We leave it to their (Taliban) good sense," he said.

Asked to comment on the reported decision by the All-India Confederation of SC/ST Organisa-

tions to convert one million Dalits to Buddhism on October 14, he said, "Buddhism originated from India and it is a flexible religion in which all may join, if they like. But we hope that those who come to us do not do so out of a sense of being deprived and ill-treated in their

earlier religion, but out of love for Buddhism which believes all humans are equals". The Dalai Lama said he believed Hinduism and Buddhism were "twin brothers who were both born and brought up in India" and therefore had "no reason to fight each other".

Speaking on the recent controversy over an alleged U.S. 'spy' aircraft landing in China, he said, "I just hope it does not escalate into another international diplomatic controversy".

The Tibetan spiritual head also allayed apprehensions of a tussle

over the controversial Karmapa issue, saying such a situation had occurred in the past too and had been resolved. "During the sixth Dalai Lama's tenure 300 years ago, the seventh Karmapa was accorded recognition following a similar controversy," he said.

# Dalai Lama not to seek global support on Bamiyan destruction

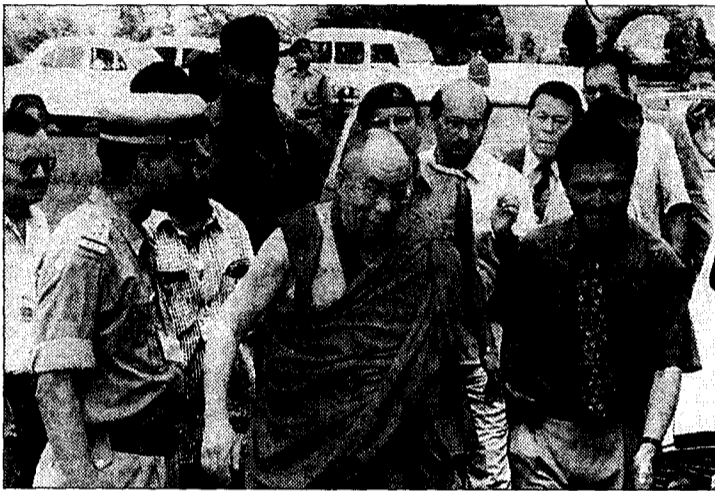
Our Kolkata Bureau

KOLKATA 9 APRIL

DALAI LAMA, the Tibetan spiritual leader and head of the Tibetan government in exile, will wait for "good sense to prevail on the Talibans" and will not seek international support on the issue of Taliban attack on the Bamiyan Buddha statues in Afghanistan.

Dalai Lama, who came to the city on Monday on his way to Delhi from Taiwan, condemned the Taliban act and said, "It was very sad as one of the greatest monuments of the world could not be protected."

On being questioned, if he would seek international support in this regard he replied: "No! We do not support counter-violence or harassment of Muslims anywhere in the world." The Tibetan spiritual head expressed "satisfaction" over India's treatment of the young monk, Urgen Thinley Dorjee, one of the claimants to 17th Karmapa, who fled Tibet and reached Dharamsala on January 5, 2000.



**GIVE PEACE A CHANCE: The Dalai Lama at Dum Dum Airport on Monday. — ET Photo**

"The Government of India has allowed him to remain in this country with freedom. That's commendable. Now we would like him to go to Rumtek monastery in Sikkim. We know it will take some time," he said.

Dispelling fears of a tussle over

the 17th Karmapa issue, the Dalai Lama said such a situation had occurred in the past and was resolved amicably. "During the sixth Dalai Lama's tenure 300 years ago, the seventh Karmapa was accorded recognition following a similar controversy."

*The Economic Times*

10 APR 2001

# Dalai Lama earns millions on Taiwan trip

HC-10

9/9

C. J. S. X

Taipei

TIBET'S EXILED spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, has made \$ (Taiwan) 16.3 million from his trip to Taiwan, officials said on Sunday.

The money was from tickets sold for his six-day Buddhism teaching and initiation and donations by followers, the Buddhist Association said.

The Dalai Lama, who is scheduled to leave here on Monday, donated \$ 150,000 to the victims of a devastating earthquake in 1999 that left 2,400 peo-

ple dead in the central part of the island. The Nobel laureate made \$ 18.9 million during his last visit to Taiwan in 1997.

The Dalai Lama on Sunday met Taiwan's "Mother Teresa" as he wrapped up the nine-day religious trip to the island.

