

important to me and I thank my colleague Congresswoman JAN SCHAKOWSKY for introducing this resolution.

H. Res. 194 recognizes and honors the women who have fought and continue to struggle for equality. There are over 3,000,000,000 women in the world, representing 51 percent of the world's population and yet, women remain vastly underrepresented in national and local assemblies, face political and economic obstacles, struggle for basic rights, face the threat of discrimination, and are targets of violence all over the world.

Despite tremendous gains over the past 20 years women still have great strides to make. How is it that women work $\frac{2}{3}$ of the world's working hours, produce half of the world's food, yet earn only 1 percent of the world's income and own less than 1 percent of the world's property? Today, although women have reached great heights, women are still earning less than their male counterparts in the workforce. Two-thirds of illiterate individuals worldwide are women which is quite distressing.

Throughout the world, women are victims of violence and disease. Women have become victims of illegal human trafficking for the purpose of forced labor, domestic servitude, and/or sexual exploitation. We must pledge to stop this violence against women.

Domestic violence causes more deaths and disability among women between the ages of 15 and 44 than cancer, malaria, traffic accidents, and war. Worldwide, at least 1 out of every 3 women and girls have been beaten in her lifetime and at least 1 out of every 6 women and girls in the United States has been sexually abused in her lifetime. Furthermore, 70 percent of the people living in poverty around the world are women and children. In addition, women account for half of all cases of HIV/AIDS worldwide. These statistics are staggering and show why this resolution must be passed.

The United States House of Representatives must show a commitment to ending discrimination and violence against women and girls, to ensure their safety and welfare, and to pursue policies that guarantee their basic rights.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this extremely important resolution, H. Res. 194, "Supporting the goals of International Women's Day". Women's rights affect everyone, as we all have a mother.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, we have no more speakers.

I might point out the irony that, in a resolution that is commemorating International Women's Day, the sponsor of that resolution is not available to speak on the floor because she is at the White House commemorating International Women's Day. But Ms. SCHAKOWSKY's comments can be added into the RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 194, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING PLIGHT OF TIBETAN PEOPLE ON 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DALAI LAMA'S EXILE

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 226) recognizing the plight of the Tibetan people on the 50th anniversary of His Holiness the Dalai Lama being forced into exile and calling for a sustained multilateral effort to bring about a durable and peaceful solution to the Tibet issue.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 226

Whereas for more than 2,000 years the people of Tibet have maintained a distinct cultural identity, language, and religion;

Whereas in 1949, the armed forces of the People's Republic of China took over the eastern areas of the traditional Tibetan homeland, and by March 1951 occupied the Tibetan capital of Lhasa and laid siege to Tibetan government buildings;

Whereas in April 1951, under duress of military occupation, Tibetan government officials signed the Seventeen Point agreement which provided for the preservation of the institution of the Dalai Lama, local self government and continuation of the Tibetan political system, and the autonomy for Tibetans within the People's Republic of China;

Whereas on March 10, 1959, the Tibetan people rose up in Lhasa against Chinese rule in response to Chinese actions to undermine self-government and to rumors that Chinese authorities planned to detain Tenzin Gyatso, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, the spiritual and temporal leader of the Tibetan people;

Whereas on March 17, 1959, with the People's Liberation Army commencing an assault on his residence, the Dalai Lama, in fear of his safety and his ability to lead the Tibetan people, fled Lhasa;

Whereas upon his arrival in India, the Dalai Lama declared that he could do more in exile to champion the rights and self-determination of Tibetans than he could inside territory controlled by the armed forces of the People's Republic of China;

Whereas the Dalai Lama was welcomed by the Government and people of India, a testament to the close cultural and religious links between India and Tibet and a mutual admiration for the philosophies of non-violence espoused by Mahatma Gandhi and the 14th Dalai Lama;

Whereas under the leadership of the Dalai Lama, Tibetans overcame adversity and hardship to establish vibrant exile communities in India, the United States, Europe, and elsewhere in order to preserve Tibetan cultural identity, language, and religion;

Whereas the Dalai Lama set out to instill democracy in the exile community, which has led to the Central Tibetan Administration with its democratically elected Executive and Legislative Branches, as well as a Judicial Branch;

Whereas on March 10 every year Tibetans commemorate the circumstances that led to the separation of the Dalai Lama from Tibet and the struggle of Tibetans to preserve

their identity in the face of the assimilationist policies of the People's Republic of China;

Whereas over the years the United States Congress has sent strong and clear messages condemning the Chinese Government's repression of the human rights of Tibetans, including restrictions on the free practice of religion, detention of political prisoners, and the disappearance of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, the 11th Panchen Lama;

Whereas in October 2007, Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama received the Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of his lifetime efforts to promote peace worldwide and a non-violent resolution to the Tibet issue;

Whereas it is the objective of the United States Government, consistent across administrations of different political parties, to promote a substantive dialogue between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Dalai Lama or his representatives in order to secure genuine autonomy for the Tibetan people;

Whereas eight rounds of dialogue between the envoys of the Dalai Lama and representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China have failed to achieve any concrete and substantive results;

Whereas the 2008 United States Department of State's Country Report on Human Rights states that "The [Chinese] government's human rights record in Tibetan areas of China deteriorated severely during the year. Authorities continued to commit serious human rights abuses, including torture, arbitrary arrest, extrajudicial detention, and house arrest. Official repression of freedoms of speech, religion, association, and movement increased significantly following the outbreak of protests across the Tibetan plateau in the spring. The preservation and development of Tibet's unique religious, cultural, and linguistic heritage continued to be of concern."; and

Whereas the envoys of the Dalai Lama presented in November 2008, at the request of Chinese officials, a Memorandum on Genuine Autonomy for the Tibetan People outlining a plan for autonomy intended to be consistent with the constitution of the People's Republic of China: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the Tibetan people for their perseverance in face of hardship and adversity in Tibet and for creating a vibrant and democratic community in exile that sustains the Tibetan identity;

(2) recognizes the Government and people of India for their generosity toward the Tibetan refugee population for the last 50 years;

(3) calls upon the Government of the People's Republic of China to respond to the Dalai Lama's initiatives to find a lasting solution to the Tibetan issue, cease its repression of the Tibetan people, and to lift immediately the harsh policies imposed on Tibetans, including patriotic education campaigns, detention and abuses of those freely expressing political views or relaying news about local conditions, and limitations on travel and communications; and

(4) calls upon the Administration to recommit to a sustained effort consistent with the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002, that employs diplomatic, programmatic, and multilateral resources to press the People's Republic of China to respect the Tibetans' identity and the human rights of the Tibetan people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROSS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and yield myself as much time as I may consume.

This resolution recognizes the plight of the Tibetan people on the 50th anniversary of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's exile and calls for a sustained multilateral effort toward a peaceful resolution to the Tibet issue.

The resolution is introduced by my good friends, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) and our ranking member, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN of Florida. I thank them for their leadership in ensuring that the House commemorates this important date.

In 1949, the People's Liberation Army of China entered the eastern areas of the traditional Tibetan territory. In 1951, they occupied the Tibetan capital of Lhasa. Fifty years ago this month, the Tibetan people rose up in Lhasa against Chinese rule.

On March 17, 1959, His Holiness the Dalai Lama fled Tibet after the People's Liberation Army commenced an assault on his residence. He was followed into exile by some 80,000 Tibetans. Tens of thousands of Tibetans who remained were killed or imprisoned.

Under the leadership of the Dalai Lama, Tibetans have sought to overcome adversity and hardship. Exiled communities have been established in India, the United States, Europe, and elsewhere, to preserve Tibetan cultural identity, language and religion. They have succeeded abroad, but at home, the uniqueness of the Tibetan people remains threatened by Chinese policies.

