

DOCUMENTS AND SPEECHES

**On the Peaceful Liberation
Of Tibet**

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The Agreement of the Central People's Government and the Local Government of Tibet on Measures for the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet

The historic agreement bringing about the peaceful liberation of Tibet was signed in Peking on May 23, 1951 in the former Imperial Palace. The following is the full text:

The Tibetan nationality is one of the nationalities with a long history within the boundaries of China and, like many other nationalities, it has performed its glorious duty in the course of the creation and development of our great Motherland. But over the last 100 years or more, imperialist forces penetrated into China, and in consequence also penetrated into the Tibetan region and carried out all kinds of deceptions and provocations. Like previous reactionary governments, the Kuomintang reactionary government continued to carry out a policy of oppressing and sowing dissension among the nationalities, causing division and disunity among the Tibetan people. And the Local Government of Tibet did not oppose the imperialist deceptions and provocations, and adopted an unpatriotic attitude towards our great Motherland. Under such conditions, the Tibetan nationality and people were plunged into the depths of enslavement and suffering.

In 1949, basic victory was achieved on a nationwide scale in the Chinese People's War of Liberation; the common domestic enemy of all nationalities—the Kuomintang reactionary government—was overthrown; and the common foreign enemy of all the

nationalities—the aggressive imperialist forces—was driven out. On this basis, the founding of the People's Republic of China and of the Central People's Government was announced. In accordance with the *Common Programme* passed by the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the Central People's Government declared that all nationalities within the boundaries of the People's Republic of China are equal, and that they shall establish unity and mutual aid and oppose imperialism and their own public enemies, so that the People's Republic of China will become a big fraternal and co-operative family, composed of all its nationalities; that within the big family of all nationalities of the People's Republic of China, national regional autonomy shall be exercised in areas where national minorities are concentrated, and all national minorities shall have freedom to develop their spoken and written languages and to preserve or reform their customs, habits and religious beliefs, while the Central People's Government shall assist all national minorities to develop their political, economic, cultural and educational construction work. Since then, all nationalities within the country, with the exception



The delegates of the Central People's Government sign the Agreement. In the background (from right to left): Vice-Chairmen Li Chi-shen and Chu Teh and Vice-Premier Chen Yun with three members of the Tibetan Delegation.

of those in the areas of Tibet and Taiwan, have gained liberation. Under the unified leadership of the Central People's Government and the direct leadership of higher levels of People's Governments, all national minorities are fully enjoying the right of national equality and have established, or are establishing, national regional autonomy.

In order that the influences of aggressive imperialist forces in Tibet might be successfully eliminated, the unification of the territory and sovereignty of the People's Republic of China accomplished, and national defence safeguarded; in order that the Tibetan nationality and people might be freed and return to the big family of the People's Republic of China to enjoy the same rights of national equality as all the other nationalities in the country and develop their political, economic, cultural and educational work, the Central People's Government, when it ordered the People's Liberation Army to march into Tibet, notified the Local Government of Tibet to send delegates to the central authorities to conduct talks for the conclusion of an agreement on measures for the peaceful liberation of Tibet.

In the latter part of April 1951, the delegates with full powers of the Local Government of Tibet arrived in Peking. The Central People's Government appointed representatives with full powers to conduct talks on a friendly basis with the delegates with full powers of the Local Government of Tibet. As a result of these talks, both parties agreed to conclude this agreement and guarantee that it will be carried into effect.

1. The Tibetan people shall unite and drive out imperialist aggressive forces from Tibet; the Tibetan people shall return to the big family of the Motherland—the People's Republic of China.

2. The Local Government of Tibet shall actively assist the People's Liberation Army to enter Tibet and consolidate the national defence.

3. In accordance with the policy towards nationalities laid down in the *Common Programme of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference*,

the Tibetan people have the right of exercising national regional autonomy under the unified leadership of the Central People's Government.

4. The central authorities will not alter the existing political system in Tibet. The central authorities also will not alter the established status, functions and powers of the Dalai Lama. Officials of various ranks shall hold office as usual.

5. The established status, functions and powers of the Panchen Ngoerh-tehni shall be maintained.

6. By the established status, functions and powers of the Dalai Lama and of the Panchen Ngoerh-tehni are meant the status, functions and powers of the 13th Dalai Lama and of the 9th Panchen Ngoerh-tehni when they were in friendly and amicable relations with each other.