The Dalai Lama, who arrived here on March 29 met 64-year old Master Cheng Yen at the Tzu Chi Buddhist hospital at Talin, in the central Chang Hua county.

Master Cheng Yen, who became a nun at the age of 26, took the time to explain to her visitor why she had devoted her life to charity work such as building hospitals and care centres for the elderly, according to local television reports.

Tzu Chi, the single biggest religious group here, has millions of followers in Taiwan.

Master Chen's Buddhist groups have built temporary homes for quake and flood victims here and abroad, from Africa, Latin America to China.

Earlier in the day the Dalai Lama addressed a huge gathering at Changhua stadium as the country observed Buddha's birthday.

The Dalai Lama appealed for understanding between different religions. "People from different religions must respect each other and even share their experiences," the Dalai Lama said through an interpreter.

In his second meeting with president Chen Shui-bian on Saturday, the Dalai Lama recommended that Taiwan open its domestic labour market to exiled Tibetans.

AFP



THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

579 APRR2001

3 APR 2001

# 'Change brings hope for Tibet'

Taipei, April 5

IN A long-awaited first meeting with Taiwan's new President, the Dalai Lama said on Thursday that changes in China and the world's concern for Tibet make him hopeful about the future of his Chinese-ruled Himalayan homeland.

The Tibetan spiritual leader and President Chen Shui-Bian rank high on Beijing's list of dis-trusted leaders, and their meet-ing was closely watched for signs that the two would team up against China. But in the brief segment of their gathering released to the media, the two avoided sharply criticising China. They also did not bring up the US-China dispute about last weekend's midair collision over the South China sea. The two chatted like old friends, with the Dalai Lama dressed in a maroon robe and sandals and the Tai-wanese President wearing a gift from the Tibetan leader: a long white silk scarf called a "hada."

The Dalai Lama's public com-ments were optimistic about Tibet's future. "If I just look at Tibet, sometimes I feel there's no hope. But after looking at global changes and changes in main-land (China), I feel that Tibet still has hope," the Nobel Peace Prize winner said without elaborating.

The Dalai Lama also said he was "excited" by signs that China was willing to compromise on Tibet, but he did not discuss



Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama meets Taiwan's President Chen Shui Bian at the Taipei presidential palace on Thursday.

the issue further. In recent years, China's communist Government has significantly relaxed its grip on the economy, but it still tightly controls politics.

Tibet and Taiwan share a simi-lar history: both are territories that Beijing believes should be under its rule. Despite a failed 1959 uprising that sent the dalai lama into exile, China controls Tibet and has refused the Tibetan

religious leader's demand for greater autonomy.

Ever since the communist party took over China in 1949, the Taiwanese have refused to be gov-erned by Beijing. Chinese leaders have warned Taiwan it must eventually reunify or face war.

Chen, elected last year, has offered to hold the first summit in five decades between Taiwanese and Chinese leaders, but Beijing

has rebuffed his offers. Before such a meeting can be held, Bei-jing insists Chen must agree that Taiwan is an inseparable part of China.

Chen fears that agreeing to such a precondition would put limits on Taiwan's future rela-tions with China, an issue he thinks Taiwanese voters should be able to decide.

AP



# DALAI FORESEES OPEN CHINA

*Meets Taiwan President, says open world will change China*

Taipei, April 5: The Dalai Lama and Taiwan President Chen Shui-Bian, two of the men most reviled by China, met on Thursday with the Tibetan spiritual leader predicting the mainland would become more open and democratic.

The Dalai Lama told Mr Chen during their one-hour meeting that he "sees global change — more openness, democracy and respect for human rights," his spokesman said. "China is a part of this world and cannot escape this global change," the Dalai Lama was quoted as saying. "Sooner or later there will be changes in China."

"His Holiness feels optimistic in the long

run," his spokesman Kelsang Gyaltzen said.

During their meeting, the Dalai Lama presented President Chen with a hada, or traditional Tibetan white scarf. In return, Mr Chen gave the bespectacled, saffron-robed monk a copy of his biography "Taiwan's Son" and a wooden Buddhist statue.

The Dalai Lama has denied he wants independence for his Himalayan homeland and Mr Chen has mellowed his separatist stand, but Beijing remains unconvinced.

The Nobel Peace Prize laureate has been accused by Beijing of making a politically motivated trip to Taiwan, but he has tried to play down its significance and said his 10-

day visit was purely spiritual.

