

**Australian Senate
Canberra
September 18 1996**

The Australian Senate passed two resolutions on 18 September 1996 coinciding with the visit by HH the Dalai Lama to the Parliament in Canberra.

Dalai Lama

Senator Chery Krnot moved:

That the Senate

- (a) welcomes the Dalai Lama to Canberra and to Parliament House, and
- (b) wishes the Dalai Lama constructive outcomes in his meetings with members of Parliament and all representatives with whom he holds discussions.

Tibet

Senator Vicki Bourne moved:

That the Senate

- (a) recalls its resolution on Tibet passed on 6 December 1990; and notes:
 - I. the ongoing human rights abuses of the Tibetan people by the People's Republic of China on religious, political, educational, language and cultural grounds and calls for the cessation of any practice which would deprive the Tibetan people of their fundamental rights and freedoms,
 - II. the Dalai Lama's affirmation of a commitment to non-violence and negotiation to solve conflict, as exemplified in His Holiness' receipt of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989,
 - III. the the People's Republic of China's appointment of a rival Panchen Lama (second most holy position in the Tibetan religious order), in the place of the Tibetan proclaimed reincarnation of the Panchen Lama, Gedun Choekyi Nyima, is contrary to freedom of religious practice, as enshrined within the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other human rights instruments,
 - IV. the concerns of Amnesty International for the safety, welfare and location of the Gedun Choekyi Nyima and his family,
 - V. the Dalai Lama's proposal at Strasbourg in 1989 to undertake dialogue with China, and the People's Republic of China's refusal to meet with the Dalai Lama, and
 - VI. reports by Amnesty International that there are 650 Tibetan prisoners of conscience, some of whom are as young as 12, and that the torture and severe beating of detainees are common.