The 17th Karmapa Defects From China
The Associated Press Friday, Jan. 7, 2000, 4:13 a.m. EST
NEW DELHI, India — In the most significant defection from Chinese-rulled Tibet in decades, the 17th Karmapa, 15-year-old leader of one of Tibetan Buddhism's most prominent sects, has fled to India, officials said today.

"He has come," said Desang, Cabinet secretary in the exiled administration of the Dalai Lama, in a telephone call from Dharamsala in northern India. Desang, who uses only one name gave no other details.

(Continued on page #)

Twelfth Annual Chinggis Qan Ceremony

The Twelfth Annual Chinggis Qan ceremony was held on October 30, 1999 at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center, North Brunswick, NJ, with some 300 in attendance. A shortened afternoon program included the keynote address by Ambassador Enkhsaikhan on the current economic and social conditions in Mongolia. A brief discussion on Mongolian Calligraphy was given by Erdenebat. The formal ceremony was made special this year by additional offerings of sheep's heads and silks, with individual offerings by various individuals from near and far. A special banquet dinner with lots of mutton, buuz,

(Continued on page 2)

Chinggis Qan Symposium in Memory of Gombojab Hangin

The Chinggis Qan Symposium in Memory of Gombojab Hangin was held on October 31, 1999 at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center in North Brunswick, NJ. The symposium marked the tenth anniversary of the passing of MACA's founder and first President, Professor Gombojab Hangin. The day's program began with opening remarks by Sanj Altan, followed by a moving reminiscence by Mrs. Saichungga, about Gombojab's qualities as a brother, a father and a son to their remarkable mother. This was followed by warm congratulations and views on the impor-
The Board of Directors of MACA takes great pleasure in publishing the association's newsletter Mongol Tolbo, which we intend to issue on a quarterly basis. The term "Tolbo" refers to the blue birthmark that Mongols are born with and has formed the basis for many Mongol legends. MACA understands the term Mongolia in its most general sense, to include the Mongol culture of Northern and Southern Mongolia, Tuva, Sinjiang, Buryatia and Kalmykia. In addition, we intend for the newsletter to serve as a medium for expressing current news, opinions, literary works and cultural articles, related to Mongolia and the Mongol-American community in the United States and elsewhere. As such, we solicit communications from the readership to use this newsletter as a vehicle for exchanging their thoughts and opinions about relevant issues, through the "Letters to the Editor" column. The Board welcomes submissions from the broad readership. Such letters and articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Board. MACA will have an open publication policy, and will express views from as wide a range of opinions as possible. Word perfect or ASCII files are the preferred format for submissions. Email submissions may be sent to MONGOL@COMPUBELL.COM to the attention of the MACA editors.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Sanj Altan
Chinggeltu Borjiged
Enghe Chimood
Palgi Gyalmo
D. Tsagaanbaatar

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2. Mingantu Cup Contest Sponsorship — Page 8
3. Mongolia News — Page 9-11
4. Food Legends of Mongolia — Page 12-13
5. Letter to Congressman — Page 15
1998-99 Mongolian Children’s Aid and Development Fund
Third Annual Report

This is a report on the activities of the children’s fund for 1998-99. We wish to acknowledge the addition of two new advisory board members, Martha Stewart, President of Avery Publishing, Inc. and John Snyder, Vice President, Morgan Stanley. The Board also thanks Martha Cashman for her tenure on the board and we wish her much success as Vice President, International Development, LandO’Lakes Corporation.

Aid to Children in Mongolia

The Erdenet City Orphanage continued to be a focus of MCADF support. The orphanage houses around 100 children currently, and they have made efforts on their own to become self-sustaining. They have initiated several projects with our help, such as honey production and vegetable farming, to generate income, but they still have some way to go, like many other orphanages. Their commitment from the Erdenet Copper Mine has been cut, so their dependence on MCADF support has actually increased. The following support summarizes MCADF contributions during 1998-99. (exchange rates varied from around 815-1000 Tg to $1US during the period):

1. The 800,000 Tg cash account’s monthly interest was continued to be used by the orphanage for extraordinary nutritional and educational needs not otherwise covered by the orphanage’s resources.
2. The 200,000 Tg fund previously established is in place, to provide for the educational expenses of 40 or so orphans when they reach college age,
3. The 600,000 Tg educational grant previously provided to six orphans has helped them to defray their college tuition costs,
4. A one-time cash donation of $1,000 was provided to the general educational fund.

MCADF also continued to support the Khuvsgal Orphanage, which houses approximately 30 children. Currently the number of sheep in the herd provided by MCADF numbers over 300 and we expect the herd size to increase to 500 next year. The proceeds from the herd will be used for the needs of the children, and we are hopeful that this will turn into a sustainable resource once the herd size hits the appropriate critical mass. We are still in the process of determining what that critical mass is for the specific needs we are targeting.

MCADF continued support of the Zuunmod English Language School. The student body consists of 50 students currently, of whom 3 are being funded by MCADF. We provided a $100 award to the graduating class valedictorian.

Extraordinary Donations

Advisory Board member John Snyder initiated a clothing drive, and single-handedly collected 44 cartons of clothing from his friends and colleagues at Morgan Stanley. Peter Mattingly donated 15 cartons of children’s books which were also included as part of this shipment.

