

Karmapa set to enter Sikkim

Arindam Sarkar
Kolkata, September 19

HAVING WAITED two-and-a-half-years, Rumtek Monastery is finally gearing up to welcome Karmapa Ugyen Trinley Dorje. The Centre will soon announce formally that the Karmapa can enter Sikkim and take his seat at the monastery, intelligence sources said.

The reports of the IB, RAW and the Tibetan Government in exile revealed that the Karmapa was not a Chinese spy. Actually, Shamor Rimpoché — one of the regents of the Rumtek Monastery — and Bachung Thutop, the president of the Tibetan Society in Kathmandu, were Chinese agents working in tandem with China to prevent Dorje from taking his seat at Rumtek, the reports revealed.

"At the behest of the Chinese Government, Rimpoché and Thutop had been selling malicious stories against the Karmapa and confusing the Buddhists and the

Indian Government. But the talks with Atal Bihari Vajpayee, LK Advani and Jaswant Singh indicate that they have got the correct information," said general secretary of the Rumtek Monastery Sungrab Gyaltzen Drongpa.

The Chinese game, intelligence sources said, will be over once Karmapa is installed in Rumtek because he has a large following in Tibet. The Chinese control over the Buddhist Tibetans will also end at the same time. "Because Karmapa was chosen by the Dalai Lama, who is not just the religious head but also the head of the State with a huge following in Lhasa. So, the Chinese authorities will have a double trouble in their hands," said an IB official.

No wonder, the Government of India has been patiently waiting and mobilising opinion to ensure that the Karmapa is installed in Rumtek peacefully and this doesn't lead to a revolt among the Buddhists loyal to Rimpoché. Especial-

ly, since Sikkim is a border State with Tibet. But what has gone in favour of the Karmapa's supporters is the pressure being mounted by the Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling, former CM Nar Bahadur Bhandari, the Dalai Lama and the Buddhists from across the world who have been pressuring India to expedite the process.

"We are all against Rimpoché, who tried to do a coup at Rumtek during 1992-97 and engineered a bloodbath at the monastery in 1995. Over 300-odd Rumtek monks clashed with Rimpoché's 30 armed supporters. Today, the Sikkim Government has put a ban on Rimpoché's entry to the State. So he stays at Kalimpong, Delhi and in a Tibetan monastery in France. And his monks have taken refuge at his residence at Sikatar Rumtek — 5 km from Rumtek Monastery," said Tenzin Namgyal, general secretary to the Karmapa.



The Karmapa during his visit in Kolkata.

MIDWEEK CONVERSATION | *Karmapa Ugyen Trinley Dorje*

18/9
India is like a Big Elephant. It moves slowly but steadily. In this direction its move will be positive. India is a democracy and it has to follow rules. I believe my move to Rumtek will come through.



ASHOK NATH DEY/HINDUSTAN TIMES

Karmapa Ugyen Trinley Dorje at a Kolkata hotel on Tuesday. He is here on a three-day visit.

India does not believe I am a spy

It was his love for the birthplace of Buddha and his desire to be in the land of the Dalai Lama that drew him to India. So accusations that he is a Chinese spy in India has come as a shock to UGYEN TRINLEY DORJE, the 17th Karmapa. He speaks to Arindam Sarkar on the compulsions that forced him to flee Tibet

Q: What do you feel about the remarks that you are actually a Chinese spy?

A: (Smiles) I am surprised at such accusations. There is no basis for such accusations and I feel very hurt. But I know the Government of India, the people and the Dalai Lama do not believe in such lies.

Q: The Chinese Government had accepted you as Karmapa. Why

did you then escape from the Tshurpu Monastery in central Tibet?

A: Well, I was essentially driven by the desire to be in the land of Lord Buddha. It was mainly the spiritual desire that compelled me to leave Tibet and come to India. The day the world enjoys the freedom of religion, I don't rule out the possibility of going there then. But at present I really don't know what's happening in Lhasa.

Q: The truth is that the Chinese Government was increasingly pressuring you to denounce the Dalai Lama. So you had little option but to leave Tibet...

A: Yes. Under the Chinese regime in Tibet, it was natural I would be asked to denounce His Holiness

the Dalai Lama, who is anti-China. I would have had to denounce the Dalai Lama, which goes against my principles.

Q: One of the regents of the Rumtek Monastery Shamar Rimpoche is backing Thaye Dorje against you as the Karmapa. That has triggered a controversy...

A: Just a group of people can't install a karmapa, it has to come through the principles of prophecies made by the 16th Karmapa and the Buddhist methods. It can't be man-made, so I am not really concerned about this development.

