

# Statements About Florida Splendid China

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# Statements on Florida Splendid China

## Declaration of the Free Mongolia Movement Protesting the Splendid China Theme Park

December 18, 1993

We have come here today to protest Splendid China's depiction of the status of Mongolians in China. The idyllic image portrayed by the creators of Splendid China is contradicted by the true policies of the government of China in the following ways:

1. Mongolian culture has been systematically destroyed through repression of the language and customs,
2. The human rights of the Mongolian people have been continuously violated since the inception of the current government, with thousands killed and brutal repression of any kind of political dissent,
3. The ecology and the steppe lands have been destroyed through policies favoring Chinese agriculture over ancient Mongolian traditions which respect the harmony with nature.

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## Statement of Thubten Samphel, spokesperson for the Office of Tibet, at the Florida Protest Against the Inclusion of the Potala Palace in the "Splendid China" theme park

Office of Tibet, New York

18 December 1993

We Tibetans demand that the Potala Palace exhibit be removed from the "Splendid China" theme park in Florida.

The inclusion of the Potala Palace, one of the most revered pilgrim spots throughout Central Asia and Buddhist Himalayas, in the "Splendid China" theme park is a blatant attempt by China to whitewash its brutal occupation of Tibet.

China invaded Tibet in 1949. Since more that 1.2 million Tibetans have died as a direct result of the Chinese occupation of Tibet and more than 6,000 monasteries, universities and libraries have been ransacked and destroyed. For the Tibetan people, whose identity communist China did its best to destroy for these many years, now seeing China flaunt their religious and cultural monuments to the outside world is a pure and simple case of adding insult to injury.

We are hurt by the American partners' participation in this massive attempt to beautify the ugly face of one of the world's last and largest totalitarian state. No one in the free world created monuments to Hitler's Germany or Stalin's Soviet Union. Stop doing it for Deng's China.

The Beijing regime's theme park is also an insult to the Chinese people themselves who have suffered under its rule. The 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre is a reminder to all that no amount of propaganda offensive will change the face or the behavior of a regime which rules by brute force. Wei Jingsheng, one of the most well-known Chinese dissidents and the leading light of the Chinese democratic movement, wrote a letter to Deng Xiaoping on Tibet in October 1992. That letter has been reprinted in The Asian Wall Street Journal of 7 December of 1993. Wei writes " The director of this tragedy is no other that you, Mr. Deng Xiaoping...Mao Tsetung and yourself included became big-headed with the 'victory' of the Korean war and the recovery of the economy...You began to implement leftist policies in Tibet. The mutual discrimination and contempt between the Tibetans and the Chinese added to the hatred that caused the killing of innocent people by the army, and torture by officials."

Once again we urge all partners involved in the creation of "Splendid China" theme park to remove the Potala Palace from it and all references to Tibet. By removing the Potala Palace and other monuments of the so-called minorities, the people involved in the Chinese theme park will be doing as service not only to the "minorities" who are the inheritors of some of the most distinct cultures but also help preserve the rich cultural diversity of the world which we all inhabit.

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**The Times-Picayune (New Orleans, Louisiana)**

**Letter to the Editor**

**Sunday, May 7, 1995**

## **China not splendid**

I usually enjoy reading Mille Ball's upbeat travel pieces, but I lamented the review of Splendid China Florida (April 16). Ball states that she had not heard much about the theme park before she visited it. Her unfamiliarity with this Chinese-government-owned tourists attraction is evident because she never mentions the political wrangling that has taken place since before the park's opening in December, 1993.

Ball does, however, make two good points when she writes that the park's models "have little to do with reality" and that "Splendid China with its haunting Oriental background music is a sanitized, doll-house size version of China."

What she may not know is that the propaganda theme park is a great propaganda tool for the Chinese government, not the site of a cultural exchange between America and China that is advertised by the park's promotions department. Even the park's Chinese employees have secretly exposed the injustices. In a January, 10, 1995 letter to the editor of "The Central Florida Future" an anonymous Chinese employee writes that "the entertainers are merely puppets sent from mainland China to perform for the American public." The writer goes on to say that the Chinese employees are not allowed to speak to the park's visitors, that their visas, travel documents and social security cards were taken and locked away, and that they are not allowed to have "outsiders" in their rooms at the nearby Chinese-owned Days Inn Hotel, nor to receive and make phone calls. One Chinese performer is quoted by the writer as having said, "I have a lot more freedom in China than here. I thought this was a free country."

In addition to violating the rights of its employees, Splendid China misleads visitors into believing that the non-Chinese monuments depicted at the park are all part of the great cultural heritage of the Chinese motherland. For example, the Tibetan Potala Palace, built for the 5th Dalai Lama by Tibetans in the 17th century, is exhibited as one of China's glorious edifices. In truth, this stunning example of Tibetan architecture was bombed and plundered by the Communist Chinese army during the Chinese takeover of Lhasa, Tibet in 1959.

I urge travelers to think about the human rights violations committed by the present Chinese government before visiting Splendid China Florida. Traveler's dollars will go right into Chinese bank accounts. If people must go, then go with open eyes and some political understanding. Florida's China is not splendid.

Whitney Stewart

author of "To the Lion Throne: The Story of the 14 Dalai Lama"

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**Letter to the Editor, St. Augustine Record, December 29, 1995**  
**China park idea not so Splendid**

Editor:

Many of us are home reading the paper, glad we are not shoveling snow, glad we are not being sent to Bosnia, glad we have purchased something nice for each one on our list, and trying to keep up with all the parties. Even this short list gives rise to a lot of emotion, probably just scratching the surface. There's something else going on though, that since I can't be there cause I'm at work, I'd still like to try and support.

The Chinese Communists are operating a theme park, maybe you've seen the billboard for Splendid China, right on the south edge of Disney World. Sunday Dec. 17th marked their second anniversary as a propaganda machine for tourists and Floridians. If you policy is to jail and beat those who'd voice concerns and dissent about how and what government does, if invading neighboring countries, murdering their religious and political leaders and imposing martial law on the citizenry while transplanting peasants and businesses to "culturally cleanse" the area, then you need a propaganda machine like Splendid China to keep the civilized world at bay. Its not making any money but when you have the one of the world's fastest growing economies as the "world economy" rushes in to exploit one of the cheapest labor forces who they guarantee will not "organize," money is not a pressing issue.

Demonstrators were there Sunday sacrificing a few hours or half a day to say what China as a world citizen is doing should not be tolerated. Since the park opened in '93, they have also been working to tell residents of Florida that the same folks who brought you the tanks of TianAnMen Square are setting up shop right here. One of the first concerns has also been to alert county school systems that field trips to what the editorial writers of the Miami Herald called the "Torturer's Theme Park" wouldn't be educational, unless you like propaganda of course. In Pinellas County, the Classroom Teachers Association has moved to ban such trips, as have a few other counties.

The vision of the demonstrators is that if grassroots pressure were brought on Beijing in the world press, that American parents don't want their children exposed to Chinese historical fiction, then President Clinton's waffling flip flop on China's MFN status won't smell so bad; in fact, Clinton may gain some insight to non-military supports to freedom and sovereignty.

Tom Vogler  
St. Augustine

# Statements on Florida Splendid China

## **Destruction of a Culture: Tibet after the Chinese Conquest**

February 1996

A Paper by Michelle Wolper

The most notable sounds of pre-1949 Tibet were the pipe of festive flutes, the beat of drums, and the authoritative notes of the massive shell-horns which called Tibetan Buddhist monks and nuns to their duties. Magicians and oracles preyed on the superstitions of the people, to whom every river, every mountain top, or waterfall was the abode of a particular evil spirit which had to be regularly appeased. Over this landscape hovered vultures waiting to be fed with the specially butchered flesh and crushed bones of the dead, for there were no cemeteries in this land dedicated to a belief in reincarnation. This beautiful country tucked away in the Himalayan mountains, was once independent with the non-violent beliefs of Buddhism permeating every corner of normal Tibetan life. Tibetan religions, customs, culture, and language were all distinctive, amply sustaining a claim to self-determination and independence. For many centuries, actually, Tibet remained the most secluded and inaccessible country in the world (Karan 5). However, in 1949, and again more violently in 1959, the People's Republic of China slowly encroached upon Tibet, a nation which she claimed had always belonged to her, and amidst much bloodshed, slowly transformed Tibetan culture, religion, and lifestyle. Whereas Tibetans found it more convenient to wade through streams, the Chinese decided that bridges would be built instead. Whereas the Tibetans wished to remain in a state of "backwardness," to practice their religion in peace, and to maintain control of their political system, the Chinese introduced an alien Marxist-Maoist ideology, a Communist intellectual structure which imposed a new culture and a new way of life on Tibet, with resulting changes in the physical as well as cultural landscape (Snellgrove 266). Chinese Communism has expressed itself in many ways in Tibet, but four areas-political patterns, economic activities, religion, and education-accurately illustrate the transformation and the innumerable accounts of oppression that have occurred in this tiny country.

The mystery of Tibet lies in its unique geography, presenting a pattern of extraordinary and striking physical landscapes which isolate her from adjacent countries. With its area of about 460,000 square miles, Tibet is delineated by the high peaks of the Kunlun and Himalayan mountain ranges (Jigmei 50). The northern part of Tibet, made up largely of a rocky desert plain called Chang Thang, covers nearly half of the country. This barren area, characterized by intense aridity, was unable to support settlements or towns of any size, but was the home of nomadic herdsman who prospered mainly from the export of wool to India (Karan 7). In contrast with Chang Thang, the long lowland valleys of southern Tibet contain fertile agricultural areas and the bulk of the nation's population. All the principal cities, including Lhasa, Shigatse, and Gyantse, are located in the south and house the majority of Tibet's estimated three million people (Snellgrove 22). The location of Lhasa, although not central in Tibet, was strategic for two reasons. First, its focal position at the site of the crossing of land and water routes gave the city a dominant position in Tibet (Karan 8). Second, the mountains surrounding the arable area around Lhasa for centuries provided marked military barriers, giving repeated pause to enemies coming from the north. Lhasa was the center of economic development of Tibet for the aforementioned reasons (Jigmei 52). The mountainous terrain and rugged topography aided tremendously in Tibet's goal of isolation.

However, according to the Chinese in the middle of the twentieth century, isolation meant

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backwardness. (Karan 14). Her attempt to modernize Tibet after the first invasion in 1949 made assurances of "religious freedom, mixed with lavish gifts to the nobility, promises of new hospitals, schools, roads, and the official prohibition of the common Chinese term for Tibetan-man-tze, meaning 'barbarian' (Avedon 37). The most important of these assurances was for religious freedom, for the Tibetans practice of Mahayana Buddhism was crucial for their cultural survival, for Tibet was essentially a theocracy until the arrival of the Chinese in the middle of the century. Tibetan Buddhism, symbolized by the wheel of life, the ever-returning chance to improve one's being in a fresh incarnation, provided a distinctive approach to human existence and to the passage of time (Karan 14). As the wheel of life keeps turning, so mortal man exchanges one body for another. Only nirvana, the absorption into the divine, provides a merciful release from the cycle of rebirths. For this reason time is best applied in meditation and looking toward the ultimate release from existence. The impress of this religious teaching on Tibetan society and character was profound. Therefore, it seems only logical that Tibetan Buddhism was an entity around which their lives revolved. It is now well over a thousand years since Buddhism was introduced to Tibet, and throughout this time the influence of Buddhist belief on the people of Tibet has been all-embracing (Snellgrove 94). Whether in the cities or in the remoter country districts, the majority of Tibetans today are still devout Buddhists (Jigmei 172).

Buddhism, which was brought to Tibet in 630 by King Songsten Gampo, probably initially appealed to the Tibetans as a superior form of magic and healing art (Jigmei 160). The diffusion of Buddhism into Tibetan culture was by no means smooth, for it had to reckon with the hostility of the native Bon religion. Bon was deeply rooted not only in the mind of the common man but in the court (Snellgrove 96). However, people were fascinated with the idea that one could graduate from a state of primitive uncouthness to a superior stage in civilization. Buddhism finally won out in Tibet due to its promise of universal salvation through love, compassion, and the spirit of tolerance (Karan 68). The Mahayana ideal of joint endeavor, in which devotees morally and intellectually superior would share their piety with the handicapped ones, was simply more attractive. Buddhism also probably provided the impetus for growth in literacy, so people could understand the sacred scriptures and write so as to copy them (Jigmei 161).