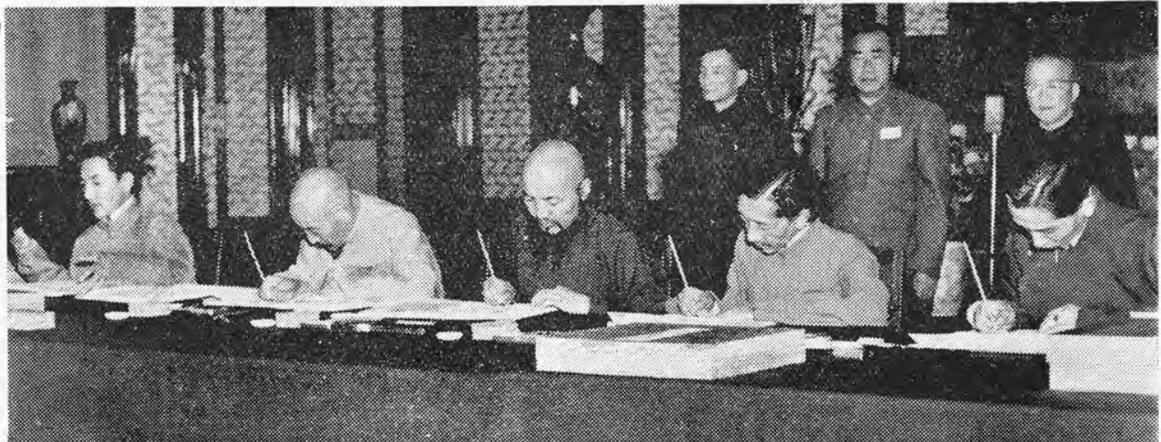
7. The policy of freedom of religious belief laid down in the *Common Programme of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference* shall be carried out. The religious beliefs, customs and habits of the Tibetan people shall be respected, and lama monasteries shall be protected. The central authorities will not effect a change in the income of the monasteries.

8. Tibetan troops shall be reorganised by stages into the People's Liberation Army, and become a part of the national defence forces of the People's Republic of China.

9. The spoken and written language and school education of the Tibetan nationality shall be developed step by step in accordance with the actual conditions in Tibet.

10. Tibetan agriculture, livestock raising, industry and commerce shall be developed step by step, and the people's livelihood shall be improved step by step in accordance with the actual conditions in Tibet.

11. In matters related to various reforms in Tibet, there will be no compulsion on the part of the central authorities. The Local Government of Tibet should carry out reforms of its own accord, and when the people raise demands for reform, they



The delegates of the Local Government of Tibet sign the Agreement. In the background (from right to left): Vice-Chairmen Li Chi-shen and Chu Teh and Vice-Premier Chen Yun.

shall be settled by means of consultation with the leading personnel of Tibet.

12. In so far as former pro-imperialist and pro-Kuomintang officials resolutely sever relations with imperialism and the Kuomintang and do not engage in sabotage or resistance, they may continue to hold office irrespective of their past.

13. The People's Liberation Army entering Tibet shall abide by all the above-mentioned policies and shall also be fair in all buying and selling and shall not arbitrarily take a single needle or thread from the people.

14. The Central People's Government shall conduct the centralised handling of all external affairs of the area of Tibet; and there will be peaceful co-existence with neighbouring countries and establishment and development of fair commercial and trading relations with them on the basis of equality, mutual benefit and mutual respect for territory and sovereignty.

15. In order to ensure the implementation of this agreement, the Central People's Government shall set up a military and administrative committee and a military area headquarters in Tibet, and apart from the personnel sent there by the Central People's Government shall absorb as many local Tibetan personnel as possible to take part in the work.

Local Tibetan personnel taking part in the military and administrative committee may include patriotic elements from the Local Government of Tibet, various districts and leading monasteries; the name-list shall be drawn up after consultation between the representatives designated by the Central

People's Government and the various quarters concerned, and shall be submitted to the Central People's Government for appointment.

16. Funds needed by the military and administrative committee, the military area headquarters and the People's Liberation Army entering Tibet shall be provided by the Central People's Government. The Local Government of Tibet will assist the People's Liberation Army in the purchase and transport of food, fodder and other daily necessities.

