

September 9, 1959

Letters Exchanged between the Dalai Lama and Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold

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Summary:

The Dalai Lama writes to the Secretary-General on the situation in Tibet.

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20 SEP 1959

PO 240 TIBET

26 September 1959

Your Holiness,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 10 September 1959, transmitting a copy of a cablegram which you sent to me from New Delhi on 9 September 1959.

I enclose a copy of a circular letter to the Members of the United Nations by which their attention was drawn to your communication.

Respectfully yours,

Dag Hammarskjöld

His Holiness the Dalai Lama,
Birla House,
Mussoorie,
India.

UNITED NATIONS  NATIONS UNIES
NEW YORK

CABLE ADDRESS - UNATIONS NEWYORK - ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE

FILE NO.:

PO 240 TIBET

The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Permanent Representative of and has the honour to inform him that he has today received a message from His Holiness the Dalai Lama requesting "immediate intervention of the United Nations and consideration by the General Committee on its own initiative of the Tibetan issue."

Communications from sources other than Member Governments are, according to established practice, not distributed by the Secretariat unless it is requested by a Member Government or unless the communications refer to an item on the agenda of one of the main organs.

Reference may, however, in this context be made to the discussion in the 73rd meeting of the General Committee, 24 November 1950, during the fifth Session of the General Assembly, at which meeting, referring to a message of a similar nature and having in view the principles generally applied by the Secretariat for circulation of documents, the President of the General Assembly, stated that he would ask "that all documents of that type received by the Secretariat should be distributed".

9 September 1959

BR

ENCLOSURES



SEP 24 1959

ACTION

TO:	<i>Dr. B. Bhargava</i>
1
2
3
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Completed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Birla House,
<input type="checkbox"/>	No Action Required
<input type="checkbox"/>	Missouri.

His Excellency,
 Secretary General,
 United Nations.
 New York.

10th. September 1959.

PO 240 Tibet

Act + file

gms

Your Excellency,

I trust that Your Excellency has received the appeal on behalf of Tibet which I ~~am~~ have cablesto you. I am now enclosing herewith true copy of the cable for consideration and full action in the matter.

I remain,

With regards.

Yours Sincerely,

Dalai Lama.

CABLE.

HIS EXCELLENCY SECRETARY GENERAL
UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

Kindly refer to the proceedings of the General Committee of the United Nations General Assembly held on Friday the 24th. November 1950 at which it was resolved that the consideration of El Salvador's complaint against "invasion of Tibet by foreign forces" should be adjourned in order to give the parties the opportunity to arrive at a peaceful settlement. It is with the deepest regret that I am informing you that the fact of aggression by Chinese Forces has not terminated. On the contrary, the area of aggression has been substantially extended with the result that practically the whole of Tibet is under the occupation of the Chinese Forces. I and my Government have made several appeals for peaceful and friendly settlement, but so far these appeals have been completely ignored. In these circumstances and in view of the inhuman treatment and crimes against humanity and religion to which the people of Tibet are being subjected, I solicit immediate intervention of the United Nations and consideration by the General Committee on its own initiative of the Tibetan issue which had been adjourned. In this connection I and my Government wish to emphasise that Tibet was a sovereign state at the time when her territorial integrity was violated by the Chinese Armies in 1950. In support of this contention the Government of Tibet urge the following:-

First, no power or authority was exercised by the Government of China in or over Tibet since the Declaration of Independence by the 13th. Dalai Lama in 1912.

Second, the sovereign status of Tibet during this period finds conclusive evidence in the fact that the Government of Tibet concluded as many as five international agreements immediately before and during these years.

Third; the Government of Tibet take its stand on the Anglo-Tibetan Convention of 1914 which recognised the sovereign status of Tibet and accorded the same position to the Tibetan plenipotentiary as was given to the representatives of Great Britain and China. It is true that this Convention imposed certain restrictions on the external sovereignty of Tibet, but these did not deprive her of her international position. Moreover, these restrictions ceased to have any effect on the transfer of power in India.

Fourth, there is no valid and subsisting international agreement under which Tibet or any other power recognises Chinese Suzerainty.

Fifth, the sovereign status of Tibet is equally evident from the fact that during the Second World War Tibet insisted on maintaining her neutrality and only allowed the transport of non-military goods from India to China through Tibet. This position was accepted by the Governments of Great Britain and China.

Sixth, the sovereign status of Tibet has also been acknowledged by other powers. In 1948 when a Trade Delegation from the Government of Tibet visited India, France, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, the passports issued by the Tibetan Government were accepted by the Governments of these countries. Your Excellency, I and my Government also solicit immediate intervention of the United Nations on humanitarian

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grounds. Since their violation of the territorial integrity of Tibet the Chinese Forces have committed the following offences against the universally accepted laws of international conduct:

First, they have dispossessed thousands of Tibetans of their properties and deprived them of every source of livelihood and thus driven them to death and desperation.

Second, men, women and children have been forced into labour gangs and made to work on military construction without payment or on nominal payment.

Third, they have adopted cruel and inhuman measures for the purpose of sterilizing Tibetan men and women with a view to the total extermination of the Tibetan race.

Fourth, thousand of innocent people of Tibet have been brutally massacred.

Fifth, there have been many cases of murder of leading citizens of Tibet without any cause or justification.

Sixth, every attempt has been made to destroy our religion and culture. Thousands of monasteries have been razed to the ground and sacred images and articles of religion completely destroyed. Life and property are no longer safe and Lhasa, the capital of the State, is now a dead city. The sufferings which my people are undergoing are beyond description and it is imperatively necessary that this wanton and ruthless murder of my people should be immediately brought to an end. It is in these circumstances that I appeal to you and the United Nations in the confident hope that our appeal will receive the consideration which it deserves.

- DALAI LAMA.

Hydrabad House,
New Delhi. Dated 9-9-1959.