

*Lobsay Nyendel L.
We should follow up
the findings of the visit*

A:\BriefingPapertoUNWorkingGrouponArbitraryDetention.txt

Please find enclosed herewith the Briefing Paper from our side which I submitted this morning during a meeting with Mr. Isaac Bitter, Secretary, UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. The original draft of this Paper was prepared by Dennis Cusack (ICLT). I edited the Paper a bit with some additional points and added the enclosures.

During my meeting with Mr. Bitter he made the following issues clear:

1. The Working Group has requested to visit Tibet and if allowed will visit a Prison, most probably Drapchi. From their 11 days trip which begins on 6 October, he felt at maximum they could devote only 48 hours in Tibet (if permitted to visit). So far the WG has not received the okay from Beijing on Tibet. But by Friday I am sure Mr. Bitter will have the information. We are trying to get the detailed programme of the Mission.

2. The WG Mission will not study prison conditions as its not their mandate and will study the issue of human rights of detainees from the legal of point of view. The result of the WG Mission will be reported to the 54th UN Commission on Human Rights.

3. Mr. Bitter supported our views that the WG should raise questions on the status of Tibetan political prisoners (more than 50) whose detention it had decided were "arbitrary" in 1993 and 1995. The WG will also ask for meeting with some political prisoners. Mr. Bitter mentioned that the WG had received requests and appeals on Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, Chadrel Rinpoche and Ngawang Choephel from many sources.

4. Mr. Bitter cautioned me that due to the nature of Visit (controlled and difficult circumstances), we should not expect much from the Mission. He said that the main issue was that a "dialogue" is maintained with the Chinese authorities.

He was informed about the developments of Dr. Völlmer's visit to Drapchi Prison.

Tashi delegs,

Ngawang C. Drakmargyapon

BRIEFING NOTE ON TIBET

Submitted to

UN WORKING GROUP ON ARBITRARY DETENTION

Visit to China and Tibet -- October 1997

by

Tibet Bureau for UN Affairs