17. This agreement shall come into force immediately after signatures and seals are affixed to it.

Signed and sealed by:

Delegates with full powers of the Central People's Government:

Chief Delegate:

Li Wei-han

Delegates:

Chang Ching-wu

Chang Kuo-hua

Sun Chih-yuan

Delegates with full powers of the Local Government of Tibet:

Chief Delegate:

Kaloon Ngabou Ngawang Jigme

Delegates:

Dzasak Khemey Sonam Wangdi

Khenchung Thupten Tenthar

Khenchung Thupten Lekmuun

Rimshi Samposey Tenzin Thundup

Peking, May 23, 1951.

Chairman Mao Tse-tung Speaks on the Agreement



Chairman Mao speaks at the reception. Standing beside him are Panchen Ngoerhthelni (right) and the Chief Tibetan Delegate (left).

Chairman Mao Tse-tung of the Central People's Government held a reception on the evening of May 24 to celebrate the signing of the Agreement on Measures for the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet. The guests of honour were Panchen Ngoerhthelni and his leading officials as well as the members of the Delegation of the Local Tibetan Government, headed by Káloon Ngabou Ngawang Jigme. Present also at the reception were Vice-Chairmen Chu Teh, Liu Shao-chi and Li Chi-shen of the Central People's Government and other leading officials and leaders of democratic parties and people's organisations.

At the reception, Chairman Mao said:

For several hundred years the various nationalities in China were not united. In particular, there was disunity between the Han people and the Tibetan people. There was also disunity among the Tibetan people. This was the result of the rule of the reactionary Manchu Government and the Chiang Kai-shek government as well as the result of imperialist provocation and sowing of dissension.

Now the forces led by the Dalai Lama and the forces led by Panchen Ngoerhthelni have united together with the Central People's Government. This has been achieved only after the Chinese people overthrew imperialism and the domestic reactionary rule. This unity is a fraternal unity, and not that of one party oppressing another. This unity is the outcome of concerted efforts by all quarters. Henceforth, based on this unity, all our nationalities will grow and progress in all spheres, in every political, economic and cultural sphere.

Speech by Panchen Ngoerhthelni

Following Chairman Mao Tse-tung's speech, Panchen Ngoerhthelni stated:

A problem concerning different nationalities within China, the Tibetan problem, which had not been settled for many years has now been successfully settled under the leadership of Chairman Mao Tse-tung, the brilliant leader of the people of all the nationalities in China. The peaceful liberation

of Tibet is a most joyous event in the big family of all nationalities in China. The unity of the Central People's Government, the Dalai Lama and the Panchen Lama could only be achieved under the leadership of the Communist Party of China and the People's Government.

Speech by the Chief Delegate of the Local Government of Tibet

Káloon Ngabou Ngawang Jigme, Chief Delegate of the Local Tibetan Government, then stated:

Foreign imperialists and the Kuomintang spread rumours in Tibet, saying that the Communist Party and the People's Government are not good, thus giving rise to apprehension among the Tibetan people. But during the talks, we have personally realised that the rumours of the imperialists and the Kuomintang are absolutely contrary to the facts. Today, our peaceful talks have been completely successful. The unity of all fraternal nationalities in China is unprecedented and the unity of Tibet itself is also unprecedented. This is due to the leadership of Chairman Mao Tse-tung.

We warmly support the leadership of Chairman Mao Tse-tung, toast to the good health of Chairman Mao Tse-tung, the great leader of the people of all nationalities in China, and toast to the unity and health of the Dalai Lama and Panchen Buddha.

Speech by Vice-Chairman Chu Teh

Chu Teh, Vice-Chairman of the Central People's Government, made the following statement on May 23, on the conclusion of the Agreement concerning the peaceful liberation of Tibet:

The Agreement between the Central People's Government and the Local Government of Tibet on the measures for the peaceful liberation of Tibet has been signed today.

This Agreement conforms with the interests of the Tibetan nationality and people, hence it also conforms with the interests of the peoples of all nationalities in China. We should warmly congratulate the people throughout the country as well as the Tibetan people.

