

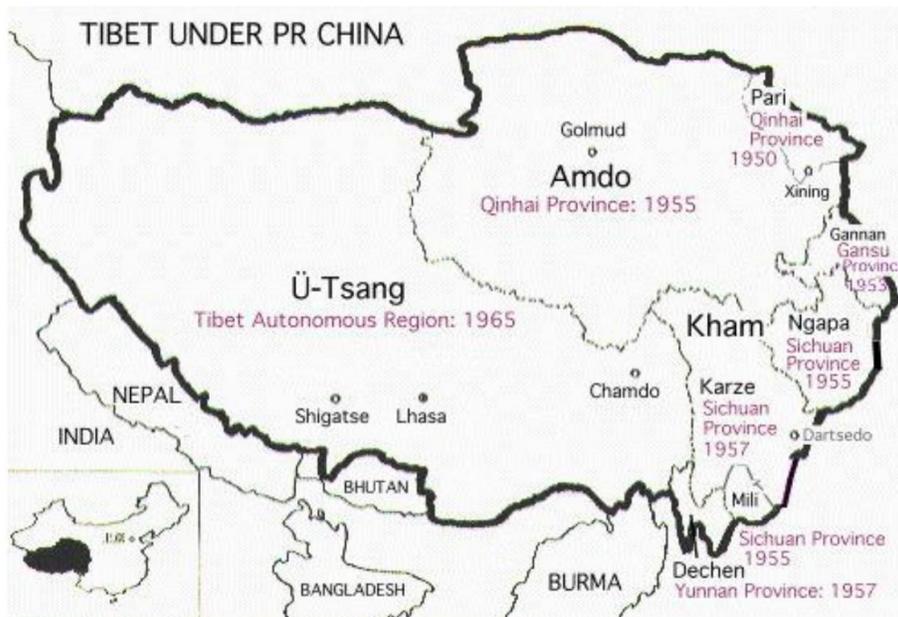
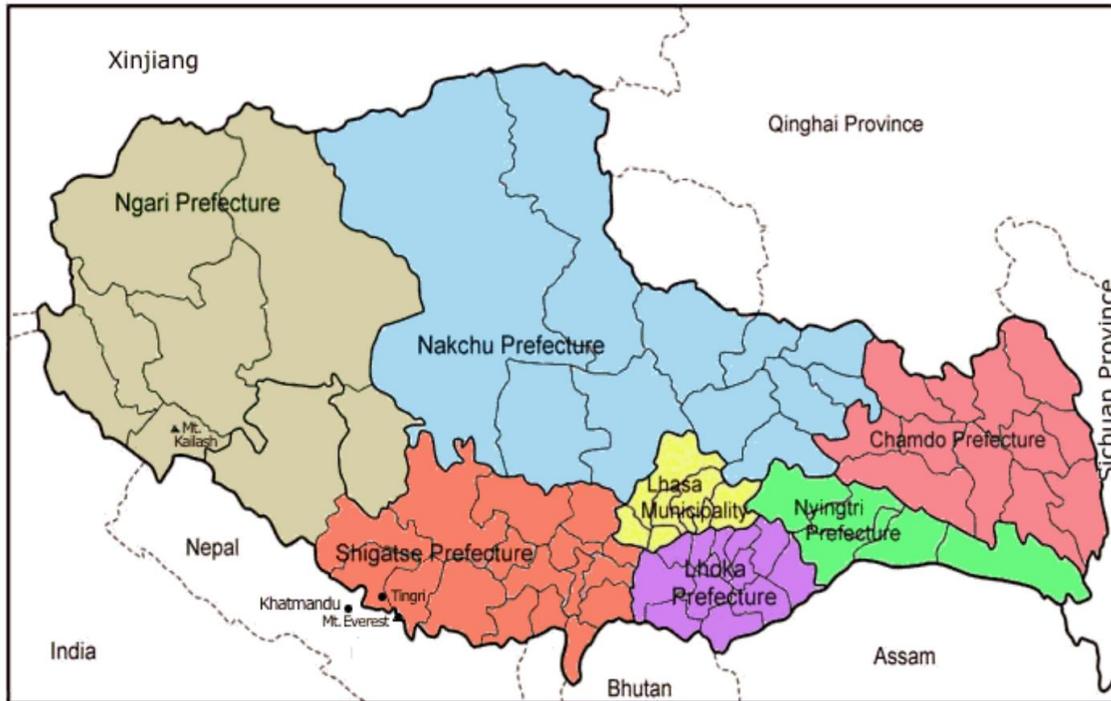