Q: The Indian Government is hesitating in installing you at Rumtek because of its foreign policies. The Ministry of Exter-

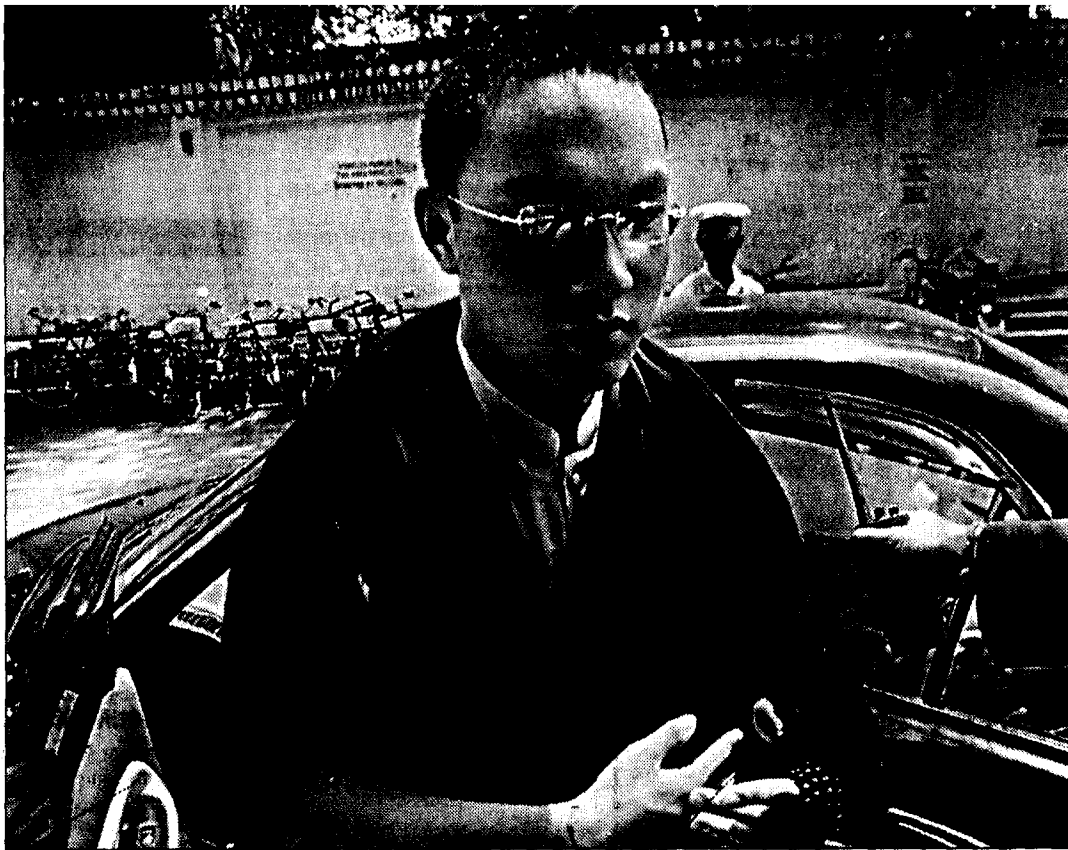
nal Affairs doesn't want to antagonise China...

A: I have the intention to call on Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Home Minister L K Advani to apprise them of the situation. I think of India as a Big Elephant. It moves slowly but steadily. And when it moves in this direction it will be positive. After all, India is a democracy and it has to follow certain rules, so I believe my move to Rumtek will finally come through.

Q: How have been your meetings with the Dalai Lama?

A: He supports me. His Holiness twice talked with the Central Government about my going to Sikkim and Rumtek. His stand leaves no doubt about the fact that I am the 17th Karmapa.

18 SEP 2003



SUBHANKAR CHAKRABORTY/HY

Karmapa Ugyen Trinley Dorje arrives in Kolkata on Monday.

Karmapa awaits Rumtek return

Arindam Sarkar
Kolkata, September 16

HE WAS accused of being a Chinese spy. Two-and-a-half-years on, the 17th Karmapa is still waiting for the Centre to clear his enthronement at Sikkim's Rumtek Monastery.

But 17-year-old Ugyen Trinley Dorje — in the city to preside over the 1388th birthday celebrations of "Anagarika Dharmapala" at Mahabodhi Society tomorrow — is not disheartened. He is confident that the Centre will get over its "political and external inhibitions" and allow him to take his seat at the Rumtek dharmachakra centre.

"I am confident that I will be able to return to Rumtek Monastery and carry on from where my predecessor had left. For me, it's like returning home.