Over the years, the Congress has repeatedly championed the rights of Tibetans, applauded efforts by the Dalai Lama to seek a peaceful resolution to the dispute between China and Tibet, and funded programs to assist Tibetan refugees.

In 2002, Congress passed the Tibetan Policy Act, the cornerstone of U.S. policy toward Tibet. This legislation codified the position of Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues and emphasized that it should be U.S. policy to promote a dialogue between the Chinese Government and representatives of the Dalai Lama in order to achieve a settlement based on meaningful and genuine autonomy for the Tibetan people.

In 2007, Congress awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to His Holiness the Dalai Lama in recognition of his life-long dedication to the causes of peace and non-violent resolution to the Tibet issue.

I know that many of our friends in China are distressed by the continued congressional focus on Tibet. To them I say this resolution is not anti-Chinese. We have deep respect for both peoples. But after eight rounds of fruitless meetings between the Chinese Government and representatives of the Dalai Lama, it appears to many of us that China is not serious about achieving resolution of this difficult issue.

It's time for China to negotiate in good faith. I urge the Chinese Government to re-examine their policies in Tibet and to provide the Tibetan people genuine autonomy in their traditional homeland.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank our esteemed chairman of the committee, Mr. BERMAN from California.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in enthusiastic support of this House resolution because it conveys a continued deep concern of both the Congress and the American people for the plight of the people of Tibet, a concern first demonstrated by our late committee chairman, Tom Lantos. Our chairman, Mr. BERMAN, continues this human rights legacy. I'm honored to join with my colleague, Congressman HOLT, in co-sponsoring this important resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of the uprising in Tibet against Chinese Communist rule.

The history of the people of Tibet for the past half century has been one of grace under fire and of courage in the face of extreme adversity. Beijing's Communist overseers displayed once again their calloused hostility to the cultural, religious and linguistic rights of the Tibetan people by their harsh and bloody crackdown in Tibet exactly 1 year ago. The iron grip of Beijing, however, cannot silence, cannot repress, cannot extinguish the resilient Buddhist spirit of the people who occupy the land known as the "Rooftop of the World."

The forced exile of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and his flight into India 50 years ago is a continuing source of profound sorrow for the people of Tibet. This resolution, therefore, Mr. Speaker, also takes note of the warmth and the support with which the government and the people of India have greeted the Dalai Lama and other exiles from Tibet.

Tibet's tragic loss of its spiritual leader, however, has proven to be the world's gain. No steadier voice on the issues of religious freedom and human rights has been heard in the corridors of power than that of the quiet, but determined, voice of the Dalai Lama. He has risen from being a humble refugee to becoming both a Nobel Peace Prize recipient and the conscience of the civilized world.

The Chinese Foreign Minister is in Washington this very week for an offi-

cial visit, the very week that we commemorate the uprising in Tibet. Just prior to his departure from Beijing to Washington, the Chinese Foreign Minister stated, "The Dalai side still insists on establishing a so-called greater Tibet on a quarter of China's territory; you call this person a religious figure?"

Mr. Speaker, this resolution can serve as a response to the foreign minister. The U.S. Congress has a message for the Foreign Minister of China's Communist regime, and that is that the Dalai Lama is not only a religious figure, but a person of such renown that he was granted the Congressional Gold Medal. I was honored to serve as one of the sponsors for this legislation awarding the Dalai Lama the Congressional Gold Medal during the last Congress.

Our message to the Chinese regime is contained in the forceful language of this resolution calling for the preservation of the religious and human rights of the people of Tibet. The U.S. Government must keep faith with the people of Tibet. We must press the Chinese regime on issues of human rights and religious freedom in Tibet. The U.S. Congress will not fail in our commitment to Tibet and to its people.

Now is the time for all of us to reflect on the enormous resilience of a captive Tibet and its suffering people over the past five decades. Now is the time to call on the Communist leaders in Beijing—sitting behind the walls of their enclosed compound—to hear the cries from the international community for justice in Tibet. Now is the time for our colleagues to reconfirm their support for the Dalai Lama and for his oppressed people.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1415

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, at this point I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT), the sponsor of the resolution.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished chairman for yielding.

Yesterday marked the passage of 50 years since the Tibetan people in Lhasa first rose in protest against the harsh actions of the People's Republic of China to undermine the Tibetan self-government. I am honored to introduce this resolution recognizing the long hardship borne by the Tibetan people, a great people, who continue to labor peacefully for freedom in Tibet and maintain a Tibetan cultural identity and democratic community, even in exile. Importantly, this resolution also recognizes the government and the people of India, who generously have hosted the exiled government and people of Tibet in the city of Dharamsala since 1960. The perseverance and charity exhibited by these peoples should be a model for all.

For 50 years the situation in Tibet has deteriorated with too little attention from the outside world. Tibetan culture has been eradicated systematically and relentlessly. Basic freedoms,

like freedoms of speech and religion and association and movement, have been repressed. Human rights abuses have been all too common and continue to occur. At this time last year, the Chinese Government was engaged in a fierce crackdown on nonviolent Tibetan protesters that resulted in serious injuries to civilians and an undetermined but significant number of deaths. Even today reports indicate that the Chinese Government has imposed a virtual state of martial law in the Tibetan plateau.

Over the same 50 years and in the face of such adversity, the Dalai Lama has sought to bring wisdom to human affairs and has used his position and leadership to promote compassion and nonviolence in the search for a lasting solution to this issue.

Last year I had the opportunity to travel to India with a congressional delegation led by Speaker PELOSI. We witnessed firsthand the dedicated Tibetans who crossed the rugged Himalayas to escape oppression, including young children. We also had lengthy meetings with the Dalai Lama, whose commitment to peaceful, steady progress is a powerful beacon of hope to all people seeking freedom and equality. It is long past time for this commitment to be reciprocated by the Chinese Government.

The so-called "Seventeen Point Agreement" that was signed by Chinese authorities in 1951 provided that "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." A few years later, in March of 1959, just days after the Dalai Lama's flight from Lhasa, the Chinese Government abolished the local Tibetan governing structure. The agreement also explicitly stated that "when the people raise demands for reform, they must be settled through consultation with the leading personnel of Tibet." Clearly the terms of this agreement have not been upheld. Tibetans and the international community are asking that the Chinese Government implement autonomy as promised but never granted genuinely.

In this spirit the resolution before us calls for an immediate cessation of the repression and abuses being imposed upon the people of Tibet. We urge the Chinese Government to engage in a constructive dialogue with the Dalai Lama in a sustained effort to craft a permanent and just solution that protects the rights and dignity of all Tibetans. The distinctive culture of Tibet must be preserved, and we throughout the world should want it preserved, and a vibrant future must be guaranteed. I'm hopeful that the new administration will answer the call of this resolution to use all of the diplomatic, programmatic, and multilateral tools at its disposal to encourage China to adopt such a course.

Last year this body agreed to a resolution introduced by Speaker PELOSI that addressed the rights of the Tibetan people. Today we reiterate that message and recommit ourselves to a sustained effort. Today is a day when this body once again brings a national spotlight to the plight of the Tibetan people, honors those who struggle nonviolently against brutal suppression, and reaffirms our commitment to freedom around the world. It is a day when we recognize, in the words of the Dalai Lama, "the importance of universal responsibility, nonviolence, and interreligious understanding."

I would like to thank Chairman BERMAN and the House Foreign Affairs Committee for their leadership and action on this issue. I appreciate the support of Ranking Member ROS-LEHTINEN and the hard work of Mr. Halpin of the minority staff as well as Mr. Hans Hogrefe of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission. The immense contributions of Todd Stein and the International Campaign for Tibet should also be acknowledged. And I would like to pay special tribute to Speaker PELOSI, who has long been a strong champion of human rights in Tibet and around the world, and to thank her for her help with this resolution.