His arrival a week ago inflamed political and religious passions on the island of 23 million, with advocates and opponents of Taiwan's independence from China taking to the streets.

Beijing has ruled Tibet with an iron fist since 1950 and claimed sovereignty over Taiwan since the end of the Chinese civil war in 1949. China's Communist rulers have threatened to attack Taiwan if the island declares independence.

The Dalai Lama fled to India in 1959 after an abortive uprising against Chinese rule. (Reuters)



TOKEN OF LOVE: Taiwan President Chen Shui-Bian (right) offers a copy of his book *Son of Taiwan* to the Dalai Lama in the Taipei presidential office on Thursday. (Reuters)

## Lee may visit Japan early next month

Tokyo, April 5: Former Taiwan President Lee Teng-Hui is sounding out Japan about a possible visit that could anger Beijing, putting Tokyo in a bind at a time of rising tensions between China and the United States.

Mr Lee, who left office on last May, has unofficially told Japanese government officials he wants to visit Japan possibly early next month, Japanese government sources said.

"Through unofficial channels, Lee has sounded out Japan about his possible visit," one government source said.

Another source said the 78-year-old former President, who is believed to have a heart problem, wanted to stop over in Tokyo for about a week for a medical examination. (Reuters)

THE ASIAN AGE

• 6 APR 2001

# Dalai Lama visit 'non-political'

Taipei, April 2

THE DALAI Lama's travel plans on Monday included a chat with a former Taiwan independence activist, a meeting the Tibetan spiritual leader's spokesman said was non-political.

China has been accusing the Dalai Lama of trying to whip up anti-China sentiments during his 10-day trip to Taiwan, which Beijing considers to be a break-away province that should eventually unify with the mainland

or face war.

The Tibetan religious leader's meeting on Monday, with Chen Tan-Sun, could feed Beijing's suspicions. Chen was once an active campaigner for Taiwan's independence and a leader of the Formosan association for public affairs, which supports independence for the Island. But, like many other former independence supporters, Chen appears to have softened his stance and is not as active as before in the independence cause. Most Tai-

wanese voters don't support independence because they fear breaking away permanently would prompt a Chinese attack. The Dalai Lama, who arrived on Saturday, has repeatedly said that he came to Taiwan to speak about Buddhism and spirituality, not to cause problems for China.

A spokesman for the Dalai Lama said on Monday that the Tibetan leader was not aware of Chen's past activities in the independence movement.

AP

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

3 APR 2001

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## US Navy plane damaged in China crash

Beijing, April 1

A US Navy surveillance plane made an emergency landing in southern China on Sunday after colliding with a Chinese fighter plane, a Navy spokesman said.

The 24 crew members on the plane suffered no injury, said Cmdr. Rex Totty, who described the collision as "minor".

The EP-3, a four-engine propeller plane, was on a routine mission over the South China Sea when it was intercepted by two Chinese fighters, Totty said. The US plane was in international airspace.

The Navy plane collided with one of the Chinese fighters. It is not clear if the contact was accidental or if the Chinese jet tried to bump it, said another spokesman for the U.S. Pacific Command, Col. John Bratton.

The EP-3 issued a Mayday before landing at an airfield on Hainan Island. **AP**

## Tibet's freedom not on agenda: Dalai Lama

Taipei, April 1 *HKE 4*

Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, said he was not seeking Tibet's independence from China, which has ruled his Himalayan homeland with an iron fist since 1950. He told a news conference in Taipei that Taiwan should maintain a close relationship with its giant Communist rival.

The Dalai Lama spoke of the need for love and compassion in the new millennium to counter the effects of decades of materialism. On the second day of his ten-day visit to Taiwan, he met nearly 100 Tibetans, including some illegal immigrants. "The Dalai Lama promised to help them solve their status issues when he meets President Chen Shui-bian next week," state television station said. There are some 1,000 Tibetans in Taiwan, including 100 illegal immigrants.

Earlier, he was greeted with

*2/4*  
protests on his arrival at Taiwan's airport, with a tiny group of activists demanding reunification with China shouting anti-Dalai Lama slogans and pro-independence groups countering it with the chant: "Free Tibet. Free Taiwan."

Meanwhile, China on Sunday said the Dalai Lama's Taiwan tour of Taiwan was driven by separatist political motives he shares with Taipei. "The Dalai's second Taiwan trip will be a political visit for collaborating with Taiwan independence forces to separate the motherland," state-run *Xinhua* news agency said. A *Xinhua* commentary said the Dalai Lama would meet members of the Democratic Progressive Party Government, which has antagonised China with pro-independence rhetoric.