The establishment of a theocracy in Tibet occurred in 1642, when ruler Gushri Khan delegated the actual government of the country to the Fifth Dalai Lama. The Dalai Lama is known as the incarnation of a deity named Chenrezi, whose compassion is the refuge of all in distress (Karan 68), and no account of Tibetan history would be complete without his mentioning. Known as the symbol of Tibet's nationalism and as the greatest ruler Tibet had known since ancient times, he completely united his nation. He was also responsible for other decisions which turned Tibet into a country unique for its organization and its beauty. He had the majestic Potala Palace built. He also established the title of the Panchen Lama or "precious scholar", which is considered to be the incarnation of the supreme Buddha of Limitless Light, and the spiritual father of Chenrezi, Amitabha (Karan 69).

The Thirteenth Dalai Lama is also notable in that he could identify articles belonging to his predecessor when less than two years old and was recognized as the true incarnation in the traditional procedure of omens and rituals ending with his enthronement in 1879 (Avedon 7). At the time of his death in 1933 Tibet had been completely independent, having had relatively amicable relations with China.

Guided by oracles and omens a search party found the reincarnation of the Thirteenth Dalai Lama in an extraordinary child born on June 6, 1935, in Kumbum (Avedon 5). The child passed

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the standard identification tests with utmost ease and upon confirmation by the state oracle, the Fourteenth Dalai Lama was consecrated on the Lion Throne of the sacred Potala Palace on February 22, 1940. Until the invasion of the People's Liberation Army and the Sino-Tibetan agreement of May 23, 1951, the then fifteen-year-old incarnate functioned as the sovereign ruler of Tibet.

What factors explain China's overwhelming desire to invade and occupy Tibet? Consider the strategic value of Tibet. The economic resources of the plateau and the value of the area for colonization from the overpopulated regions of China represent plausible explanations. Also take into account the Chinese concept of self-determination. The Chinese view their homeland as the center of the world, surrounded by a "perceptual and conceptual organization of space in zones" (Karan 18). According to their "return of Tibet to the Chinese Motherland" explanation, a major aim of Chinese policy is to secure physical domination of the territories which lie along her borders. Since Tibet lies in this area it is thus regarded as an inseparable part of China which must be integrated into its national territory.

The Tibetan campaign began in late 1949 with the drilling of Chinese troops in mountain warfare and of party commissars in the Tibetan language and customs (Karan 15). On October 7, 1950, the Chinese advance got under way, and within four days, the invaders approached Chamdo, a regional capital about 400 miles northeast of Lhasa (Karan 15). In the face of the threat from Communist China, the Dalai Lama mobilized what forces he had, probably no more than 12,000 men, armed "only with British rifles, a few out-of-date field guns, and fanatical courage" (Richardson 17). This meager equipment seemed hardly sufficient, but Tibetans were skillful in handling weapons, as their reputation was always that of fierce bloody warriors. They also had the "home advantage"; they were accustomed to their rugged topography and such a force could have done much to harass the invading Chinese.

The Tibetans were prepared to defend the vital city of Chamdo, but, unfortunately, they sensed danger that wasn't actually omnipresent, and this proved to be the root of their downfall. Prepared for a daylight attack by the Chinese, the Tibetan armies were awoken shortly after midnight on October 19, 1950 by the crash of explosions (Goldstein 693). Bright lights shredded the sky as Chinese troops, concealed outside the city, set off hundreds of rounds of rockets, star shells, and other pyrotechnics. Terror-stricken civilians fled the streets, and Tibetans made the assumption that Chamdo was surrounded and that therefore resistance was useless. The Tibetan armies thought it best that they abandon the city and head to Lhasa to prepare a substantial defense. The next day, however, they were shocked to discover that the "crash of explosions" had been nothing more than a mere fireworks display. Chinese soldiers infiltrated the town and captured it without firing a single shot.

From Chamdo on, the People's Liberation Army had no real opposition except from the rugged terrain. The Dalai Lama, resisting the advice of the State Oracle to flee the country, became convinced of the uselessness of fighting the Liberation Army. In late December 1950 he sent a peace delegation to China, and six months later, a 17-Point Agreement was signed between the two nations (Goldstein 763). The agreement brought an end to Tibetan independence as they knew it, although the treaty provided for Tibet's self-government under the rule of the Dalai Lama. This highly endeared figure was promised that his established status, functions, and powers would not be altered. China assumed military control of Tibet and the ability to conduct foreign relations. China also wanted to reverse the state of backwardness that was the essence of Tibetan culture. The reforms proposed by the Chinese, which included the building of schools, roads, hospitals, and light industry, were met with discontent by the majority of Tibetans (Karan



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17). Many Tibetans were sent to learn in Chinese schools. The aggressive Communists with their Maoist zeal made little impression on the individualistic Tibetans, who felt that inner perfection of a man's soul was more important than an asphalt surface on a road or the construction of a bridge. The Chinese efforts to assimilate Tibetans into her culture actually sowed the seeds for the subsequent Tibetan uprising in 1959.

Firstly, China didn't fully adhere to all the tenets of the agreement. On the surface, she observed the pledge she made to the Dalai Lama, but China's "covert" attempts to alter the traditional institutions of Tibetan administration lay the groundwork that was to transform Tibetan society. China redefined the concept of local government, a concept that had been clearly stipulated in the treaty. Rather than regard Tibet as a single territorial and political unit, China divided the nation into three equal and independent units, each having a separate administration (Karan 40). These three units were the territory of central Tibet ruled by the Dalai Lama, the area around Shigatse administered by the Panchen Lama, and the strategic area of Chamdo, which forms the link between China and Tibet. China then interpreted its pledge to maintain traditional Tibetan institutions to apply only to the territory of central Tibet around Lhasa ruled directly by the Dalai Lama. Reforms could then be initiated in the rest of the plateau with no obligation to seek approval from the Dalai Lama's government. China encountered little resistance from Chamdo and Shigatse, whom she regarded as sovereign. However, the traditionally strong Tibetan elements and institutions in the Lhasa region offered major obstacles to the expansion of Chinese domination. China's policy was therefore aimed at weakening the internal unity of the established regime. Its tactics involved support of dissident elements whose agitation would diminish the political power of the Dalai Lama's government. In efforts to achieve assimilation, the Chinese also initiated a policy to downgrade the divinity of the Dalai Lama and undermine the awe and mystery surrounding his symbolic position as Tibet's spiritual leader. A major effort was also made to debase the significance and influence of monks and monasteries.

Also, in the treaty, China recognized the distinctive status of Tibet as a special autonomous region (Goldstein 768). This position was abolished, however, in 1954, when Tibet was declared an autonomous region of China. A year later, representatives of the three Tibetan regions merged to form the Preparatory Committee for the Formation of the Tibet Autonomous Region as a response to this position. Functioning as the central administration of Tibet, the committee was dependent on the State Council of the People's Republic of China in all respects. Since most Tibetans appointed to the committee turned out to be nothing more than Chinese puppets, Tibetans were not represented on the major decisions which were made by the Chinese.

One factor that China did adhere to in the treaty: the integration of the Tibetan and Chinese armed forces (Goldstein 765). Road construction assisted integration with China, as did the development of health facilities. Many Tibetans, although initially riled by these developments, soon grew used to them and began to appreciate their intrinsic significance. By the end of 1954, China had consolidated her physical hold in all areas of Tibet except the Lhasa region, a region that stood by her traditions and conservative hierarchy.

The initiation of large-scale secular education with a communist-oriented curriculum, the construction of hydroelectric stations, factories, experimental farms, and roads now began to have a major impact on the landscape of the country, its economy, and its people (Karan 24). The increasing Chinese control of Tibetan affairs also generated mounting unrest among the people. Small uprisings began as early as 1957, and the Chinese responded with increased repression. By 1959, the stage was set for a collision between China, determined to gain complete political domination and the Dalai Lama's government, which sought desperately to preserve its

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traditional identity and institutions.

Shortly before the famous uprising of 1959, rumors began circulating in Lhasa that China intended to abduct the Dalai Lama. On March 12, in defiance against Chinese orders against civilians carrying weapons, about ten thousand armed Tibetans marched on the Potala Palace, the main palace of the Dalai Lama, and the Norbu Lingka, the summer palace, to protect their "god-king" and demand release from communist rule. The fatal flaw on the part of the Tibetans was the inability to mobilize their forces. The vast majority of Tibetans were highly dissatisfied with China's rule and her policy of Communist transformation, but factors such as apprehension, apathy, traditional disinterest in politics, and aversion to violence which prevented leaders of the insurgents from mustering the entire population. This failure to organize a unified front reduced the uprising to a mere gesture of defiance (Karan 25). As the Chinese moved heavy reinforcements into Lhasa demanding an end to the resistance, it was evident that a final struggle was about to begin which, in accordance with the rumor that had circulated, could well result in the capture of the Dalai Lama. In fear of his life, the Dalai Lama finally heeded the advice of the State Oracle and on March 17, he quickly and silently fled to India, where he still resides to this day (Avedon 216-217).

The flight of the Dalai Lama, not to mention the collapse of the insurgency, paved the way for absolute Chinese control. China no longer had to consider the actions and reactions of the Dalai Lama or his influence when controlling Tibetan affairs. Perhaps "controlling" is a gross understatement.

China began by initiating a major land redistribution program, which involved the breaking up of big estates formerly owned by the monasteries and nobility, and distributing the land to the peasantry. The goal here was to pave the way for eventual collectivization of agriculture (Karan 27). The redistribution of land was followed by "systematic organization of groups of peasant households into mutual-aid teams" (Karan 38). These teams, which were later merged into agricultural producer's cooperatives, created favorable conditions for the setting up of collective farms and finally communes—the cherished goal of the Communist regime. Through these communes members would pool their resources to meet production requirements set by the communist government. Also through this system, China was able to make significant progress in introducing modern agricultural techniques, exploiting virgin lands, and virtually wiping out any trace of Tibetan primitive farm tools. Improved seeds, insecticides, chemical fertilizers, and vaccines for animals sent from China are transforming farming in Tibet, for production was increased at a rapid rate. Unfortunately, little of the increased production seems to have reached the Tibetans themselves. Escaped refugees have reported that strict rationing occurred and in some areas near-starvation conditions existed (Karan 41). They cited that staples such as butter, cheese, milk, meat and vegetables were scarce and sugar was available only on festive occasions. A quote from an interview with a Tibetan refugee sums it up:

[The Chinese] distributed land and for many of us it was the first land we had worked for ourselves. Then when our granaries began to fill they taxed and rationed us and nationalized all property. We own nothing now, not even our souls and our dignity (Karan 61-2).

In the field of education, the role of monasteries, which had been the traditional centers of Tibetan learning, were eliminated, with the complete control of administration by the Chinese. This control also included developing secular public education as a tool to convert the Tibetan people to Communism. In as early as 1951, the Chinese launched a campaign to indoctrinate the

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Tibetan people in Marxism. Radio stations and printing presses for printing Marxist literature were established in Lhasa (Goldstein 622). Their ultimate goal was to win the younger generation of Tibetans to the Communist value system, since they knew that the Tibetan elders, who had lived the majority of their lives in a conservative manner, would be immune to communist attempts to remold their society and culture. By teaching young Tibetans about communist ideology, the Chinese were essentially rearing future communist-indoctrinated Tibetan administrators, which paved the way for complete substitution of Chinese-operated institutions for the more conservative, traditional Tibetan traditions (Karan 71).

Also, with reforms in road construction, and domination of commerce, China's full political, administrative, and economic hold was secured. For centuries all transportation in Tibet amounted to walking, porters and pack animals. In 1950 there was no other independent country of such a size in the world where no wheeled vehicles were used (Karan 46). The vast majority of Tibetans were completely content in their state of backwardness. However, the Chinese changed this in their assimilation efforts. Their control brought a transformation to highways. New roads not only have altered the pattern of trade; they have also changed the general pattern of economic development of Tibet. The expansion of Tibet's network of roads and airplanes has enabled China to move impressive numbers of Chinese personnel and large amounts of military equipment into areas that up until then had been accessible only by yak or foot, thereby increasing their political control and strengthening the military supply lines and relations with mainland China (Karan 46). China also began to build a 1000-mile railroad in Tibet in 1952, and by 1960, a road had been constructed that linked Lhasa with China. By 1965, Tibet had an effective road network of 9000 miles (Goldstein 380). Plans have since been made to continue to expand the present network of transportation and communication into more remote areas. Hence the result: the attainment of complete territorial integration of Tibet with China.

