

March 18, 2008

## China Premier Blames Dalai Lama for 'Appalling' Violence in Tibet

By DAVID LAGUE

BEIJING — Prime Minister [Wen Jiabao](#) of China on Tuesday blamed supporters of the [Dalai Lama](#), the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader, for planning and inciting what he described as an “appalling” violence and destruction in [Tibet](#) last week.

Mr. Wen said at a news conference that the attacks included killings, arson and the ransacking of public and private property and had seriously disrupted the Tibetan regional capital of Lhasa, but that Chinese authorities were capable of restoring order.

Chinese efforts to quell the protests that began in Lhasa and spilled over into neighboring Chinese provinces with sizable populations of ethnic Tibetans over the weekend have overshadowed the proceedings of China’s legislature, the National People’s Congress. Mr. Wen spoke at their conclusion.

The government actions have also served as a reminder that China employs a huge public security apparatus to contain social and political tension at a time when the governing Communist Party is attempting to portray an image of unity before the Beijing Olympic Games in August.

Mr. Wen said China had evidence that supporters of the Dalai Lama were behind the violence, in contrast to their public calls for peaceful negotiation to solve differences with Beijing.

“Their hypocritical lies can’t cover the ironclad facts,” he said.

The Dalai Lama has called on the Chinese security forces and Tibetan protesters to avoid violence. He has also accused China of conducting a “cultural genocide” in Tibet.

Mr. Wen rejected that assertion and said Beijing would continue to improve the region’s economy and strive to protect Tibetan culture.

On Monday, China raised the death toll from the protests week to 16, but said its security forces had avoided using lethal force, countering Tibetan exile groups that said at least 80 people had been killed.

Scattered protests by ethnic Tibetans continued on Monday in the neighboring Chinese provinces of Qinghai and Sichuan, as well as in Gansu. As the paramilitary police and troops were deployed to quash those protests, international pressure mounted on China to show restraint in dealing with dissent.

Demonstrations also reached Beijing, with about 80 students at the Central University for Minorities staging a sit-down protest on the campus late Monday night.

University officials were negotiating with the students, witnesses said, but failed to persuade them to disperse.

Senior Chinese officials seemed anxious on Monday to avoid the appearance of parallels between the Tibetan protests and the 1989 pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square.

Officials said the police and paramilitary police had been called in to deal with the protests, not the Chinese People's Liberation Army, which led the bloody 1989 Tiananmen crackdown.

"The P.L.A. is not involved in the handling of the incidents," said a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, Liu Jianchao. "Their entering Tibet now is mainly to handle losses from the incidents."

Mr. Liu also dismissed reports of casualties from gunfire in Lhasa, the Tibetan regional capital. "The Chinese authorities have not used any lethal weapons in the whole process," he said.

The clashes in Tibet could undermine China's efforts to encourage self-governing Taiwan to move toward reunification. In the final days of campaigning before Taiwan's presidential election on Saturday, both major political parties condemned Beijing's suppression of protests in Tibet.

Chinese officials said Lhasa was quiet on Monday after the biggest antigovernment protests in almost two decades turned violent on Friday.

The government also condemned protests at its embassies abroad, calling them a serious threat to safety, Reuters reported Monday. "We strongly condemn the violent action of Tibet independence activists," Mr. Liu said.

On Monday, protests took place at the Chinese Embassies in New Delhi and Paris, while another was planned for London.

Earlier, the state news media reported that 10 people had been killed when Tibetans went on a rampage and attacked ethnic Chinese and destroyed their shops and property.

The senior Chinese political leader in Tibet, Qiangba Puncog, said at a news conference in Beijing

on Monday that security forces had used only water cannons and tear gas to disperse protesters in Lhasa.

He said that 13 of those killed in the protests were “innocent civilians” attacked by a mob.

In addition, three Tibetans died when they jumped from the roof of a building after refusing to surrender to the police, he said.

Mr. Puncog, an ethnic Tibetan, said supporters the Dalai Lama had organized the unrest in an effort to generate publicity during the Olympics.

The Dalai Lama on Sunday accused China of waging “cultural genocide” in Tibet and called for an international inquiry into the suppression of the protests. From the headquarters of the Tibetan government in exile in Dharamsala, India, he said that Tibetans had the right to peaceful protest, though he also reiterated that he was not calling for Tibetan independence.

There has been no independent corroboration of either the Chinese or Tibetan exiles' version of the casualties and damage from the protests in Tibet. The Chinese authorities have barred foreign journalists from Tibet, and access for other foreigners, including tourists, has been “temporarily” suspended, according to government officials.

Images of Lhasa streets broadcast by Hong Kong television over the weekend showed a heavy Chinese military and police presence on streets still covered with debris. The Chinese authorities set a deadline of midnight Monday for those participating in the demonstrations to give themselves up or face severe penalties. There was no sign early Tuesday that the protesters had surrendered.

Journalists and photographers trying to cover the outlying protests said they had been taken into “protective detention” and prevented from approaching those areas.

For China, the unrest in Tibet has drawn unwelcome attention to some of the longstanding tensions in the country as the governing Communist Party is planning a show of unity and harmony during the Olympics.

China says Tibet has been part of its territory for centuries, but Beijing has exerted full control only since 1950, when Communist troops invaded the region.

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