

## President Obama states his support for Tibet; US Ambassador in Beijing summoned

US Ambassador in Beijing summoned by China's Vice Foreign Minister

[20 February 2010] China's Foreign Ministry has issued a strong statement condemning President Obama's meeting with the Dalai Lama, saying, "the action of the US side has seriously interfered in China's internal affairs, seriously hurt the national feelings of the Chinese people, and seriously undermined China-US relations." Chinese Vice Foreign Minister, Cui Tiankai, has summoned Jon Huntsman, the US ambassador in Beijing, for "solemn representations."

◦ China's Foreign Ministry statement ◦ BBC report ◦ Chinese media response

[18 February] President Obama expressed his "strong support" for the protection of human rights for Tibetans in the People's Republic of China during his meeting in the Map Room at the White House this morning. The Dalai Lama said it was a "great honour" to meet with the President and they talked about the "promotion of human values." But China hits out at the meeting saying it could damage "trust and co-operation" between China and the USA. ◦ White House statement ◦ FT article ◦ Bloomberg

[12 February] The White House confirmed President Obama will meet with the Dalai Lama. China wasn't quick to come out and condemn the meeting, threatening it will further damage to Sino-US relations. It will be interesting to see if China acts on its threats or if they are merely a paper tiger, and the US has stood up and called China's bluff.

◦ The Guardian ◦ AFP

Statement by China's Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Ma Zhaoxu's on President Obama meeting the Dalai Lama

On February 18, 2010 (EST), the US side bent on arranging the meeting between President Obama and Dalai in the Map Room of the White House in disregard of the repeated solemn representations from the Chinese side. The US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton also met with Dalai on the same day. The action of the US side has seriously interfered in China's internal affairs, seriously hurt the national feelings of the Chinese people, and seriously undermined China-US relations. Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Cui Tiankai has summoned the US Ambassador to China Jon Huntsman for solemn representations.

Tibet is an inseparable part of the sacred Chinese territory and Tibet-related issues are purely China's internal affairs. China is firmly opposed to any meeting with Dalai by leaders or government officials of any country in whatever form. China is also resolutely opposed to the interference in China's internal affairs by any country or person under the pretext of Dalai-related issues. The words and deeds of Dalai in the past several decades have shown that he is not purely a religious figure, but a political exile engaged in long-term anti-China splittist activities under the disguise of religion. The approval of Dalai's visit to the US and the arrangement of meetings with the US leader and other government officials have severely violated the basic norms governing international relations, undermined the principles enshrined in the three China-US Joint Communiqués and China-US Joint Statement, and gone against the commitment of the US Government on different occasions that Tibet is a part of China and the US does not support "Tibet Independence". China hereby expresses its strong dissatisfaction and firm opposition.

The Chinese Government and people stand steadfast in their resolve to safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity. Any attempt from any person to interfere in China's internal affairs under the Dalai issue is doomed to failure. China requests the US side to take China's position seriously, take prompt and effective measures to remove the malign impact, stop the connivance and support of the anti-China splittist forces for "Tibet Independence", and stop the interference in China's internal affairs by taking concrete actions to maintain the healthy and stable development of China-US relations.

◦ BBC report ◦ Chinese media response

## Statement from the Press Secretary on the President' s Meeting with His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama

The President met this morning at the White House with His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama. The President stated his strong support for the preservation of Tibet's unique religious, cultural and linguistic identity and the protection of human rights for Tibetans in the People's Republic of China. The President commended the Dalai Lama's "Middle Way" approach, his commitment to nonviolence and his pursuit of dialogue with the Chinese government. The President stressed that he has consistently encouraged both sides to engage in direct dialogue to resolve differences and was pleased to hear about the recent resumption of talks. The President and the Dalai Lama agreed on the importance of a positive and cooperative relationship between the United States and China.

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