"With such a political backdrop, how could Dalai's trip be a pure 'religious tour'?" *Xinhua* said. **Agencies**

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

2 APR 2001

# Dalai Lama in Taiwan

59-11

REUTERS

119 Tibet

TAIPEI, March 31. — The Dalai Lama reached Taipei today amid a politically charged atmosphere as advocates and opponents of Taiwan's independence from China took to the streets.

The Dalai Lama's 10-day visit has already inflamed political and religious passions here. A group of activists, supporting reunification with China, shouted anti-Dalai Lama slogans outside the airport. Another group protested outside the plush Taipei hotel, where the spiritual leader is staying.

"If he's indeed a holy monk, he shouldn't be staying in a \$1,200-a-day presidential suite," said the vice-chairman of the alliance for reunification with China. He denounced the mass "enlightenment" lectures to be presided over by the Dalai Lama in Taiwan.

Near the hotel, a group of activists chanted:

"Free Tibet, free Taiwan." "We welcome the Dalai Lama. We urge him and the Taiwanese people not to fear China."

The Dalai Lama has tried to play down the political significance of his second visit to Taiwan apparently to avoid antagonising Beijing. He is scheduled to meet the Taiwan President, Mr Chen Shui-Bian of the pro-independence Democratic Progressive party next week.

**Nuns protest:** A group of Taiwanese nuns and monks have asked the Dalai Lama to scrap discriminatory rules against nuns in Tibetan Buddhism, adds AFP. In a symbolic move, the group publicly tore down from a wall a list of the written rules that require nuns to show absolute respects to monks under the Tibetan system.

A rule says a 100-year-old nun must display respect towards a new monk, and the nuns must not blame monks regardless of any errors.

## Universal Studios Japan opens

DAILY YOMIURI  
ASIA NEWS NETWORK

OSAKA, March 31. — Universal Studios Japan in Konehama Ward, Osaka, opened today and tens of thousands of people tested the Hollywood film-and-TV inspired rides and other attractions.

The world's third Universal Studios park and the first outside the USA, the USJ is sure to attract large crowds and boost the local economy.

People braved a downpour to queue for tickets outside the entrance in the morning. To deal with the heavy rush the gates opened at 7.40 a.m., 20 minutes before schedule.

An opening ceremony was held near the gate around 7.15 a.m. where Arnold Schwarzenegger said: "I'd like to welcome the visitors today who came from around the world to this extraordinary opening ceremony."

The 54-hectare theme park houses 18 attractions, 21 restaurants and 24 shops, and was constructed at a cost of \$170 billion. USJ, that will run the park, is capitalised at \$40 billion, 25 per cent of which was given by the Osaka municipal government.

At Jurassic Park-The Ride, people sailed through a jungle on a boat and faced computer-operated dinosaurs.



Visitors rush into Universal Studios Japan on its opening day in Osaka on Saturday. — DY/ANN

THE STATESMAN

- 1 APR 2001

# Dalai Lama trip to Taiwan may hit China ties

*Tibet AT-11  
3/3*



AP PHOTO

Taiwanese workers remove chairs from a truck draped with the Dalai Lama's posters promoting compassion and wisdom, at a stadium in Taipei county on Friday.

Taipei, March 30

FOR THE past five decades, Tibet and Taiwan have created some of the biggest troubles for China's leaders, whose sacred goal is to do what all great Chinese dynasties have done: Unify the Motherland.

On Saturday, the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan spiritual leader, travels to Taiwan, a trip that could heighten tensions with Beijing.

This will be the Lama's second visit to the island-nation. He is expected to meet new Taiwanese President Chen Shui-Bian for the first time. Both are deeply distrusted by Beijing, which has accused them of being "splittists."

Early in his political career, Chen was a vocal supporter of Taiwan independence, though he has softened his rhetoric since becoming President last year. China and Taiwan split amid Civil War in 1949, and Beijing has repeatedly threatened to use force to take it back.

The Dalai Lama fled his Himalayan homeland after a failed 1959 uprising against Chinese rule. More than 120,000 refugees followed him to India. His Government-in-exile is based in Dharamsala.

In an article "From uniting to oppose communism to plotting together to divide the nation," China's official People's Daily on Friday accused the Dalai Lama and Taiwan of supporting each others' anti-China goals in the international community.