"I am grateful to His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan Government-in-exile, the people of India and its Government for their kindness and generosity in providing for my stay in India," the Karmapa said. He now stays at the Gyuto Ramoche Tantrik Monastery, 8 km from the Dalai Lama's seat in Dharmshala.

In September 1992, with the permission of the Chinese Government, Dorje was enthroned as the 17th Karmapa in Tolung Tshurpu Monastery in central Tibet. He, however, kept resisting intense pressure from Beijing to denounce the Dalai Lama. The Chinese Government brought him under surveillance and refused to let him leave Tibet.

"But on December 28, 1999, I put on a civilian dress and slipped out through a window with a senior attendant. I travelled in a jeep and on horseback and entered India from Nepal. I reached Dharmshala on January 5, 2000, and was overwhelmed when the Dalai Lama received me with great love," the Karmapa recalled.

Since then, the Sikkim Government, the All India Association of Buddhist Monks, the Joint Action Committee of All Sikkim Buddhist Organisation and the Dalai Lama have been requesting the Centre to allow the Karmapa to occupy his seat at Rumtek.

"We urged Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Deputy Prime Minister L K Advani to step in," said Karma G

Chungyalpa, the JAC spokesman.

"The Karmapa was accorded refugee status in May 2001 and allowed to move around the country for five weeks a year.

"Advani also assured us that the Dalai Lama would have the last say in choosing the Karmapa. We feel the Centre is wary of acting too fast on the matter because of factors such as Beijing's disapproval of the Karmapa's escape and his stay in India."

Internal politics at Rumtek Monastery too has played a part in stalling the Karmapa's enthronement. "The issue got complicated with two other claimants to the Karmapa's throne — Thaye Dorji and Dawa Sangpo. Dorji, backed by Shamar Rimpoche, is pressing the Dalai Lama to declare him the Karmapa. Sangpo, however, doesn't have much support. But the Dalai Lama maintains that Ugyen Trinley Dorje is the Karmapa."

The Rumtek administration, supported by Sikkim Chief Minister P K Chamling, the Dalai Lama and many Buddhist monks across the country have decided to again approach Vajpayee and Advani.

17 SEP 2002

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Freed Tibetan scholar reaches U.S.

BEIJING, July 14. A Tibetan teacher believed to be China's longest-held political prisoner arrived in the United States on Saturday, freed nine years early from a prison sentence on medical grounds after months of intensive negotiations with a leading U.S. human rights activist.

It was the sixth release of a Tibetan political prisoner since January, a monitoring group said.

Tanak Jigme Sangpo, 74, arrived in Chicago from Beijing on Saturday afternoon — Sunday morning Beijing time — in "pretty good health" despite serious high blood pressure

and coronary disease, said John Kamm, president of the San Francisco-based Duihua Foundation. He said Jigme Sangpo was "frail but mentally sharp."

Mr. Kamm attributed the release to China's post-September 11 desire to bolster relations with Washington. "I'm not at all convinced that the policy toward Tibet is changing."

But I think they want to further relations with the United States and see this as a way of doing it," he said on Sunday morning in a telephone interview.

"They look at the options

available to them for that purpose, and they land on the release of long-serving Tibetan prisoners," he said.

By all accounts China's longest-serving political prisoner, Mr. Jigme Sangpo, a primary-school teacher, was first sentenced to three years of "re-education through labour" in 1965, according to the London-based Tibet Information Network, a monitoring group. It cited "reliable reports" as indicating that he also served a 10-year sentence from 1970-1980 for political activities.

Mr. Jigme Sangpo was arrested again in September 1983 and sentenced to 15 years in

prison on charges of "counter-revolutionary incitement and propaganda" for campaigning against Chinese rule in Tibet, according to Mr. Kamm. His sentence was extended twice after that and had been due to expire on September 3, 2011, when he would be in his mid-80s.

Prison authorities exempted him from physical labour several years ago because of his age, Mr. Kamm said.

Mr. Jigme Sangpo was also one of five prisoners cited by the U.S. Ambassador, Clark T. Randt, during a January 21 speech in Hong Kong. "Our goal is not that China should be just



Tanak Jigme Sangpo

like Dorothy's Kansas, but we do insist that China abide by certain international norms," Mr. Randt said. — AP

FELINE PROJECT OPENS DOORS FOR COMMERCIAL USE OF CLONING

American firm lands a prized cat-ch

By Gina Kolata

NEW YORK: Scientists have cloned a cat, opening the door to what some experts say will be the first large-scale commercial use of cloning to reproduce beloved pets.

The effort was supported by a company, Genetic Savings and Clone, of College Station, Texas, and Sausalito, California, which wants to offer cloning to dog and cat owners. It is investing \$3.7 million in the project.

