

Speech by Wang Yang at the Meeting Celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet

汪洋在庆祝西藏和平解放70周年大会上的讲话

Congratulatory Message From the CPC Central Committee, the NPC Standing Committee, the State Council, the CPPCC National Committee and the Central Military Commission in Celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet

中共中央 全国人大常委会 国务院 全国政协 中央军委关于庆祝西藏和平解放70周年的贺电

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Wang Yang
汪洋

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Comrades and Friends,

Amid celebrations of the centenary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) across the country, we are marking the 70th anniversary of the peaceful liberation of Tibet. Last month, Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, President of China and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, came to Tibet on an inspection tour. He hailed Tibet's development achievements in the past seven decades since its peaceful liberation, and brought warm regards and best wishes to officials and people of all ethnic groups in the region. Today, entrusted by the CPC Central Committee and General Secretary Xi Jinping, the central government delegation has come to Tibet, bringing to you warm greetings of people across the country. We are here to jointly celebrate with people of all ethnic groups in Tibet the 70th anniversary of the peaceful liberation of Tibet. At the outset, on behalf of the CPC Central Committee, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, the State Council, the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and the Central Military Commission, I wish to extend warm congratulations to the Tibet Autonomous Region, extend greetings to officials and people of all ethnic groups in Tibet, and express heartfelt thanks to people from various sectors who have long cared about and supported Tibet in pursuing development and progress.

The peaceful liberation of Tibet in 1951 was a major victory in the cause of liberation of the Chinese people and China's reunification. It marked a historic transition with epoch-making significance for Tibet. Since then, Tibet has embarked on a path from darkness to brightness, from backwardness to progress, from poverty to prosperity, from autocracy to democracy, and from closeness to open-

同志们, 朋友们:

在举国欢庆中国共产党百年华诞之际, 我们迎来了西藏和平解放70周年。上个月, 中共中央总书记、国家主席、中央军委主席习近平亲临西藏考察, 充分肯定西藏和平解放70年来的发展成就, 为各族干部群众带来亲切关怀和美好祝福。今天, 中央代表团带着党中央和习近平总书记的重托、带着全国人民的深情厚谊, 与西藏各族人民一道隆重庆祝西藏和平解放70周年。首先, 我代表中共中央、全国人大常委会、国务院、全国政协、中央军委, 向西藏自治区表示热烈祝贺! 向西藏各族干部群众致以亲切问候! 向长期以来关心和支持西藏发展进步的各界人士表示衷心感谢!

1951年西藏和平解放, 是中国人民解放事业和祖国统一事业的重大胜利, 是西藏具有划时代意义的历史转折。从此, 西藏走上了由黑暗到光明、由落后到进步、由贫穷到富裕、由专制到民主、由封闭到开放的康庄大道, 一个欣欣向荣的

ness. A thriving socialist new Tibet is standing tall and firm at the rooftop of the world.

The past seven decades have seen a historic transition in Tibet's social system. In the old Tibet, the reactionary and barbarous feudal serfdom was practiced under which people were divided into three classes, with each class further divided into three ranks. Lower-class serfs had no human rights or dignity to speak of. We drove out all the imperialist forces and carried out sweeping democratic reform, separated religion from political powers and ended theocracy, and we established the people's democratic government. Several million serfs rose and held their future in their own hands. They cheered: "The sun of the aristocrats has set, and our sun has risen." With the establishment of socialist system and regional ethnic autonomy, the rights of people of all ethnic groups in Tibet to equal participation in the governance of state affairs and to administration of affairs of the autonomous region are fully ensured. At present, Tibet has over 35,000 deputies of people's congresses and over 8,000 CPPCC members at various levels, 90 percent of who are ethnic minorities.

The past seven decades have seen historic achievements in Tibet's economic development. In the old days, agriculture and livestock in Tibet were at the mercy of nature; industry was non-existent; and a round trip between Xining and Lhasa would take more than six months. In 1951, the GDP in Tibet was merely RMB130 million yuan, while the figure soared past RMB190 billion yuan in 2020. Today, Tibet's annual grain output has been above one million tons for years. Its agricultural and livestock sectors with distinctive features of the plateau, green industry, clean energy and modern services are flourishing. During the 13th Five-Year Plan period, Tibet hosted close to 160 million tourist visits. The autonomous region now has well-connected infrastructure, with Fuxing bullet trains speeding past snow-capped mountains. Every administrative village is linked by roads, and 140 flights connect Tibet with the rest of the country and the world. All villages in Tibet are now covered by 4G network. The Ngari-Central Tibet power interconnection project, crossing mountains at an average altitude of 4,500 meters, ended Tibet's lack of electricity once and for all. Across this ancient and snowy plateau of unique appeal, everywhere there is a scene of brimming vitality.

