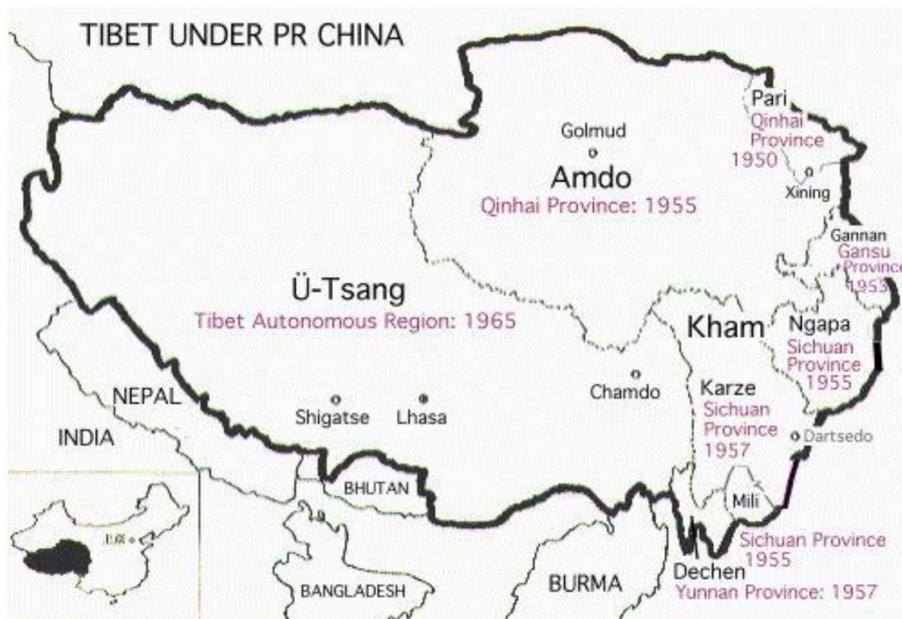
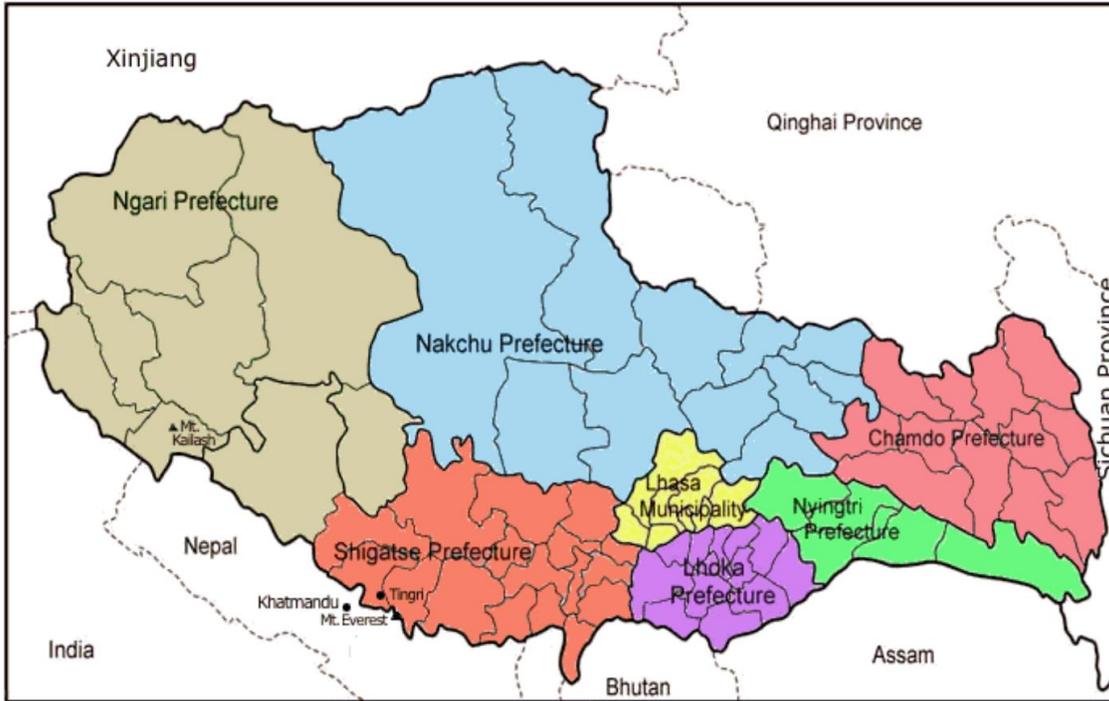