An important segment of the Tibetan economy, industrial production, became a growing segment of the Tibetan economy under Chinese control since the uprising. Before 1949, handicrafts and artisan-type industries were prominent in Tibet. These simple industries included hand spinning and weaving, metalwork, and the making of simple tools and equipment for general use. These traditional industries suffered a setback following the flight of the Dalai Lama in 1959, for many of the artisans were either forced to depart to China or to distant work camps. China's attempts to promote industrial development included a comprehensive survey of Tibet's natural resources. Because Tibet was scarce in resources such as fuel, coal mines were developed, as were water power resources. In 1956, 600-kilowatt hydroelectric power plants began to supply power to Lhasa and Shigatse (Karan 50). These power stations have replaced the butter oil lamps that have served the homes of many peasants and herdsmen. Also, with the discovery and extraction of minerals such as iron ore, boron and graphite in recent years, the pace of industrial development in Tibet grew even more rapidly. In addition, a number of small industrial establishments, such as tanneries, canneries, dairies, and other food processing factories, went into operation as early as 1960 (Goldstein 627). Also, with the construction of woolen textile mills, pharmaceutical factories and cement plants, the Tibetan traditions of hand spinning, weaving, and simple metalworking gradually faded into obscurity.

Along with all of these reforms came the cultural cleansing, the elimination of what has been coined the "four olds"-old culture, old customs, old habits, and old thoughts. This cleansing formally occurred from 1966 until 1976 during China's Cultural Revolution, a movement set in motion by Chairman Mao Tse-tung. Although Tibetan military leaders, especially General Chang Kuo-hua, commander of the 1950 invasion forces and dominant military leader on the

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Tibetan plateau, tried to apprehend this revolution, their efforts were unsuccessful as the Red Guards, young Chinese militants, created widespread confusion in Lhasa, Shigatse, and outlying towns (Karan 27). On August 25, 1966, they sacked Jokhang, a pivotal temple of Lhasa. Religious texts and paintings were set afire; images were destroyed and dumped into a river. All articles connected with the traditional ways of life were seized from private homes and destroyed.

After the invasion of 1949 and the establishment of its territorial control, despite promises to protect freedom of religion and monasteries, Chinese religious officials began to intensively study Tibetan religion and determine how Maoism could be interpreted in terms of the Bodhisattva doctrine. Their attempts failed, however, due to the basic conflict between the Communist emphasis on materialism and the Buddhist emphasis on spiritualism. This is reflected in the Tibetan preference for meditation and merit in the next life rather than labor and wealth in the present life.

However, the Chinese did succeed in the systematic and ruthless destruction of Tibetan culture by the Chinese through a variety of methods. Reports and Tibetan refugees indicate that widespread religious persecutions took place almost immediately after the invasion of 1949. A report published by the International Commission of Jurists at Geneva in 1960 concluded that China had indeed violated the fundamental rights of the Tibetan people (International Commission of Jurists 59). While this group could do little more than merely state that their rights had been violated, they were internationally applauded in their efforts since previous appeals to the United Nations only resulted in a UN reprimand of China, a mere slap on the wrist. The results of the report included forcing lamas to abandon their traditional rights to obtain food through charity; torture and starvation of those who would not abandon their faith; forcing monks to build the aforementioned highways, which meant giving up their religious work in temples; forcing monks to marry and then moving them to China to earn a living; levying taxes on the images of Buddha; negating Tibetan spiritual traditions; and forcing lamas into studies of Marxism. In 1959 the Dalai Lama reported that the Chinese had destroyed nearly 1000 monasteries in eastern Tibet (ICT). Chinese attacks on the Potala Palace during the second uprising led to the destruction of valuable sacred books and records, statues, and paintings, and the death of many lamas and monks. With the destruction of such scriptures, freedom of expression and opinion have therefore been denied. Refugee reports also confirm that all forms of worship have been essentially abolished since 1968. No more lamas are seen on the streets of Tibetan cities and towns; most of them now work as laborers. The monasteries and temples that haven't been desecrated have been converted into schools, storehouses, and Chinese administration offices. The fact that the cruel oppression still exists today is ample evidence that the Chinese are as aggressive as ever (if not more) in ensuring that their Communist policies permeate the minds and souls of the Tibetans. Also obvious is that this complete transformation will be achieved at any cost.

Listen to the stories of escaped Tibetan political prisoners in China. A monk named Palden Gyatso spent 31 years under Chinese imprisonment, and finally escaped in mid-1992, had many a story to tell. He spoke of being tortured with electric batons. About the size of a collapsible umbrella, an electric baton has a button on the handle where the thumb rests. At a touch of this, a 70,000-volt-shock is released through two prongs at the nozzle of the baton, fashioned so that it can be inserted in a person's body. Gyatso, who led a 100-strong force of freedom fighters during the 1959 nationalist uprising in Lhasa, spoke of being prodded with a baton which gave him electric shocks all over his body (Guardian). It was also forced between his clenched teeth,

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breaking off four of them, then plunged into his throat and the maximum shock applied. This monk also recounted the many times he lay unconscious, covered in vomit and urine. Gyatso also described other instruments of torture used against him. Evidence of thumb links were deep scars on his wrists. These thumb links are sharp-edged handcuffs, which were used to manacle his hands together behind his back, one arm crooked over his shoulder, the other pushed up in a half-nelson. As the time of his escape came near, Gyatso became increasingly obsessed that no one would know what had happened to him and thousands of others, and even more importantly, that no one would believe him. Therefore, with the small amount of funds he accrued from his jobs at prison labor camps, he bribed Chinese guards into selling him some electric batons and thumb links. With these possessions in hand, this man, who had trained for a life of prayer and now sees his only purpose as a witness of Chinese barbarity, made a daring flee to India. Since then he has enlightened international leaders and the general public as to the blatant human rights violations against Tibetans.

Also, China initiated its birth-control policy in Tibet in 1982 by imposing abortions or exorbitant fines on women becoming pregnant without permission or having more children than regional quotas allowed. In October 1994, the Mother and Child Health Law was adopted by China's Congress that took effect in 1995. Under this law, Chinese officials reserve the right to prevent marriages and births based on what they determine as the mental and physical state of the patients. For example, people suffering from mental and contagious diseases will have to defer their marriages when the diseases are serious and likely to affect others. Those who still elect to marry must comply with lifelong contraceptive measures or undergo litigation. The law also stipulates that fetuses carrying hereditary diseases should be terminated, and women who have already given birth to defective infants will be subjected to medical examinations to determine whether they will be granted permission to conceive again. Decisions about the women's reproductive future is made by a governing body of medical staff and not in consultation with the woman or her family. Methods of physical coercion include forced abortion; sterilization conducted without consent and performed when women enter the hospital for other medical treatment; and infanticide immediately following birth. Women are also given the "option" of either paying an enormous fine or terminating the pregnancy. This stiff fine (usually the equivalent of over five years' income) imposed on a Tibetan woman seriously endangers the economic well-being of her family. Hence she will almost always opt for the termination of her pregnancy. The woman could also "choose" to bear a child outside Chinese territory, but the baby will be denied legal papers as well as the right to attend school, own property, travel, participate in organized work or obtain a ration card. These blatant violations of women's reproductive rights serve not only as a means of controlling their bodies but represent a pillar of China's colonial policy to reduce Tibetans to a minority in their own country (A State-Owned Womb).

The People's Republic of China is also attempting to maintain control of diffusion of religion in Tibet. In January, 1995, Chinese authorities created an official document that imposed a halt on any further spread of religion in the Tibet Autonomous Region, with no more monasteries or temples to be built and an absolute limit placed on the number of monks and nuns in the monasteries. Also quoted from the document: "There is too much religious activity...at present the number of monasteries, monks and nuns in [Tibet] is sufficient to fulfill the needs of the daily religious practice." The main fear of the Chinese are that religion will interfere with Tibetans' productivity and their daily lives; they fear that China's economy will suffer. Currently, the remaining monasteries in Tibet have a combined population of approximately 1200 monks,

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roughly one-twentieth of pre-1959 levels (International Committee of Lawyers for Tibet). These monks are selected by Chinese government officials and subject to strict political control. Furthermore, the poorly-attended public schools that the Chinese claim replace these institutions offer Tibetan language only as an optional second language, and forbid the teaching of Tibetan history, culture, and religion.

Religious oppression continues as for the first time in Tibetan history, the Government of the People's Republic of China has imposed on Tibet its own candidate for a new Panchen Lama and has rejected the new Panchen Lama selected by the Dalai Lama. Up until this time, recognition of the successor to the Panchen Lama in Tibet had always been within the authority of the Dalai Lama. On May 14, 1995, the Dalai Lama announced recognition of 6-year-old Gedhun Choekyi Nyima as the next Panchen Lama after his name was chosen from a sacred eighteenth-century urn (World Tibet Network). The Chinese government, unhappy about the decision, have reportedly kidnapped Nyima and his family, as they have been missing for over 7 months. Chatrel Rinpoche, who is the head of the original search committee for the new Panchen Lama and who refused to denounce the Dalai Lama's selection of the new Panchen Lama, is also missing and believed to be held by authorities of the government of the People's Republic of China (World Tibet Network). China's repeated promise that Tibetans would be entitled to manage their own cultural and religious affairs is obviously not worth the piece of paper on which it was written.

The most recent effort to shed light on the plight of the Tibetans occurred on October 13, 1995, when six members of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile initiated a hunger strike. This strike, accompanied by peaceful demonstrations, resulted in unprecedented attention for the issue of Tibet, as it received wide media coverage. Many religious leaders and U.S. Congressmen lent their verbal support to the cause; it was ultimately the Dalai Lama who urged the strikers to put an end to the fast. The strike ended thirteen days later with a small ceremony, during which a representative of the Dalai Lama stated on his behalf that he was "especially pleased the demonstration called widespread attention to the issue of Tibet, without any loss of life" (Samphel).

Since that time, and with increasing intensity since the Dalai Lama's response to the hunger strike, the Chinese authorities in Tibet have launched a major campaign attacking him in person and accusing him of blasphemy, forgery, and distorting Buddhism (Tibetan Information Network April 1995). The new campaign seeks to discredit the Dalai Lama as a religious figure devoid of spiritual abilities, unlike previous attacks which only criticized his political activities. Using virtually unprecedented language, official government documents are describing the exiled Tibetan leader and his officials as "the head of a serpent which must be chopped off" (Tibet Information Network Jan 1995). In an attempt to lure Tibetans from the teachings of the Dalai Lama, the Chinese government now alleges that the Dalai Lama has forged Buddhist texts, altered the teachings and violated the principles of Buddhism. According to the Chinese, Buddhism advocates detachment from worldly affairs, whereas the Dalai Lama has allegedly told his followers to support Tibetan independence as part of their religious practice. What will be the reactions of Tibetans?

The following quote from a Tibetan in Lhasa answers this perfectly:

*No one in Tibet will believe these things but I don't expect anyone to stand up and say they don't agree. Anyone speaking out will be knocking against a rock. Nobody will be foolish enough to give their own opinion. If they do they will be finished.*

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The desire to familiarize myself with Tibet's cultural history sprouted from not only increasing interests in cultural anthropology and Asian studies, but also from my love of investigative reporting. An avid reader of The St. Petersburg Times, I glanced upon an article in the November 5, 1995 edition entitled "Teachers Rally Against Splendid China." I read on to discover that a Chinese-owned and operated theme park had opened in Orlando in December of 1993, and was the subject of widespread controversy because of its portrayal of Tibet. Deemed an educational experience, Florida Splendid China attempts to recreate 5000 years of Chinese history within its 76-acre park. Many of the displays feature hand-crafted, hand-painted porcelain figures of people and animals, and there are over 60 displays of miniaturized versions of original "Chinese" structures (Booth).

The controversy lies in what is and what is not defined as "Chinese." Among the many displays in the theme park, Tibet's sacred Potala Palace is the one that has received the most media attention. The Chinese contend that the Potala Palace should be included in a survey of Chinese history because Tibet had always belonged to China. People who have been protesting the park since its inauguration, on the other hand, feel that since Tibet had been autonomous, and because Tibetans share a unique, distinct culture, religion, and language, they do not belong to China. They also feel that the inclusion of the Potala Palace is a proverbial slap in the face, because during the uprising of 1959, the Chinese bombed this home of the Dalai Lama, essentially sent him into exile, and has since prohibited the practice of Buddhism, also.

These protesters, who range from PTA members to Buddhist monks, wish that Florida Splendid China remove all its references to Tibet and other minority groups, and until that time, will boycott the park, and remove the theme park from the Pinellas County's list of approved field trips. They feel that China is attempting to whitewash history; Chinese government would like China to appear to be an open and tolerant society (Levine). They also want to portray a friendly relationship with Tibet, when in reality, China has killed and tortured thousands of Tibetans and has stripped them of their independence. China basically wants to improve its image in the West, and, to the Splendid China spectator uneducated about Tibetan history, China does seem to be nothing less than splendid.

