

**Statement by the representative of Pakistan in the UN General
Assembly on the question of Tibet, 20 October 1959**

I should like to indicate very briefly the reasons why the delegation of Pakistan will support the draft resolution jointly put forward by the Federation of Malaya and Ireland (A/L.264).

We voted for inscription of this item on the agenda because we are persuaded that the attempt to change the traditional way of life of the Tibetan people against their wishes constitutes a violation of their fundamental human rights and, as such, is a matter of legitimate concern to the international community. We believe that the smaller nations who make up the vast majority of the membership of the United Nations have a moral obligation to rouse the conscience of the world whenever there is a grave violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

We have always maintained the view that any time a Member State asks for an opportunity to place before this Organization a question within the scope of the purposes and principles of the Charter, that opportunity should not be denied. We are not persuaded by the argument that discussion of the Tibetan question will have an unfavourable effect on what has been called the peace climate. The relationship between cause and effect should not be confused. The Assembly is discussing the Tibetan question today as a result of tensions created by the recent happenings in Tibet. Our discussion has not created the Tibetan problem. This Organization cannot abdicate its moral right, indeed, its duty, to discuss such matters as are clearly cause of great concern to a large majority of its Members.

The people of Pakistan have been greatly concerned over the unfortunate events in Tibet. The Tibetan people are our close neighbours. For hundreds of years, they have pursued their traditional way of life. They have a right to

choose the way in which they wish to live. Equally, it is the duty of the rest of the world to respect their choice.

The Pakistan delegation rejects any cynical opinion that there is very little the United Nations can do about the situation in Tibet. We have an effective means at our disposal, namely, world public opinion. We believe that the pending joint draft resolution clearly expresses the true feelings of the majority of our Members. Such an expression of the public opinion of the world reflected through the United Nations must help to alleviate the plight of the Tibetan people. We consider that the Tibetan question raises above all a profound question of conscience for all Members of the United Nations.

For these reasons, we shall vote for the draft resolution.