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中国分析及策略中心

TIBET INSIGHT, 15-31 OCTOBER 2019



TAR NEWS

Tibetan Buddhist Group from Nepal visits Beijing

November 04, 2019

A 'Tibetan Buddhist Group' consisting of 11 monks from Nepal visited Beijing for 12 days from October 19-30, 2019 on the invitation of the Senior Tibetan Buddhism College of China and as part of an Exchange Programme. The 'Exchange Programme' was facilitated by Li Chunzhao, Consular officer of the Chinese Embassy in Nepal. The delegation is the first Nepalese Buddhist exchange after Xi Jinping's visit to Nepal in October 2019. The monks visited and studied together with students of the College's Nyingma School. At a symposium held for the exchange group, the monks from Nepal expressed their gratitude to the College for inviting them and for organizing 'learning activities for them.'

The 11 monks separately visited Tiananmen Square, Great wall of China, The Forbidden City, Mount Wutai (Ch: Wutaishan) and the Beijing Exhibition Hall where a large scale exhibition of achievements since the founding of the PRC 70 years ago are displayed.

Li Chunzhao, Consular Officer of the Chinese Embassy in Nepal said "friendly relations between China and Nepal exist for ages and it continues to prosper especially after the heads of state met and established strategy partnership in October during Xi's visit to Nepal."

TAR holds theoretical study session after CCP CC's Fourth Plenary Session

November 02, 2019

Departments under the TAR Party Committee convened theoretical study sessions for party members and cadres to study and review the CCP CC's Fourth Plenary session held from October 28-31, 2019 in Beijing. At the sessions, party members and cadres reaffirmed their belief and said "they must closely be united around the CCP Central Committee with Xi Jinping as the core, that they must implement four consciousness, and adhere to the thematic propaganda campaign; 'keeping old heart but moving ahead with new mission' and innovation to achieve rejuvenation of

the Chinese dream.” The TAR Propaganda Department held theoretical study sessions for its branches across TAR on the November 1, and emphasised that “in-depth study of the spirit of the fourth plenum and propagation of political consciousness with CCP CC as the core should be primary task and that they should correct themselves first before propagating socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era.” The TAR PPCC also held a meeting of all its party members on November 1 and stressed the need to continuously strengthen political awareness and its importance “to advance national governance.” The TAR PPCC also held a meeting of non-party members to study the spirit of the fourth plenum where it discussed the need to be politically firm, strengthen national unity and safeguard the ‘unity of the motherland and to work towards rejuvenation of the China dream.’

TAR People’s Procuratorate, Chamdo Municipal Party Committee’s Theory and Learning Centre, TAR Academy of Social Science, and the Organization Department of Shigatse Municipal Committee also convened similar meetings to study the spirit of the Fourth Plenum.

Himalaya Airlines Opens Beijing-Kathmandu Direct Flight

October 29, 2019

Himalaya Airlines opened its direct Beijing-Kathmandu flight on October 27, 2019. The airline is preparing to operate three flights a week to Beijing Daxing International Airport from Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA). Based on the recently revised air services agreement between Nepal and China, airline companies of both countries are allowed to operate 98 flights a week each. Himalaya Airlines accordingly received permission to operate commercial flights to China. Himalaya Airlines had already received a slot at Beijing Daxing International Airport a few months back and was waiting for the airport to start formal operation.

