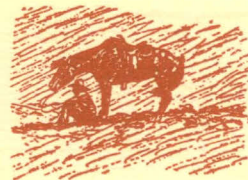


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12 March 2009

Honorable Sam Blakeslee
California State Assemblyman, Thirty-Third District
State Capitol, Room 4117
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Sam:

Thank you for sharing information on your Assembly Concurrent Resolution 6, relative to the Dalai Lama and Tibet Awareness Day. You request my opinion on the propriety of foreign consular officials of the People's Republic of China entering the halls of the California State government with the purpose of in-person lobbying individual legislators to vote against passage of the subject resolution.

In my years as Chief of Staff to Governor Ronald Reagan and again as Deputy Secretary of State and later National Security Advisor to President Reagan, I do not recall any case of foreign consular officials lobbying at our state level in such a blatant and aggressive way. To suggest that such activity is irregular is to state the obvious; in fact, such actions appear to be inappropriate.

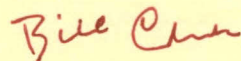
Notwithstanding matters of propriety, the fact that such actions occur in relation to a resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the flight of the Tibetan religious leader in the aftermath of an unprovoked invasion by the armed forces of Communist China is not merely ironic, but indeed tragic. As your resolution correctly details, the United Nations General Assembly has on three separate occasions passed resolutions calling for the cessation of practices that deprive the Tibetan people of their fundamental human rights and freedoms, including the right to self-determination. That consular officials of the Chinese Communist government would utilize the freedoms and liberties afforded them by the governments of the United States and the state of California to seek the defeat of a resolution advocating the same freedoms for the occupied and oppressed people of Tibet is unfortunate.

My thoughts on this circumstance may be emphasized by asking the following question: Would consular staff of the United States ever be allowed to walk the halls of any Chinese provincial government to lobby Chinese state officials to cast a vote in support of or in opposition to any measure related to the issue of human rights? To ask the question is to answer it.

In closing, I offer my thanks and best wishes to you in your continued efforts to give voice to all those who yearn to practice their religion and culture freely. Since its enactment in July of 1776, our Declaration of Independence has eloquently announced to the world that all men are created equal, endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, among which are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. These timeless principles are equally true in the faraway mountains of Tibet as they are in sunny California and across our blessed nation.

I applaud your efforts and those of your Assembly colleagues, freedom-loving members throughout the free world, members of the Tibetan exile community, and all others who celebrate the attempts of the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan people to enjoy basic freedoms and liberties by peaceful means, and wish all of you every success in your efforts.

God Bless,

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

William P. Clark
Supreme Court Justice (Ret.)

WPC/lr