

SCON 103 RFH
105th CONGRESS
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S. CON. RES. 103
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

September 18, 1998
Referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress in support of the recommendations of the International Commission of Jurists on Tibet and on United States policy with regard to Tibet.

Whereas the International Commission of Jurists is a non-governmental organization founded in 1952 to defend the Rule of Law throughout the world and to work towards the full observance of the provisions in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

Whereas in 1959, 1960, and 1964, the International Commission of Jurists examined Chinese policy in Tibet, violations of human rights in Tibet, and the position of Tibet in international law;

Whereas in 1960, the International Commission of Jurists found 'that acts of genocide has been committed in Tibet in an attempt to destroy the Tibetans as a religious group, * * *' and concluded that Tibet was at least 'a de facto independent State' prior to 1951 and that Tibet was a 'legitimate concern of the United Nations even on the restrictive interpretation of matters 'essentially within the domestic jurisdiction' of a State.';

Whereas these findings were presented to the United Nations General Assembly, which adopted three resolutions (1959, 1961, and 1965) calling on the People's Republic of China to ensure respect for the fundamental human rights of the Tibetan people and for their distinctive cultural and religious life, and to cease practices which deprive the Tibetan people of their fundamental human rights and freedoms including their right to self-determination;

Whereas in December 1997, the International Commission of Jurists issued a fourth report on Tibet, examining human rights and the rule of law, including self-determination;

Whereas the President has repeatedly indicated his support for substantive dialogue between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Dalai Lama or his representatives; and

Whereas on October 31, 1997, the Secretary of State appointed a Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues to oversee United States policy regarding Tibet: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representative concurring), That Congress--

(1) expresses grave concern regarding the findings of the December 1997 International Commission of Jurists report on Tibet that--

(A) repression in Tibet has increased steadily since 1994, resulting in heightened control on religious activity; a denunciation campaign against the Dalai Lama unprecedented since the Cultural Revolution; an increase in political arrests; suppression of peaceful protests; and an accelerated movement of Chinese to Tibet; and

(B) in 1997, the People's Republic of China labeled the Tibetan Buddhist culture, which has flourished in Tibet since the seventh century, as a 'foreign culture' in order to facilitate indoctrination of Tibetans in Chinese socialist ideology and the process of national and cultural extermination;

(2) supports the recommendations contained in the report referred to in paragraph (1) that--

(A) call on the People's Republic of China--

(i) to enter into discussions with the Dalai Lama or his representatives on a solution to the question of Tibet;

(ii) to ensure respect for the fundamental human rights of the Tibetan people; and

(iii) to end those practices which threaten to erode the distinct cultural, religious and national identity of the

Tibetan people and, in particular, to cease policies which result in the movement of Chinese people to Tibetan

territory;

(B) call on the United Nations General Assembly to resume its debate on the question of Tibet based on its resolutions of 1959, 1961, and 1965; and

(C) call on the Dalai Lama or his representatives to enter into discussions with the Government of the People's

Republic of China on a solution to the question of Tibet;

(3) commends the appointment by the Secretary of State of a United States Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues--

(A) to promote substantive dialogue between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Dalai Lama or his representatives;

(B) to coordinate United States Government policies, programs, and projects concerning Tibet;

(C) to consult with the Congress on policies relevant to Tibet and the future and welfare of all Tibetan people, and to report to

Congress in partial fulfillment of the requirements of section 536(a) of the Public Law 103-236; and

(D) to advance United States policy which seeks to protect the unique religious, cultural, and linguistic heritage of Tibet, and to encourage improved respect for Tibetan human

rights;

(4) calls on the People's Republic of China to release from detention the 9-year old Panchen Lama, Gedhun Cheokyi Nyima, to his home in Tibet from which he was taken on May 17, 1995, and to allow him to pursue his religious studies without interference and according to tradition;

(5) commends the President for publicly urging President Jiang Zemin, during their recent summit meeting in Beijing, to engage in dialogue with the Dalai Lama; and

(6) calls on the President to continue to work to secure an agreement to begin substantive negotiations between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Dalai Lama or his representatives.

Passed the Senate September 17, 1998.