

The Agreement of the Central People's Government and the local government of Tibet on Measures for the Peaceful liberation of Tibet

23 MAY, 1951

The Tibetan nationality is one of the nationalities with a long history within the boundaries of China and, like many other nationalities, it has done its glorious duty in the course of the creation and development of the great motherland. But over the last hundred years and more, imperialist forces penetrated into China, and in consequence, also penetrated into the Tibetan region and carried out all kinds of deceptions and provocations. Like previous reactionary Governments, the KMT [p.Kuomintang] reactionary government continued to carry out a policy of oppression and sowing dissension among the nationalities, causing division and disunity among the Tibetan people. The Local Government of Tibet did not oppose imperialist deception and provocations, but adopted an unpatriotic attitude towards the great motherland. Under such conditions, the Tibetan nationality and people were plunged into the depths of enslavement and suffering. In 1949, basic victory was achieved on a nation-wide scale in the Chinese people's war of liberation; the common domestic enemy of all nationalities--the KMT reactionary government--was overthrown; and the common foreign enemy of all nationalities--the aggressive imperialist forces--was driven out. On this basis, the founding of the People's Republic of China and of the Central People's Government was announced. In accordance with the Common Programme passed by the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the Central People's Government declared that all nationalities within the boundaries of the People's Republic of China are equal, and that they shall establish unity and mutual aid and oppose imperialism and their own public enemies, so that the People's Republic of China may become one big family of fraternity and cooperation, composed of all its nationalities. Within this big family of nationalities of the People's Republic of China, national regional autonomy is to be exercised in areas where national minorities are concentrated, and all national minorities are to have freedom to develop their spoken and written languages and to preserve or reform their customs, habits, and religious beliefs, and the Central People's Government will assist all national minorities to develop their political, economic, cultural, and educational construction work. Since then, all nationalities within the country, with the exception of those in the areas of Tibet and Taiwan, have gained liberation. Under the unified leadership of the Central People's Government and the direct leadership of the higher levels of People's Governments, all national minorities have fully enjoyed the right of national equality and have exercised, or are exercising, national regional autonomy. In order that the influences of aggressive imperialist forces in Tibet may be successfully eliminated, the unification of the territory and sovereignty of the People's Republic of China accomplished, and national defence safeguarded; in order that the Tibetan nationality and people may be freed and return to the big family of the People's Republic of China to enjoy the same rights of national equality as all other nationalities in the country and develop their political, economic, cultural, and educational work, the Central People's Government, when it ordered the People's Liberation Army to march into Tibet, notified the local government of Tibet to send delegates to the Central Authorities to hold talks for the conclusion of an agreement on measures for the peaceful liberation of Tibet. At the latter part of April, 1951, the delegates with full powers from the Local Government of Tibet arrived in Peking. The Central People's Government appointed representatives with full powers to conduct talks on a friendly basis with the delegates of the Local Government of Tibet. The result of the talks is that both parties have agreed to establish this agreement and ensure that it be carried into effect.

- **1.** The Tibetan people shall be united and drive out the imperialist aggressive forces from Tibet; that the Tibetan people shall return to the big family of the motherland - the People's Republic of China.
- **2.** The Local Government of Tibet shall actively assist the People's Liberation Army to enter Tibet and consolidate the national defenses.
- **3.** In accordance with the policy towards nationalities laid down in the Common Programme of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the Tibetan people have the right of exercising national regional autonomy under the unified leadership of the Central People's Government.
- **4.** 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.
- **5.** The established status, functions, and powers of the Panchen Lama shall be maintained.
- **6.** By the established status, functions and powers of the Dalai Lama and of the Panchen Lama is meant the status, functions and powers of the 13th Dalai Lama and of the 9th Panchen Lama when they were in friendly and amicable relations with each other.
- **7.** The policy of freedom of religious belief laid down in the Common Programme of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference will be protected. The Central Authorities will not effect any change in the income of the monasteries.
- **8.** The Tibetan troops will be reorganized step by step into the People's Liberation Army, and become a part of the national defense forces of the Central People's Government.
- **9.** The spoken and written language and school education of the Tibetan nationality will be developed step by step in accordance with the actual conditions in Tibet.
- **10.** Tibetan agriculture, livestock raising, industry and commerce will be developed step by step, and the people's livelihood shall be improved step by step in accordance with the actual conditions in Tibet.
- **11.** In matters related to various reforms in Tibet, there will be no compulsion on the part of the Central Authorities. The Local Government of Tibet should carry out reforms of its own accord, and when the people raise demands for reform, they must be settled through consultation with the leading personnel of Tibet.
- **12.** In so far as former pro-imperialist and pro-Kuomintang officials resolutely sever relations with imperialism and the Kuomintang and do not engage in sabotage or resistance, they may continue to hold office irrespective of their past.