Meanwhile, Nepal Airlines Corporation (NAC) — the national flag carrier — which had started the process for direct flights to China even earlier has yet to receive permission from concerned Chinese civil aviation authorities. The NAC has long been requesting permission to fly to Guangzhou, but the Chinese aviation authority has not granted it permission citing ‘safety concerns’ raised by the European Union. Ganesh Kumar Chand, spokesperson for NAC, said an audit team

of the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) scheduled to come to Nepal in October for the safety audit is now scheduled to visit in December. The NAC is currently also operating flights to Saudi Arabia and South Korea.

East Asian Buddhist Conference held in Beijing

October 31, 2019

The 22nd China-South Korea-Japan Buddhist Friendship Exchange Conference including over 300 delegates from South Korea, Japan and China was held in Zhuhai, Guangdong Province of China on October 30, 2019. Wang Zuo'an, Director of the State Administration for Religious Affairs (SARA) and Vice Minister of the United Front Work Department, Gyaltzen Norbu, the Chinese appointed Panchen Lama and Vice-President of the Chinese Buddhist Association and President of the Tibet Branch of the Chinese Buddhist Association were amongst the top officials attending the conference. Wang Zuo'an, who presided over the Conference also spoke and stressed the need to build a 'community of human destiny' within East Asia to promote compassion, tolerance, and common prosperity. He said China, Japan and South Korea should uphold ties, safeguard and contribute to the region. Gyaltzen Norbu, spoke on interdependence and reiterated Buddhist thoughts on compassion, wisdom and the role of the three nations to "ignite the light of hope to all sentient beings." Ming Sheng, Vice Chairman of the Chinese Buddhist Association, and the Chief Representative of the Chinese participants, Head of the Korean Buddhist Delegation, and Head of the Japanese Buddhist Delegation also spoke at the conference.

Books on Tibetan, Mongolian and Manchu archives published

October 22, 2019

The Selected Archives in Tibetan, Mongolian and Manchu at the Archives of Tibet Autonomous Region were published and released at a ceremony on October 22, in Lhasa.

The books, 12 volumes in total, which took more than five years to compile, are the first to systematically record the photocopies of thousands of important Mongolian and Manchu archives since the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368). The archives reflect the relationship between the central

government and local government of Tibet in the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) and the history of exchanges between Manchu, Mongolian, Tibetan and other ethnic groups during that time. A total of 1,394 documents are presented in the books, including imperial edicts from the Yuan and Qing dynasties, as well as documents of the Dalai Lama and local officials in Tibet.

TAR Public Security head calls for meeting of all TAR PSB organs

October 22, 2019

On October 17, Zhang Hongbo, Head of TAR Public Security Bureau, convened a meeting of all Public Security Organs under TAR and requested participating representatives to strictly implement 'Xi Jinping's Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era'. Zhang Hongbo disclosed that large scale training and practices will be conducted to ensure that the public security personnel improve their strength and combat effectiveness. Building capacities, hard power skills and forging an 'iron-fist' army system is pertinent to secure long-term stability and peace in the region, he said.

Nagchu Public Security Bureau holds Psychological Counselling sessions for officers

September 24, 2019

The Public Security Bureau organized psychological counselling sessions for both civilian and patrol police officers from September 14-20 in various counties in Nagchu. Exercises on how to combat potential explosions, bombings and also self-explorative games and activities were organized as part of the counselling sessions.

China completes big step for its rail link through Tibet with South Asia

November 04, 2019

China said (November 3) that it had achieved a big step to strengthen connections with South Asia through Tibet with the completion of construction of the Bayu Tunnel from Lhasa to the Nyingchi railway section of the strategic Sichuan-Tibet Railway. The report said the railway project when completed will not only promote the economic development of the border area with India and