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TAR NEWS

Ceremony to award ‘Model’ Monks, nuns and monasteries held in Lhasa

December 24, 2019

The TAR PPCC held a ceremony in Lhasa on December 24 to commend ‘exemplary or model’ monks, nuns, Monastic Cadres and monasteries. Ding Yexian, Executive Deputy Secretary of TAR Party Committee and Secretary of the Party Group of TAR PPCC presided over the ceremony while Vice Chairman of TAR PPCC, Minister of United Front, TAR and Deputy Secretary of TAR Party Committee Danke read out the list of winners. Members of the Lhasa Municipal Party Committee including Penpa Tashi, Pema Wangdai and Liu Jiang attended.

Awards were presented at the ceremony to ‘exemplary’ monasteries, organizational units, Monastic Management officials, monks and nuns. Speaking at the ceremony the officials said the ideological understanding of monks and nuns have improved, their political attitudes have strengthened and their cognizance of ‘right’ from ‘wrong’ has advanced. Monks and nuns who won awards were told to take the lead in building a ‘harmonious society’ and help adapt Tibetan Buddhism to socialism. The meeting stressed the need to publicize and implement the ‘*Administrative Measures for the reincarnation of living Buddhas*’. ‘Religious figures, monks, and nuns’ were asked to abide by *politically reliable standards and strive to be model monks and nuns with a clear-cut political stand*. The ceremony was broadcast live to all counties and cities across Tibet.

China to build 30 border towns in Tibet this year

January 08, 2020

China’s official news agency Xinhua (January 8) disclosed that China will start a pilot scheme this year to construct 30 towns on the border of the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) as part of its pledge to improve the quality of urbanization. The pledge was made by Qi Zhala, Chairman of TAR People’s Government, while delivering his work report at the opening of the 11th TAR People’s Congress. He said the project was part of plans to boost the development of Tibet’s border

areas in 2020. President Xi Jinping has spoken in the past about the urgency in developing and strengthening Tibet's border security as part of China's security.

Qi Zhala said that in developing a group of border towns and villages into centres of commerce, logistics hubs or tourist destinations, the regional government will proceed from local conditions, pool strength and resources to upgrade infrastructure and improve public services.

He vowed to work hard to vitalize border areas and enrich residents' lives, develop an economic belt along the border and secure the victory of building moderately prosperous villages on the border. He said a total of 4,058 people in TAR had been relocated from extreme high-altitude reserves at over 4,700 metres above sea level.

TAR approves building of Nyingchi Economic Development Zone

January 4, 2020

According to the Nyingchi (in Chinese: Linzhi) Municipal Bureau of Commerce, the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) Government recently approved the establishment of an autonomous region-level Nyingchi Economic Development Zone. The Nyingchi Economic Development Zone will focus on developing eco-tourism, clean energy, modern services, biotechnology, and production and processing of agricultural and pastoral products with plateau characteristics to upgrade and help Tibet's economic transformation. The Economic Zone is located in the west of Bayi Town, Bayi District, Nyingchi City. It presently has an investment of 1.03 billion yuan. It has basically completed the infrastructure construction of municipal roads and communication pipeline networks, the Guangdong Forest Industrial Park, clean energy base, "Shuangchuang" demonstration base and supporting public service facilities such as schools, museums and cultural centers. The first batch of enterprises settled in Yuelin Industrial Park has a planned a total investment of 268 million yuan.

(Comment: Tibet presently has three economic development zones: Lhasa Economic and Technological Development Zone, Shigatse Economic and Technological Development Zone and Nyingchi Economic and Technological Development Zone.)

More Resettlement to Gongkar, Lhoka

January 8, 2020

700 households comprising 2,900 nomads from the Gartso, Yaqu and Shuanghu Counties of Nagchu were relocated to Singpori Village in Gonggar County, Lhoka City. These households lived at average elevations of more than 5,000 meters. The higher altitude where most nomads live are now under the "Life Restricted Zone" and they have been forced to move to places at lower altitudes around Lhasa or Lhoka. Qi Zhala (also Che Dalha), Chairman of the TAR People's Government said that investment to preserve the ecological environment in Tibet rose by 20 percent and around 19 counties have been removed from the poverty list.

