

CHINA - THE DALAI LAMADALAI LAMA'S REPRESENTATIVES ISSUE STATEMENT IN BEIJING *

Beijing, December 1 (Xinhua) - A visit by the Dalai Lama to his motherland would bring better understanding between him and the senior Chinese central leaders, said his three representatives here this afternoon.

But they indicated that the Dalai Lama's return was not likely to take place in 1985, due to the preoccupations of the administration of the Tibet Autonomous Region with various projects.

In an interview with Xinhua, the three representatives, Thupten Namgyal Juchen, Phuntsok Tashi Takla and Lodi Gyaltsen Gyari issued the following statement:

The statement says - His holiness the Dalai Lama believes the present Chinese central leadership is "sincere and courageous, and therefore he has much hope in reaching a settlement by direct contact". "His holiness the Dalai Lama is clearly on record that the issues involved are not of his personal position or power. Furthermore, his holiness the Dalai Lama feels past events should not become obstacle for the future".

We have not yet presented any written formula to the central leadership as our visits until now have been of an "exploratory nature", it goes on. However, we have made some of our views and stands known to important leaders including Deng Xiaoping, Hu Yaobang, Li Xiannian, Xi Zhongxun, Ulanhu and Yang Jingren during the past several years. At this stage, it says, "We feel it is best not to discuss these points in public".

"His holiness the Dalai Lama has many times expressed his wish to make a visit to Tibet at the earliest possible time. However, in our opinion, 1985 is not suitable as the whole administration of the Tibet Autonomous Region seems to be preoccupied with various projects, though arrangements may be possible in Gninghai, and other Tibetan areas in Sichuan, Gansu and Yunnan".

Additionally, it adds, such a visit requires detailed preparations and further discussions.

We are confident, it says in conclusion, that a visit by His holiness the Dalai Lama will "bring better understanding" between him and the Senior Central leaders.

* (This statement, released through the official Chinese newsagency, Xinhua, was made available by the Embassy of the Peoples' Republic of China, Canberra).