"This visit is another step in the accelerated connivance along the path of splitting the nation between the Taiwan authorities and the Dalai Lama clique," the paper said in its overseas edition.

This week, the Tibetan leader told supporters he would not be "ganging up" on China during his visit. He will attend spiritual services and meet Buddhist leaders. He is scheduled to spend most of his 10-day visit in the capital, Taipei, and the southern port city of Kaohsiung before leaving on April 9.

Chen's ruling Democratic Progressive Party will also try to avoid angering Beijing, said Jaushieh Joseph Wu, deputy director of the Institute of International Relations at National Chengchi University in Taipei. Improving relations with China is likely to determine whether Chen is re-elected in three years, and he wouldn't want to needlessly provoke Beijing, Wu said. "The DPP Government will probably be very low-key," Wu added.

AP

## Sleeping Buddha wakes up in Tajikistan

TAJIKISTAN AUTHORITIES have dug out a hitherto unknown 5th century sleeping Buddha statue, built in the period of Emperor Kanishka.

The statue, discovered by archaeologists from the erstwhile Soviet Union 35 years ago, was broken up into 100 pieces and stowed away in the basement of Dushanbe Museum. The 14-metre-long Buddha was first excavated by the Soviets in 1966 from a vast Buddhist monastery complex in Ajina Tapa in southern Tajikistan.

PTI, Islamabad

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

31 MAR 2001

# '1,000 Tibetans flee to India every year'

By SHEIKH MANZOOR AHMED

Geneva, March 28: More than 1,000 Tibetans, mostly teenagers, escape to India every year for fear of torture and persecution.

Disclosing this at a press conference here, Tibetan human rights activists and political prisoners said the "Tibetans risk their lives on hazardous journeys into exile in India" primarily to escape wrath of the Chinese authorities, which arbitrarily detain teenagers.

Mr Kunchok Tender and Mr Wangchuk Daja Meston, human rights activists, who are currently here to attend the 57th session of the Commission on Human Rights, said the Chinese authorities apprehended and detained

children on suspicion of involvement in Tibetan nationalists activities and for attempting to flee to India or Nepal.

They also mentioned the escape of fourth important Tibetan religious leader Karmapa to India. Karmapa Ugyen Trinley Dorje, along with his few associates, had escaped from Tibet last year and after ten days of treacherous journey appeared in Dharamshala where spiritual leader Dalai Lama had set up his government in exile.

They said the exodus of youth from Tibet has put the Tibetan culture at risk. This has also jeopardised the physical, psychological and social life of the Tibetan people.

The press conference was also attended by

Dr Michael Van Walt, professor of international law in Netherlands, and Ms Tsering Yangkey, expert on development issue of Tibet. A video film on the Chinese repression against Tibetan population was also shown to the delegates.

They said the teenagers and who are suspected of harbouring nationalist sentiments or participating in political activities, suffer the most severe torture.

The Tibetan human rights activists said the Chinese authorities use coerced abortions and sterilisations of women. They said the solution to these problems was to ensure respect for the Tibetan peoples' right to self determination.

(UNI)

THE ASIAN AGE

2 MAR 2001

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# Karmapa visit revives shoe row

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Anand Mishra  
Gaya, March 11

H/9  
12/13

KARMAPA'S VISIT to the Vajrasana inside Mahabodhi temple with shoes on has again brought the shoe controversy into sharp focus, putting the Bodh Gaya Temple Management Committee and other monasteries on a collision course.

The incident has led BTMC acting secretary Bhante Anand to denounce Karmapa's act as something not in conformity with that of a Buddha incarnation. His doubting the Karmapa's credentials prompted the in-charge of Tibetan Mahavihar of Bodh Gaya, Lama Tenzing, to brush aside Anand's criticism as an attempt to garner cheap popularity.

Citing that the body itself is made of skin and carries excreta and urine, the lama said the issue of entering Vajrasana with shoes on didn't hold so much importance. Besides, Karmapa made this mistake "unknowingly", the Tibetan monk said.

Anand, who was in the eye of a storm earlier for trying to prevent Tibetan lamas from entering temple premises with shoes on, seems in no mood for a compromise. Dismissing Tenzing's contention that people enter temples in Tibet with shoes on, he challenged him to enter any mosque, church or mandir with shoes.