Wu Yingjie meets Lhasa delegation and evaluates work report

January 10, 2020

TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie met the Lhasa delegation of the third session of TAR People's Congress on January 8 and reviewed the yearly work report and draft of regulations to be implemented in the coming year. He emphasized the need to work more on strengthening the 'four consciousness, four self-confidences' to achieve 'two safeguards.' He added that Party members should implement Xi Jinping's expositions on guarding Tibet's borders and stabilizing Tibet for long-term development.

China claims crackdown ensured stable religious situation and economic prosperity in Tibet and Xinjiang

January 11, 2020

China's official *globaltimes.cn* on January 9, citing mainland Chinese experts, said that a stable religious situation in Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region had been ensured by a severe crackdown, which paved the way for their economic boom and poverty relief. The report cited Zhu Weiqun, former Vice Minister of the CCP CC UFWD and former head of the CPPCC Ethnic and Religious Affairs Committee, as saying that relevant

authorities and religious institutions had severely cracked down on the separatist forces hidden in monasteries and guided the patriotic and religious activities of Tibetan Buddhism for more than a decade, achieving good results. Zhu Weiqun said the efforts have been welcomed by the majority of monks. The report noted that Representatives and committee members at the 11th Tibet Regional Committee meeting of the CPPCC on January 8 approved that freedom of religious belief in the region was fully guaranteed but that monasteries were never allowed to be turned into illegal places that undermined national unity. The report cited Dzongkha Adan, Vice Director of Tashilhunpo Monastery in Xigaze (Shigatse) as stating that monks and nuns while being Buddhists were first of all Chinese citizens. Zhu Weiqun said the ‘severe crackdown on the separatist force hidden in monasteries’ in Tibet had provided valuable experience for Xinjiang and other parts of the country. The report said both the regions were poised to secure a full victory in the anti-poverty battle in 2020, with the TAR having basically eliminated absolute poverty in 2019 and Xinjiang achieving Xi Jinping's goal for the PRC in 2020.

China to build 2000km of rural roads in TAR this year

January 10, 2020

Xinhua reported (January 8) that China will build 2000 kms of rural roads in the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) this year. All the towns, as well as 80 per cent of the villages, will by then have convenient transportation. The report noted that all the 74 counties in the TAR, except Medog, were already connected by passenger transport services. It cited the TAR Transport Department as saying the TAR government had invested 95.7 billion yuan (around \$ 13.7 billion) over the past five years to pave modern roads leading to 2,276 villages while building or renovating a total of 43,400 km of rural roads during the period.

DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBETAN ETHNIC AREAS OUTSIDE TAR

Chinese Buddhist Association launches social activities in Tibetan areas outside TAR

December 30, 2019

Delegations from the Chinese Buddhist Association and Shanghai Buddhist Temple Foundation visited Kanlho (In Chinese: Gannan) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Yushul Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture and the Golod (in Chinese: Guoluo) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture for donating winter clothes to the monasteries, nunneries and schools. Quan Baiyin, Deputy Secretary General of the Chinese Buddhist Association, said that the charity event is highly valued by the association and considered as an important opportunity to further promote Sino-Tibetan cultural exchanges and economic and cultural development. Qingyuan, Director of the South Tibet Affairs of the Chinese Buddhist Association, said that the charity activity embodies the fine tradition of the Chinese nation as a family and the deep relationship between Han and Tibetan Buddhism. It was initiated by the Shanghai Buddhist Association and Shanghai Jingan Temple in 2016 and was later supported by the Buddhist Association of Gansu Province, Buddhist Association of Sichuan Province and Buddhist Association of Qinghai Province. This is part of the poverty alleviation project and the monks and nuns who received aid are expected to reflect and contribute towards maintaining national unity, social harmony, and building a well-off society. In other words, they should feel grateful for the care of Party Central Committee and remain loyal to the motherland. According to the report the monks and nuns who received aid said, “This event reflects the traditional friendship between Han and Tibetan Buddhism, and fully reflects the unity, harmony and warmth of the great family of the motherland”.