Nepal but also enhance the security of the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) by improving logistics from Sichuan. Citing the People's Daily, the official globaltimes.cn reported (November 3) that construction of the 13,073-metre Bayu Tunnel, which was very difficult given the complex geographical conditions, was successfully completed on November 3. The report noted that China had announced in June that it would start work on the 1,700-kilometre Sichuan-Tibet Railway, a project anticipated to take seven years and cost 216.6 billion yuan (\$30.78 billion). It added that the Lhasa-Nyingchi section was the second phase of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway, and the second strategic railway network in the TAR. This section will be completed in 2021. The report said the new railway will also be connected to Yadong Port and Nielamu Port in TAR, China's two important land gates to India and Nepal, respectively. The report cited Tian Yun, Director of the China Society of Macroeconomics Research Centre, as saying the Sichuan-Tibet Railway will "promote the economic development of the border area with India and Nepal, because, in market size and the amount of products, Tibet is relatively low. Once it is connected to Sichuan, which ranked No.6 in GDP among China's provincial-level regions in 2018, it will have huge potential." He added that besides the impact on economic development, Tibet's security could also be strengthened, observing "When the railway is completed, it will be easier to ensure the security of the TAR by logistics from Sichuan."

Lhoka (Shannan) holds Mobilization meeting for tenth round of inspection work of Municipal Party Committee

October 18, 2019

Lhakpa Gyal, member of the Standing Committee of the Municipal Party Committee, and Zhang Dingcheng, member of the Standing Committee of the Municipal Party Committee led the 10th round of inspection work of Lhoka (in Chinese: Shannan). Zhang Dingcheng announced the new decision of tenth round of inspection team of the Municipal Party Committee, whereby the inspection committee has the authority for appointment and division of tasks, and to choose the second round of county-level cross-inspection staff in 2019.

Lhakpa Gyal said "this kind of inspections are an important duty given by the party constitution, a measure to comprehensively and strictly manage the party, and a strategic institutional

arrangement for inner-party supervision. The patrol cadres must deeply understand the significance and mission of the new era inspection work, thoroughly study the important expositions of General Secretary Xi Jinping on the inspection work guideline". All party cadres were advised to accurately grasp the political position, be precise in finding out the problems, and deepen the understanding of General Secretary Xi's exposition on thorough inspection work. According to him, the supervision and promotion of "two maintenance" are fundamental to political work and exploring new political methods of conducting a good inspection. For the second half year, they should be find out the symptoms as well as root causes and ways to solve it.

Nyingchi calls State-owned enterprises to follow the new campaign "Not forgetting the initial heart and remembering the old mission"

October 23, 2019

At a meeting to deepen reform of the state-owned enterprises across the state, Ma Shengchang, Secretary of the Nyingchi Municipal Party Committee, told party members to follow the new campaign of the party "Not forgetting the initial heart and remembering the new mission". He said that state-owned enterprises in the city should utilise development of the theme education as a powerful opportunity to promote reform, promote development, enlarge and strengthen the enterprise, and identify the development orientation. The heads of State-owned enterprises like the City Investment Company, the Water Group, and the Transportation Industry Cooperation, spoke at the symposium. They affirmed that under the guidance of Party Committee and Municipal government, they will firmly implement the need of theme education and focus on promotion of 'four measures' and that the result of the theme education is 'not forgetting the initial heart and remembering the new mission'. The 'four measures' are: (i) to develop the state-owned enterprises along with the process of democratic reform; (ii) conscious construction of socialism; (iii) aligning with reform and opening up; and (iv) establishment of a well-off society in an all-round way. Ma Shengchang said, "The state-owned economy is an important pillar of the national economy, and state-owned enterprises are an important force in promoting economic and social development". He said in view of the increasing downward pressure on the country's economic development, Linzhi's state-owned enterprises should take the initiative of party's theme education and contribute to the national economy whatever difficulties and problems they may face.