- **13.** The People's Liberation Army entering Tibet will abide by the above-mentioned policies and will also be fair in all buying and selling and will not arbitrarily take even a needle or a thread from the people.
- **14.** The Central People's Government will handle all external affairs of the area of Tibet; and there will be peaceful co-existence with neighboring countries and the establishment and development of fair commercial and trading relations with them on the basis of equality, mutual benefit and mutual respect for territory and sovereignty.
- **15.** In order to ensure the implementation of this agreement, the Central People's Government will set up a military and administrative committee and a military area headquarters in Tibet, and apart from the personnel sent there by the Central People's Government it will absorb as many local Tibetan personnel as possible to take part in the work. Local Tibetan personnel taking part in the military and administrative committee may include patriotic elements from the Local Government of Tibet, various district and various principal monasteries; the name list is to be prepared after consultation between the representatives designated by the Central People's Government and various quarters concerned, and is to be submitted to the Central People's Government for approval.
- **16.** Funds needed by the military and administrative committee, the military area headquarters and the People's Liberation Army entering Tibet will be provided by the Central People's Government. The Local Government of Tibet should assist the People's Liberation Army in the purchases and transportation of food, fodder, and other daily necessities.
- **17.** This agreement shall come into force immediately after signatures and seals are affixed to it.

Speech by Vice-Chairman Chu Teh

Chu Teh, Vice-Chairman of the Central People's Government, made the following statement on May 23, on the conclusion of the Agreement concerning the peaceful liberation of Tibet

Date: May 23, 1951

Source: *People's China* June 16, 1951; Issue 12, Vol. III

Online Version: Zhu De Internet Archive, September 2008

Transcribed/HTML Markup: Mike B.

The Agreement between the Central People's Government and the Local Government of Tibet on the measures for the peaceful liberation of Tibet has been signed today.

This Agreement conforms with the interests of the Tibetan nationality and people, hence it also conforms with the interests of the peoples of all nationalities in China. We should warmly congratulate the people throughout the country as well as the Tibetan people.

The Tibetan nationality is one of the nationalities within the Chinese boundaries with a long history. It has performed its glorious duty in the work of creating and developing our great Motherland. But during the recent century, imperialist forces penetrated into China and also into Tibet, carrying out provocations and sowing discord.

At the same time, the reactionary regimes of China, from the Manchu Government to the Kuomintang government, submitted to the aggressive imperialist forces on the one hand, and carried out a policy of oppression and sowing dissension among the Tibetan nationality on the other. Moreover, the Local Government of Tibet did not oppose imperialist aggression and provocation but, instead, was misled and affected by them. So the Tibetan nationality and people fell into the depths of enslavement and suffering.

But, the Tibetan people love their Motherland and oppose imperialist aggression. When the nationwide victory of the Chinese People's Liberation War was in the main attained, the Kuomintang government overthrown, and the aggressive imperialist forces driven from the mainland of China, the relationships between the nationalities within the Chinese borders underwent a fundamental change. On the very day of the founding of the People's Republic of China, the Central People's Government announced the permanent abolition of the policy of national oppression, replaced it

with the policy of national equality, friendship, unity and mutual assistance among the various nationalities in the country, and put this policy into effect.

As a result, most of the nationalities in the country including the Tibetans in Chinghai, Szechuan and Sikang areas secured emancipation and freedom, and have achieved or are achieving national regional autonomy. The Tibetan area has also been deeply affected. First, Panchen Ngoerhtehni declared his support for the Central People's Government one year ago. Then the People's Liberation Army entered the areas around Changtu where they were welcomed and supported by the broad masses of the Tibetan people. In these circumstances, the Dalai Lama assumed temporal power and began to correct the former erroneous policy of the Local Government of Tibet. Accepting the notification of the Central People's Government, he sent a delegation with full powers headed by Kaloon Ngabou Ngawang Jigme to the Central People's Government to conduct negotiations on measures for the peaceful liberation of Tibet. After one month of friendly contact and negotiations, the delegates with full powers of the Central People's Government and the delegates with full powers of the Local Government of Tibet have reached an agreement on the measures for the peaceful liberation of Tibet.

This is a victory of the great unity of the Chinese nation, while at the same time it is a severe defeat for the aggressive imperialist influences which attempt to obstruct and undermine the peaceful liberation of Tibet. The aggressive imperialist forces will not, however, take their defeat lying down. They may continue to engage in new obstructive and disruptive activities. The people of the country, especially the Tibetan people, should pay close attention to these and in particular, the Local Government of Tibet should be very vigilant against these. But no matter what kinds of plots and intrigues imperialism may hatch, they are doomed to thorough defeat before the mighty force of the Chinese people, which includes the Tibetan people.

The Central People's Government will certainly help the Tibetan people in wiping out the influence of imperialism in Tibet; it will achieve the unification of the territory and sovereignty of the People's Republic of China, and defend the national frontiers of our great Motherland, so that the Tibetan nationality and people will achieve liberation, return forever to the family of our great Motherland and, helped by the Central People's Government and the Han nationality, develop its own political, economic, cultural and educational work and improve and raise its standards of living step by step.

It is hoped that the Local Government of Tibet will carry out the Agreement on the measures for the peaceful liberation of Tibet in earnest, and do all it can to help the People's Liberation Army march into Tibet. It is hoped that the Dalai Lama and

Panchen Ngoerhtehni will unite closely and, under the leadership of the Central People's Government, strive for the peaceful liberation of Tibet