The Tibetan nationality is one of the nationalities within the Chinese boundaries with a long history. It has performed its glorious duty in the work of creating and developing our great Motherland. But during the recent century, imperialist forces penetrated into China and also into Tibet, carrying out provocations and sowing discord.

At the same time, the reactionary regimes of China, from the Manchu Government to the Kuomintang government, submitted to the aggressive imperialist forces on the one hand, and carried out a policy of oppression and sowing dissension among the Tibetan nationality on the other. Moreover, the Local Government of Tibet did not oppose imperialist aggression and provocation but, instead, was misled and affected by them. So the Tibetan nationality and people fell into the depths of enslavement and suffering.

But, the Tibetan people love their Motherland and oppose imperialist aggression. When the nationwide victory of the Chinese People's Liberation War was in the main attained, the Kuomintang government overthrown, and the aggressive imperialist forces driven from the mainland of China, the relationships between the nationalities within the Chinese borders underwent a fundamental change. On the very day of the founding of the People's Republic of China, the Central People's Government announced the permanent abolition of the policy of national oppression, replaced it with the policy of national equality, friendship, unity and mutual assistance among the various nationalities in the country, and put this policy into effect.

As a result, most of the nationalities in the country including the Tibetans in Chinghai, Szechuan and Sikang areas secured emancipation and freedom, and have achieved or are achieving national regional autonomy. The Tibetan area has also been deeply affected. First, Panchen Ngoerhtehni declared his support for the Central People's Government one year ago. Then the People's Liberation Army entered the areas around Changtu where they were welcomed and supported by the broad masses of the Tibetan people. In these circumstances, the Dalai Lama assumed temporal power and began to correct the former erroneous policy of the Local Government of Tibet. Accepting the notification of the Central

People's Government, he sent a delegation with full powers headed by Kaloon Ngabou Ngawang Jigme to the Central People's Government to conduct negotiations on measures for the peaceful liberation of Tibet. After one month of friendly contact and negotiations, the delegates with full powers of the Central People's Government and the delegates with full powers of the Local Government of Tibet have reached an agreement on the measures for the peaceful liberation of Tibet.



Vice-Chairman Chu Teh

This is a victory of the great unity of the Chinese nation, while at the same time it is a severe defeat for the aggressive imperialist influences which attempt to obstruct and undermine the peaceful liberation of Tibet. The aggressive imperialist forces will not, however, take their defeat lying down. They may continue to engage in new obstructive and disruptive activities. The people of the country, especially the Tibetan people, should pay close attention to these and in particular, the Local Government of Tibet should be very vigilant against these. But no matter what kinds of plots and intrigues imperialism may hatch, they are doomed to thorough defeat before the mighty force of the Chinese people, which includes the Tibetan people.

The Central People's Government will certainly help the Tibetan people in wiping out the influence of imperialism in Tibet; it will achieve the unification of the territory and sovereignty of the People's Republic of China, and defend the national frontiers of our great Motherland, so that the Tibetan nationality and people will achieve liberation, return forever to the family of our great Motherland and, helped by the Central People's Government and the Han nationality, develop its own political, economic, cultural and educational work and improve and raise its standards of living step by step.

It is hoped that the Local Government of Tibet will carry out the Agreement on the measures for the peaceful liberation of Tibet in earnest, and do all it can to help the People's Liberation Army march into Tibet. It is hoped that the Dalai Lama and Panchen Ngoerhtehni will unite closely and, under the leadership of the Central People's Government, strive for the peaceful liberation of Tibet.

Speech by Li Wei-han

Li Wei-han, chief delegate of the Central People's Government in the talks for the peaceful liberation of Tibet, made the following speech, on May 23, on the conclusion of the Agreement:

The Agreement between the Central People's Government and the Local Government of Tibet on measures for the peaceful liberation of Tibet has been signed.

Under the leadership of the Central People's Government and Chairman Mao Tse-tung, we, the delegates with full powers of the Central People's Government, have been greatly honoured to take part in this historically significant work. As a worker in affairs concerning the nationalities, I personally feel especially elated at having seen the success of this work.