We call on the leaders of China for justice and freedom.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER), who is the ranking member of the Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights and Oversight.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. I thank the co-chairman of the Tibet Caucus.

I rise in strong support of this resolution, and I would like to thank both leaders of both parties here, HOWARD BERMAN and, of course, Ranking Member ROS-LEHTINEN for all of the hard work they've done over the years to support the cause of the people of Tibet. But also I would like to point out that NANCY PELOSI, our esteemed Speaker, has over her career put out enormous efforts on this issue, and it's an issue of the heart and the soul. And that's why you see people in both parties who have committed themselves to this noble endeavor of supporting a people in a distant land somewhere on the top of the world on the other side of the Earth, supporting them in their call for recognition of their human rights and for us to recognize that, instead of dealing with tyrants and bullies and gangsters in Beijing, a regime in Beijing that oppresses their own people. They are also the world's worst human rights abuser, and the regime in Beijing is the oppressor of this actually peace-loving people on the other side of the world, the Tibetan people.

One-sixth of the population of Tibet have lost their lives in this five decades of suppression. Thousands of their monasteries have been looted and destroyed. Their national treasure, the gold from their religious artifacts,

robbed from them. And, yes, we would tell the Foreign Minister of that dictatorship in Beijing, yes, one-fourth of the territory now claimed by that dictatorship is actually the ancestral home of the Tibetan people. And we know that over these five decades of suppression that the regime in Beijing has tried their best to send other people into Tibet to steal their country. Not only to steal their artifacts and close their monasteries, but to actually rob from them their very country. And, yes, we, as honest people, should recognize this is Tibet when we talk about that area on the map. The Tibetan people, as the other people in China, have suffered because the United States and other free countries have treated Beijing as if it is a moral equivalent to the other countries that we deal with in the world. We must differentiate between the vicious dictators who obliterate their opposition and repress their own people. We must differentiate between them and the democratic forces of the world. Our job as Americans, as set forth by George Washington, whose picture we see now overseeing these proceedings, we were given the task to ensure that the light of democracy will shine bright. It does not shine bright on governments that turn their back on the oppression that we have seen by Beijing, the suppression of the people of Tibet, which we recognize today in these five decades of suppression.

So today let us recognize that the Dalai Lama has been a force for peace and freedom and justice in this world. We wish him all the best. We wish the people of Tibet the best. And we are on their side. This resolution says the American people, of whatever political party is not important, that we are on the side of the people of Tibet, and they should have no doubts about this and the government in Beijing that suppresses them should have no doubts about that as well.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to now recognize really the leader in this institution on human rights generally and most particularly on the issue of what has happened to the Tibetan people and to His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the Speaker of the House (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I thank him and Congresswoman LEANA ROS-LEHTINEN for bringing this important legislation to the floor, not only in Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN's situation as the ranking member but as a cosponsor of the legislation.

Thank you, Mr. BERMAN, for carrying on a proud tradition of Mr. Lantos as ranking member on Foreign Affairs and then as chairman. He also served, as you know, as Chair of the Human Rights Task Caucus in the Congress of the United States.

It is with great sadness, Mr. Speaker, that I rise in support of this resolution. I so had wished decades ago that we wouldn't be standing here now still pleading the case for the people of

Tibet. I thank RUSH HOLT for giving us this opportunity again, with Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN, sponsoring this legislation; HOWARD BERMAN, as I mentioned, the chairman; FRANK WOLF, and Mr. MCGOVERN, the co-Chairs of the Human Rights Caucus in the Congress carrying on a strong tradition, JIM MCGOVERN's carrying on that tradition.

But as Mr. ROHRABACHER mentioned, and I see Mr. SMITH there, we have been fighting this fight for a very long time.

My colleagues, going back a generation when the Dalai Lama first came to the Congress with his proposal for autonomy, back in 1987, would we have ever thought then that over 20 years later we would still be making this case? Remember after Tiananmen Square, which will be 20 years in June, and we've talked about human rights in China and Tibet. They said peaceful coexistence, peaceful engagement, this is going to lead to the improvement of human rights in China and Tibet. A generation has gone by, 20 years later, and what do we have? A more repressive situation in Tibet. A situation so bad it moved His Holiness in the statement he released on the occasion of the 50th anniversary to say that life for the Tibetans under the repression of the Chinese regime is "hell on Earth." His Holiness used those terms. A man of nonviolence and gentle nature would be moved to use those words.

So I thank all who are responsible for bringing this resolution to the floor because, as we know, this week marks the 50th, five decades, of waiting for this peaceful evolution to take place, this peaceful evolution that was going to lead to more democratic freedoms. This was against a peaceful uprising against the Chinese Government and then led to the exiling of His Holiness out of Tibet.

With this resolution we remember that day and honor the many brave Tibetans who sacrificed their lives for freedom. Thousands of them did. With this resolution we recognize the hospitality of India for receiving the Tibetans into that great nation. His Holiness and the nation of India share a tradition of nonviolence and compassion, and we salute India for extending that to the people of Tibet as they escaped.

□ 1430

For the last year, Tibet has been under martial law, and the human rights situation has severely worsened, according to the State Department report. There has been no progress in the discussions with the Chinese government. It is long past time, 50 years, for Beijing to respect the human rights of every Tibetan, indeed, of every Chinese. The United States Congress continues to be a bedrock of support for the Tibetan people, and we do so in a strong, bipartisan way.

As I mentioned, in 1987, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, spoke in the Capitol at the Congressional Human Rights Caucus. I was a brand-new Member and invited there by Congressman Lantos.

It was there that he outlined his "Middle Way Approach" that calls for autonomy for Tibet.

On Capitol Hill, over 20 years ago, His Holiness declared a statement of autonomy for Tibet. Twenty years later, we were all proud to stand with President Bush as he presented the Congressional Gold Medal to His Holiness the Dalai Lama, in the words of the President, for his "many enduring and outstanding contributions to peace, nonviolence, human rights and religious understanding."

Last year, as Mr. HOLT mentioned, we had a congressional delegation that visited India, where we were able to meet with His Holiness. This visit, either by coincidence or karma, took place only a matter of weeks after a protest that swept across the Tibetan plateau and the crackdown by the Chinese authorities.

So when we were in India, and seeing all of these people who were escaping from Tibet and prisoners who had been tortured in prisons in Tibet telling us their stories, they were stories that were fresh and current and tragic, and we were hopeless and helpless in how we could help them in a very real way.

What we can do is put the moral authority of the Congress of the United States in the form of this resolution, with a broad bipartisan vote, down as a marker to say that we understand the situation there, that we encourage it to be different and, as Mr. ROHRABACHER said, that we are on the side of the Tibetan people. But it shouldn't be a question of taking sides, it should be a question of resolution, resolving a difference, and that's what we hope the Chinese government will do.

Just on a lighter note, when we were there, in addition to visiting the prisoners, and those who had escaped over the mountains only a matter of days before, we visited the children in their schools. They were adorable. They had made flags that were Tibetan flags on one side and American flags on the other. They had flags of the country of India.

The children were so appreciative of the hospitality of India, so grateful to the American people for speaking out on behalf of them, and so proud of their Tibetan heritage. They are beautiful.

The preservation of the culture of Tibet is, of course, a very important part of our enthusiasm for change. But, as I say, on the lighter side, as we were traveling through the streets, our delegation, our bipartisan delegation with Mr. SENSENBRENNER, who is the most senior Republican who came on the trip and was very powerful in his statements there, but as we were traveling through the roads, the roads were lined with people and they were waving flags, American, as I said, American, Tibetan, Indian flags along the way.