The past seven decades have seen historic changes in the lives of the people in Tibet. In the old Tibet, over 90 percent of Tibetans struggled for subsistence, and up to 95 percent were illiterate. Today, hunger and poverty is a thing of the past for people of all ethnic groups in Tibet, and per capita living space in Tibet is close to 40 square meters. The 15-year public-funded education is conducted across the region, ending the long-standing issue of school dropout. Endemics such as hydatid disease, Kashin-Beck disease and congenital heart disease have been eradicated and prevented for the first time in history. The average life expectancy has risen from 35.5 years in 1951 to 71.1 years. People's lives are steadily improving. From the Jinsha River to the Shiquan River, from the Yarlung Zangbo Valley to the northern Tibetan Plateau, people everywhere in Tibet sing in praise of their happy life.

The past seven decades have seen historic progress in ethnic unity in Tibet. We have followed a sound policy with distinctive Chinese features of addressing ethnic issues. We have ended ethnic discrimination and estrangement prevalent in the old society, crushed separatist and sabotage activities committed by the Dalai group and hostile external forces, and promoted common development and prosperity of all ethnic groups through joint efforts. The

社会主义新西藏巍然屹立在世界之巅!

70年来, 西藏社会制度实现历史性跨越。旧西藏实行反动野蛮的封建农奴制, 人分三等九级, 下等农奴毫无人权和尊严。我们彻底驱逐帝国主义势力, 掀起波澜壮阔的民主改革, 结束政教合一、神权控制政权的历史, 建立人民民主政权。翻身做主的百万农奴欢呼: “贵族的太阳落下去了, 我们的太阳升上来了。”随着社会主义制度和民族区域自治制度的实行, 西藏各族人民平等参与管理国家事务和自主管理本地区事务的权利得到充分保障。目前, 西藏各级人大代表超过3.5万名、政协委员超过8000名, 90%是少数民族。

70年来, 西藏经济发展取得历史性成就。旧西藏农牧业靠天吃饭, 工业一片空白, 从西宁到拉萨往返一次需要半年以上。1951年西藏地区生产总值仅为1.3亿元, 2020年已突破1900亿元。今天的西藏, 粮食年产量稳定在100万吨以上, 高原特色农牧业、绿色工业、清洁能源和现代服务业蓬勃发展, “十三五”时期接待游客近1.6亿人次。基础设施四通八达, “复兴号”在雪山环抱间飞驰, 建制村村通公路, 140条航线联通国内外, 4G网络覆盖每一个村庄, 阿里与藏中电网联网工程穿越平均海拔4500米的崇山峻岭, 让西藏整体告别了缺电少电的历史。古老神奇的雪域高原一派万象更新的喜人景象。

70年来, 西藏人民生活发生历史性变化。旧西藏90%以上的人过着衣不蔽体、食不果腹的生活, 文盲率高达95%。今天的西藏, 各族群众不愁吃、不愁穿, 人均住房面积近40平方米, 15年公费教育全面实现, 长期存在的辍学问题历史性“清零”, 包虫病、大骨节病、先天性心脏病等地方病得到历史性消除和防治, 人均预期寿命由1951年的35.5岁增加到71.1岁, 老百姓的生活品质日益提高。从金沙江边到狮泉河畔, 从雅江谷地到藏北高原, 幸福的歌声传遍西藏每一片土地。

70年来, 西藏民族团结呈现历史性进步。我们坚持走中国特色解决民族问题的正确道路, 消除旧社会的民族歧视、民族隔阂, 挫败达赖集团和

central government has invested huge manpower, resources and funding to preserve and develop Tibet's fine traditional culture. The Tibetan language is used extensively. Precious classics such as *Epic of King Gesar* were saved and collated. Close to 800 projects including thangka, Tibetan opera and Tibetan medicine have been placed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage. Religious beliefs of all ethnic groups are fully respected. More than 1,700 temples in Tibet have full access to water, electricity, the Internet, fire fighting and other facilities. All of the 46,000 monks and nuns are covered by the government's social security scheme. The Potala Palace, the Jokhang Temple and other temples and sites have been renovated and are under protection. Today's Tibet enjoys freedom of religious belief, social harmony and ethnic amity. People of all ethnic groups are "as close to one another as tea and salt" which go together in Tibetan butter tea, and all members of the great family of the Chinese nation live in contentment and happiness.