According to the Agreement just signed, the Tibetan people will soon achieve peaceful liberation, thus getting rid of enslavement by aggressive imperialist forces once and for all. They will return permanently to the great family of the Motherland of the People's Republic of China, and fully enjoy the rights of national equality and regional autonomy like the other liberated nationalities in the country. The Tibetan people will soon enter the bright light from the long period of darkness, their population will gradually increase, the people's economy will develop, the people's livelihood will be improved and the people's culture will be raised step by step. We are sure that the Agreement on the measures for the peaceful liberation of Tibet offers bright and happy prospects to the Tibetan people.

In all the articles of the Agreement and in the course of talks, the demands of the Central People's Government to the Local Government of Tibet are mainly: that the Local Government of Tibet resolutely break away from imperialist influences and actively help the People's Liberation Army march into Tibet; that all external affairs be restored to the Central People's Government for centralised handling; and that the existing Tibetan troops be reorganised step by step into the People's Liberation Army. This actually is only demanding that the Local Government of Tibet return to the great family of the Central People's Government from the shackles of imperialism, and this is precisely the established policy of the Central People's Government which must be carried out thoroughly.

Aside from this, most of the articles in the Agreement are about the handling of the internal relationships and internal affairs of Tibet. On these questions, the delegates with full powers of the Central People's Government positively put forward

a series of proposals in accordance with the policy towards nationalities of the Central People's Government and with the actual conditions in the Tibetan region. At the same time they have listened to and adopted as many as possible of the con-

structive opinions of the delegates with full powers of the Tibetan Local Government. Therefore, the practical needs of both the Tibetan people and the Tibetan Local Government have been taken into consideration.

Take an important example: the measures for conciliation between the Dalai Lama and Panchen Ngoerhtehni. There are three articles dealing with it in the Agreement. This is because it is a matter of common concern of the Tibetan people, both the clergy and the laity. The agreement reached on this question after repeated consultations is fair and reasonable from the point of view of history and politics, and from the point of view of religious relations, it has its precedents in history. Therefore, it conforms with the needs of unity within Tibet.

All the representatives with full powers of the Central People's Government express thanks to the delegates headed by Kaloon Ngabou Ngawang Jigme with full powers of the Local Government of Tibet for their efforts which enabled the representatives of both parties to reach agreement smoothly on all questions on a friendly basis. Besides, we wish to express thanks to the Dalai Lama and Panchen Ngoerhtehni, because on the day when the Dalai Lama assumed power, he began to change the former erroneous policy of the Local Government of Tibet and sent his delegates to negotiate with the Central People's Government and invested them with full powers, while Panchen Ngoerhtehni also rendered us kind assistance through his representatives.

Finally, all the delegates with full powers of the Central People's Government unanimously pay their highest respects to Chairman Mao Tse-tung, the great leader of the people of all nationalities of the People's Republic of China. Under his great inspiration, the Tibetan people have obtained peaceful liberation and a bright and happy future.



Chief Delegate Li Wei-han

Speech by the Chief Tibetan Delegate

Kaloon Ngabou Ngawang Jigme, leader of the Tibetan delegation, made the following statement, on May 23, on the conclusion of the Agreement:



Chief Tibetan Delegate

For the past hundred years and more, the deceptions and provocations of our greatest enemy, the imperialists, and the dissension sown by the Manchu Government and the Kuomintang reactionary government within our nation have caused us long years of poverty and backwardness. In particular during the past few years, the imperialists and the Kuomintang agents have spread many slanderous rumours

against the Communist Party and provocative reactionary propaganda which gave rise to doubts and fears in our minds regarding the Central People's Government.

On this occasion, in response to Chairman Mao Tse-tung's call for the peaceful liberation of Tibet, we have come to Peking, on behalf of the Local Government of Tibet, to take part in the glorious and historic negotiations concerning measures for the peaceful liberation of Tibet.

On our way to Peking, we were warmly welcomed and well cared for by the local government leaders in Changtu, Kantsu, Kangting, Chungking, Sian, Canton and Wuhan. We have seen for ourselves the facts and the first results of the Central People's Government's policy of national unity and regional autonomy. These clearly tell us that the Central People's Government of today is fundamentally different from the reactionary governments of the past. Therefore we whole-heartedly and enthusiastically support the Central People's Government's policy on national unity and its correct principle of the peaceful liberation of Tibet.