One sign caught my eye. It said "Thank you for everything that you have done for us—so far." So far. So, in any event, more is expected. More will come.

I told you about His Holiness' speech and about his statement that he put

out, and he called the situation there, the Tibetans who are in the depths of suffering and hardship, that they are literally experiencing hell on Earth.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit His Holiness' statement for the RECORD.

THE STATEMENT OF HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA ON THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TIBETAN NATIONAL UPRISING DAY

(Embargoed until 10th March, 9 a.m.)

Today is the fiftieth anniversary of the Tibetan people's peaceful uprising against Communist China's repression in Tibet. Since last March, widespread peaceful protests have erupted across the whole of Tibet. Most of the participants were youths born and brought up after 1959, who have not seen or experienced a free Tibet. However, the fact that they were driven by a firm conviction to serve the cause of Tibet that has continued from generation to generation is indeed a matter of pride. It will serve as a source of inspiration for those in the international community who take keen interest in the issue of Tibet. We pay tribute and offer our prayers for all those who died, were tortured and suffered tremendous hardships during the crisis last year, as well as those who have suffered and died for the cause of Tibet since our struggle began.

Around 1949, Communist forces began to enter north-eastern and eastern Tibet (Kham and Amdo) and by 1950, more than 5000 Tibetan soldiers had been killed. Taking the prevailing situation into account, the Chinese government chose a policy of peaceful liberation, which in 1951, led to the signing of the 17-Point Agreement and its annexure. Since then, Tibet has come under the control of the People's Republic of China. However, the Agreement clearly mentions that Tibet's distinct religion, culture and traditional values would be protected.

Between 1954 and 1955, I met with most of the senior Chinese leaders in the Communist Party, government and military, led by Chairman Mao Zedong, in Beijing. When we discussed ways of achieving the social and economic development of Tibet, as well as maintaining Tibet's religious and cultural heritage, Mao Zedong and all the other leaders agreed to establish a preparatory committee to pave the way for the implementation of the autonomous region, as stipulated in the Agreement, rather than establishing a military administrative commission. From about 1956 onwards, however, the situation took a turn for the worse with the imposition of ultra-leftist policies in Tibet. Consequently, the assurances given by higher authorities were not implemented on the ground. The forceful implementation of the so-called "democratic reforms" in the Kham and Amdo regions of Tibet, which did not accord with prevailing conditions, resulted in immense chaos and destruction. In Central Tibet, Chinese officials forcibly and deliberately violated the terms of the 17-Point Agreement, and their heavy-handed tactics increased day by day. These desperate developments left the Tibetan people no alternative but to launch a peaceful uprising on 10 March 1959. The Chinese authorities responded with unprecedented force that led to the killing of tens of thousands of Tibetans in the following months. Thousands were arrested and imprisoned. Consequently, nearly a hundred thousand Tibetans fled into exile in India, Nepal and Bhutan. During the escape and the months that followed they faced unimaginable hardship, which is still fresh in Tibetan memory. At that time, I too, accompanied by a small party of Tibetan government officials including some

Kalons (Cabinet Ministers), escaped into exile in India.

Having occupied Tibet, the Chinese Communist government carried out a series of repressive and violent campaigns that have included “democratic reforms”, class struggle, collectivisation, the Cultural Revolution, the imposition of martial law, and more recently the patriotic re-education and the strike hard campaigns. These thrust Tibetans into such depths of suffering and hardship that they literally experienced hell on earth. The immediate result of these campaigns was the deaths of hundreds and thousands of Tibetans. The lineage of the Buddha Dharma was severed. Thousands of religious and cultural centres such as monasteries, nunneries and temples were razed to the ground. Historical buildings and monuments were demolished. Natural resources have been indiscriminately exploited. Today, Tibet’s fragile environment has been polluted, massive deforestation has been carried out and wildlife, such as wild yaks and Tibetan antelopes, are being driven to extinction.

These 50 years have brought untold suffering and destruction to the land and people of Tibet. Even today, Tibetans in Tibet live in constant fear and the Chinese authorities remain constantly suspicious of them. Today, the religion, culture, language and identity, which successive generations of Tibetans have considered more precious than their lives, are nearing extinction; in short, the Tibetan people are regarded like criminals deserving to be put to death. The Tibetan people’s tragedy was set out in the late Panchen Rinpoche’s 70,000-character petition to the Chinese government in 1962. He raised it again in his speech in Shigatse in 1989 shortly before he died, when he said that what we have lost under Chinese communist rule far outweighs what we have gained. Many concerned and unbiased Tibetans have also spoken out about the hardships of the Tibetan people. Even Hu Yaobang, the Communist Party Secretary, when he arrived in Lhasa in 1980, clearly acknowledged these mistakes and asked the Tibetans for their forgiveness. Many infrastructural developments such as roads, airports, railways, and so forth, which seem to have brought progress to Tibetan areas, were really done with the political objective of sinicising Tibet at the huge cost of devastating the Tibetan environment and way of life.

As for the Tibetan refugees, although we initially faced many problems such as great differences of climate and language and difficulties earning our livelihood, we have been successful in re-establishing ourselves in exile. Due to the great generosity of our host countries, especially India, Tibetans have been able to live in freedom without fear. We have been able to earn a livelihood and uphold our religion and culture. We have been able to provide our children with both traditional and modern education, as well as engaging in efforts to resolve the Tibet issue. There have been other positive results too. Greater understanding of Tibetan Buddhism with its emphasis on compassion has made a positive contribution in many parts of the world.

Immediately after our arrival in exile I began to work on the promotion of democracy in the Tibetan community with the election of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile in 1960. Since then, we have taken gradual steps on the path to democracy and today our exile administration has evolved into a fully functioning democracy with a written charter of its own and a legislative body. This is indeed something we can all be proud of.

Since 2001, we have instituted a system by which the political leadership of Tibetan exiles is directly elected through procedures

similar to those in other democratic systems. Currently, the directly-elected Kalon Tripa’s (Cabinet Chairperson) second term is underway. Consequently, my daily administrative responsibilities have reduced and today I am in a state of semi-retirement. However, to work for the just cause of Tibet is the responsibility of every Tibetan, and as long as I live I will uphold this responsibility.

As a human being, my main commitment is in the promotion of human values; this is what I consider the key factor for a happy life at the individual, family and community level. As a religious practitioner, my second commitment is the promotion of inter-religious harmony. My third commitment is of course due to my being a Tibetan with the name of “Dalai Lama”, but more importantly it is due to the trust that Tibetans both inside and outside Tibet have placed in me. These are the three important commitments, which I always keep in mind.

In addition to looking after the well being of the exiled Tibetan community, which they have done quite well, the principal task of the Central Tibetan Administration has been to work towards the resolution of the issue of Tibet. Having laid out the mutually beneficial Middle-Way policy in 1974, we were ready to respond to Deng Xiaoping when he proposed talks in 1979. Many talks were conducted and fact-finding delegations dispatched. These however, did not bear any concrete results and formal contacts eventually broke off in 1993.

Subsequently, in 1996–97, we conducted an opinion poll of the Tibetans in exile, and collected suggestions from Tibet wherever possible, on a proposed referendum, by which the Tibetan people were to determine the future course of our freedom struggle to their full satisfaction. Based on the outcome of the poll and the suggestions from Tibet, we decided to continue the policy of the Middle-Way.