Below is a copy of the explanatory sign located in front of the Potala Palace display:

**Located in the heart of the Old Lhasa capital of the Tibet Autonomous Region, the Potala Palace was built in the 7th century by King Songsten Gampo (617-665 AD) for his bride Princess Wen Cheng, sent to him by an emperor of the Tang Dynasty. The 13-story palace, standing atop a cliff in 3,700 meters high Lhasa, is the world's highest palace. The Potala Palace has 1000 chambers.**

While all of the facts presented are literally accurate, it not only assumes that Tibet geographically a part of China, but it also fails to mention the history and function of the palace. In this way, China is still portrayed in a positive way, because the stark reality has been glossed over and is forced to be seen through rose-colored glasses. While at Splendid China, I approached a woman in the restroom, who, judging by the walky-talky in her hand and the name tag on her blouse, appeared to be an administrator of the park. After a brief friendly conversation, I asked her bluntly why exhibits such as Potala Palace were considered to be Chinese. I still find her overly ethnocentric response amusing in a disturbing way: "Tibet has always been a part of China. Look at a map. Tibet actually owes a lot of gratitude to China for bringing Tibet up to date and giving it new technology to fare well in modern times." She said it as if she had been told to memorize it in case anyone should ask.

To be perfectly frank, after an eight-hour visit to Splendid China, I was quite impressed by the

## Statements on Florida Splendid China

meticulous replicas of Chinese structures, many surrounded by lakes lined with bonsai trees and marble bridges (Browning). It is easy to become overwhelmed by the displays and marvel at China's diverse beauty and splendor, which, for the most part, she deserves. The problem lies solely in the non-Chinese exhibits that are labeled Chinese. I wanted to find out if Florida Splendid China was profitable; were they making back a substantial percentage of the \$100 million that was poured into its construction? Situating the park one mile from the Magic Kingdom is a catch-22. Florida Splendid China may attract the Disney crowd, but if a family with small or pre-teenage children is going to hop in the car and travel to Orlando, it would probably prefer to ride on Space Mountain and visit Alice's Wonderland than take a 2.4-mile stroll through Chinese history.

In addition to the negative publicity generated by the park, there have also been reports that Florida Splendid China's employees and entertainers, most of who have been flown from China for the sole purpose of working for the park, have been subjected to cruel living conditions and under the watchful eye of the Chinese government. In a letter written to the Central Florida Future, an employee, who wished to remain anonymous in fear of losing his job, stated that many injustices are currently conducted against all of the entertainers, who are "merely puppets sent from Mainland China to perform for the American public" (Anonymous). He then said that the local director of Splendid China will not allow the entertainers to fraternize with the locals. the writer also alleged that all of his and other entertainers' documents, which included their working visas, travel documents, and social security cards, were confiscated and held under lock and key. This same overseer has the power to freeze their bank accounts so that they will not be able to access their money until they return to China. He said that the entertainers are forced to reside in a nearby Days Inn, where they are under the close surveillance by security guards. After my trip to Splendid China, I visited this hotel, and sure enough, I discovered a security guard parked outside of the rooms on the east wing of the hotel. The guard, of course, refused to reveal the reasons for his presence. After consulting with Jack Churchward, who founded Citizens Against Backyard Communism, an organization based in Clearwater, Florida, whose main goal is to compel Splendid China officials to remove all references to Tibet and other minority groups. I was told that he is currently researching the laws concerning foreign-national labor in the United States. In addition, most of the entertainers confined to the hotel speak Mandarin and very little English, making it very difficult to secure an interview.

Also included in the agenda of Citizens Against Backyard Communism Is the cessation of public school sponsored field trips to Splendid China, and education of American citizens concerning the actual state of affairs within China (Churchward). He and other organizations such as the Pinellas Classroom Teachers Association have initiated a school board letter writing campaign, urging teachers and their families not to visit Florida Splendid China until all minority exhibits have been removed. Not only would visiting the park result in the acquisition of knowledge of whitewashed history, but the revenues (in the forms of ticket sales and souvenir sales) would directly profit the People's Republic of China, whose government owns 100% of the theme park (Manuel). Jack Churchward is also in the process of compiling research and writing a pamphlet which will describe the real story of each of the exhibits in Florida Splendid China, which would be used as a tool to educate students, school board members, and legislators.

However, Churchward's most effective means of conveying these messages is the frequent staging of peaceful protests outside the park. I was fortunate enough to attend the most recent protest on December 17, 1995, the second anniversary of the grand opening. Amid chants of "Communism in Kissimmee," numerous picket signs displaying such cliches as "Free Tibet,"



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Tibetan flags and seas of informational pamphlets, I witnessed several exiled Tibetan monks who knelt down before the park's gates and prayed. Having not yet entered the park at that time, I already completely understood the seriousness of the protest. It is more than a matter of political correctness; for some it's a question of dignity.

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Written by Michelle Wolper at the New College of the University of South Florida  
February 1996

# Statements on Florida Splendid China

## Statement on the "Mausoleum of Genghis Khan" at the Splendid China Park

August 1996

From the very opening of the "Splendid China" Park, Mongols have protested the existence of this Park. We take this opportunity to again condemn the promoters of the Splendid China Theme Park for their exploitation of China's minority people's cultural treasures. We understand that these promoters are agents of the Chinese Communist government, pushing an essentially political agenda. The "Mausoleum to Genghis Khan" is one of many exhibits intended to showcase to the US public, cultural treasures of China.

Historically, the monument to Chinggis Qan, located in the Ordos region of Inner Mongolia, was the focal point of one of the great traditional ceremonies of the Mongol people. Since the thirteenth century, twice a month, ceremonies were held. Two or three times a year, major festivals, with great pageantry were held. On the occasion of the great festivals, Mongol noblemen from all parts of Mongolia would gather, and participate in the ceremonies.

Prior to 1950, the "Nine White Yurts" existed as separate entities (representing the Nine Paladins of Chinggis Qan). However, following the Communist occupation, a policy of curtailment was established by the occupiers. The traditional rites were severely limited, and later, for nearly 20 years, banned completely. Many of the Darkhad Mongols, descendants of the original 500 families chosen by the family of Chinggis Qan to preserve and carry on the memorial ceremonies, were persecuted and arrested during this period. Beginning in 1960, participation was restricted to only those from the Darkhad part of the Ordos region, and Yekhe Zuu banner. Mongols from any other region were completely prohibited from participating in any kind of memorial service related to Chinggis Qan, under threat of severe punishment. As examples, in 1989, Mongol students in Khokhekhota proposed plans for a memorial ceremony to Chinggis Qan. The evening prior to the ceremony, the authorities arrested 6 students, and charged them with illegal conduct. This same experience was again repeated in 1991, when students attempted to celebrate another ceremony. It is a sad reality that in the occupied Mongols' own homeland, the Mongol people have been forcibly denied the right to celebrate a memorial service to their great historical leader, Chinggis Qan.

The memorial pavilion erected in the Ordos region has been reduced to a mere tourist attraction, where Communist commercial enterprises exploit the name and memory of Chinggis Qan, to soak money from unwitting tourists. This formerly glorious place of Mongol reverence is now a humiliating reminder of Chinese Communist occupation. As part of a heinous policy of cultural genocide, the Chinese Communist government has usurped the historical meaning of Chinggis Qan to the Mongol people, and turned him into a hero of the Chinese people. This is something akin to the KKK suddenly declaring Martin Luther King their honorary President.

The hypocrisy of the Chinese Communist government is revealed clearly in "Splendid China". While they tout the "Mausoleum of Genghis Khan" to the US public as an example of a cultural treasure, they engage in total suppression of the Mongols' right to cultural expression at home. So for these reasons, we express our utter contempt, and opposition to this so-called "Mausoleum of Genghis Khan" exhibit at Splendid China Park. We regard this park, and particularly this exhibit as a supreme example of Chinese Communist propaganda, whose real purpose is to distort the true facts behind the policies of the Chinese Communist government towards the

## **Statements on Florida Splendid China**

minority peoples of China. We call on the promoters of the Splendid China park to remove all exhibits related to the Mongol people, and the other minority peoples of China.

It is a shame that Americans, and especially the hundreds of young school children are misled into thinking that the Chinese Communist government respects cultural diversity. We call on the state legislators of Florida to pass a resolution demanding the closing of the "Splendid China" Park, and have it replaced by a memorial monument to the tens of thousands of Mongols who have been brutally persecuted and killed by the Chinese Communist government.

G. Tsengelt, Erkh Borjigid, Sanj Altan

# Statements on Florida Splendid China

## Statement of Mr. Sidick Rouse

October 12, 1996 Kissimmee Florida

### **They rewrite the history of the Uighur people for their own political purposes**

I was born in 1944 in Xinjiang province. In 1961 I entered the university, however, due to the outbreak of the cultural revolution, I could not graduate. In May of 1968, I formed the "San Lian" (United Three) student organization with eight fellow students. At that time, the Uighur people were severely discriminated against. The military would expend 90 yuan per month to care for their guard dogs, but the Uighur people received nothing from the communist authorities. Uighur farmers were forced to send their grain to the government and left with nothing to feed themselves. A great many Uighurs starved to death back then. Our organization encompassed three schools and had a membership of approximately 15,000 students. Together we protested for racial equality, and placed big character posters on walls. We called upon the CCP to honor its pronouncements regarding the equality of all people. In 1969 the communist authorities started to apprehend dissidents like myself. My wife and I were traveling from Aksu to Yili to visit relatives when I was arrested. I was a student, and since many students had helped Mao they only took five people from our organization. I was one of them.

I was sent to the Da Liou Wan prison north of Urumqi, and placed in a small jail cell. The number of fellow prisoners varied from 5 to 18. We were forced to stay in the cell all day, and were only allowed outdoors once a month for two hours. We were given two meals a day, and had to defecate in a corner of the same cell. Often I was put in ankle cuffs which had a weight tied to the connecting chain. My hands were cuffed behind my back, and a rope was tied between the ankle cuffs chain and the hand cuffs. I would then be taken to see the prison officials. They would demand the names of other members of our organization. They wanted me to confess to crimes I didn't commit. When I refused, I was sent back to the cell. To this day I still cannot raise my right arm above my head, because of the injuries I suffered there.

I was released in 1977 after the death of Mao, but there was no work available. Finally in July of 1982 I obtained a teaching position at the Xinjiang Educational Institute where I taught Chinese language and literature. In November of 1994 I got a job as a reporter at the Urumqi evening newspaper. Then I wrote two articles critical of the communist authorities.

The first was titled "Oppose Historian Su Bi Hai's Historical Outlook". Su Bi Hai is a professor at Xinjiang University. He wrote a television series which distorted Uighur history. In the series he portrayed the Kazakhs as people who have historically dominated and oppressed the Uighur people. His intention was to foment animosity between the Kazhaks and the Uighurs.

Kazakhstan has recently become an independent nation, so the Communist authorities want to sabotage the good relationship between the Kazhaks and the Uighurs. In my article I thoroughly refuted his assertions and wrote a truthful account of Uighur history.

The second article was titled "Wang Luo Bing: Song Thief". Wang Luo Bing works for the Xinjiang military region cultural affairs department. He had the unbelievable audacity to claim that he himself, an ethnic Han Chinese, composed many of our traditional Uighur songs! It is absolutely unbelievable! He is seeking copyright protection over dozens of our traditional songs! He compiled two books full of traditional Uighur music and claims he composed all of it! This is just another bald faced attempt by the Chinese to erase and sinicize our Uighur culture.

After my two articles were published, the editor of the Urumqi evening news was fined 3,000 kuai per day because of my articles. He was fined over 50,000 kuai in total. The communist

## Statements on Florida Splendid China

authorities attempted to remove our editor from his job, but Uighurs from all over Xinjiang sent a great many letters of support to our offices. Even policemen sent letters of support. The authorities never dared remove him.

After these events, I kept writing but no newspaper was willing to publish my work because of the large fines that would be assessed against them. Soon I realized that I could not stay in China any longer. On April 25, 1996 I flew from Beijing to Washington D.C. I just made it out in time. On April 26, 1996 the authorities started to apprehend Uighur dissidents. They captured all types of people who were on their blacklist, farmers, students, workers, everybody. Eight of my close friends were arrested and put in prison. Approximately 20,000 Uighur people, principally from Hotian, Shaya, and Urumqi were arrested and jailed. They executed 106 Uighurs. Those imprisoned are still awaiting release right now. It is incredible, but this story has only received minimal coverage in the western media, I know of only four U.S. newspapers that reported of the crackdown!