We, the delegates of the Local Government of Tibet, whole-heartedly express our gratitude to the

leaders of the Central People's Government for their concern and guidance during the period of the month and more of our stay in Peking, especially to the delegates of the Central People's Government, headed by Li Wei-han, Chairman of the Commission of Nationalities Affairs. Their sincere and patient explanations have helped us to become more fully aware that the imperialist aggressors are the greatest enemy of our Motherland, especially of us Tibetans; and that the disunity created by the imperialists and the reactionary governments of the past must be eliminated from among the Tibetan people.

Under the great inspiration of Chairman Mao Tse-tung's national policy, the disharmony that has existed for a long time among the Tibetan people since the late 13th Dalai and 9th Panchen has been fairly settled.

Today we fully recognise that only with the leadership of the Central People's Government and Chairman Mao Tse-tung and the unity and co-operation of all fraternal nationalities throughout the country can we drive out our common enemy, the aggressive imperialist forces, consolidate national defence in the Southwest, and build up the big, prosperous and happy family of our Motherland.

Now we have gloriously signed the Agreement concerning the measures for the peaceful liberation of Tibet. From now on the Tibetan people have thrown off the shackles of imperialist bondage forever and return to the big family of equality, friendship, mutual help and unity of our Motherland.

On our return, we will resolutely carry out this Agreement which is signed by us, the delegates with full powers, in person. At the same time, we will build up the Tibet of our Motherland under the leadership of the Central People's Government.

Finally, let us hail:

Long live our Motherland!

Long live Chairman Mao Tse-tung, our great leader of all the nationalities!



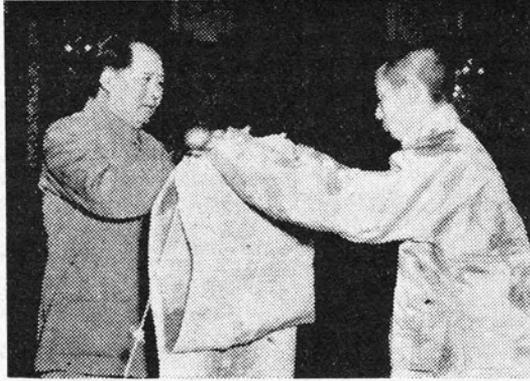
Statement by Panchen Ngoerhtehni and His Officials

Panchen Ngoerhtehni and staff of the Panchen Kambu Lija issued a statement in support of the Agreement on the measures for the peaceful liberation of Tibet. It reads:

A satisfactory agreement has been reached by the Central People's Government with the Local Government of Tibet on the question of the peaceful liberation of Tibet. From now on, the Tibetan nationality has cast off the imperialist shackles and returned to the big family of our great Motherland. All the people of the various nationalities of China are rejoiced and exhilarated by this significant event. We are members of the Tibetan nationality and so our joy is all the more beyond description.

During the past hundred years, imperialism, in order to achieve its purpose of aggression against Tibet, has venomously created dissension between Tibet and the Motherland. At the same time, it has also created dissension and disunity within Tibet. In the past, the reactionary Manchu Government and the KMT government carried out various kinds of deception and provocation against the Tibetan nationality. For these reasons, the Tibetan nationality suffered great distress. In the past, we failed to recognise the reactionary character of the KMT regime, and hoped that it would resist imperialist aggression and safeguard the interests of the Tibetan nationality. The result was complete disappointment. Facts have proved that this solemn historical task could be successfully achieved only under the leadership of the Communist Party of China and Chairman Mao Tse-tung. Now, the Agreement which was concluded by the Central People's Government with the Local Government of Tibet has pronounced the failure of imperialism in its aggression against Tibet and proclaimed the unity between the Tibetan nationality and the various other nationalities of China and within the Tibetan nationality. From now on, the Tibetan nationality enters upon its new historical era.