Since the re-establishment of contacts in 2002, we have followed a policy of one official channel and one agenda and have held eight rounds of talks with the Chinese authorities. As a consequence, we presented a Memorandum on Genuine Autonomy for the Tibetan People, explaining how the conditions for national regional autonomy as set forth in the Chinese constitution would be met by the full implementation of its laws on autonomy. The Chinese insistence that we accept Tibet as having been a part of China since ancient times is not only inaccurate, but also unreasonable. We cannot change the past no matter whether it was good or bad. Distorting history for political purposes is incorrect.

We need to look to the future and work for our mutual benefit. We Tibetans are looking for a legitimate and meaningful autonomy, an arrangement that would enable Tibetans to live within the framework of the People’s Republic of China. Fulfilling the aspirations of the Tibetan people will enable China to achieve stability and unity. From our side, we are not making any demands based on history. Looking back at history, there is no country in the world today, including China, whose territorial status has remained forever unchanged, nor can it remain unchanged.

Our aspiration that all Tibetans be brought under a single autonomous administration is in keeping with the very objective of the principle of national regional autonomy. It also fulfills the fundamental requirements of the Tibetan and Chinese peoples. The Chinese constitution and other related laws and regulations do not pose any obstacle to this and many leaders of the Chinese Central Government have accepted this genuine aspiration. When signing the 17-Point

Agreement, Premier Zhou Enlai acknowledged that this was a reasonable demand, but not the right time to implement it. In 1956, when establishing the Preparatory Committee for the “Tibet Autonomous Region”, Vice-Premier Chen Yi pointing at a map said, if Lhasa could be made the capital of the Tibet Autonomous Region, which included the Tibetan areas within the other provinces, it would contribute to the development of Tibet and friendship between the Tibetan and Chinese nationalities, a view shared by the Panchen Rinpoche and many Tibetan cadres and scholars. If Chinese leaders had any objections to our proposals, they could have provided reasons for them and suggested alternatives for our consideration, but they did not. I am disappointed that the Chinese authorities have not responded appropriately to our sincere efforts to implement the principle of meaningful national regional autonomy for all Tibetans, as set forth in the constitution of the People’s Republic of China.

Quite apart from the current process of Sino-Tibetan dialogue having achieved no concrete results, there has been a brutal crackdown on the Tibetan protests that have shaken the whole of Tibet since March last year. Therefore, in order to solicit public opinion as to what future course of action we should take, the Special Meeting of Tibetan exiles was convened in November 2008. Efforts were made to collect suggestions, as far as possible, from the Tibetans in Tibet as well. The outcome of this whole process was that a majority of Tibetans strongly supported the continuation of the Middle-Way policy. Therefore, we are now pursuing this policy with greater confidence and will continue our efforts towards achieving a meaningful national regional autonomy for all Tibetans.

From time immemorial, the Tibetan and Chinese peoples have been neighbours. In future too, we will have to live together. Therefore, it is most important for us to co-exist in friendship with each other.

During the Kuomintang period, and particularly since the occupation of Tibet, the Communist Chinese have been publishing distorted propaganda about Tibet and its people. Consequently, there are, among the Chinese populace, very few people who have a true understanding about Tibet. It is, in fact, very difficult for them to find the truth. There are also ultra-leftist Chinese leaders who have, since last March, been undertaking a huge propaganda effort with the intention of setting the Tibetan and Chinese peoples apart and creating animosity between them. Sadly, as a result, a negative impression of Tibetans has arisen in the minds of some of our Chinese brothers and sisters. Therefore, as I have repeatedly appealed before, I would like once again to urge out Chinese brothers and sisters not to be swayed by such propaganda, but, instead, to try to discover the facts about Tibet impartially, so as to prevent divisions among us. Tibetans should also continue to work for friendship with the Chinese people.

Looking back on 50 years in exile, we have witnessed many ups and downs. However, the fact that the Tibet issue is alive and the international community is taking growing interest in it is indeed an achievement. Seen from this perspective, I have no doubt that the justice of Tibet’s cause will prevail, if we continue to tread the path of truth and non-violence.

As we commemorate 50 years in exile, it is most important that we express our deep gratitude to the governments and peoples of the various host countries in which we live. Not only do we abide by the laws of these host countries, but we also conduct ourselves in a way that we become an asset to these

countries. Similarly, in our efforts to realise the cause of Tibet and uphold its religion and culture, we should craft our future vision and strategy by learning from our past experience.

I always say that we should hope for the best, and prepare for the worst. Whether we look at it from the global perspective or in the context of events in China, there are reasons for us to hope for a quick resolution of the issue of Tibet. However, we must also prepare ourselves well in case the Tibetan struggle goes on for a long time. For this, we must focus primarily on the education of our children and the nurturing of professionals in various fields. We should also raise awareness about the environment and health, and improve understanding and practice of non-violent methods among the general Tibetan population.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to the leaders and people of India, as well as its Central and State Governments, who despite whatever problems and obstacles they face, have provided invaluable support and assistance over the past 50 years to Tibetans in exile. Their kindness and generosity are immeasurable. I would also like to express my gratitude to the leaders, governments and people of the international community, as well as the various Tibet Support Groups, for their unstinting support.

May all sentient beings live in peace and happiness.

THE DALAI LAMA,
10 March 2009.

I would also like to quote from the statement put out by the State Department last night. In part it says "We urge China to reconsider its policies in Tibet that have created tensions due to their harmful impact on Tibetan religion, culture, and livelihoods. We believe that substantive dialogue with the Dalai Lama's representatives, consistent with the Dalai Lama's commitment to disclaiming any intention to seek sovereignty or independence for Tibet, can lead to progress in bringing about solutions and can help achieve true and lasting stability in Tibet."

I am very pleased with the statement from the State Department.

Mr. Speaker, the situation in Tibet challenges the conscience of the world. If freedom-loving people around the world do not speak out for human rights in China and Tibet, then we lose moral authority to talk about it in any other place in the world.

On the 15th anniversary of the Dalai Lama being forced into exile, we must heed his guidance and his transcendent message of peace, and we must never forget the people of Tibet in their ongoing struggle.

That is why I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and thank my colleagues for giving us this opportunity to do so today.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to yield 4 minutes to my good friend from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank the distinguished gentlelady for yielding and thank her for her leadership.

I would especially like to thank Tom Lantos, our revered and great and hon-

orable former chairman of the committee who did pioneering work on Tibet and really helped bring the Dalai Lama here in the first place and made that very important connection many, many years ago.

Mr. Speaker, 50 years ago today the Tibetan people rose up against the tyranny that the Chinese communist party was imposing on it. The outnumbered Tibetans fought stubbornly but did not succeed in overthrowing the tyranny. Sadly, the Chinese forces killed over 86,000 Tibetans, and the Dalai Lama had to leave Tibet to lead a government in exile.

But I think the Tibetans succeeded in doing something else 50 years ago. They put down a spiritual marker. They decided that, materially free or not, persecuted or not, the Tibetan people were going to remain Tibetan and were not going to forsake their religious heritage for the mess of ideological and atheistic nonsense the communists offered them.

They would preserve their spiritual freedom, even in the Laogai. And since 1959 every generation of Tibetans have taken up that decision and reaffirmed it. We cannot speak about 1959 without remembering 2008, when the Chinese government brutally crushed Tibetans' largely peaceful marking of the 1959 uprising.

Last year Lodi Gyari, His Holiness' Special Envoy, told me and others on the Congressional Human Rights Caucus that Tibet had "become, particularly, in the last few weeks, in every sense an occupied nation, brutally occupied by Armed Forces." This week, as our distinguished Speaker of the House just mentioned, the Dalai Lama has described the situation in Tibet as hell on Earth.

Shockingly and almost laughingly, the Chinese government shot back today and said Tibet is paradise on Earth. Well, it was, Mr. Speaker. Now it's paradise lost.