Sichuan-Wenma Expressway opened for traffic

January 2, 2020

A new 43 km section on the Sichuan Wenma Expressway (Wenchuan to Barkam/ Markang) was opened on the 1st January. The Tibetan Expressway is presently 148 kilometres. The 172 kms, 2-way, 4-lane Wenma Expressway designed for speeds of 80 kilometres per hour has a total investment of about 28.7 billion yuan and is constructed by the Sichuan Investment Group. The project starts south of Wenchuan County, connects with Yingwen Expressway, and ends at the east of the city of Markang (Barkham), capital of Aba Prefecture.

According to Yang Yong, General Manager of the Sichuan Trading Wenma Company, the Wenma Expressway is located in the marginal zone of transition from the Sichuan Basin to the Qinghai-

Tibet Plateau. It crosses mountainous and steep terrain, narrow corridors and hazardous geological making landslides, mudslides, etc. and making tunnel entry and abutment construction extremely difficult. The main line of the Wenma Expressway has 121 bridges (11 extra-large bridges) over 52 kms and 32 tunnels (12 extra-long tunnels) over 96 kms. The bridge-to-tunnel ratio is as high as 86.5%, which is the highest proportion of bridges and tunnels in the history of Sichuan highway construction. The Wenma Expressway is the second Tibetan Expressway to open to traffic after the Yakang Expressway in Sichuan Province. This expressway connects Tibet to Qinghai and Xinjiang. It is also an economic corridor that goes through the Aba Tibetan area in the mainland. Once the entire line of the project is completed and opened to traffic, it will take approximately 3.5 hours to reach Markang from the Chengdu Bypass Expressway.

Guangdong sends 390 teachers to Tibet and Xinjiang

January 3, 2020

Guangdong Province is to send 390 teachers to the Tibetan Autonomous Region (TAR) and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region (XUAR) to support their education sectors. Details of where and how many teachers are to be sent are not disclosed, but the teachers are to begin working in from this Spring in local middle and primary schools. Their tenure is for one and half years. The project is an effort by the government to meet the demand for qualified teachers in these regions. The Guangdong authorities previously sent 290 teachers to both the regions in the first phase of the program.

748 houses demolished during land acquisition in Ngaba Section of Chendu-Lanzhou Railway

January 6, 2020

By the end of December 2019, the Chengdu Railway Aba section has completed a total investment of 15.782 billion yuan. From January to December 2019, investment of 1.327 billion yuan was completed, Chengdu Railway covers a large area of the Ngaba Tibetan Autonomous Region and surrounding area. So far, it taken up acquisition of 3,134.98 acres of land within the Red Line,

152.29 acres of permanent land outside the Red Line, 7884.1 acres of temporary land, and 733.03 acres of land for resettlement. A total of 748 houses have been demolished.

The Chengdu section of the Chengdu-Lanzhou Railway is expected to be completed by the end of 2020. Once opened to traffic the distance from Chengdu to Jiuzhaigou will take only take 2 hours and travel time to Lanzhou will be reduced from more than 15 hours to 4 hours. This railway connects to the Lanyu Railway to the north. The existing Baocheng Railway, the planned Sichuan-Qinghai Railway, and the Sichuan-Tibet Line will jointly build an inter-regional trunk railway channel connecting the northwest and southwest and the south China coast. Work on all 15 tunnels in the Ngaba section of Chengdu-Lanzhou Railway have been started.

Massive Police Deployment in Dza Wonpo, Sichuan

January 6, 2020

There is a heavy deployment of heavily armed police forces in the Kham region of Dza Wonpo, Dzachukha, Sichuan, after it witnessed two separate protests in November 2019. The heightened security and surveillance makes movement of locals and particularly those who have come from other areas difficult. In the first week of November, a group of young Tibetans protested demanding Tibet's Independence. In November 21, two Tibetan youth Choegyal and Youten were arrested. Chinese authorities were also said to have compelled many monks from the region to undergo political indoctrination sessions in addition to threatening and intimidating Tibetans with dire consequences for holding protests. Sources said, "The heavily-armed police conducted drills to make their presence felt and to intimidate Tibetans in the region."