Red Education for the retired veterans, Nyingchi

October 25, 2019

The Retired Party Organisation and Work Department of Nyingchi (in Chinese: Linzhi) in the second week of October, said that the retired veterans and comrades are strong in political ideologue and deep in theoretical understanding for leading the new theme education of ‘not forgetting the original heart and remembering the new mission’. The retired cadres were told to uphold a ‘people-oriented, service-oriented and four standards’. The Retired Party Organisation and Work Department of Nyingchi has organized 150 retired cadres to receive the ‘Red Education’ and explore the ‘pairing up with the nearest convenience station’. They also initiated a door-to-door service for the old and physically challenged retired military personnel by sending reading materials and teaching. The Retired Party Organization at all levels were connected by WeChat, Weibo and other online platforms to enhance information sources through multiple channels, establish learning groups according to their branches and expand the veteran network. Retired party officials and cadres were sent to ‘Red Education’ bases where they visited old revolutionary places, studied revolutionary history, on-site-classes and, in the process, strengthened their faith in the Party and established ‘four self-confidences’. The retired cadres are also to be informed of any important development and decision-making arrangement of the Municipal Party Committee, Municipal Government and be encouraged to participate in major important meeting and events. To improve the status of retired cadres, the relevant departments of all levels were asked to adhere to ‘three must-visits’ (i.e. timely transfer of funds for the retired cadres; visit old comrades who are hospitalized; and send them to party and government care’). These retired cadres will act as ‘propagandists, and interpret the Party’s policies to the masses and unify their thinking and strength. They also celebrate the Party’s kindness, vigorously carry forward the “old Tibetan spirit” and “two-way spirit”, guide the masses to dilute the negative influence of religion, resolutely oppose the split, and feel the Party’s grace, listen to the Party, follow the Party, and strive to be the sacred guardian of the country and builder of happy home.

Border villages receive new free housing in Tibet

October 28, 2019

In Phuma Changthang Township, Lhoka (in Chinese: Shannan), 133 villagers from 29 households moved into their new houses. All the township's residents now live in free houses provided by the government. Phuma Changthang Township shares a 25-km border with Bhutan where the average altitude tops 5,300 meters above sea level. The township is in Nakarze county of Lhoka, Southwest of TAR, and is described as the "world's highest township". Resettlement in new housing provided by the government is part of the government's efforts to ensure that its entire population lives comfortably in border areas. Making border townships prosperous by boosting the economy, social stability, and helping people become rich are part of Nakarze County's key measures in its livelihood project. According to the county government, the county's border construction project involves two townships and 17 villages, and the project costs more than 643 million Yuan (\$91 million). Project construction includes villagers' houses, village committee offices, village clinic, water supply, and roads. This phase of the township's construction project benefited 282 households with a population of 1,023. Other residents have started moving into new houses in 2017.

DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBETAN ETHNIC AREAS OUTSIDE TAR

Ngaba received 69 overseas Chinese media representatives

October 9, 2019

As part of China's propaganda activity of "Overseas China's Perception of China" and building a good image of China outside China and amongst non-resident Chinese, Ngaba received 69 representatives from 67 overseas Chinese media from 28 countries and regions including the United States, Canada, Australia and other countries. The event was jointly organized by the Sichuan Provincial Overseas Chinese Affairs Office and the Sichuan Provincial Government Information Office. It was held in Chengdu, Sichuan on October 7, and the delegates visited various places in Amdo (Ngaba) for five days. Some representatives reflected on their visit. Yang Lan said that cooperation between the government and enterprises is very effective in Sichuan, which makes the products of a small village accessible for export. He said that "After returning to the United States, I will report all the what I have seen and heard here, so that more Americans

can understand the development of Sichuan Tibetan areas and get attracted to come and see them in person.” The delegates also visited the Tibetan Art School and Thangka Painting Training Base at Songpan County. Zhang Wei, Executive Director of Myanmar Golden Phoenix Chinese Newspaper, suggested that the sales of Thangka should be expanded in the future. As art is more integrated into people’s lives, more should know about it and he promised to do that in Myanmar. They also visited Jiuzhaigou Scenic area and Sichuan Tainfu new district etc.