### **Why I came to protest Splendid China**

I came here so that a native Uighur could tell the American people about the present conditions in Xinjiang. Don't believe the CCP's propaganda. They try to rewrite our history and keep our people docile and in a state of ignorance. I came so that I could help work for the liberation and independence of my people and to influence U.S. policy towards China. I want to work in a legal and peaceful manner to promote the interests of the Uighur people. I believe once the American people learn of our true situation, they will help us.

In 1990 and 1991 many people in Xinjiang started actively working for Xinjiang independence. As a result the authorities started cracking down.

Translated and transcribed by Bill Mitchell Deputy Director, SCDAT

# Statements on Florida Splendid China

**Statement of Mr. Abulajiang Baret**

**October 12, 1996**

**Kissimmee Florida**

**Quit Lying about Uighur History**

## **Background**

I was born in East Turkestan (Xinjiang province) in the town of Gulja in 1965. My mother and father served in the KMT (Nationalist) military, then in 1943 they joined the East Turkestan Democratic Army. After the victory of the Chinese communists over the East Turkestan Democratic Army, my mother and father joined the PRC military. My parents taught me since childhood that East Turkestan is an independent country whose people have their own culture, language, and history. I hated being forced to learn Chinese while I was growing up. I knew that the CCP's propaganda was fake. I have always hated the CCP.

I have always tried to think of ways to let the world know of our situation. I joined the CCP in 1986, I felt that this would put me in a position where I could do the most good for my people. In 1989 I was made secretary of the Communist Youth League. In 1992 I was made a judge in the court of reclamation.

After I became a judge, I came to realize that China is a bad, undemocratic place. I was very frustrated because the Uighur people could never win in the communist's kangaroo courts. I wrote a request to the communist authorities requesting permission to open my own law office. I wanted to help the Uighur people by representing them in court. The communist authorities promised me I could have my own law practice, and instructed me to go to Beijing to complete the official paperwork. I spent a lot of money to travel there, but when I arrived in Beijing, they wouldn't grant me my request. They told me there is a law that denies minority people the right to run an independent law practice.

After that event, my attitude changed completely. I returned to Xinjiang where I was recruited to the post of business manager in an international trading company. I was granted a passport, and on June 25, 1996 I flew from Urumqi to Bishkek Kyrgyzstan, on a business trip. I then I flew to Turkey, and joined the expatriate Uighur community in Istanbul.

Harry Wu, director of the Lao Gai labor research foundation, learned that I was in Istanbul and he invited me to testify before the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations regarding World Bank loans to the military in Xinjiang province. On July 23rd I flew to Washington D.C. and on the 25th I testified before congress. I told them the CCP had fooled the World Bank and was using the money for military purposes. The Public Security Bureau learned of my testimony.

My wife sent a fax to the Lao Gai Labor Research Foundation, she told me the Public Security Bureau had learned of my testimony before the Senate. They branded me a traitor and fired me from my job. My wife told me I would be executed if I returned to China, she begged me not to return. My wife, who is also a lawyer, faced the prospect of losing her job because of my actions, so she had to divorced me in order to save her job and her ability to provide for our two sons.

I applied for and was granted political asylum in the U.S. Harry Wu's organization has been most helpful, I am currently studying English and I want to attend law school here in the U.S.

## **Why I came to protest against Splendid China**

On October 8th 1996 I learned about CACCP and the Splendid China theme park here in Florida. I learned that models of what they call "Xiang Fei's tomb" and the Id Kah mosque are included in the park.

## Statements on Florida Splendid China

We do not call her "Xiang Fei" as they do at Splendid China, her true Uighur name is Ipar Han. The Chinese try to distort and confuse the history of Ipar Han in order to erase from our memory the true meaning of this Uighur woman. Ipar Han is a national hero of the Uighur people and a symbol of their struggle against the Chinese. The Chinese refer to Ipar Han and Apa Hoja as the same person, this is not true. At Splendid China they say the Chinese emperor built the tomb, this is not true either, the tomb was built by the Uighur people. It is true that Ipar Han was Jehangir Hoja's wife and that Apa Hoja and Jehangir Hoja are related. But they conveniently omit the fact that the Chinese imperial army fought Jehangir Hoja. The Imperial army captured Ipar Han and took her to Beijing. The Emperor planned on forcing Ipar Han to marry him, but Ipar Han killed herself to avoid marrying the emperor. She is a symbol of Uighur resistance against Chinese oppression, a struggle which continues today. They do not tell you this at Splendid China. The Id Kah mosque is located in the city of Kashgar, the most ancient city in East Turkestan. Zulpia, a Uighur woman spent money to restore it back in 700 AD. It was built by the people of Eastern Turkestan long before Zulpia renovated it. It is a place of prayer, the Chinese at that time generally were not Muslim, they would never build such a mosque back then. If it is Chinese, why are no similar mosques to be found in China proper? The Id Kah mosque should not be included as part of Splendid China, especially in light of the CCP's repression of our right to religious freedom.

Up until 1949, East Turkestan had nothing to do with China, except for the many wars we fought against the Chinese. The great wall was built because the Chinese are afraid of our people. The great wall speaks for itself, Tibet, Southern Mongolia, and East Turkestan are outside of the great wall and don't belong to China.

We want to protect our culture and our race, the Chinese communists want to rewrite our history and make people forget about our true cultural heritage. They attack us by all means possible, culturally, economically, through the unjust legal system, and physically by executing and imprisoning dissidents. 106 of my countrymen were executed by the Communist authorities during the crackdown this spring.

### **To the people of the United States**

I wish to say on behalf of the oppressed people of Eastern Turkestan, as well as our neighbors the Tibetans and the Mongolians. With tears in my eyes, I implore the U.S. government, the world's protector of Democracy and Human Rights. Don't help prop up the Chinese Communist regime. China wants to swallow up my people and my country. How can the U.S. government allow this place Splendid China to operate here? Why let school children go to Splendid China and learn communist sponsored propaganda? I can't understand this. The Chinese communists are the worst foe of democracy and human rights, don't help the PRC authorities in their attempt to destroy my people.

Translated and transcribed by Bill Mitchell Deputy Director, SCDAT

# Statements on Florida Splendid China

## Letter of Support to CACCP

Abdulrahim Aitbayev

To the all members of CACCP:

We express our full support for the Citizens Against Communist Chinese Propaganda's (CACCP) actions of protest for the people of Eastern Turkistan taking place in Kissimmee, Florida, on October 13, 1996.

Eastern Turkistan is a nation under the communist Chinese occupation since 1949 and is called Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region by the Chinese. The Uyghurs, Kazaks, Uzbeks, Kirgiz, Tajiks, Mongols, Tatars comprise the indigenous population of Eastern Turkistan. In 1949, the proportion of the ethnic Chinese (the Hans) in Eastern Turkistan was less than 4% by the official Chinese data; in reality this number was even smaller. In accordance with the last Chinese census data (1990), the Hans are numbered about 40% of the total population of Eastern Turkistan.

The people of Eastern Turkistan is ethnically, linguistically, culturally, religiously different from the Han nationality of the People's Republic of China. Ever since Eastern Turkistan fell under the communist Chinese rule the government of the PRC have intentionally been conducting policies to:

1. Assimilate the people of Eastern Turkistan by massive transfer of the ethnic Chinese to Eastern Turkistan from China proper;
2. Destroy unique culture of the people of Eastern Turkistan;
3. Deprive the people of Eastern Turkistan of their historic and cultural heritage;
4. Suppress religious beliefs of the people of Eastern Turkistan;
5. Undermine traditional moral and family values of the people of Eastern Turkistan;
6. Undermine economic foundations of the people of Eastern Turkistan;
7. Destroy the traditional way of life of the people of Eastern Turkistan;
8. Predatory plunder of natural deposits in Eastern Turkistan;
9. Pay absolutely no attention to environmental issues in Eastern Turkistan;
10. Undermine health of the people and pollute the environment by conducting nuclear explosion tests in Eastern Turkistan; the most of tests were conducted in the open air.

These are just a few of the means which the communist Chinese government uses in order to get rid of the ethnic problems in Eastern Turkistan and to keep its insatiable grip on our motherland. In short, the people and culture of Eastern Turkistan are on a verge of complete extinction.

It is a climax of cynicism when the communist Chinese government demonstrates the cultural and religious exhibits of the non Han peoples at the "Splendid China" theme park. The government of the PRC deceives the American and World publics as if it takes care on its so-called "minority" peoples, while, in fact, the communist Chinese authorities are raping and destroying cultures and traditions of these peoples in their own homelands. The way in which the non Han exhibits are presented as Chinese at the Splendid China theme park and annotated with numerous mistakes once again reveals a true face of the communist Chinese colonialism.

For instance, a historic Uyghur figure Ipparhan is called at the exhibit Xiang Fei, a name used only by the Chinese. The Uyghurs consider Ipparhan as a national hero, who committed a suicide in order to escape from becoming Qianlong's lawful wife. But at the exhibit she is described as a concubine of the Manchu dynasty's Emperor Qianlong. Presenting Ipparhan in such a way is an insult to the national and religious feelings of the Uyghurs. Furthermore, at the exhibit Ipparhan is also mentioned by a name Abakh Hoja. This demonstrates complete ignorance of those who



## Statements on Florida Splendid China

organized the exhibit since Appak Ghoja is a name of another historic Uyghur figure, a nobleman, after whom the Appak Ghoja mausoleum was originally built.

In such a pitiful state of our people, we admire the courageous and noble actions of our American friends from CACCP to bring to the attention of the American public the catastrophic situation of the Eastern Turkistani people in the PRC. The communist rulers in China silenced the voices of the suppressed peoples, but our American friends raised their voices for the peoples of Eastern Turkistan, Tibet and Inner Mongolia. Once again the American people demonstrates its generosity and unconditional respect for the human rights all over the World. We see that the Americans still keep in their hearts flames of struggle for freedom and against colonialism.

God, bless American people! God, give freedom to suffering peoples of Eastern Turkistan, Tibet, Inner Mongolia, Chechnya and all other remaining colonies in the World.

With our full support,

Abdulrahim Aitbayev (Kazakstan),

Coordinator -

The following people also signed this letter:

Elmira Israilova (Kazakstan), Tughluk Abdurazak (USA), Lala Dawut (USA), Rishat Abbas (USA), Sokrat Saydahmat (USA), Dilshat Abdukadir (USA), Unche Ay Saydahmat (USA), Parhat Zunun (USA), Shoukhrat Mitalipov (Russia), Maisam Mitalipova (Russia), Abduljelil (Germany).

# Statements on Florida Splendid China

## Statement of Oyunbilig

Dec.21,1996

My name is Oyunbilig. On June 01 , 1968, I was born in a herdsman's family in Wushen Banner, Southern ( Inner ) Mongolia .

I had a very hard childhood as thousands of Mongol children under Chinese rule. At the time I entered school, my parent told me that the only way to be out of the poverty and furthermore, make contribution to our own nation is to study hard. So I had been studying very hard on my courses all way to the University. It was the biggest news at my hometown when I was admitted to Peking University in 1986.

Peking university is a very nice place and I had chance to learn and read a lot. In the same time, I was beginning to learn and thinking what the Chinese Communist Government have done for our Mongols living in China. I gradually understood that the Chinese government's policies toward Mongols, which have been said helping and aiding Mongols ,were all the Chinese government's sinicizing policies.

I also learnt that it is the God given right that every nation on the earth have the right to enjoy and develop their own culture, it is also the God given right that every nation on the earth have the right to decide their own fate. Because the Southern Mongolia, once had been a part of the great Mongol Empire, was never a part of China, we should have the right to decide our own fate. I thought that, as a Mongol, I have full right and responsibility to strive for the God given right to our nation.

In 1990, after my graduation from the university, I was assigned to a assistant Engineer post at a Company in Hohhot, the capital city of Southern Mongolia. In the meantime, I enrolled a small group called " The Association for Inner Mongolia's Future " which was under the direct leadership of " Inner Mongolian League for the Defense of Human Rights". I was in charge of contact with the academic circle of the Mongols.

On July 10, 1995, I have came to US and have founded the US branch of the " Inner Mongolian League for the Defense of Human Rights"--- " Southern Mongolian Freedom Federation" with my friends. The SMFF have been working for drawing people's attention on the Human Rights situation in Southern Mongolia.

