

105TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 283

Expressing the sense of the Congress concerning the December 1997 report on Tibet of the International Commission of Jurists and on United States policy on Tibet.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 22, 1998

Mr. BERMAN (for himself, Mr. PORTER, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. WOLF, Mr. COX of California, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts, and Ms. PELOSI) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress concerning the December 1997 report on Tibet of the International Commission of Jurists and on United States policy on 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 toward the full observance of the provisions of 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 these findings were presented to the United Nations General Assembly, which adopted three resolutions (in 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 of the United States 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

1        *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2 *concurring), That the Congress—*

3            (1) expresses grave concern regarding the find-  
4        ings of the report of the International Commission  
5        of Jurists on Tibet issued in December 1997, that—

6            (A) repression in Tibet has increased  
7        steadily since 1994, resulting in heightened con-  
8        trol on religious activity, a denunciation cam-  
9        paign against the Dalai Lama unprecedented

1 since the Cultural Revolution, an increase in  
 2 political arrests, suppression of peaceful pro-  
 3 tests, and an accelerated movement of Chinese  
 4 people to Tibet; and

5 (B) in 1997, a senior office of the People's  
 6 Republic of China labeled the Tibetan Buddhist  
 7 culture, which has flourished in Tibet since the  
 8 seventh century, as a "foreign culture" in order  
 9 to facilitate indoctrination of Tibetans in Chi-  
 10 nese socialist ideology and the process of na-  
 11 tional and cultural integration;

12 (2) supports the recommendations contained in  
 13 the report referred to in paragraph (1) that—

14 (A) call on the People's Republic of  
 15 China—

16 (i) to enter into discussions with the  
 17 Dalai Lama or his representatives on a so-  
 18 lution to the question of Tibet;

19 (ii) to ensure respect for the fun-  
 20 damental human rights of the Tibetan peo-  
 21 ple; and

22 (iii) to end those practices which  
 23 threaten to erode the distinct cultural, reli-  
 24 gious, and national identity of the Tibetan  
 25 people and, in particular, to cease policies

1           which result in the movement of Chinese  
2           people to Tibetan territory;

3           (B) call on the United Nations General As-  
4           sembly to resume its debate on the question of  
5           Tibet; and

6           (C) call on the Dalai Lama or his rep-  
7           resentatives to enter into discussions with the  
8           Government of the People's Republic of China  
9           on a solution to the question of Tibet;

10          (3) commends the appointment by the Sec-  
11         retary of State of a United States Special Coordina-  
12         tor for Tibetan Issues—

13                 (A) to promote substantive dialogue be-  
14                 tween the Government of the People's Republic  
15                 of China and the Dalai Lama or his representa-  
16                 tives;

17                 (B) to coordinate United States Govern-  
18                 ment policies, programs, and projects concern-  
19                 ing Tibet;

20                 (C) to consult with the Congress on poli-  
21                 cies relevant to Tibet and the future and wel-  
22                 fare of all Tibetan people, and to report to the  
23                 Congress in accordance with the requirements  
24                 of section 536(a) of the Foreign Relations Au-

1           thorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995  
2           (Public Law 103–236); and

3           (D) to advance United States policy which  
4           seeks to protect the unique religious, cultural,  
5           and linguistic heritage of Tibet, and to encour-  
6           age improved respect for Tibetan human rights;

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

13          (5) calls on the President, as a central objective  
14          of the 1998 presidential summit meeting with Jiang  
15          Zemin in Beijing, to work toward securing an agree-  
16          ment to begin substantive negotiations between the  
17          Government of the People’s Republic of China and  
18          the Dalai Lama or his representatives.

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