Just as it did in 1959, last year the Chinese government ordered its soldiers and police to shoot. The death toll is well over 100. We don't even have any idea how many were wounded, how many were left wounded or dying in attics and cellars because they knew if they went to a hospital they would simply disappear into the Chinese Laogai.

As in 1959, last year the Chinese government subjected Tibetans to mass arrests. They searched whole sections of cities house by house. Chinese officials admit to over 4,000 arrests. Even today, thousands of monks are still held under house arrest or lockdown.

Mr. Speaker, in 1995 I chaired a congressional hearing in which we heard from six survivors of the Laogai. One of them was Palden Gyatso, a Tibetan monk who spent 24 years in prison. When we invited him to come and speak, he brought with him some of the instruments of torture that are routinely employed and used in a horrific manner against men and women in Chinese concentration camps.

He told us that many people die of starvation. But when he brought those instruments, he couldn't even bring them past our Capitol Police, they stopped him. I had to go down to the entrance and escort him through.

At the hearing, he held up those electric batons that are used in the mouth and elsewhere in order to provide electric shocks. And while he was giving his testimony, he broke down.

He held it up and said this is what went into my mouth, as a Buddhist monk, and into the mouths of other people, to shock and to deface. He has trouble swallowing to this day.

He told us about self-tightening handcuffs and held up his wrists and showed us the scars on his body. Not just on his wrists, but elsewhere as well. He told us how the guards pierce people with bayonets, and he also told us that every bit of this was routine and almost mundane.

Yet in the face of this, he and so many others like him persevered, and the Tibetan people at large continue on, keeping faith, including their admirable principle of nonviolence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROSS). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I would like to yield an additional minute to the gentleman.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I appreciate that.

They are determined to endure, Mr. Speaker, and to overcome hate with kindness and benevolence and charity.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentlelady from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Human Rights Commission, I am proud to rise today in support of this resolution on behalf of the people of Tibet.

I also want to take this opportunity, because I just returned from the White House, where the President of the United States created a White House Council on Women and Girls and acknowledged the recent March 8 passage of International Women's Day.

And while I was there, I am very grateful to you, Mr. Chairman and to the House of Representatives, for passing the resolution in support of International Women's Day and would like to take this opportunity to speak to it for just a couple of minutes.

I want to thank Representative MARY FALLIN, the lead Republican cosponsor and the Republican co-chair of the Women's Caucus, for her tireless support and work to bring this resolution to the floor. It's been my pleasure to work with her on this bill, and I am sure it's the first of many that we will work together through the caucus, where I am the Democratic co-chair, to advance the goals of women.

Also, I would like to acknowledge the caucus vice-Chairs, Representative GWEN MOORE, Representative KAY

GRANGER, and I am honored to have this resolution be the first of the must-pass legislative agenda items to make it to the House floor with such remarkable bipartisan support.

Each year countries around the world mark March 8 as International Women's Day, as a day to recognize the contributions and impact that women have made to our world's history, to recognize those women who have worked together for gender equality and to acknowledge the work that is yet to be done. Over the years, women have made significant strides.

All over the world and throughout history we have, they have consistently contributed to their economies, participated in their governments and improved the quality of life of their families and of their nations.

In 2007 Congresswoman NANCY PELOSI was elected the first woman Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. In 2006 I attended the inauguration of Michelle Bachelet, the first woman President of Chile, and visited the Liberian President, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the first woman president in Africa's history.

In the 111th Congress, we have an all-time high of 74 women in Congress, a 35 percent increase from just 8 years ago. But women still only make up about 16 percent of the House of Representatives.

In the U.S., we have made significant strides in education. Women now graduate from high school at higher rates and earn bachelor's or higher degrees at greater rates than men.

While American women earn more high school and bachelor's degrees than men, two-thirds of the 876 million illiterate individuals in the world are women. Two-thirds of the 125 million school-age children not attending school worldwide are girls. Girls are less likely to complete school than boys elsewhere around the globe.

Women are making progress in business and make up 12 percent of the current CEOs of the Fortune 500 companies, but, still, a long way to go.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. BERMAN. I would be pleased to yield an additional minute to the gentlelady.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Globally, women work two-thirds of the world's working hours and produce half of the world's food, and still we earn only 1 percent of the world's income and own less than 1 percent of the world's property.

Of the 300 million people living in poverty, 70 percent are girls and women. Millions of women and girls are trafficked, physically abused, sexually abused, or face the threat of violence every day.

□ 1445

Although Congress passed the PROTECT Act to prevent trafficking in Iraq, Darfur, Afghanistan and many other places around the world, we still see that women and girls tend to be the

targets of extreme violence, brutality, and intimidation.

So, Mr. Speaker, it's important that Congress recognize the importance of March 8. I am so glad that we passed this resolution. I am grateful to the Congress for recognizing International Women's Day, which we just celebrated on March 8.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to yield 3 minutes to a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs—and they are all gentle people in South Carolina—the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. INGLIS.)

Mr. INGLIS. I thank the distinguished ranking member for that glowing recommendation of my great State. We are here today to recognize the plight of the Tibetan people. Several speakers have already mentioned incredible stories of the indomitable human spirit.

One story was told to me earlier today by a staff member who was visiting in China, and tells a story of going to a Tibetan temple where, during the Cultural Revolution, the people of that town took their food rations and the grain that would have been food for them and put it in a temple in order to hide a statue of a Buddha so as to protect it from desecration by the Chinese Communists. Many of those townspeople starved to death as a result of giving up those food rations.

That is a story of the indomitable power of the human conscience and the tragedy that comes when nations try to defy that basic human right. So we are here today to celebrate the spirit of the Tibetan people and to call on the Communist Chinese to give greater political rights and economic opportunities and respect the dignity of the Tibetan people.

As we consider this resolution right now, the Chinese government has forbidden foreign journalists and tourists from entering Tibetan areas under their control. A massive crackdown is underway that involves beefed-up paramilitary forces deployed throughout the area and a deliberate disruption of normal cell phone service to prevent reports from leaking out.

For all practical purposes, as we have heard here earlier today, Tibet is under an unofficial state of martial law, 50 years after the Dalai Lama fled into exile. From March 2008 to June 2008, Chinese officials disclosed that authorities detained more than 4,400 Tibetans for allegedly rioting, the vast majority of whom are known to have engaged in peaceful protests.

A Tibetan NGO reported that a total of more than 65,000 Tibetans have been detained in 2008, and over a thousand of whose whereabouts and well-being remains unknown, many of whom are monks and nuns.

According to an August 21 report from the Tibetan government-in-exile, at least 218 Tibetans died between March and June of 2008 as a result of the Chinese police using lethal force against protesters or from severe

abuse, including torture while in detention.

Mr. Speaker, we in this Congress should rise in unanimous support of the people of Tibet and present a unified force of the Congress and the Obama administration to unambiguously condemn the Chinese government's ongoing crackdown in Tibet. We must also convey a clear and consistent message to Beijing that says this: Progress in talks with the Dalai Lama and bringing meaningful autonomy and religious freedom to Tibet is an essential benchmark that China must meet in order to advance relations with the United States.

I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the chairman of the Human Rights Commission, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN).

Mr. MCGOVERN. Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this important resolution, and I want to thank my friend, Congressman RUSH HOLT, Speaker NANCY PELOSI, and the chairman and ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee for their leadership in the long struggle for freedom, dignity, and human rights in Tibet.

Mr. Speaker, for six decades the history of Tibet has been marked by violence. Even before 1949, the People's Liberation Army of China entered the eastern areas of Tibet during the Long March. In 1959, they finally occupied the capital of Lhasa.