On May 01,1996, on the 49th anniversary of Chinese Communist's occupation of Southern Mongolia, three members from the SMFF held a 49 hours long hunger strike in front of the New York Consulate of the P.R.China to ask for Chinese Government to release nearly arrested Southern Mongolian students and scholars.

The SMFF also attended various actions of protests against the P.R.China's Human Rights abusing in China.

Today I come to here, Florida, to join with the group " Citizens Against Communist Chinese Propaganda " to protest the " Florida Splendid China " theme park's misleading American people. I also come here to urge the Governor and Lawmakers of Florida to make effort to remove all the exhibits not belong to the Chinese, China, Chinese history and culture.

Oyunbilig ( Bilige Wuyun )

# Statements on Florida Splendid China

## Statement of Erdenbat

### My Background

My name is Erdunbat, I was born on November 11, 1962 in Bai Nor league (aimuga) Southern Mongolia (AKA inner mongolia) My family has lived in Southern Mongolia for many generations. In 1966 the cultural revolution began, the communist authorities took my father because they claimed he belonged to the Party of the Inner Mongolia People's Revolution. He was sentenced to a year in jail, he was tortured constantly and had four ribs broken. His wrists are scarred from the handcuffs that were too tightly put around his wrists. My grandfather was also accused of belonging to the same party and then beaten to death by the Communist authorities. My uncle was accused of similar crimes, he fled and died in the wilderness of the Mongolian desert. My father's friend Dalanjer was arrested by the communist authorities and tortured him until he admitted that he belonged to the Party of the Mongolian People's Revolution. The police cut off his tongue. In the small town where my family lived, all of the male heads of each individual family were either killed or tortured. All of my fathers coworkers were either killed or imprisoned. This was part of the Communist authorities policy of eradicating nationalist tendencies among the Mongol people.

Today the people in my town who survived the Cultural Revolution still get together and cry for their slain relatives. Approximately 250,000 Mongols were killed during the Cultural Revolution and approximately 500,000 were imprisoned and/or tortured. The children of these people like myself were labeled children of the black party. Because of this I was afraid to leave my house, the other children would often beat me while their parents looked on. After the cultural revolution my family was sent to a concentration camp, I was nine years old at the time. We had to listen to their lectures on Communism and do manual labor in the fields. The food made us sick and we had to sleep in a communal barn on the dirt floor. We were not allowed to leave the compound. After one year in the camp we were allowed to leave.

I attended high school in Hohhot, and I had to study extra hard because Chinese is not my native tongue. In addition to this we also had to study Japanese if I hoped to be admitted into a prestigious university. In 1981 the Mongolian students in the city began to protest against document number 28 issued by the Communist authorities. This document claimed that only a few Mongols were killed during the cultural revolution, the document also forbade us from practicing our traditional Mongolian rites. This document was just another step in the authorities attempts to eradicate our culture. Thousands of people protested and placed big character posters around town. The leaders of the movement, Ho Chun Tu Kus and Wang mang Lai were arrested along with over 20 other Mongolians. Many nascent Mongolian student associations were started, but the authorities would quickly jail the people involved, so our movement failed.

I was accepted by Beijing University and moved to the capital. In 1986 the student protest movement began. On new years day of 1987 we planned to march to Tian An Men square, but the police found out about our plans and blocked the front gate of our university so we could not leave. Many students jumped over the wall and went to Tian An Men. But the authorities had countered them by staging a huge children's dancing and singing program at the square in order to keep the square full so the students could not protest. About 20 students reached the square and began to protest for democracy and respect for human rights, but they were quickly arrested. News of the arrests reached us back at campus, so around 5,000 of us left at 10:00 PM towards

## **Statements on Florida Splendid China**

Tian An Men. The police set up several human roadblocks along the way, but the mass of students was too large and we ran them over. We stormed through two more lines of policemen and were almost at Tian An Men when we reached another roadblock, the President of our university was there and he urged us to return but we ran through them as well. Finally the authorities released the students before we reached Tian An Men, so the protest broke up and we returned to campus.

I graduated shortly after these events, and was sent back to Southern Mongolia, but there was no work there for someone with my advanced qualifications. I tried to get a job in Hohot city, but the authorities would not let me. In fact, they claimed I had a bad attitude because I wanted to work in the city, they sent me to work in the countryside on a farm for one year to correct my thinking. After that I got a job at the publishing house of inner Mongolia, where I translated documents. I started writing articles and calligraphy critical of the communist authorities. A friend of mine works at a local television station, he made a program about my calligraphy and broadcast it, so many people learned of my writings against the corrupt communist officials. One day I gave a lecture on Mongolian culture and history on a street in Hohot. I called upon the Mongolians to unite against oppression, and I was immediately arrested by the authorities. I spent a week in prison.

In 1995 the authorities started to arrest Mongolian intellectuals, some of my friends were arrested, and the secret police came to my house two times to question me about my activities. I decided it was not safe for me to remain in Hohot, I fled to a small town where one of my classmates is from. While there I contacted friends who arranged for me to leave China. I fled to the United States and now live in New York city where I work with the Southern Mongolia Freedom Federation and the Inner Mongolian League for the Defense of Human Rights.

### **Why I came to Protest at the Florida Splendid China Theme Park**

I learned that the CCP controlled China Travel Service is running a theme park called Florida Splendid China in Kissimmee. I want to lend my support to CACCP and their effort to educate the people of Florida about the true situation of the Mongolians. Thousands of Mongolians have been killed by the government that operates the Florida Splendid China theme park. Literally thousands of monasteries and religious shrines were destroyed by the communist authorities. They never tell you about the true tragedy of the Mongolian people. Mongolia is not historically a part of China, the Mongolians have their own unique language, culture and history. The park is just a means of whitewashing our true history.

# Statements on Florida Splendid China

## The Statement of Lobsang Tsering & Kunchok Tsering

We are Lobsang Tsering and Kunchok Tsering, Tibetan Fulbright scholarship students enrolled in the graduate program in Economics and Business (Undergraduate Program) in Florida International University, Miami. We both were born and raised in India. We received our school education in the Tibetan School in India and graduated from Indian University. Our parents fled Tibet in 1959 into India and settled there as refugees.

We have gathered here in Tampa, with the local community (Citizens Against Communist Chinese Propaganda, CACCP) to protest against the outrageous inclusion of several significant historical exhibits in Splendid China, Kissimmee, which in reality, belongs to the people of Tibet who are in all respects distinct from the Chinese. One of the principal attraction of the splendid China is the Potala Palace, the official administrative centre of Tibet before the Chinese occupation.

The exhibits in Splendid China are the reflection of how far the Chinese government can go to manipulate the history of that region to serve their imperialistic policy, disregarding all the humane international conventions and laws. The greatest lie associated with Splendid China is its attempt to misinform the people, about the status of Tibet, Mongolia and East Turkestan, as a part of their country.

Historically, Tibet has always maintained its independence, until the bloody Chinese occupation, which began in 1949 and was completed in 1959 and forced the rightful leader of Tibet, H.H the Dalai Lama and Thousands of Tibetans to flee into India. International Commission of Jurists' Legal Inquiry Committee of Tibet reported in its study on Tibet's legal status :

**Tibet demonstrated from 1913 to 1950 the conditions of statehood as generally accepted under international law. In 1950, there was a people and a territory, and a government which functioned in that territory, conducting its own domestic affairs free from any outside authority. From 1913-1950 foreign relations of Tibet were conducted exclusively by the Government of Tibet and countries with whom Tibet had practice as an independent State.**

[Tibet and Chinese People's Republic, Geneva, 1960, p.5,6.]

As a direct consequences of the Chinese occupation, 1.2 million Tibetans died fighting the Chinese occupational forces, during and after the occupation. 6,000 monasteries were destroyed and in its place, the Chinese constructed 89 prisons and concentration camps. The reckless exploitation of the hitherto, untouched natural resources and transfer of historically important materials from the destroyed monasteries to the Chinese Mainland are open realities that requires little explanation to make the international community understand. Basic human rights, which the People of America and Europe are so proud of, are openly violated in Tibet. The imprisonment of the real incarnation of the Panchen Lama, his family and the whole entourage of the search party, is one example of how the chinese value the international laws that were established to guard the basic human rights of the people. The detention of Ngawang Chomphel, a Fulbright student studying in an American University, who was caught taping the traditional Tibetan Dances and songs clearly signifies that if the Chinese Government wishes to, they can over-ride any of the rules that govern the international community. The Chinese have on several

## Statements on Florida Splendid China

occasions used their economic muscle and they have been very successful in doing that. Today, it is not the American and the European countries that dictate the terms of trade with China but it is Chinese government which makes all these countries listen to and accept its terms. The solid and the most obvious example is the Clinton Administration's policy to delink human rights issues from the granting Most-Favored-Nation status to China.

The situation of Tibet and its people, Tibetans have now reached a very critical stage. The present policy of China towards Tibet is one of eradicating the Tibetan, as a race from the face of this earth (Final Solution to the issue of Tibet). The government induced massive Chinese immigration into Tibet, the forced sterilization of young Tibetans, suppression of religion and all the cultural activities that exhibits the distinctiveness of the Tibetans and several other processes of sinicization of Tibet have led us to believe that if the international community does not stand behind us and extend their support, then the extinction of the Tibetans as a race is imminent. We therefore implore our friends in America and the world to stand and help us to save our people from extinction.

The people of this country in its entire course of history have fought for the basic human rights not only in their own country but also in distant countries because the Americans rightly believes that no political institutions in whatever form it may be in, is above the universal basic human rights of the people. However, the government of this country, under the pressure of the big corporate sectors has so far done nothing constructive and significant to make the Chinese to respect the rights of its people and grant the right of self-determination to the Tibetans and other minorities. Hence, citizens of this country can send letters to their representatives in the Congress and the President urging them to look at the issue more closely and take necessary measures to make the Chinese to listen to the international community and the grievances of the Tibetans and other minorities in China. They can also make individual commitments to not buy products produced by the Chinese, especially those which are produced in the Chinese prison camps and boycott the products produced by those multinational corporate sectors, who care for nothing else but the profit. Eventually, the kids and elders alike can show their solidarity and supports by simply boycotting Splendid China in Kissimmee because the theme park is part of the Chinese propaganda machinery used to misinform the people of the world. Next time, if you decide to visit that park, please try first to understand the stories behind those exhibits, that China have robbed from the people of Tibet, Mongolia and the East Turkestan their sacred monuments and proudly presents them to the World.

# Statements on Florida Splendid China

## Open Letter to Florida Governor Lawton Chiles by Lobsang Tsering & Kunchok Tsering

Dec 20th , '96  
The Governor,  
Tallahassee  
Florida.

Mr. Governor,

We are two Tibetan students studying in Florida International University. My name is Kunchok Tsering and my fellow Tibetan friends name is Lobsang Tsering.

We want to draw your Kind attention towards the exhibition of the Potala Palace in Splendid China. The Potala Palace has nothing to do with China. It is not a Splendour of China or related to any Chinese culture or religion. The Potala Palace is completely a Tibetan palace. It is the residence of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the office of the Tibetan government deputies, who governed Tibet until its invasion in 1959.

The Potala Palace was built in the 7th century by the Tibetan King Songtsen Gampo. It was called Kukhar Potrang at that time. It was rebuilt during the time of 5th Dalai Lama and was used the name "The Potala Palace". Since then, it was used as the official residence for the Dalai Lamas. For Tibetans, it is the most sacred place. How can China display it as part of their culture and their religion? Tibet is completely a different country, with completely different language, culture, tradition and religion.

The display of the Potala Palace in Splendid China as part of their splendour insults Tibet and Tibetans. It is an historical lie. Tibet is under Chinese occupation right now. The Tibetans inside China are tortured and persecuted for expressing their rights and the desire for independence. They are denied religious freedom and Tibetans are on the brink of extinction as a human race. Drawing your attention to this grave situation, we would like you to use your office to negotiate with China Travel Services to please remove the exhibition of Potala Palace from Splendid China. Exhibition of Potala Palace as a Chinese splendour violates history. It gives the wrong impression of Tibet to the American public. It dupes the American public by educating them as if the Potala Palace and Tibet belongs to the Chinese. We, therefore request you to understand our situation and make an effort to the removal of Potala Palace from splendid China.

With best wishes.

Yours Sincerely,  
Kunchok Tsering.  
Lobsang Tsering

# Statements on Florida Splendid China

## Open Letter to Florida Governor Lawton Chiles by Oyunbilig & Erdunbat

Dec.22, 1996

Dear Governor Chiles,

My name is Oyunbilig. I and my colleague, Erdenbatu, are Mongols from Southern Mongolia, an area that was historically Mongol land, but for the past fifty years has been occupied by the Chinese Communists. The Mongol people are a separate ethnic group, with a distinct language, customs and culture, quite different from the Chinese. We are considered a minority people in China, along with the Tibetans and Uighurs and others.

