

# TIBETAN NEWS AGENCY - TNA

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## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBET

(Dharamsala/TNA) - According to reports which have come here, there was excitement among the Tibetan crowds and whispers about regaining independence, when the Chinese-controlled Radio Lhasa protested to the Government of India and denounced the courtesy calls which His Holiness the Dalai Lama paid to the newly-elected Indian Prime Minister and other top Indian leaders. Later, there were public announcements made over loudspeakers in Lhasa and other towns, to the effect that: "... The rebel Dalai bandit went to Delhi to plan a coup d'état against the Chinese Government...".

EXECUTIONS: The reports also say that last year, more particularly on China's National Day, October 1, more than two-hundred Tibetans were publicly executed in Lhasa. Most of them were youths charged with various kinds of anti-Chinese activities.

According to reports received from Nepalese traders who had recently returned from Tibet, in March last year many Tibetan youths in Lhasa were imprisoned for not demonstrating the proper expression of mourning when the death of Mao Tse-tung was announced. They are now in the Drepchi Prison in Lhasa and in the Ngachen Trang labour camp in Lhasa's suburbs. It was rumoured that the actual reason for their arrest was their membership of secret anti-Chinese organisations. When arrested, one of the leaders is said to have bitten off his tongue.

During the Saka Dawa - a festival which used to be held on June 1, commemorating the birth, enlightenment and parinirvana of the Lord Buddha - many Tibetans openly walked round the Lhasa Tsugla Khang (Central Cathedral) and were later joined by Tibetan militiamen. Earlier in May a new campaign of the "Three Antis" was launched: Anti-Business-on-the-Side, Anti-Pilfering, and Anti-Bad-Elements-Who-Sabotage-Peace - in Lhasa, Shigatse, Gyangtse, Nagchu and Nyentri. Huge public meetings were called, and in Lhasa some 500 Tibetans were denounced and 130 imprisoned. It was said that news coming from the Chinese authorities indicated that the main object of this new campaign was for other major towns besides Lhasa to be made open to foreign visitors, but before this could be done, all the Tibetan officials and ordinary people who were suspected of being anti-Chinese, had to be purged. There were also notices posted on Chinese offices and factories in Tibet: "Entrance strictly prohibited to all foreigners without permission from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs".

CONFIRMATION? The reports of executions in Tibet are corroborated by a BBC broadcast of 18th November, 1977: "In Tibet, there seems to be a new purge against the supporters of the former leader, the Dalai Lama, who lives now in exile in India...". However, since then (the Chinese invitation of April 30) he has been publicly attacked here as the head of the rebel Tibetan bandits in India, and in a key speech to the regional congress in Lhasa, the local Party leader (General Jen Jung, holder of the supreme office of power in Tibet) denounced what he called the Dalai's "treacherous tricks for opposing China, its people and socialism".

These recent strident denunciations of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and the Chinese "... speaking of the need to root out the Dalai Lama's followers" (BBC) confirm reports of the Tibetan refugees and other sources which speak of the unhappiness of the Tibetan people and their opposition to the oppressive Chinese gun rule. The exact number of the Tibetans who have been executed in recent months cannot be accurately ascertained, but there is sufficient evidence to rouse the conscience of the world. Tibetans at home and in exile wish that - however belatedly - these oppressive and inhuman acts would move the United Nations to some kind of action. They are asking whether atrocities and acts of genocide can be overlooked simply because they are committed behind closed doors. Tibetans are being arrested, imprisoned and executed because tourists bent on new thrills want to visit exotic places in Tibet, thus providing fodder for Peking propaganda. (IC/IO of DL/FCI)

NORWAY-TIBET: Felix Greene film - A TROP IN NORWAY (TNA/Oslo) The showing in Norway of the Greene film "Tibet Today" screened on Norwegian television has ended the public silence on present Sino-Tibetan relations. The film, obviously inspired by Chinese propaganda which has been recognised as grossly misrepresenting the historical truth, angered not only Tibetans living in Norway but the public as well. Numbers of articles and letters that have appeared in the local press have set the record straight. Among the protesters was also leading Norwegian Tibetologist Prof. P. Kvaerne. (21/TR/FCI)

\*\*\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE IMPORTANT EDITORIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ELSEWHERE IN THIS ISSUE \*\*\*\*\*