

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Brussels, Belgium
June 27, 1996

Submitted by Mr. Jacques Lefevre and the team

THE HOUSE,

- in view of the resolution relating to the protection of the Tibetan people adopted on March 29, 1994 by the House of representatives of Belgium (Doc. Chamber no 1132/7-92/93);
- in view of the resolution of the Second World Parliamentary Conference on Tibet held in Vilnius, Lithuania, from 26 to 28 May 1995;
- in view of the resolution no B4-1007/95 voted by the European Parliament on July 13th 1995;
- in view of the resolutions 1353 (XIV) of 1959, 1723 (XVI) of 1961 and 2079 (XX) of 1965 passed by the General Assembly of the United Nation;

1. History of Tibet

- Considering that throughout its history, Tibet has maintained a national, cultural and religious identity distinct from China until its downfall following the Chinese invasion;
- Considering that historical Tibet is composed of three regions: U-Tsang, Amdo and Kham;
- Considering that before the Chinese invasion in 1949, Tibet was recognized de facto independent by several States, and that according to the principles established by international law and the resolutions of the UN, Tibet is an occupied territory;

2. Nature of the Tibetan problem

- Considering that the issue of Tibet is essentially political: subjugation of Tibet by the People's Republic of China and the resistance of the Tibetan people against this domination;
- Considering that the specific nature of violations of human rights in Tibet characterizes Tibetans as a people affirming its own identity and its desire to preserve it, and consequently that the violations of human rights in Tibet have mainly been the result of institutionalized racial and cultural discrimination;

3. Peaceful struggle of the Tibetan people and the Dalai Lama

- Knowing that the wish of the Tibetan people is to regain their basic rights, and to preserve and develop their culture;
- Recognizing the proposals of negotiations made by the Dalai Lama during the last 15 years to the Chinese government in order to obtain a peaceful solution to the Tibetan issue;

- Considering that in his efforts to find a negotiated solution to the Tibetan issue, the Dalai Lama has asked for the full independence of Tibet, and that in response to these conciliatory proposals, China has not ceased to transfer Chinese settlers into Tibet to such a point that Tibetans today are reduced to the status of a minority in their own country;
- Considering that the Dalai Lama has always been willing to negotiate with China and that such proposals as his Five-Point Peace Plan (1987), or the proposal he made before the European Parliament (1988), which were internationally welcomed, can form the rational basis for negotiations without pre-conditions.

4. Population transfer

- Condemns as a grave violation of international law the transfer of Chinese Han population which is officially encouraged and achieved through diverse means, notably by substituting Tibetan employees in various services of the Administration with Chinese agents, and also, by virtue of a recent decision which has made it mandatory for military personnel to settle permanently in Tibet after completing their service without which they would lose their rights to claim pension.

5. Educational Discrimination

- Condemns the discrimination made by the Chinese authorities in the field of education, by depriving the Tibetan children of appropriated educational facilities; or by forbidding the Tibetans from studying their own language and culture, and also by recalling under Tibetan children who are studying outside Tibet.

6. Birth control policy

- considering the fact that the Tibetan people living in Tibet (U-Tsang, Kham and Amdo) today numbers approximately 6,000,000, and that the total land mass equals 2.5 million square kilometer (or 0.42 inhabitants per square-kilometer);
- The Chinese policy of birth control is therefore not justified, given the low density of Tibetan population in Tibet, and we can only affirm that this method is used by the People's Republic of China to reduce the number of Tibetans living in Tibet;

7. The Tibetan problem is comparable to ethnic cleansing

- Condemns the other grave and systematic violations of human rights in Tibet, notably arbitrary detention and arrest; torture for political reasons; violations of the rights of women, notably by forced sterilizations and abortions; violations of freedom of religion; all being offences which, combined with the destruction of the rich Tibetan culture and population transfer, threaten the very survival of the Tibetan people, and are, therefore, comparable to ethnic cleansing.

8. Environmental problems

- Concerned about the destruction of the natural environment of the Tibetan plateau, notably by indiscriminate deforestation and dumping of toxic and radioactive waster, which have serious consequences not only in Tibet, but also in the region and the world.

9. Right to Self-determination

- Reaffirms the inalienable right of the Tibetan people to self-determination

10. Right to Interference

- Taking note that the violations of human rights, particularly the right to self-determination, and also all other violations of international law are, by definition, of legitimate concern to all members of the international community, and cannot just be attributed to internal affairs of any one State.

1. Requests the Belgian government

- to ask the People's Republic of China to put an end to such policies and practices which violate the human rights and basic freedoms of Tibetans;
 - to support through diplomatic channels the approach by the Dalai Lama and the representatives of the Tibetan Government-in-Exile for negotiations with the Chinese authorities in order to obtain the right of self-determination and the constitution of a democratic peace zone in Tibet;
 - to urge the People's Republic of China to stop its birth-control policy, the forced sterilization and abortion of Tibetan women;
 - to demand the People's Republic of China stop its policy of population transfer to Tibet in violation of Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention (1949); immediately release all Tibetan prisoners of conscience detained in Chinese prisons and concentration camp in Tibet;
 - to formally insist on the respect of the Conventions signed by the People's Republic of China, a member of the Security Council of the UN, namely: the UN Convention Against Torture (1984), the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Racial Discrimination (1966) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), and to implement the resolutions adopted by the European Parliament, the Council of Europe and the Belgian House of Representatives (29 March 1994).
2. Invites the Belgian government to propose at the European Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to take a stand on the issue and to inform of this to the authorities of the People's Republic of China;
 3. Requests Belgium to do its utmost to obtain the implementation of resolutions 1353 (XIV), 1732(XVI) and 2079(XX) of the UN and also to obtain, without delay, observer status for the Tibetan Government at this international institution.

(Translated by the Office of Tibet, Paris)