We have come here today, December 21, 1996, to the "Splendid China" theme park, to join our American, Tibetan and Uighur brothers and sisters in expressing our opposition to many of the exhibits being displayed at this park, to tell you and the people of Florida about the exploitation of our culture by the promoters of this park. In addition, we also wish to draw attention to the occupation of our lands and the oppression of our people.

We are writing to you on the third anniversary of the opening of this park, on behalf of 5,000,000 Mongols suffering under Chinese rule. The promoters of this park have been misleading the thousands of American visitors about many of the exhibits in this park. They would have the visitors believe that the Mausoleum of Genghis Khan is a treasured gem of Chinese culture. They would have the visitors believe that Mongol culture is valued and respected in China. Governor, this is total deception and hypocrisy. This park is a shameless front for the Chinese communist government, to try and neutralize American sentiment towards their abysmal human rights policies towards the Mongol, Tibetan and Uighur minorities in China.

Governor, here are some facts which we would like to share with you. Southern Mongolia, also referred to as Inner Mongolia, was never a part of China just as Tibet and East Turkistan were never a part of China. Genghis Khan was not a Chinese Emperor, and the Chinese people do not live in yurts on the wide open steppe lands. Yet in this park, they tout these exhibits as if they were important pieces of the cultural landscape of China. Yes, they're important, only in America, and only to the extent that they serve some financial interests of the Chinese promoters of this park. In China, it's completely different

The Chinese communist government has instituted a policy of mass population transfer into our homelands. Our formerly lush pastures have been turned into desert by the agrarian practices of the forced colonizers, now numbering in the millions, making our people a minority in our own lands. The enormous population transfer of Chinese settlers has polluted our ecology, poisoned our waters and forced us to abandon our traditional pastoral lifestyle, in a blatant policy of sinicization, to turn us into Chinese peasants. In our own land, we are forbidden to celebrate the memory of our great historical leader, Genghis Khan, who created the Mongol nation nearly eight centuries ago. Our language is dismissed as barbarian, and we are quickly losing our customs and beliefs in the face of this enormous onslaught of Chinese settlers, amounting to cultural and ethnic annihilation. Those who have the courage to speak up, and protest the policies of the Chinese communist government are arrested, and severely punished, never able to apply for a job. They and their families become the victims of government approved continual



## **Statements on Florida Splendid China**

harassment. Our people's will to express opposition to these outrageous policies is waning in the face of this mass intimidation.

Governor Chiles, we protest the Park's display of exhibits related to the Mongols and other minority peoples of China. We urge you to work for special legislation prohibiting the use of Florida state funds to support the visit of school children to this park. We want you to know the true story of how Mongols and Mongol culture is viewed in China.

Oyunbilig ( Bilige Wuyun )  
Erdenbatu (Batu Eerdun )

# Statements on Florida Splendid China

## Statement of Thubten Jigme Norbu

### REMARKS AT THE DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF "SPLENDID CHINA"

I am honored to be able to address this "splendid" gathering today. Many of you have been working for a long time to put the Tibetan tragedy before American public opinion. In doing this you have tried to answer the distortions of Tibetan history that have been put forward by China, and one of the main ways you have done this is to call attention to the lies about Tibetan history that are represented by this "park" called "Splendid China." Not only is Tibetan history misrepresented here, but the history of other peoples such as the Mongols and Uighurs of Eastern Turkestan. We have been incorporated into China by brute force. We have seen our friends and family members killed and imprisoned, we have seen our lands stolen. All to extend the Chinese empire. And this empire proudly shows off its conquests with this "park," pretending that Tibetans and others want to be part of China.

But what do Tibetans want? I speak to you only as one Tibetan. All Tibetans are equal and I do not claim to be more worthy of speaking before you than any of my fellow Tibetans. But I have been given this opportunity and I must speak honestly. All Tibetans believe that Tibet must be independent. Tibetans want no more and no less from China than the full right to determine their own future, and on this point make no mistake about what self-determination means: Tibetans, after decades of death and destruction at the hands of China are determined that their future must be one in which Tibet is a free and independent member of the community of nations. What I am saying to you today is not the view of one Tibetan. It is the common aspiration of all Tibetans, and more: it is an absolute necessity if we are to survive as a people.

If any of you believe that Tibet does not have to be independent; if any of you are happy to see Tibet as a part of China, then you should not be here with us demonstrating. You should be inside the "park," paying money to subsidize Chinese propaganda. But those of us who are here demonstrating against the distortions of the display inside know that without independence Tibet cannot survive. Dharma centers in the US. do not equal Tibetan cultural survival. Neither do Tibetan cultural reservations inside China. We support a settlement with China, but any settlement that the upper levels of the Tibetan government-in-exile reach with China must clearly specify that if Tibetans want to live in an independent Tibet then they shall live in an independent Tibet. Anything less will simply be an agreement for further suffering, much as was the case with China, for Tibetans will be forced to continue their struggle until they attain their just right to self-determination and freedom. Remember: the United Nations guaranteed this right to Tibetans in its resolutions on Tibet.

I thank all of you for coming here today to stand up for what is true and accurate in Tibetan history and for your courage in defying China's attempts to spread propaganda about Tibet here in Florida and throughout the US. I know that truth and justice must ultimately prevail. Bod Rangzen!!

# Statements on Florida Splendid China

## REMARKS AT THE DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF "SPLENDID CHINA"

### Why I am Here (by Turdi Hoja)

I am an Uighur from Kashgar, the ancient Uighur city where the actual Apak Hoja Tomb and Id Kah Mosque are located. My name is Turdi Hoja, even though it was spelled Tuerdi Huji on my passport. For this reason quite a few people asked me If I am related to Apak Hoja. I am not directly related to him, except the name Hoja came into popular use after Apak Hoja. Apak Hoja Tomb was built around 1640 AD, for Apak Hoja's Father Yusup Hoja, who was a political and religious leader of Kashgar Kingdom. After he died, his eldest son Apak Hoja inherited his position and earned more fame than his father , therefore when Apak Hoja died in 1693, he was buried in the same tomb and the tomb was renamed after him. According to legend, Apak Hoja descended from the Holy prophet Mohammed. For this reason, local Uighurs regard his tomb as a holy place. Every year thousands of Uighurs make the pilgrimage to the tomb from all over Eastern Turkistan.

After almost a century, the Chinese invaded Eastern Turkistan and took one of Apak Hoja's descendants, Iparhan as hostage and brought her to the Chinese King. According to legend, she killed herself when she was forced to marry the Chinese King.

In order to cover up the historical fact that Eastern Turkistan was an independent country before the Chinese invasion and the Communist authorities fabricated a story about the Tomb. They called the tomb Xiangfei Mu, a Chinese name which can not be pronounced by Uighurs. I learned their version of the story only after I learned Chinese. According to them, the name Xiangfei refers to Iparhan. Even though she was not much more famous than any one of the 72 family members buried there, the Chinese referred to the place with her name just because of the Chinese connection that was twisted and glorified by them. When I read the guide book published by Splendid China, I was shocked that they referred to Xiangfei and Apak Hoja as the same person. Not only was one female and the other one a male, they also lived a century apart. Referring to Apah Hoja as a female name is so funny, because Apak Hoja is a male name which in no way could be taken as a female name.

The Id kah mosque replica displayed here was built in 1422. The date is clearly recorded on the walls of the Mosque. But the booklet published by Splendid China indicates it was built in 1798. I am very disappointed that the Park authorities are not acting in a responsible way. They disregard all the well known historical facts, and are trying to cheat American visitors with lies. Twisting and lying about the history of minorities is a very well known practice of the Chinese communists. It is very obvious that Splendid China does not operate just for cultural exchange, it operates as a propaganda machine for the Chinese government. I am strongly offended by their obviously politically motivated lies about Apak Hoja and Id Kah. This is the reason I came here to protest.

# Statements on Florida Splendid China

## Letter to Mr. Yang from Canadian Citizens

December 26, 1997  
Mr. Sunny Yang  
Chairman  
Florida Splendid China  
3000 Splendid China Blvd.  
Kissimmee, Florida 34747

Dear Mr. Yang:

We, the undersigned citizens of Canada, are appalled by the inclusion of the Potala Palace in Florida Splendid China Theme Park as a Chinese national monument.

The government of the People's Republic of China looted and destroyed over 6,000 Tibetan monasteries; all Tibetan high lamas were sent to prison labour camps; and the monks and nuns were forced to give up their monastic vows. Inclusion of the Potala Palace - the winter palace of Tibet's head of state - as a Chinese national monument amounts to nothing less than displaying stolen booty, and asking the owners and the rest of the law abiding citizens to pay to see them!

We, therefore, strongly demand that

- (a) either the Potala Palace is removed from the Chinese exhibits
- (b) or it is correctly identified as the "Winter Palace of Tibet's Head of State."

We also are equally appalled by the fact that almost half the exhibits of Florida Splendid China are the national monuments/treasures of once free and independent countries like Inner Mongolia, and Eastern Turkistan whose people, like the Tibetans, continue to suffer under the Communist Chinese occupation.

It is hoped that our legitimate concern, which being the same as that of Citizens Against Communist Chinese Propaganda (CACCP) in Florida, can be amicably addressed. Should you continue to ignore the CACCP's open invitation to find ways to resolve the problem, you will hear from us again.

Yours truly,  
signed by 75 people

# Statements on Florida Splendid China

**May 31, 1998 Joint Statement**

We, representatives of Tibet, Eastern Turkestan, and Southern (Inner) Mongolia peoples who are suffering under the repression of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) are gathering today to demonstrate before the Chinese government owned and operated theme park known as Florida Splendid China in Kissimmee, Florida.

We come here in order to protest the Chinese occupation of Eastern Turkestan, Southern Mongolia, and Tibet, which were never parts of China.

We come here to accuse the People's Republic of China (PRC) and CCP of carrying out the policy of genocide against the nations of Southern Mongolia, Tibet, and Eastern Turkestan during the last 50 years of their illegal occupation. Estimates place the victims of these genocidal policies at 1.2 million Tibetans, 1.0 million Eastern Turkestanis, and 1.0 million Southern Mongolians over the past fifty years. Millions of Eastern Turkestanis, Southern Mongolians, and Tibetans have been tortured, maimed, and imprisoned by the PRC and CCP. These policies also continue the annihilation of the languages, culture, and religions of Southern Mongolia, Tibet, and Eastern Turkestan.

We come here to accuse the PRC and CCP of moving millions of Han Chinese people into Tibet, Eastern Turkestan, and Southern Mongolia in order to liquidate the non-Chinese nations, forcing their peoples to become Chinese. This is the forced genocide and assimilation of tens of millions of people.

We, the representatives of Eastern Turkestan, Southern Mongolia, and Tibet express our sorrow that the United States government has allowed the PRC to establish the so-called 'Splendid China' theme park in Kissimmee, Florida.

We consider that the Florida Splendid China theme park is insulting and offensive and we are outraged that this great fraud continues the myth that Southern Mongolia, Tibet, and Eastern Turkestan are parts of China.

The 'Mausoleum of Genghis Khan' exhibit should be removed immediately. Genghis Khan was a King of independent Mongolia and never was a King of China ! We are categorically protesting the inclusion of this exhibit !

The 'Potala Palace' exhibit should be removed immediately. The Grand Potala Palace was the seat of government and home to the Dalai Lama of Tibet, NOT of China ! We are categorically protesting the inclusion of this exhibit !

The 'Id Gah Mosque' exhibit should be removed immediately. The repressive policies that control religion should not be hidden by the inclusion of an Eastern Turkestani religious icon. We are categorically protesting the inclusion of this exhibit !

## Statements on Florida Splendid China

The 'Tomb of Appak Hoja' exhibit (falsely given the Chinese name of 'Tomb of Xiang Fei' in the theme park) should be removed immediately. This cultural icon contains the remains of Eastern Turkestanis, NOT Chinese. We are categorically protesting the inclusion of this exhibit !

Now, we the representatives of Tibet, Eastern Turkestan and Southern Mongolia call on the US government to completely close this theme park which is serving to block the future freedom of America by continuing the propaganda of a cruel, heartless, and merciless Chinese government. Today, they lie about Eastern Turkestan, Southern Mongolia, and Tibet, maybe in the future they will also lie about independent Mongolia (Outer Mongolia), Siberia, and even America.