This Agreement is permeated with the spirit of the national policy laid down in the *Common Programme* and fully takes account of the interests of the Tibetan nationality. In the first place, the Agreement stipulates that the liberated Tibetan nationality has the right to exercise national regional autonomy. In the past year we have seen the brilliant achievements of the national policy in all its aspects. We deeply realise, particularly from the achievements in construction in the Autonomous Region of Inner Mongolia, that the policy of national regional autonomy is most appropriate and correct for helping



Panchen Ngoerhtehni presents a silk banner to Chairman Mao.

the development of all minority nationalities in China. Henceforth, the Tibetan people, like the people of other fraternal nationalities, will enjoy all the rights provided in the national policy. Our religious beliefs, customs and habits will be duly respected. In accordance with the principle of national regional autonomy we shall, in particular, have the leadership of the Central People's Government and the assistance of the Han people; and in our national way we shall carry out all necessary reforms, according to our own initiative and desires, and, step by step, will develop the political, economic, cultural and educational work of our nationality. The entry of the Chinese People's Liberation Army into Tibet further and forever safeguards our Tibetan people from imperialist invasion and oppression.

The Agreement of the Central People's Government and the Local Government of Tibet on measures for the peaceful liberation of Tibet fully conforms to the interests of the people of all nationalities in China, and especially the people of the Tibetan nationality. For the conclusion of this Agreement we must, in the first place, be deeply grateful to Chairman Mao Tse-tung, our great people's leader, for his brilliant leadership and for his paternal concern for our Tibetan nationality. We are also grateful to the Chinese People's Liberation Army and the people of all nationalities within China. It is due to their unswerving efforts and their victory over the imperialist and Kuomintang reactionary rule that the peaceful liberation of Tibet has been made possible. At the same time, on the very day of his assumption of temporal power, the 14th Dalai Lama responded to the call of the Central People's Government for the peaceful liberation of Tibet and sent delegates to Peking to carry on talks and sign the Agreement. This has also evoked our deep respect.

For the complete liberation and growth of the Tibetan nationality and for the consolidation and development of the Chinese people's victory, we are determined to support the leadership of Chairman Mao Tse-tung and the leadership of the Central People's Government and the Communist Party of China hereafter, and we shall strive for the correct carrying out of the whole Agreement and for the unity of the Tibetan nationality with all other nationalities in China and for unity within the Tibetan nationality.

The Course of Negotiations

The historic Agreement bringing about the peaceful liberation of Tibet was signed in Peking on May 23 in the former Imperial Palace in an atmosphere expressive both of the solemnity of the occasion and the friendly unity marking the talks which led to it.

Delegates with full powers representing the Central People's Government and the Local Government of Tibet placed their signatures to the document in the presence of Chu Teh and Li Chi-shen, Vice-Chairmen of the Central People's Government, Vice-Premier Chen Yun of the Government Administrative Council (representing Premier Chou En-lai), and other leading personalities, including representatives of the various democratic parties and of Panchen Ngoerhtehni.

Also present at the ceremony were Vice-Premiers Tung Pi-wu, Kuo Mo-jo and Huang Yen-pei, Vice-Chairman Chen Shu-tung of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Acting General Chief-of-Staff Nieh Jung-chen of the People's Revolutionary Military Council and the Mayor of Peking, Peng Chen.

Delegates with full powers representing the Central People's Government, Li Wei-han, Chang Ching-wu, Chang Kuo-hua and Sun Chih-yuan first affixed their signatures and seals to the Agreement. They were followed by the delegates with full powers representing the Local Government of Tibet: Kaloon Ngabou Ngawang Jigme, Dzasak Khemey Sonam Wangdi, Khenchung Thupten Tenthar, Khenchung Thupten Lekmuun and Rimshi Samposey Tenzin Thundup.

Speeches by Vice-Chairman Chu Teh and the heads of the delegations followed the signing.

This Agreement is the culmination of the events of many months. When the Central People's Government ordered the People's Liberation Army to march into Tibet, it notified the Local Government of Tibet to send its delegates to negotiate with the central authorities for the peaceful liberation of Tibet. Responding to the Central People's Government's principle of the peaceful liberation of Tibet and its policy of national equality, the Local Government of Tibet sent to Peking its delegates with full powers. They came to Peking in two groups; one arrived here on April 22 from Changtu by way of Sian, while the other arrived on April 26 via India and Hongkong.

Talks started in a friendly atmosphere on April 29 and concluded on May 21. At the outset of the talks, the delegates of the Central People's Government set forth a series of proposals in accordance with the government's policy towards nationalities and in the light of the actual situation in Tibet. At the same time, they gave careful consideration to the constructive views of the delegates of the Local Government of Tibet and adopted as much of them as possible. The talks progressed smoothly. After a number of consultations, the two parties reached the Agreement now signed concerning the measures for the peaceful liberation of Tibet.