Four villages in Ganzi Prefecture are listed in Sichuan's top ten National Unity and Progress Demonstration Villages

January 10, 2020

At the beginning of 2020, four villages in Ganzi Prefecture have been listed in the top ten 'National Unity and Progress Demonstration Villages' in Sichuan Province. Each village will receive 10 million Yuan as construction subsidies. According to the Sichuan Provincial Minority Area

Economic Development Leading Group Office, 10 villages in the province qualified for obtaining the National Unity and Progress Demonstration Village title. Among them, four are from Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture namely: **Bamei Village** (Sela Township, Daocheng County, Ganzi Prefecture), Qingbang Yi Village (Jintang Town, Kangding City), Meili Village (Dama Town, Dege County) and Sergong Village (Xiangbara Town, Xiangcheng County). The Sichuan National Unity and Progress Demonstration Village project construction project selections are organized by the Sichuan Province Ethnic Area Economic Development Leading Group Office. It aims to accelerate economic and social development in ethnic areas and since its introduction in 2011, it has invested a total of 680 million yuan. There are 157 villages in the province to be covered in the scheme.

China's increases effort to 'sinicize' Tibetan Buddhism

January 13, 2020

The Fourth Plenary Session of the 19th CCP Central Committee emphasized that Tibet is a special ethnic and religious area where religious work occupies an important position in the overall work of the region. In maintaining the motherland's unity and region's stability, it is significant to strengthen the management of the religious affairs. According to the Tibetan Academy of Social Sciences (TASS) to adapt Tibetan Buddhism to the socialist system there are four guidelines that the individuals and institutions must follow. These are:

1. Adhere to Party's comprehensive leadership over religious work and effectively implement them

The emphasis is on adhering to the centralized and unified leadership of the party, following scientific and socialist theory, and maintaining political stability. They are warned to adopt only the socialist direction of religion with Chinese characteristics and firmly fight against sabotage activities of the 14th Dalai Lama and the Dalai Clique, and safeguard the unity of the motherland. Party cadres were told to lead in establishing the temple management committee system in the country and dispatch cadres to all temples based on their talents and moral standing. The leading cadres were to contact the monks and nuns for their coordination in the management system and improve the effectiveness of UWFD work.

2. Adhere to the management of religious affairs in accordance with law and improve the legalization of religious work

It said that “Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the party committee and government of the autonomous region have insisted on administering Tibet in accordance with the law, regulating the management of religious affairs in accordance with the law, regulating various social relations involving religion with the law, and realizing the advancement of religious work to the legalization and standardization”. Under this they impose various practices to control monastic management such as:

- a) Regulations on the registration of monasteries and religious sites, introducing administrative measures for religious activities of the people;
- b) Regulations for the recruitment of monks and nuns in monasteries, each district is not allowed to have more than 1,000 monks each year;
- c) Increase the measures in protecting the cultural relics as per Cultural Relics Protection Law;
- d) Strengthening and standardizing the management of education of the reincarnations of the living Buddhas, establishing a leading group for the work of reincarnation of the Tibetan Buddhist Living Buddhas, and promulgating Regulations for the implementation of management measures of the reincarnation of living Buddhas and resolutely curb the Dalai clique’s intervention;
- e) Formulating and regulating the opinions of the Tibet Buddhist Academy branches and setting up model temples through unified exams, unified enrolment system, unified texts etc.; and
- f) Resolutely resist and prevent religious infiltration's on religious campus

3. Innovate and modernize the temple management governance capacity

- a) Outstanding cadres to be selected, and stationed in temples throughout the district, management institutions, party organizations. The temple management committee and resident cadres will perform the functions of education, management, and service.
- b) Cadres in the temple should pair-up and make friends with one or several monks and nuns, conduct home visits, and assisting in communication channels and idea exchange.
- c) Creation of harmonious model temples and patriotic law-abiding advanced monks and nuns by annual recognitions and awards at the district and county level. The monks and nuns who receive awards should receive political honour, spiritual encouragement, and subsidies for the rest of their lives.