The study will be published in the February 21 issue of *Nature* but the journal released the paper on Thursday because the result, although not the details of the study, had become public.

"The commercial future of cloning is absolutely in animals," said Arthur Caplan, an ethicist at the University of Pennsylvania. "To put it bluntly, human cloning will turn out to be of interest only to the vain or the desperate, and companies know this." However, Dr Caplan said he had two concerns. "Are you preying on the grief and desperation that pet owners often have when they lose a pet to promise them something more than cloning can deliver?" he asked.

"If cloning creates animals that suffer and die young, can it be justified?" he said. While some cloned animals have grown up to be perfectly normal, others have died in infancy of severe medical problems.

The cloned cat, called cc, for carbon copy, is a

genetically-identical copy of a two-year-old female cat, Rainbow, that was not anyone's pet. But Rainbow and cc do not look alike, illustrating that identical twin cats may not have identi-

several years ago and is directed by the same researchers, still has not succeeded.

Duane Kraemer, a member of the cat cloning team and professor of veterinary medicine at Texas A&M University, said one reason for this was that scientists had much more experience working with cat eggs and embryos.

Unlike cats, which ovulate when they are mated, making it easy to time the production of eggs, dogs are unpredictable. Unlike other mammals that excrete mature eggs, dogs excrete immature eggs from their ovaries, making it hard to obtain the mature eggs needed to start the cloning process.

Lou Hawthorne, the chief executive of Genetic Savings and Clone, said cat cloning was almost an afterthought for the company. "We had thought this was something that mostly dog owners would be interested in," he said. But after the company heard from thousands of pet owners and did market research, it realized that the cat cloning market could be huge, he said.

For now, he said, the company was storing tissue from cats and dogs for a fee, so that owners could try to have their pets cloned in the future. "Pet owners will have to be patient and realise that they would be expected to bear some of the research costs," he said, adding that he could not estimate what cat cloning would cost. (NYT News Service)

CLONE ALONE



Cc, the first-ever cloned cat, with Allie, her surrogate mother, at the Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine.

cal coats. The cat cloning project failed at first but succeeded on the second try and cc was born on December 22, healthy and normal. But the company's dog cloning project, which began

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Come home to Tibet, China tells Dalai

Beijing, February 2

CHINA TODAY urged Tibet's spiritual leader the Dalai Lama to end his exile life in India and return home after renouncing his struggle for 'Tibetan independence'.

"The (Chinese) central Government still waits the 14th Dalai Lama to give up his independence demand and end his exile life and return home," the official Xinhua news agency quoted an article in the latest issue of China's *Tibet* magazine as saying.

The magazine, an official publication, hoped that the Dalai would "size up the situation, and make his correct decision by returning to the motherland."

Beijing's fresh invitation came on the same day when the 66-year-old Tibetan Buddhist leader was discharged from a Mumbai hospital after recovering from a bowel infection and ahead of US president George W Bush's first 'working visit' to Beijing from February 21-22.

While extending an olive branch, the article was severely critical of the Nobel Peace Prize winner for pursuing a policy of Tibetan independence.

"The 14th Dalai Lama is reluctant to negotiate with the central government because he still stands for Tibetan independence", the article said adding "to this end, he kept readjusting his strategy to cope with changing international situation."

The article said the Dalai has been urging the west to exert pressure on China.

PTI

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

FEB 2002

Is it Chinese pressure?

Tibet A Karmapa under surveillance CIA

This whole Karmapa business looks more and more fishy as time goes by. The ministry of external affairs has stopped Urgyen Thinley Dorjee, head of the Karma Kagyu recognised by the Dalai Lama, from visiting a monastery in the Kangra, not far from McLeodganj where he stays, when he was allowed, not so long ago, to visit Leh, a much more sensitive area, from the MEA's point of view, and also Varanasi. No reasons are given, as usual. Is his life under threat? In that case, the ministry of home affairs might have had something to say, but, it is reasonable to suppose that it is not involved at all. Is he going to stir up Tibetans against China? That may be a possibility, given that he fled China because he was unhappy there and practically a prisoner, even though in India, he is accused, by his rivals within the sect, of being a Chinese agent. But then, the MEA should have, by now a fair idea of his intentions, he has been in the country since January 2000 and did not do anything inviting disapproval in Leh or Varanasi, otherwise we would have heard. Where is the foreign policy angle in all this, to the extent that this boy is inhibited in his movements within a radius of a few kilometres from his place of residence?

