

## THE DALAI LAMA

*THEKCHEN CHOELING  
MCLEOD GANJ 176219  
KANGRA DISTRICT  
HIMACHAL PRADESH*

September 8, 1987

Your Excellency,

You will kindly recall that I had submitted to you two memorandum and a three-page letter on the issue of Tibet and its relevance to the security of India. At that time, I had also expressed the view that because of the rise in the tension on the Indo-Tibetan border it was an opportune time to review the Government of India's policy on Tibet.

Recently, more articles have been published about what has happened on both sides of the northeastern Indo-Tibetan border. I am therefore convinced more than ever before that in your own long-term interest the time is ripe for the Government to review her policy on Tibet.

My stand on the issue of Tibet has, for many years, been just and reasonable. The growing international awareness and sympathy to our cause seems to confirm this. I therefore have no intention of changing that stand. However; it now seems that the time is opportune to set the record straight and make our stand more public so that the Tibetan people as well as our supporters have a clearer idea of what we want under the existing situation.

In the second week of September I am planning to visit the United States. I will be in Washington for about two days and will be having the opportunity of meeting with some of the U.S. senators and Congressmen who have been very supportive of the Tibetan issue. I intend to use the occasion to make an announcement incorporating the following points:

- (1) That the transfer of large numbers of Chinese into Tibet must stop.
- (2) That discrimination and human rights abuses in Tibet must stop.

(3) That Tibet be declared a ZONE OF PEACE and that Chinese military forces be withdrawn for the sake of peace and stability, particularly in this part of the world. And,

(4) That the Chinese should stop destroying the Tibetan ecology, stop using Tibet as a nuclear base and stop dumping their nuclear wastes in Tibet.

As an introduction to these points I will briefly explain the case of Tibet being historically an independent nation.

An immediate solution to the Tibetan issue may not be possible, but I am sure Your Excellency will agree with me that at least the Chinese must heed to the above demands if the Tibetan people as a race and a cultural entity are to survive.

The main purpose of my visit to the United States this time is to consecrate a stupa that my elder brother, Thubten Jigme Norbu, has built in dedication to the over one million Tibetans who have died as a result of the Chinese occupation of Tibet. I had also agreed to give a teaching at one of our Buddhist centres in Washington. And while there, arrangements have been made for me to have a meeting with some of the senators and Congressmen. Your Excellency must be extremely pre-occupied. Forgive me for the intrusion. With assurances of my highest esteem and regards,

Yours sincerely,  
THE DALAI LAMA

His Excellency Rajiv Gandhi  
The Prime Minister of India  
Prime Minister's House, New Delhi

*(Courtesy late Prof M.L. Sondhi, Institute of Asia-Pacific Security, New Delhi)*