Fifty years ago, on March 10, the Tibetan people rose up in Lhasa against Chinese rule. The backlash was furious and brutal. On March 17, the Dalai Lama fled Lhasa for his own safety, joined by some 80,000 Tibetans, for life in exile. Tens of thousands who remained were killed or imprisoned.

Thanks to the thriving exile communities in India, Europe, and the United States, Tibetan cultural identity, language, and religion have survived. They have focused world attention on the Tibetan struggle. But each and every year, the situation inside Tibet grows worse, with more repression, more arrests, more displacement, more deliberate destruction of the Tibetan language, culture, and religion.

One year ago, new protests rose up in Tibet. They were the result of greater controls over religious and cultural activity, development that mainly benefited Chinese migrants, and forced resettlement of farmers and nomads. Thousands and thousands were arrested. To date, there has been no full accounting by Chinese authorities of those arrested, detained, tried, sentenced, or released, and no access to those detained by the International Committee of the Red Cross or other international observers, and all the time the Tibetan people daily become more of a minority in their own land.

Mr. Speaker, as the new cochair of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, it is humbling to follow in the

footsteps of Thomas Lantos. The Congressional Human Rights Caucus, which he founded, was the very first to give the Dalai Lama a voice on Capitol Hill in 1987.

On this 50th anniversary, let's be very, very clear that the American people in this House stand with His Holiness. We will not rest until meaningful and full autonomy for the Tibetan people is achieved—and the Dalai Lama and his people can fulfill their dream of returning home to Tibet.

I thank the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee for generously giving me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this important resolution, which recognizes the plight of the Tibetan people on the 50th Anniversary of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's exile and calls for a sustained multilateral effort toward a peaceful solution to the Tibet issue. I thank my friend RUSH HOLT, and the distinguished Ranking Member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, as well as the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, for their leadership on human rights and for bringing this resolution expeditiously to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, last Friday my friend and distinguished colleague, FRANK WOLF and I were formally reappointed Co-Chairs of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, the successor body of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, which I had the honor to co-chair with FRANK WOLF after our former colleague Tom Lantos passed away.

I mention this because of the historic significance of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus in getting the voice of the Tibetan people heard in the United States.

In 1987, it was Congressman Tom Lantos who had invited His Holiness the Dalai Lama to attend a meeting of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus as the first official government entity in the United States, despite stiff opposition from many quarters including the U.S. Administration to do so. Many were fearful what such an invitation would do to our bilateral relations with the People's Republic of China, and the PRC used every conceivable tool to prevent this historic meeting from happening.

Those voices of those critics in the United States soon fell quiet after the meeting took place, as the moral authority of his Holiness and his persistently peaceful way to fight for meaningful autonomy of the Tibetan people attracted more and more support and with the American people and in Congress.

Twenty years later, it was this body that awarded His Holiness the Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of his life-long dedication to the causes of peace and non-violent resolution to the Tibet issue.

Mr. Speaker, the history of Tibet has long been marked by violence. Even before 1949, the People's Liberation Army of China entered the eastern areas of the traditional Tibetan territory on The Long March. In 1951, they finally occupied the Tibetan capital of Lhasa.

On this day fifty years ago, the Tibetan people rose up in Lhasa against Chinese rule, and the backlash was furious and brutal. As a consequence, His Holiness the Dalai Lama fled Lhasa on March 17, 1959, for his own safety. He was joined by some 80,000 Tibetans in exile. Tens of thousands of Tibetans who remained were either killed or imprisoned.

The human rights situation became so dire that in 1959, 1961 and 1965 (before China became a member of the United Nations), the UN General Assembly passed resolutions condemning the human rights violations in Tibet and affirming Tibetans' right to self-determination.

Supported by thriving exile communities in India, the United States, Europe, Tibetan cultural identity, language and religion has survived and the world is paying attention to the Tibetan struggle.

In 2002 Congress passed the Tibetan Policy Act, the cornerstone of U.S. policy toward Tibet. The legislation codified the position of Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues in our State Department, to ensure that U.S. policy promotes a dialogue between the Chinese government and the representatives of the Dalai Lama, and this Act and its policies must remain the cornerstone of our policy regarding Tibet also under this Administration.

The policy of the United States Government has to be to continue promoting substantive dialogue between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Dalai Lama or his representatives to resolve peacefully the dispute and to allow for the return of the Dalai Lama.

However, the United States cannot stand as a mere neutral facilitator in this dialogue, when the Chinese government time and time again uses these proceedings to hold out hope, only to drag out negotiations with His Holiness without ever making any progress or without ever achieving any concrete results. All this, while the Tibetan people become a minority in their own territory because of government-controlled migration, and the Tibetan culture is further eroded.

We cannot stand by neutrally, when the Chinese government kidnaps a six-year-old child, Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, whom His Holiness has recognized as Panchen Lama, and allow the Chinese government to replace him with a more convenient Panchen Lama of their own choice.

On this 50th anniversary, let's be very clear that the American people and this Congress will always stand unwaveringly with His Holiness in this peaceful endeavors, and will not rest until meaningful and full autonomy for the Tibetan people is achieved, and His Holiness can fulfill his dream of returning to Tibet.

Mr. Speaker, Tom Lantos' voice has fallen silent, but we cannot let our voices to fall silent too. We always need to speak out for the Tibetan people.

[From the Boston Globe, Mar. 10, 2009]

SAD ANNIVERSARIES IN TIBET

The authorities in Beijing are nervous today, fearful that remembrance of things past will incite new disorder. They have good reason: On this date two tragic anniversaries are commemorated. First, of the massacres Chinese troops perpetrated 50 years ago, killing 86,000 Tibetans, to crush a Tibetan revolt against harsh Chinese rule. And March 10 is also the one-year anniversary of China's violent crackdown on Tibetans protesting for cultural and religious freedom.

China's attempts to expunge Tibet's separate identity cast doubt on Beijing's claim to be a rising power with benign intentions. There is a whiff of colonialism in China's treatment of Tibet and Tibetans.

Chinese policymakers are not content to deny Tibet's distinct identity. They demean the ethical and spiritual values of Tibetan

Buddhism, and they refuse to grant Tibetans even the limited autonomy proposed by their leader-in-exile, the Dalai Lama. The core objective of Beijing's Tibet policy is to submerge the Tibetan population under waves of Han Chinese migrants who receive special incentives to settle in Tibetan areas.

Given China's efforts toward a demographic smothering of Tibetans in their homeland, it is no wonder that Chinese officials feel compelled to lie, brazenly, about the temperate program for reconciliation proposed by the Dalai Lama. In talks last fall with Chinese representatives, the Dalai Lama's envoys presented 11 proposals for limited Tibetan autonomy. The Chinese refused to discuss a single one of the 11 ideas, pretending that all 11 were thinly disguised demands for independence.

Beijing takes this rigid position—repeating the transparent falsehood that the Dalai Lama really wants political independence for Tibet—because Chinese policy is to make no concessions to the Tibetan government-in-exile and instead to wait for the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhists to die. The flawed premise of this policy is that Tibetan resistance to Chinese dominance will evaporate after the Dalai Lama is gone. But as the clashes last March in Tibetan regions demonstrated, younger Tibetans are likely to be less patient, and less devoted to nonviolence, than the Dalai Lama and his government-in-exile in Dharamsala, India.

China's rulers are fortunate to have the chance to come to terms with the Dalai Lama on Tibetan autonomy within China. Few other governments confronting oppressed ethnic or religious groups have been so lucky.

President Obama should appoint a special envoy for Tibet, someone who can help China's leaders see that it is in their own interest to give Tibetans the cultural and religious autonomy the Dalai Lama has proposed.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. To wrap up our side of the aisle on this important resolution, I yield such time as he may consume to the co-Chair of the Tom Lantos Congressional Human Rights Commission, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF).