Re-education training conducted for monks and nuns in Ganzi, Sichuan

October 17, 2019

A training class on ‘Laws and Regulations on Religious affairs’ was held for monks and nuns from 64 monasteries in Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province in mid-October. It was organised jointly by the County Party Committee, County People’s Bureau, and County Judicial Bureau of Ganzi. Choegyal Dawa from the Judicial Bureau explained the constitution, Criminal laws, PSB rules and punishment, central regulations on religious affairs and party’s policy on religion. The re-education is to ‘educate’ the monks and nuns in ‘patriotism, national unity and internet sensitivity’. The County UWF department said “The purpose of this is to vigorously promote the traditions of Tibetan Buddhism, education on patriotism, rule of law, abiding by law, abandoning evil, and creating national unity and social harmony. The citizens’ awareness of the rule of law can contribute to building a happy and beautiful ecological state”. After the training the representatives from the monasteries were taken to visit the Chief of Zhu De and Wu Shi Ge Da Living Buddha Memorial Hall (Living Buddha of Five World). The memorial hall has ancient illustrations and photos under the inscription ‘the living Buddhas of the five world and the Chinese Communist Party’. It was explained that two are the same and both work to liberate people from sufferings.

Ganzi Prefecture’s started its’ first retired military employment and entrepreneurship training class

October 17, 2019

On October 15, Ganzi Prefecture held its first retired military personnel and entrepreneurship training class at Dhartsedo (in Chinese: Kangding). It was sponsored by the State Retired Military Affairs Bureau, and the State Talent Development Committee. The course was attended by 113 retired military personnel from 18 counties (cities) under Ganzi Prefecture. The purpose of the initiative is to improve the overall quality of retired military personnel, help them better realize their own value, promote employment and entrepreneurship of retired military personnel, and promote development of the rural economy. Apart from this, they are also expected to study the party's policies, current situation of China, and ways to integrate themselves with society fully and transition from military to common citizens. The training instructors were the heads of relevant departments of the State Retired Military Affairs Bureau, the State Postal Saving Bank, Ganzi Sichuan Nationalities College, and senior lecturers of the Universities and founders of the private enterprises.

As part of the course, they need to study implementation of the spirit of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China and the 5th Plenary Session of the 11th Provincial Committee of the Provincial Party Committee and the 7th Plenary Session of the 11th National Committee of the State Council. To promote retired military personnel employment, the State Talent Exchange and Employment Service Bureau held an on-site recruitment for veterans at the State Party School on October 18. They invited more than 10 companies from both inside and outside Ganzi offering more than 100 positions.

Ganzi Buddhist Association held first conference on Buddhist Thought Construction

October 22, 2019

On October 22, the Eighth Standing Council of the Buddhist Association of Ganzi Prefecture, Sichuan, held a seminar on 'Buddhist Thought Construction' at Dege County as part of its third session of the eighth standing council meeting. Sangyal Tashi, Deputy Secretary General of Chinese Buddhist Association and Jiadeng Luorong Xiangba, the Vice President of the Sichuan Buddhist Association, were invited to talk.

Sangyal Tashi emphasized the need for more integration and called for the Gansu Buddhist Community to have closer connection with Sichuan. He told them that “Buddhist culture rooted in the rich Chinese culture and it is an important composition for the Chinese dream and it’s great rejuvenation. It should contribute to the prosperity and development of contemporary Chinese culture and the exchange of civilizations”. Jiadeng Luorong Xiangba hoped that all members of the Buddhist Association carry forward the glorious tradition of Tibetan Buddhism, patriotism, love of the country and the people, and make new contributions to building a beautiful and harmonious society.

