

INDEPENDENCE VERSUS AUTONOMY

by Tsoltim N. Shakabpa

TIBETANS WHO ARE CONSIDERING GIVING UP INDEPENDENCE FOR AUTONOMY SHOULD REALIZE WHAT IT MEANS TO ACCEPT AUTONOMY.

ACCEPTING AUTONOMY MEANS THE FOLLOWING AMONG OTHER THINGS:

1. Tibetans have no say nor any rights in the field of foreign affairs or activities relating to Tibet, including all foreign military maneuvers.
2. Tibetans will have no U.N. representation nor any representation in international bodies.
3. Tibetans cannot maintain a military force; just an internal police force.
4. If China goes to war with any country, Tibetans will be conscripted to join the Chinese military. (In this event, Tibetans will be sent to the forefront of the battlefield before China sends any Chinese soldiers).
5. Tibetans must use Chinese postage stamps for mailing purposes, and parcels and letters going abroad will be subject to Chinese scrutiny and controls.
6. All foreign travel by Tibetans will be controlled and restricted by the Chinese.
7. Tibetans must carry Chinese passports when traveling abroad.
8. Tibetans will be restricted in carrying money abroad according to Chinese regulations.
9. Visits from Tibetan relatives or friends living abroad will be subject to Chinese control and regulations.
10. Foreign leaders and dignitaries of foreign countries can only be invited to visit Tibet by China, not by Tibetans.
11. Tourists to Tibet will have to get Chinese visas, not Tibetan visas.
12. Tibetan money will not be recognized by any nation.
13. Tibetans will never have direct use of foreign exchange nor access to foreign exchange reserves as those will be controlled and managed by China.
14. Receipts of moneys or income from all foreign sources will be subject to Chinese taxes and controls.

15. Dispatch of moneys and payment of any kind to foreign destinations will be subject to Chinese control and restrictions.

16. Export of Tibetan goods and import of foreign goods into Tibet will be managed and controlled by China.

17. Foreign investments in Tibet will be controlled by China.

18. If Tibet ever manufactures airplanes, those aircrafts will be restricted from flying overseas.

19. Promotion of Tibetan culture and religion abroad will be subject to Chinese scrutiny, control and regulations.

20. China will have full control over the flow of the Driчу and Machu Rivers in Tibet, as China will claim they affect the Yangtse and Huang Ho Rivers in China since the Driчу becomes the Yangtse in China and the Machu becomes the Huang Ho in China. (Any such activity will affect the Tibetan ecological and environmental system).

21. Most of the regions of Kham and Amdo of independent Tibet will remain in China and not in autonomous Tibet.

22. China may use Tibetan land for military purposes and maneuvers as they can claim it falls under protection against foreign enemies.

23. China will have the authority to impound or export from Tibet any valuable Tibetan resources as they can claim it affects Tibet's foreign welfare and affairs.

24. Tibetans may never plot against nor revolt against Chinese authority as they will be considered traitorous activities and liable for execution.

25. Under the above circumstances, Tibetans will be prisoners in their own land.

26. With “genuine” autonomy, unless the Tibetan Government-in-Exile's negotiators can eliminate a good part of the above, Tibetans will still be prisoners in their own land.

27. With independence, none of the above obstructions will exist and Tibetans will be free to decide their own future.

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