Since the 18th CPC National Congress, Tibet has entered a new era, an era in which greater development and bigger changes have been made and more benefits delivered to the people than in the past. The region ranks among the top three in China in terms of annual average growth rate, and it has topped the country in terms of growth of per capita disposable income of rural residents for many years, and the urbanization rate has increased by 13 percentage points. Tibet was once the only place in China which had contiguous poor areas at the provincial level. Its poverty was most severe, the cost of poverty eradication was the highest and the difficulty encountered was the greatest. However, thanks to unremitting efforts, 628,000 people from inhospitable mountainous and remote areas in Tibet have been lifted out of poverty, and 266,000 were relocated to new homes in valley townships and embarked on new lives. Together with the rest of the country, Tibet has, as envisaged, finished the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

We owe the great achievements and the miracle of epoch-making transformation made in Tibet over the past seven decades since its peaceful liberation to the firm leadership of the CPC Central Committee, the indomitable spirit of officials and people of all ethnic groups in Tibet, and the tremendous support given by people across the country. Over the years, people of all ethnic groups in Tibet, like the galsang flower that bloom in the snowy plateau, have struck roots in the region and dedicated themselves to its development. With unity and hard work, they have safeguarded our sacred land and built up their homeland. Tens of thousands of officials and professionals across the country have responded to the call of the CPC and come to assist in Tibet's development, worked with heroic determination and left behind touching stories of their glorious accomplishments. What you have achieved with your dedication here in Tibet has become a part of our great motherland's historic achievement, and your endeavors and contributions will forever be remembered by the People's Republic. At this very moment, we cherish a profound memory of the martyrs and heroes who have contributed their youth and even given their lives for the revolution, development and reform of Tibet and for the defense and development of the borderland of our country. Their great contributions and noble character will go down in the annals of history.

Comrades and friends,

The world today is undergoing changes never seen in a century, and China has reached a crucial stage in its endeavor to realize the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. We have embarked on a new journey of fully building a modern socialist country, and Tibet

境外敌对势力的分裂破坏活动，促进各民族共同团结奋斗、共同繁荣发展。国家投入巨大人力物力财力弘扬和发展西藏优秀传统文化，藏语言文字得到广泛使用，《格萨尔王传》等珍贵典籍得到抢救整理，唐卡、藏戏、藏医药等近800个项目列入非物质文化遗产。各族群众的宗教信仰得到充分尊重，全区1700多座寺庙实现水电、网络、消防等设施全覆盖，4.6万僧尼都享受了政府社保，布达拉宫、大昭寺等寺庙古迹得到修缮保护。今天的西藏，宗教和顺、社会和谐、民族和睦，各族人民“相亲相爱，犹如茶和盐巴”，中华民族大家庭其乐融融。

党的十八大以来，西藏步入发展最好、变化最大、群众得实惠最多的新时代。经济年均增速位居全国三甲，农村居民人均可支配收入增速连续多年位居全国第一，城镇化率上升13个百分点。西藏曾经是全国唯一省级集中连片特困地区，贫困程度最深、扶贫成本最高、脱贫难度最大。经过坚持不懈的努力，62.8万贫困人口全部脱贫，26.6万人从山高地远的苦寒之地搬迁到河谷城镇安居乐业，西藏与全国一道如期全面建成小康社会。

西藏和平解放70年的辉煌成就，创造了改天换地的人间奇迹，是党中央坚强领导的结果，是西藏各族干部群众顽强拼搏的结果，也是全国人民大力支持的结果。长期以来，西藏各族人民像格桑花一样扎根雪域边陲，胼手胝足、团结奋斗，守护神圣国土、建设幸福家园。成千上万的干部人才响应党的号召，支援西藏建设，以战天斗地的豪情壮志，留下了感天动地的光辉事迹。你们的汗水和成就汇入了伟大祖国发展进步的历史洪流，你们的奋斗和贡献永远镌刻在共和国的历史丰碑上！此时此刻，我们深切缅怀为西藏革命、建设、改革事业，为保卫和建设祖国边疆奉献青春乃至生命的先烈和英雄们，他们的丰功伟绩和崇高风范永垂青史！

同志们、朋友们！

当今世界正经历百年未有之大变局，我国正处于实现中华民族伟大复兴的关键时期，全面建设