The controversy is intricately connected to the management of



Mahabodhi temple. According to provisions of the Bodh Gaya Temple Management Act, entry with shoes in the temple precincts is disallowed.

Some months back when the issue assumed alarming proportions leading to a shoot-out, Tibetan lamas were allowed to enter the upper surface pavement of the temple with shoes on, temporarily. Bhante had then criticised the administration for making this concession.

Gaya DM Amrit Lal Meena, who also happens to be the ex-officio chairman of the BTMC, has expressed displeasure at Anand's criticism of the district administration for the Karmapa's entry with shoes. The DM held that the BTMC, not the district administration, should have taken care of this.

Anand has also demanded punishment for Tenzing Lama for not telling his 'dharmaguru' about the ban though he knew about it.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

12 MAR 2001

# Karmapa controversy deepens, forum claims Dalai Lama lied

BY RAJEEV KHANNA

New Delhi, Feb. 23: The members of International Karma Kagyu Forum have alleged that the Tibetan government-in-exile and the Dalai Lama have misinformed the Indian government on Karmapa controversy.

According to the secretary of the forum Karma Wangchuk, "Our sources tell us that the above mentioned gentlemen informed the Indian government that Kunzig Shamarpa, second to the Karmapa in the spiritual hierarchy of Karma Kagyu School, would no longer pursue his aim to install the genuine 17th Karmapa, Thaye Dorje, in Rumtek monastery in Sikkim."

Mr Wangchuk also said, "This information given to the Centre shows a patent disregard for the truth. How could Kunzig Shamarpa, after having found the genuine Karmapa in accordance with the traditional procedures, give up the aim of installing the rightful holder of the Rumtek throne? The question is why the Tibetan government-in-exile give the misleading information. Certainly not out of compassion, but rather for substantial political advantages."

The forum has charged that in the whole Karmapa controversy, the Tibetan government-in-exile has been pulling the strings in the background and their aims are to "weaken the Karma Kagyu lineage and strengthen the Dalai Lama's influence in the Western Himalayas."

Substantiating the claim Mr Wangchuk stated, "First of all Situpa — who "found" Ugyen Trinley with the help of the Chinese and the Dalai Lama — created a bridge between China and Sikkim. Meanwhile, the Tibetan government-in-exile confirmed the Chinese appointed Ugyen Trinley as being the 17th Karmapa, thereby splitting the Karma Kagyu lineage. Divide and rule is the name of the game."

He also said, Ugyen Trinley came to India providing a good opportunity to the Tibetan government-in-exile to come closer to its aims.



PILGRIMAGE: The 17th Karmapa, Ugyen Thinley Dorje, arrives for the Maha Kal Puja on Friday, a day prior to the Tibetan New Year, at the Vajra Vidya monastery, in Sarnath. (AP)

## Karmapa in Varanasi on religious pilgrimage

BY GAURAV SAIGAL

Varanasi, Feb. 23: Traditional prayers and hymns greeted Ugyen Trinley Dorje, the teenaged head of the Karma Kagyu sect of Tibetan Buddhism, when he arrived at Sarnath near here on the second leg of his ongoing pilgrimage.

The pilgrimage is the first time Dorje, revered as the third highest leader in the Buddhist hierarchy after the Dalai Lama and the Panchen Lama, has ventured out of Dharamsala, the headquarters of the Tibetan government-in-exile, since he arrived in India in January last year.

Dorje, recognised by the Dalai Lama as the 17th reincarnation of the Karmapa or head of the Karma Kagyu sect, fled from the Tshurpu monastery in Tibet before making the 1,400-km journey to Dharamsala. He embarked on the pilgrimage shortly after the government granted him refugee status. He was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the Vajra Vidya Institute monastery in Sarnath, where he will stay before traveling to other Buddhist sites. (India Abroad News Service)

THE ASIAN AGE

24 FEB 2001



## Devotees greet Karmapa

Situ Rimpoche, one of the high priestesses of the Kagyu order who was persona non grata in India till 1998. Situ Rimpoche, who has several CBI cases against him, was the one who identified Dorje as the 17th Karmapa.

When Jethmalani entered the Karmapa's room, he was greeted by the spiritual figure with folded hands. He towered over the others in the room with his six-foot frame and looked older than his years. As most of the interaction was through the interpreter, he smiled shyly whenever someone addressed him. He gave the traditional scarf with a bow to Jethmalani who responded, "I should be doing this to you."