- d) To practice “four stresses and four loves” in the temple mass education activities and follow the “four standards” for becoming advanced monks and nuns
- e) Organize patriotic and religious education by the monks and religious heads in the key temples and remote areas to promote the Party’s policies and national regulations and laws
- f) Strengthening the management of reincarnation of the living Buddhas and increase the search and identification process
- g) Standardization, democratization, and institutionalization of the temple management and develop temple self-management capabilities

According to the TASS report, 1,787 temples in Tibet have been fully covered by newspapers, cultural book houses, radio and television, 1779 temples have piped water supply, and 1751 temples have a communication system and network coverage.

Ganzi Prefecture pushes to implement six strategies for the rural revitalization

January 14, 2020

To complete building a well-off society by the target year of 2020 established by the Thirteenth Five Year Plan, and also coincide with the 70th anniversary of its establishment, the Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture is pushing six strategies for rural development. These include poverty alleviation, enhancement of governance according to the state law, industrial development, transportation advancement, urban-rural advancement and cooperation, and ecological civilization construction. It emphasized that to overcome poverty alleviation and rural development, the development of tourism in the whole region is an important starting point for Ganzi Prefecture. The prefecture issued Document No. 1 focusing on the construction of the Dadu River Basin rural revitalization demonstration area. Ganze Prefecture also intends to promote planting Chinese medicinal herbs to improve the region’s economy. Dartsedo (in Chinese: Kangding) has been the centre of rural tourism promotion. It is located in the Dadu River Basin Rural Revitalization Demonstration Zone.

EXILE TIBETAN NEWS

US Congress confirms 2020 funding for Tibet

January 20, 2020

The International Campaign for Tibet (ICT) reported that the US Congress confirmed a provision of approx. US\$ 19 million for vital Tibet programs through the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (H.R.1865). President Trump signed it on December 20. Matteo Mecacci, President of the ICT said “The United States Congress has once again provided strong support to the people of Tibet. While these programs are a minuscule part of America’s overall foreign aid budget, this investment yields big dividends for Tibetans and their efforts to preserve their culture and identity in the face of China’s oppression.”

The Act provides vital funding specifically for the welfare of Tibetans in Tibet and in exile. Grants for NGOs to preserve Tibet’s cultural traditions, educational and environmental conservation in Tibetan Autonomous Region (TAR) and other Tibetan communities in China are at the same level as last year, not less than \$8 million. Funding for projects in the refugee and diaspora Tibetan communities in India and Nepal and for Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) have been allocated (at the same level as last year, not less than \$6 million). There are provisions specifically for the CTA which will be administered by the United States Agency for International Development (at the same level as last year, not less than \$3 million).

Funding programs for Tibetan refugees in Nepal and India such as cultural exchanges and fellowship programs, broadcasting into Tibet by Radio Free Asia (RFA) and Voice of America (VOA), and funds for the office of the Special Coordinator of Tibetan Issues at the State Department (\$1 million) have been allocated. The National Endowment for Democracy (NED) provides grants “to support the democratic aspirations of people all over the world, including the Tibetan people,” stated on ICT’s website.

Dalai Lama reiterates Tibetan antipathy towards a Chinese gov't successor

January 15, 2020

The Dalai Lama (January 11) reiterated that any reincarnation of his chosen by the Chinese government will not be accepted by the Tibetan people. He said despite professing atheism, China has made it clear that it will determine and choose his reincarnate successor from within its territory. It claims to have inherited this right from the country's imperial past Buddhist rulers in the late 18th century. The Dalai Lama lineage predates that period by some four centuries. "Tibetans will not accept Dalai Lama selected by China," said the Dalai Lama in an interview with the Editor-in-Chief Nitin A Gokhale of stratnewsglobal.com January 11. The Dalai Lama added "Physically, the Chinese have occupied Tibet but at the mental level, they can never control us. They use weapons to control and we influence their minds. Our method is much stronger than their weapons." He was critical of China's backwardness in political development, saying, "As for democratic practices are concerned, we a handful of Tibetans are more advanced as we have a freely elected political leadership. China has a totalitarian system." He said the Tibetan people's determination has not wavered through the generations and expressed optimism about future developments in China. He felt that there was a certain level of realisation within the leaders of the PRC that their policy on Tibet over the last nearly seven decades was "unrealistic". Asked about the possibility of his return to Tibet, the Dalai Lama was not sure at present, noting, however, that he was enjoying his freedom in India where he has been the longest guest.

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