



**THE DALAI LAMA**

January 23, 1995

Dear Mr. Majority Leader,

I would like to extend my personal congratulations on your election as Majority Leader of the Senate

As you prepare your agenda for 1995, I would like to share with you some of my concerns that arise from several new developments in Tibet. Since June, we have learned of a tightening of security and a new crackdown on monks, nuns and suspected independence or human rights activists. This repression has now been extended to include even those Tibetans who are engaged in establishing privately funded schools and who are teaching the Tibetan language. Furthermore, a series of new measures have been introduced to increase political control over monasteries and other religious activities.

In recent days officials of US Administration have begun to acknowledge that de-linking trade from human rights and giving China the most-favoured-nation status eight months ago have not had the expected effect. Not only has Beijing's human rights record not improved, it seems to be getting worse. This is especially evident in the case of Tibet.

Despite this sad reality it is not uncommon to hear people in the West refer to how Communism is dead, forgetting that China remains an undemocratic, totalitarian Communist country that represses its own people and the people of Tibet. Moreover, China is a nuclear power with the largest army in the world, and she continues to build its military strength, while seeking to establish itself as an accepted and respected member of the international community.

However, considering the global changes and developments from a wider perspective, I am very optimistic of major changes in China in the coming years. The attitude and policy of the international community will



be a determining factor in shaping the course of China's future development. In this context, the international community can also play an essential role in encouraging and facilitating a just and negotiated resolution of the Tibetan problem. I strongly believe that the next few years will be crucial for a peaceful and negotiated settlement of the Tibetan issue.

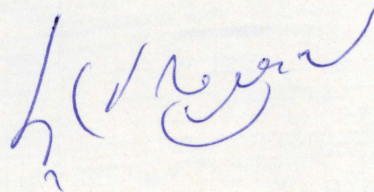
I am convinced that with the necessary political will to assume this responsibility, your great nation has now a unique opportunity to lead the world community in championing a new era of freedom, democracy and peace in Asia.

Your depth of understanding about China and the plight of the Tibetan people is a tremendous source of encouragement, particularly as you will be leading the new Congress on foreign policy matters.

I am hoping to make a visit to Washington next September to personally meet with you and your colleagues and to discuss with you these issues of mutual concern. I recall with pleasure the meeting we had last April and greatly look forward to the opportunity to see you again.

With my prayers and good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Clinton", written in a cursive style.

The Hon. Robert Dole  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C.