EXILE TIBETAN NEWS

Dalai Lama says China in dilemma over its ethics-deficit failed Tibet policy

November 05, 2019

The Dalai Lama on November 4 told an international gathering of Tibet campaign supporters that the Chinese Communist Party’s strategy for Tibet had repeatedly failed in recent years and that “some policy leaders of China are now finding themselves in a dilemma as to how they must tackle the issue of Tibet.” He called their policy “unrealistic” and ethically wrong and called for a realistic policy as opposed to the current one. The Dalai Lama made the remark during a meeting at his residence with 180 representatives of Tibet Support Groups from 42 countries who were attending the 8th International Conference of Tibet Support Groups facilitated by the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA). He later began three-day religious teachings in the Tsuglakhang as requested by devotees from Korea. He said: “For more than 70 years the spirit of the people in Tibet has been undaunted. Their determination will continue because of their pride in the value of our rich culture. I have been told that, in the face of such determination, some members of the Chinese leadership have begun to admit that their policy has been misplaced and that there is a need for a more realistic approach. Voices of concern from other parts of the world are helpful at such a juncture. On behalf of the six million Tibetans I’d like to thank you for your kindness and support.” The Dalai Lama mentioned to the gathering that he had been told that Chinese documents from the Tang dynasty (618 to 907 CE) refer to Tibet, China and Mongolia as independent states. He continued that there were no historical references in such documents to Tibet being part of

China. After meeting with the Tibet support groups, the Dalai Lama walked to the Tsuglakhang to begin his three-day teachings to a gathering of more than 6000 devotees, including over 2000 from some 60 countries.

Tibetan cabinet cites imperative of harmony to accept top Tibetan court's adverse ruling

November 03, 2019

The Kashag (Cabinet) of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) on November 1 expressed dissatisfaction with the October 14 decision of the Tibetan Supreme Justice Commission, which struck down the Kashag's decision holding Penpa Tsering guilty and removing him as the Representative at the Office of Tibet, Washington, DC, in November 2017. However it decided to honour the decision ordering it to apologize to the former Representative. The Kashag said in an announcement posted on its Tibetan-language *bod.asia* website that it would abide by the judgement due to the importance of maintaining the stability of the CTA and unity of the Tibetan people. It also appealed to everyone to take a firm responsibility to ensure abiding preservation of harmony within the community.

U.S. envoy to India visits Dharamsala

October 28, 2019

Ambassador Samuel D. Brownback, US Ambassador at large for International Religious Freedom visited Dharamsala at the invitation of Sikyong Lobsang Sangay on October 27, 2019. He was the chief guest for the First International Conference on Tibetan Performing Arts and the 60th-anniversary celebrations of Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts (TIPA). Brownback, a former US Senator and former State Governor, is accompanied by three staffers from the US State Department's Office of International Religious Freedom and two from the US Embassy in Delhi. They include Riley Miller Barnes, Razi Hashmi, Mariah Jane Mercer from the Office of International Religious Freedom and Michael Edward Rosenthal and Nicole Thiher from the US Embassy in Delhi. Speaking exclusively to the Tibet News Bureau, the US Ambassador said the purpose of his visit is to send a clear message that "the United States government supports the Tibetan people, the Dalai Lama and that the role of picking a successor to the Dalai Lama belongs

to the Tibetan Buddhist system, the Dalai Lama and other Tibetan Buddhist leaders. It does not belong to anybody else, not any government or any entity.” He clearly stated that, “The US government supports the Dalai Lama and supports for the succession of the Dalai Lama to be done by the Tibetan Buddhist leadership.” The Tibetan Policy and Support Act of 2019 introduced in Congress threatens sanctions against Chinese officials interfering with the selection of a new Dalai Lama, with proposed penalties including the freezing of assets and denial of entry to the United States. The new bill was introduced in the House on Sept. 13 by Rep. James McGovern (D-Mass.), chairman of the U.S. Congressional-Executive Commission on China, and will be introduced in the Senate by Commission co-chair Senator Marco Rubio (R-Fla.).

Reacting to Brownback’s statement, the spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Geng Shuang told the media on October 29, in Beijing that "China firmly opposes any contact with the Dalai Lama by any foreign official. The words and deeds of a certain US official violates US commitment to recognise Tibet as part of China, and not to support Tibetan independence. China firmly opposes such words and deeds." He added "We strongly urge the US to stop contact with the Dalai Lama group, stop uttering irresponsible remarks, stop using Tibet related affairs to interfere in China's internal affairs, and do more to contribute to mutual trust and cooperation between China and the US".

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