

Red Action in Tibet

Nominal Rule Goes To Panchen Lama

By John Roderick

TOKYO, March 28 (AP) for him. The Red Chinese moved him from Kumbum in 1951 to his ancient religious fief at Shigatse, southwest of Lhasa, to be the counterfoil to the Dalai Lama.

Peking says this 21-year-old son of a peasant will head the Preparatory Committee for the Tibet Autonomous Region only so long as the Dalai Lama is "under duress of the rebels."

But Peking admits the Dalai Lama tore up the treaty of 1951. That leaves as the last symbol of Tibetan authority this committee supposedly set up to prepare Tibet for self-rule.

The Panchen Lama is considered a spiritual leader of an equal plane with the Dalai Lama in Tibet. But traditionally, all temporal power has rested with the Dalai Lama.

Considered Living Buddha

Both are considered living Buddhas. Both are supposedly the incarnations of the original Dalai and Panchen Lamas, 15th Century disciples of one of Tibet's great holy men—Tsong Ka Ba.

The present Panchen Lama was born in the town of Lihwa, in Sikkim Province next door to Tibet, on Nov. 30, 1937.

One day several years later the holy men of Tibet came to Lihwa looking for the incarnation of the Panchen Lama. They found a 6-year-old boy in a peasant's hut. He showed a childish interest in the spectacles of his predecessor. This and a number of occult signs convinced the monks that this boy was the reincarnation of a long-dead abbot in Tibet.

Kept Handy by Reds

The Chinese Nationalists, then in control of the mainland, installed him as the new Panchen Lama in 1944.

The Panchen Lama had to give up table tennis when the Communists conquered China in 1949. They had other plans

From then on he remained in the shadow of the Dalai Lama, but the Communists kept him handy, ready to bring him forward should the suspect Dalai Lama turn against Peking.

The Communists made the Panchen Lama a deputy for Tibet and a member of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress in 1954. He was made first vice chairman of the Preparatory Committee for Tibet in 1956. The Dalai Lama was chairman.

His spiritual realm is four regions of southern Tibet—Phuntsoling, Lhatse, Khamba and Ngaming.

The Panchen Lama had been called pro-Communist, but when he accompanied the Dalai Lama to India in 1956 for the 2500th anniversary ceremonies of Buddha, he was said to have been as reluctant to return to Red rule as the Dalai Lama.



PANCHEN LAMA
... elevated by Peking