The only reason that suggests itself is — Chinese pressure. Even though Jaswant Singh did say, categorically, that the Karmapa is not an issue for China. In which case, why bother? The Chinese were furious when Dorjee left them, it brought them a lot of bad publicity over Tibet. Then, there is the question of sovereignty and, as far as Tibet is concerned, they are even more prickly than over Taiwan, because, manifestly, Tibet is not China, even the Chinese know that. The only active pole of resistance is the Dalai Lama and the Buddhist clergy and the attention they receive internationally. Karma Kagyu has the most significant international presence among all Tibetan Buddhist sects — which is why they prevented Dorjee from travelling abroad, when in Tibet. All this adds up. If so, then why is the MEA so anxious to please the Chinese on this point. The Chinese want him back, a conjecture based on information, provided by the Karmapa himself, that he was being groomed as some sort of a pro-Chinese figure. The other three sect leaders are in India, it would look nice if China had one too, of the prestigious Karma Kagyu sect. All we can say is that the boy has been given refugee status, he must have some rights under the relevant law. Under no circumstances must he be sent back to China against his will. This is political.

THE STATESMAN

31 JAN 2002

T Tibetans worried over Dalai Lama's health

By Dipak Mishra
Times News Network

BODH GAYA: The Dalai Lama's reported health problem is a matter of concern for Tibetans. "The Dalai Lama is our spiritual and religious leader. He also symbolises our hope for free Tibet," said a Buddhist monk.



The cancelled Kalachakra festival was not only a religious meet, but also a meet for the regeneration and renewal of the pledge for Tibet. Exhibitions and plays on Chinese aggression are as much a part of the Kalachakra festival as religious rituals. In the past, the Dalai Lamas held just four Kalachakras in their life time, but the present one has already held 26 of them.

"Like seeds of grass, we Tibetans and the knowledge transmitted by our masters are scattered across the planet," chanted Wango Gellek, reading from the English translation of a book published by her father's California-based publication Dharma. Her father Tarthang Tulku was a Lama who fled Tibet in 1958.

His publication claims to have recovered and published 80 per cent of the Tibetan manuscripts damaged by the Chinese aggression in 1956. It distributes books related to Tibet free-of-cost even in Bodh Gaya. Wango, living in the USA and UK, has never seen Tibet. But her feeling for the homeland is strong as she encourages Europeans to join

the Free Tibet Club.

The generation which saw Tibet being annexed has been vanishing with age. The gathering at Bodh Gaya was essentially of youths scattered throughout India. Many of them had opened counters inviting donations for the "free Tibet cause". The urge for freedom is strong. "India is our second home, but Tibet remains our homeland," insisted Karma Sichoe, a resident of Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh.

Karma is a member of Students for Free Tibet and had participated in a march to Delhi for the same cause. Both his mother and father, who had fled Tibet, are dead. He longs to return to Tibet.

"The problem is there appears to be a complete lack of awareness among common people about Tibet. Many people here do not differentiate between Tibetans and Nepalese. The support of India is more important for us than of people from abroad," Karma said, charging the Chinese with making his homeland a nuclear waste and indulging in massive deforestation.

"Our main inspiration in the struggle for the freedom of Tibet is Tibetans still living in the occupied country," said Tenzin Samphel, who is the vice-president of the Tibetan Youth Congress. Though the elder generation of Tibetans is vanishing, the urge for freedom is as strong, Samphel stressed, adding: "We have inherited from our parents the concept of Tibet. As long as there is a Tibetan alive, there will be a nation called Tibet."

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29 JAN 2002

Plainclothes police arrest a Tibetan refugee who put up a banner on the tenth floor of the Oberoi Hotel to protest against the visit of Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji to Mumbai on Wednesday.

Tibetan activist's protest reaches new height

Times News Network (TNN) by the Cuffe Parade police. The police booked him for trespassing and released him on bail in the evening.

MUMBAI: A Tibetan activist on Wednesday resorted to a unique protest against China's "aggressive" policy towards his homeland when he suspended himself from the 10th floor of Hotel Oberoi, where Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji addressed industry captains in the afternoon.

Tenzin Tsundue, general secretary of Friends of Tibet (India), reached the 10th floor by climbing a high-rise ladder being used for renovation work and displayed a huge banner inscribed 'Free Tibet', police sources said. The 27-year-old Tenzin was later brought down

Hundreds of Tibetans, including women and children, were on a protest demonstration in Mumbai on Wednesday. A large number of them staged a noisy demonstration near Prince of Wales museum, which is now rechristened as Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalay, where the dignitary and his entourage paid a brief visit.

Said an officer, "There was no problem with the Chinese Premier's visit to Mumbai as we had a tight bandobast to prevent any untoward incident."

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