Mr. WOLF. I want to thank the ranking member and also the chairman for their leadership on this issue, and also thank Speaker PELOSI for her comments here today and also for the comments that she made yesterday.

In August of 1997, I traveled to Tibet, making it known to no one that I was a Member of Congress. I spoke to Buddhist monks and nuns on the street and in monasteries who have been brutally tortured in the infamous Drapchi prison. We drove by the Drapchi prison and they told us of the torture of pulling out fingernails and everything else, just simply for professing allegiance to the Dalai Lama.

The Chinese government sends Tibetan children to China for education to learn Chinese ways. The Chinese government forbids faithful Buddhists from displaying pictures of the Dalai Lama. There was one person in a Buddhist monastery who showed me the picture and then put it away quickly.

What the Chinese government is doing to Tibet is cultural genocide—and I hope the foreign minister, who's in town today, hears it. It is cultural genocide—systematically destroying the fabric of the Tibetan society.

Last March, the Tibetan people took to the streets to protest the iron-fisted rule of the Chinese government over Tibet; a harsh crackdown, violent repression, and a year later, 1,200 Tibetans remain unaccounted for. Where are they? Let's ask the foreign minister when he goes to the State Department, Where are they?

For over a decade, the United States has asked China for a consulate in Lhasa, the capital of Tibet, and China has refused. Yet we continue to allow the Chinese government to build new consulates across the United States. We should not allow China to build any new consulates in the United States until China allows the U.S. to build a consulate in Lhasa, period, end of story.

It is with a heavy heart that we commemorate the Dalai Lama's flight to Dharmasala. I believe one day we will stand here—and, if this debate had taken place before, Tom Lantos would be here, whereby people would give Tom Lantos the credit for leading the effort whereby Tibet will be, basically—not basically, but Tibet will be free.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 226, recognizing the Tibetan People on the anniversary of the Dalai Lama's exile. As a member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs I am pleased to join my colleague RUSH HOLT in his sponsorship of this important resolution. As we move to engage the government in Beijing I would only hope that the United States' foreign policy once again becomes a policy of peace and goodwill and not a harbinger to international hostilities.

It is no accident that the first foreign trip of our new Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, was to Asia. China is integral to the re-establishment of American foreign policy in Asia. As we engage the Chinese it is important that we address human rights issues as well.

The Dalai Lama has emerged on the international scene as a force for human rights around the world. He has exhibited a grace and sense of compassion throughout the strife that has visited his homeland.

For more than 2,000 years Tibet maintained a sovereign national identity distinct from the national identity of China. In 1949, however, Chinese troops invaded and occupied Tibet and have remained ever since.

According to the State Department and numerous international human rights organizations, the Chinese government continues to commit widespread and well-documented human rights abuses in both China and Tibet. China also has yet to demonstrate its willingness to abide by internationally accepted norms of freedom of belief, expression, and association by repealing or amending laws and decrees that restrict those freedoms. We urge the Chinese government to seek conciliation with its many different groups, as opposed to employing further government restrictions.

In addition, while China is a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the United Nations Convention Relating to Refugees, and the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, in practice, the Chinese government has often not followed the treaties.

March 10th marks the 50th anniversary of an uprising against Chinese rule by the Tibetan people—an uprising that forced the 14th Dalai Lama into exile in India. On the anniversary last year, Tibetan Buddhist monks and nuns in and around Lhasa were blocked by Chinese authorities from staging demonstrations and were met with force by the Chinese authorities. Protests then spread inside the Tibet Autonomous Region and other Tibetan areas of China.

Over the years, talks between envoys of the Dalai Lama and representatives of the Chinese government have failed to achieve any concrete and substantive results.

This resolution recognizes the Tibetan people for their perseverance and endurance in face of hardship and adversity in Tibet and for creating a vibrant and democratic community in exile that sustains the Tibetan identity.

The measure recognizes the government and people of India for their generosity toward the Tibetan refugee population for the last 50 years. It calls upon the Chinese government to respond to the Dalai Lama's initiatives to find a lasting solution to the Tibetan issue, cease its repression of the Tibetan people, and to lift immediately the policies imposed on Tibetans, including patriotic education campaigns, detention and abuses of those freely expressing political views or relaying news about local conditions, and limitations on travel and communications.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the resolution calls upon the administration to recommit to a sustained effort consistent with the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002, that employs diplomatic, programmatic, and multilateral resources to press the Chinese government to respect the Tibetans' identity and the human rights of the Tibetan people. Mr. Speaker, we must continue to engage the government in Beijing at all levels and Tibet must be at the top of the list. Again, I wish to thank my colleagues for their work on this matter.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and urge a "yea" vote.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 226.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Con. Res. 64, by the yeas and nays;

House Resolution 125, by the yeas and nays;

House Resolution 226, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

YEAR OF THE MILITARY FAMILY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 64, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 64.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 422, nays 0, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 119]
YEAS—422

Abercrombie	Capps	Emerson
Ackerman	Capuano	Engel
Aderholt	Cardoza	Eshoo
Adler (NJ)	Carnahan	Etheridge
Akin	Carney	Fallin
Altmire	Carson (IN)	Farr
Andrews	Carter	Fattah
Arcuri	Cassidy	Finer
Austria	Castle	Flake
Baca	Castor (FL)	Fleming
Bachmann	Chaffetz	Forbes
Bachus	Chandler	Fortenberry
Baird	Childers	Foster
Baldwin	Clarke	Foxo
Barrett (SC)	Clay	Frank (MA)
Barrow	Cleaver	Franks (AZ)
Bartlett	Clyburn	Frelinghuysen
Barton (TX)	Coble	Fudge
Bean	Coffman (CO)	Gallegly
Becerra	Cohen	Garrett (NJ)
Berkley	Cole	Gerlach
Berman	Conaway	Giffords
Berry	Connolly (VA)	Gingrey (GA)
Biggert	Conyers	Gohmert
Bilbray	Cooper	Gonzalez
Billirakis	Costa	Goodlatte
Bishop (GA)	Costello	Gordon (TN)
Bishop (NY)	Courtney	Granger
Bishop (UT)	Crenshaw	Graves
Blackburn	Crowley	Grayson
Blumenauer	Cuellar	Green, Al
Blunt	Culberson	Green, Gene
Bocciari	Cummings	Griffith
Boehner	Dahlkemper	Grijalva
Bonner	Davis (AL)	Guthrie
Bono Mack	Davis (CA)	Gutierrez
Boozman	Davis (IL)	Hall (TX)
Boren	Davis (KY)	Halvorson
Boswell	Davis (TN)	Hare
Boucher	Deal (GA)	Harman
Boustany	DeFazio	Harper
Boyd	DeGette	Hastings (FL)
Brady (PA)	Delahunt	Hastings (WA)
Brady (TX)	DeLauro	Heinrich
Broun (GA)	Dent	Heller
Brown (SC)	Diaz-Balart, L.	Hensarling
Brown, Corrine	Diaz-Balart, M.	Herger
Brown-Waite,	Dicks	Herseth Sandlin
Ginny	Dingell	Higgins
Buchanan	Doggett	Hill
Burgess	Donnelly (IN)	Himes
Burton (IN)	Doyle	Hinchee
Butterfield	Dreier	Hinojosa
Buyer	Driehaus	Hirono
Calvert	Duncan	Hodes
Camp	Edwards (MD)	Hoekstra
Campbell	Edwards (TX)	Holden
Cantor	Ehlers	Holt
Cao	Ellison	Honda
Capito	Ellsworth	Hoyer