Jethmalani asked the Karmapa what he expected from the Indian government. "I can then pressurise them to grant you that," he told the Karmapa.

The Karmapa replied, "I have come to see my devotees and followers all across India. We want to especially meet the devotees in Sikkim, which is a state of India." Jethmalani said he sensed a kind of "secret pressure" which was being exerted on India by China due to which he had not been allowed

to visit Sikkim where the headquarters of Karma Kagyu order was in the Rumtek monastery.

Jethmalani further said the Government should realize his role as a spiritual, cultural and religious figure and not just a political one, to which the Karmapa nodded. When Jethmalani added, "But then again, you would be concerned about political issues such as the human rights of the people of Tibet", the Karmapa smiled and said, "I understand what you are saying."

Jethmalani invited him for a reception where he said leaders of various political parties would be present, when the Karmapa returned from his pilgrimage in March. After this meeting, the Karmapa met Sikkim CM Chamling and his wife.

Chamling later told the media that he would request the Prime Minister to allow the Karmapa to visit the Rumtek monastery. Incidentally, the rival claimant to the title, Trinlay Thaye Dorje was in the Capital, last week.

The Karmapa leaves for his pilgrimage to Bodhgaya and Varanasi by a morning flight tomorrow.

## Hordes of devotees greet Karmapa in Delhi

SUNETRA CHOUDHURY  
NEW DELHI, FEB 21

WHEN His Holiness Ugyen Thinley Dorje drove into the Capital today in a shiny Mercedes Benz, he broke the hearts of thousands of his devotees who had lined the streets for a glimpse of the 17th Karmapa. The only people allowed to have an audience with the head of the Karma Kagyu sect were former Union ministers and Rajya Sabha MPs Ram Jethmalani and Buta Singh and Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling.

The media presence, both national and international, were enraged when the Karmapa was sneaked into the Radisson Hotel without a photo-opportunity. Interestingly, it was Jethmalani who tried convincing the authorities about the need to be open to the press — "The whole world is



17th Karmapa Ugyen Trinley Dorje greets well-wishers from a hotel balcony in New Delhi on Wednesday after his arrival from Dharmashala on Wednesday — PTI

watching and it will give out wrong signals," he told them. Soon after, it was decided that the Karmapa would walk out into the balcony so

that the media below could photograph him.

Buta Singh was accompanied by women Jain sanyasins during

his audience with the Karmapa. According to sources, he was invited due to his close relationship with Lobo Lobzang, one of the organisers and a member of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Tribes.

Jethmalani, on the other hand, had been a vocal supporter of Dorje and had reportedly lobbied for him when he was law minister. This was in January last year after the 15-year-old Dorje appeared in India after a 900 mile trek across the Himalayas from Tibet. Jethmalani is also legal advisor to the controversial Tai

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# Dalai Lama pins hopes on Bush administration for Tibet solution

**Kalyani Shanker**  
New Delhi, January 30

THE DALAI Lama is pinning his hopes on the Bush administration to find a solution to the Tibet issue.

Interacting intimately with Parliamentarians here today, he expressed confidence that the Bush administration would carry forward the spirit of the Clinton administration which was sympathetic to Tibet. "The new Secretary of State Colin Powell made a positive statement recently on Tibet which is quite encouraging" he said.

He was quite frank on India's role in the issue. "The Indian government is very realistic. I am the longest guest of the Government.

Beyond that, the Government of India is overcautious regarding China and Tibet," he said.

The Dalai Lama felt there were two views in the government. One was that once the Sino-Indian border dispute is settled, the Tibet issue could be taken up. The other view was to resolve the Tibet issue first and then the border issue.

Claiming that he had been saying all along that the Chinese should not be considered as enemy, the Dalai Lama said "My proposal from the beginning has been autonomy for Tibet. There is a change in my attitude." The Chinese government's attitude is now negative, he said, adding. "The day we return with certain degree

of freedom I will hand over all my authority to local Tibetans. This has been my effort for the past 20 years."

He said winds of change were blowing in China and the Tibetan problem will be solved with the democratisation of China.

Those who participated in the interaction include former Law Minister Ram Jethmalani, BJP leaders Sang Priya Gautam, T.N.Chaturvedi, K.R.Malakani,(all MPs) and industrialist Y.K.Modi.

Expressing concern at the growing number of Chinese in Tibet, he said if the Chinese government thought that they would outnumber the Tibetans in Tibet in the next few years, they were mistaken.