We call on the peoples of the world with kind hearts to press for economic sanctions against the People's Republic of China until it recognizes the independence of Southern Mongolia, Tibet, and Eastern Turkestan, cleans up the stocks of nuclear waste that poison our people and lands and release all prisoners of consciousness that are in the jails, including:

- Hada and Teqshe from Southern Mongolia,
- Gendhun Choekyi Nima, the real Panchen Lama of Tibet,
- and Ablat Khari from Eastern Turkestan.

We also call on measures to stop the Chinese mass immigration into Tibet, Eastern Turkestan and Southern Mongolia.

Lastly, we call on the peoples of Eastern Turkestan, Southern Mongolia, Tibet and those that care about these occupied lands to quickly WAKE UP to the threat which threatens to annihilate our language, culture, religion, and people.

Signed:

For Southern Mongolia: M. Altanbat, Inner Mongolian People's Party

For Eastern Turkestan: Ablajan Baret, International Taklamakan Uyghur Human Rights Association

For Tibet: Tashi Jamyangling, President, Chushi Gungduk (Toronto Chapter)

On this day, May 30th, 1998  
Kissimmee, Florida

# Statements on Florida Splendid China

## SPLENDID CHINA LIES ABOUT UYGHURS!

The Uyghur exhibits, called the Id Kah Mosque and Tomb of Xiang Fei, are insulting to Uyghurs. The Id Kah Mosque was built by the Uyghur people in 1422, it has nothing to do with the atheist China. Disregarding the historical facts, Splendid China has fabricated its own version of story based on the Communist Propaganda. They had even boldly changed the foundation date 15th century, which was clearly inscribed on the walls of the actual mosque, to 19th century. The so-called Xiang Fei, a Chinese name unpronounceable for the local Uyghurs, is a fake name created by the Chinese for political purposes. The Tomb's real name is Tomb of Appak Hoja. In this Tomb is buried Appak Hoja, a religious and political Uyghur leader who ruled then the independent Uyghur country in 17th century, and 72 of his relatives, including Iparhan, whom the Chinese have given the name Xiang Fei (or Fragrant Concubine). The Uyghurs speak of Iparhan as a national heroine, who ended her own life when she was forced to become the concubine to the Qianlong emperor of China when the invaded Chinese army took her captive. The Splendid China theme park is deceiving the American public with flagrant lies. In its description of the exhibit, it says Appak Hoja, a definite male name, is the same person as Xiang Fei, the fragrant concubine!

It is very obvious that the theme park known as Florida Splendid China is here not just for plain business purposes, it is an agent and propaganda machine of the People's Republic of China. It portrays the Uyghurs as happy and content under the Chinese rule. The fact speaks for the total opposite. As it is clear from the recent international media, the Uyghur people are suffering from harsh colonial oppression, cultural genocide, poverty and discrimination. Their peaceful demonstration against the Chinese governments unjust treatment resulted in hundreds of death and thousands of arrests of innocent Uyghur people. We hope the United States government will not let the Splendid China to deceive the American public, specially the school children with the fabricated false stories about Uyghurs, Tibetans and Mongols.

International Taklamakan Uyghur Human Rights Association  
Contact: Huji Tuerdi Tel: (609) 585-3904

# Statements on Florida Splendid China

## Statement by Elder Brother of the Dalai Lama of Tibet on Florida Splendid China.

The lies and deception put forth by the Chinese government started when they invaded the independent and sovereign nation of Tibet and called it a peaceful liberation. Throughout the years, China has attempted to silence the voices of Tibetans who want freedom and independence and the theme park known as Florida Splendid China continues the same lies and deceptions.

Tibetans are not Chinese. Tibetans are not happy under the cruel and brutal occupation of China. Recently released documents show a direct link between the State Council of the People's Republic of China and a theme park that is portrayed as an educational experience to the school children of Florida and tourists. The treasures of Tibet, Southern Mongolia, and Eastern Turkestan do not belong in a Chinese theme park because they are not Chinese, nor happy under their rule. This is why the Chinese government hid their involvement in Florida Splendid China, so they would not have to admit the true purpose of the park.

I urge that the proper authorities investigate the matter and work in a positive manner to punish any and all violations of the law committed in hiding the true purpose of the theme park.

Thupten Jigme Norbu



# Statements on Florida Splendid China

## Letter to Mr. Yang from Henry H. Tan-Tenn

January 1, 1998

Mr. Sunny Yang  
Chairman  
Florida Splendid China  
3000 Splendid China Blvd.  
Kissimmee, Florida 34747

Dear Mr. Yang:

It has been brought to my attention the injustice which your country, represented by Florida Splendid China, has perpetrated on the so-called ethnic minorities of the People's Republic of China.

Just as your country has brutally oppressed, through political and military means, the people of Tibet, East Turkestan (so-called Xinjiang), and Southern Mongolia, so the park which you run has unjustly coopted non-Chinese icons of great significance to the project of Chinese cultural imperialism. I refer specifically to the display of the Potala Palace, Mausoleum of Genghis Khan, Mongolian Yurt, Id Gah Mosque, and the "Tomb of Xiang Fei" exhibits.

As a Taiwanese familiar with my people's longtime struggle for political independence, and whose cultural identity is constantly the object of Chinese censure, I cannot help but condemn your government's continuing attempt to mislead the American public. Just as I object to your country's attempts to incorporate Taiwan, not just politically but culturally, into "Greater China", so I must object to your country's illegal and genocidal occupation of Tibet, Southern Mongolia, and East Turkestan. I have no doubt many American citizens will agree. For the sake of justice I urge you to remove those inappropriate displays from the park as soon as possible.

Sincerely,  
Henry H. Tan-Tenn,  
Member of Taiwanese Collegians

# Statements on Florida Splendid China

## Statement of US-Tibet Committee

We are disturbed by the exhibition of a Tibetan national treasure, the Potala Palace in the Florida Splendid China theme park in Kissimmee, Florida. The Chinese government owned and operated facility misrepresents Tibet. The sign in front of the exhibit as well as the information distributed by the park attribute the Potala Palace to a Chinese Princess in the 8th century. This is wrong. The Potala Palace was built on the ruins of Tritse Marpo, a palace built by King Songtsen Gampo in 636 AD for his Nepalese queen. The constructions for the present day Potala began by the Fifth Dalai Lama in 1645 and His Minister, Desi Sangye Gyatso completed it in 1695, 12 years after His Holiness had passed away.

The Potala Palace exhibit in the Florida Splendid China misrepresents and distorts Tibetan history. It is wrong for us who enjoy the blessings of freedom to allow misrepresentations and distortions taught to our children and unsuspecting visitors about a history of any country. It is incumbent upon us to tell the truth about Tibet and the sufferings of the Tibetan people under a brutal Chinese occupation.

Tibet is a sovereign country under Chinese occupation. Over one-sixth of her six-million people have died as a direct result of the Chinese occupation of Tibet, over six-thousand monasteries, nunneries and chapels have been destroyed, deforestation and indiscriminate strip mining have caused irreparable environmental damages that have altered the climatic conditions in the region. The Chinese population transfers have made the Tibetans a minority in their own country. We join the international coalition against Florida Splendid China and Communist Chinese propaganda. We must learn the truth about Tibet, the Tibetan people, the Uyghur people of Eastern Turkestan and the people of Inner Mongolia.

We call for:

1. A public boycott of and a ban on all public school field trips to Florida Splendid China until the Potala Palace exhibit is removed from the Florida Splendid China theme park.
2. We call upon the Florida parks authorities to relocate the Potala Palace to another park and give the visitors and children a chance to enjoy the beauty and marvel at the building skills of the Tibetan people many centuries ago. The Potala Palace is one of the wonders of the world, a pride and symbol of Tibet.
3. We also urge a thorough investigation of the violation of the United States federal statutes by the management of Florida Splendid China for failing to register as agents of a foreign government and punish the perpetrators the full extent of the laws of this country.

It is wrong to teach our children a distorted history. We who are free have a special obligation to seek the truth and to protect the wronged.

US Tibet Committee

# Statements on Florida Splendid China

## Letter to Florida Public School Districts: Uyghur American Association

Dear school administrator, On behalf of the Uyghur community in the United States, we are writing to discuss our deep concerns about school sponsored field trips to the theme park known as Florida Splendid China.

The Uyghur people of Eastern Turkestan (or Xinjiang) have been living under the yoke of Chinese government policies for the past fifty years and before that we were an independent, sovereign nation. Chinese governmental policies have, over the past fifty years, seen the Uyghur people reduced to a minority in our own land due to the mass immigration of Chinese people. We have watched as our religious practices have been persecuted and come under the control of the atheistic Chinese Communist Party. We have watched helplessly while they have plundered our natural resources and continued policies of cultural genocide, intent on wiping our people and their memory from the face of the earth. To add insult to the injuries we have suffered, the Chinese government has built a propaganda theme park in Kissimmee, Florida to show that Eastern Turkestan, our once free homeland, has been 'Chinese since ancient times.'

The exhibits which represent the Uyghur people, the Id Gah Mosque and the Tomb of Apak Hoja, were built by Uyghurs, not by the Chinese. They have no place in a theme park called 'Splendid China.'

The well-documented crackdown and control of religion inside the People's Republic of China is exacting a terrible toll on the people. The exhibition of religious buildings such as Id Kah Mosque in Splendid China is a weak attempt to show Florida's children that 'religion is respected in China'. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The Chinese government has included a structure known to us as the Tomb of Apak Hoja, although they have renamed it to 'Tomb of Xiang Fei' to make it sound Chinese. As with the Id Gah Mosque exhibit, there are gross distortions of our history and culture with the information presented in signs and by the tour guides. Apak Hoja was a famous political and religious leader of the independent Uyghur country in the 16th Century. The Tomb was built for him when he died more than two centuries before Iparhan (Xiang Fei) was even born, therefore we Uyghurs call the Tomb 'Apak Hoja Tomb', not by a Chinese name 'Xiang Fei'. Amazingly, the tour guide refers to Apak Hoja (a definite male name) and Xiang Fei, the fragrant concubine, as the same person. It is apparent that the introductions to the Uyghur exhibits are deliberately fabricated to serve the agenda of the Chinese government.

We ask that you and your school district to take a bold step and ban all school sponsored field trips to Florida Splendid China because of the gross distortions of not only Uyghur history, but also the Tibetan and Mongol people are likewise misrepresented in Florida Splendid China. Florida's school children deserve to learn the truth and if they go to Florida Splendid China, all they will learn is Chinese government propaganda.

Please do not continue the education of Florida's school children with Chinese government propaganda. We urge you to please stand up for the truth and stop sponsoring the indoctrination of Florida's school children with Chinese Communist Party doctrine.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Sincerely,

Huji Turdi

General Secretary

Uyghur American Association

# Statements on Florida Splendid China

## Letter to Florida Public School Districts: Eastern Turkestan National Freedom Center

August 17, 1999

Dear School Administrator,

I am writing to bring your attention to the misleading nature of the exhibits at the Florida Splendid China theme park in Kissimmee, Florida. This theme park, now five years old, has attempted to present the Tibetan, Mongolian, and Uyghur peoples as 'Chinese' through the inclusion of their most treasured monuments and buildings. I was born in the so-called Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, which my people, the Uyghurs, call Eastern Turkestan. Our people had our own government before the arrival of the Chinese Peoples Liberation Army in 1949, when we were 'peacefully liberated'.

To add insult to the injuries we have received from 50 years of Chinese colonial rule, the Chinese government has built a theme park and attempted to show the world that we are somehow Chinese, which is false. The Id Gah mosque was built by Uyghurs and does not resemble any Chinese mosque. It's placement in Florida Splendid China is a weak attempt to 'prove' that Uyghurs are Chinese and gloss over the truth. Likewise, the Tomb of Apak Hoja, a monument and final resting place for 72 great Uyghurs has been renamed to 'Tomb of Xiang Fei', giving a Chinese name to an Uyghur mausoleum. These exhibits present a false and misleading history of the Uyghur people.

The Uyghur people have a unique culture markedly different than Chinese culture. We have our own language, script and history of written works that have nothing to do with China. I appeal to your sense of fairness and commitment to historical accuracy when granting permissions for school-sponsored field trips to attend Florida Splendid China.

As the President of the Eastern Turkestan National Freedom Center, I urge you to enact and enforce a ban on all school-sponsored field trips to Florida Splendid China. Florida's school children deserve to learn the truth, but this is not possible if they are indoctrinated by visits to the Florida Splendid China theme park.

Thank you for your time and attention in this important matter,

Sincerely,

Anwar Yusuf

President, Eastern Turkestan National Freedom Center