With the signing of the Agreement, the Tibetan people have freed themselves forever from the shackles of imperialism and returned to the big family of friendly co-operation of the various nationalities of the People's Republic of China.

The publication of the Agreement was enthusiastically welcomed throughout the country and was celebrated by numerous popular demonstrations and meetings.

Tibet: Information in Brief

Tibet is situated in the most southwestern part of China. It has an area of 900,000 square kilometres, about the combined territory of Germany and France. It is the highest land in the world, averaging about 5,000 metres above sea level. It is bounded on the west by Kashmir and Ladakh, and on the south by India, Nepal and Bhutan.

Of its population of about 3,750,000, most are nomads.

There is little industry, but Tibet has abundant mineral resources such as gold, silver, iron, copper, soda, potash and borax.

In addition to cattle raising and agriculture, some woolspinning, weaving and knitting is fairly widely distributed in Tibet.

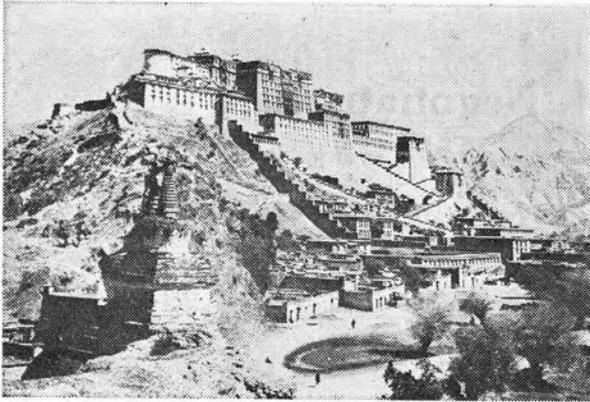
Lamaism, a form of Buddhism, includes the belief in reincarnation. There are more than 3,000

monasteries and the number of lamas is estimated at 300,000.

Lhasa is the political, religious, cultural and commercial centre of Tibet, and here is the Potala, the 13-storey palace in which the Dalai Lama lives. Panchen Ngoerhtehni used to live in the Tashi-Lhunto Monastery near Shigatse. Both the Dalai Lama and Panchen Ngoerhtehni are the most respected political and religious leaders in Tibet.

China's close relations with Tibet date back to the 8th century. Since 1794, Tibet has been a constituent part of China.

But the imperialist countries long harboured sinister designs upon this southwesternmost part of China. After occupying India, Britain took the further step of trying to snatch Tibet from China by invading Tibet in 1887 and 1904.



The Potala at Lhasa, political, economic and cultural centre in Tibet

The people of Tibet rose to fight bravely against each foreign invasion. But foreign imperialists never abandoned their design to collaborate with reactionaries in Tibet to exploit and oppress the Tibetan people.

After the historic victory of the people of China, the American and British imperialists continued to send spies and arms into Tibet to try to prevent it from returning to the Motherland.

The march of the People's Liberation Army to liberate Tibet from imperialism began on October 7, 1950. Changtu, an important city some 600 kilo-

metres northeast of Lhasa, was liberated on October 19, 1950.

The news of the People's Liberation Army's march into Tibet was enthusiastically supported by all sections of the population. In particular Tibetans in all parts of China jubilantly celebrated the news and demanded the return of all Tibet to the Motherland.

The Chinese People's Government's policy was reiterated by the Southwest Military and Administrative Committee and the People's Liberation Army Southwest Military Command in a joint proclamation in November, 1950.

Among the points listed were the safeguarding of freedom of religious belief; protection of Lama monasteries; ridding Tibet of imperialist influence and the establishment of local self-government for the Tibetan people; assistance in improving living conditions and respect for the existing customs in Tibet.

Responding to the call of the Central People's Government, the Tibetan delegation headed by Kaloon Ngabou Ngawang Jigme, representing the Tibetan Local Government, arrived in Peking on April 22 to conduct talks for the peaceful liberation of Tibet.

Panchen Ngoerhtehni also arrived at the capital on April 27, to pay his respects to Chairman Mao Tse-tung, leader of the peoples of all nationalities in China.

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