A $60,000 mortgage loan note was donated to the MCADF. It provides interest payments of approximately $2,000 per year for the next five years, at which point MCADF will receive the principal balance.

The donation of 16,000 pairs of shoes by the Andre Assous company in 1997 was delivered to Mongolia in the Spring of 1998. Half was sold to a Mongolian businessman to pay for the cost of shipment, and the other half was distributed through the Well-Being Life for Children Center in Ulaanbaatar.

Financials

Donations in 1998 were as follows:

Form of Donation
Amount
Cash $6,185
Non-cash
Children’s Books from Peter Mattingly

(Continued on page 4)
Outlook

Our Children's Fund Director, Enghe Chimood made his 1998 trip in early 1999, the report of which is attached to this letter.

As mentioned in last year's report, the help that we have provided to Mongolia is very much needed under these difficult economic times in Mongolia. Abandoned children and homelessness continue to rise in Mongolia and the recent turmoil in the government, witnessed by rapid changes in the Prime Minister's office, indicate that the transition to a prosperous and democratic Mongolia is still a work in progress. During these difficult times, Mongolia needs us more than ever. We hope that you will continue your support as we pursue our goal to help the children of Mongolia. We continue to carry out our humanitarian work, with completely voluntary participation, and we use all monies collected for the fund for the direct benefit of the MCADF projects in Mongolia.

Children's Program Director Enghe Chimood's Trip Report

My trip for 1998 was postponed until February 1999 due to a very heavy professional commitment. I arrived in Mongolia on Friday, 2/12/99. On 'Bituun' evening, 2/16/99, I took the train to Erdenet, where I visited with the Erdenet orphanage, and met the children and the director, Mr. Khurelbaatar. The situation at the orphanage is quite good, with over 100 children in residence at this time. They all looked happy and quite well taken care of. Sadly, the Erdenet Copper Mining Company has stopped their monthly support of the Erdenet orphange, so the orphanage is now more dependent than ever on our support. With the past support that MACA has given them, $2,000 two years ago, Mr. Khurelbaatar has tried very hard to make the orphanage self-sustaining.

(Continued on page 7)
Chinggis Qan Symposium

...tance of Mongol identity by Ambassador Choinhor. Bilegsaikhan, representing the IAMS then conveyed warm congratulations from President Ozawa and Secretary Bira, and presented several gifts of books and a carving to MACA. The formal academic program began at this point, with papers by Mingian Bitkeyev (Kalmykia), Tom Allsen (USA), Surihu (USA), Kheshigtootokh (Beijing), Nogala Bitkeyev (Kalmykia), Erjen Khamaganova (Buriatia), J. Enkhe (Khokhekhota), Paul Hyer (USA), Theodore Cook (USA), Ch. Dagvadorj (Mongolia), Boris Okonov (Kalmykia), Ts. Tsetsenbileg (Mongolia), Ts. Ishdorj (Mongolia), Tom Oller (USA) Ch. Dalai (Mongolia), Ch. Enkhtaivan (Mongolia), L. Munkh-Erdene (Mongolia), Ch. Dalai (Mongolia) and Alicia Campi (USA). The audience included MACA life member Denys Voaden and Jean Adelman along with both Ambassadors Enkhsaikhan and Choinhor and Mrs. Maijargal. Interested readers can obtain a full symposium program with abstracts for $6.00 from MACA. The day ended with a special reception for the scholars hosted by Ambassador Enkhsaikhan and Mrs. Gerlee at the Mongolian mission in NY.

PICTURES (CLOCKWISE)

1. Reception at MACA director's house. 2. Ambassador Choinhor gave a speech. 3. Mongolian scholar presents gifts to MACA president Sanj Altan. 4. Dr. Altan gave an open ceremony speech at Symposium.
KALMYK-AMERICAN COLLEGE STUDENT WANTED FOR RESEARCH PROGRAM

Kalmyk-American college student with close ties to the Kalmyk-American community wanted to assist in socio-anthropological field work in the community under the direction of Dr. U. Bulag, Hunter College of the City University of New York. The Kalmyk-American community was last surveyed by scholars more than 30 years ago, and this work will be aimed towards updating the earlier work carried out by Paula Rubel and Fred Adelman. The student may qualify for some academic advantages at Hunter College, as well as help advance the scientific study of this unique community. Interested students should contact Dr. Bulag at (212) 772-5428 during the day, or (718) 268-7961 evenings, or ubulag@shiva.hunter.cuny.edu

"Story of Chinggis Khan" Postcards for Sale

Limited Edition set of six 4 ¼ by 6 "Story of Chinggis Khan" postcards, reproduced from the original murals by MACA artist-in-residence Choloon Baatar. Set of six for only $9.00. Also framed in a limited edition print format, wooden frame with gold outline, for $200.00, signed and numbered by the artist. Order directly from MACA at 50 Louis Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08902, or call (732) 297-1140.

Sale MACA T-shirts

Winter Sale on MACA t-shirts, 100% cotton, with the MACA logo in three colors on the left side. Great gift, and great price, only $15.00. Order directly from MACA, and specify size, S, M, L, XL.

SAVE THESE DATES
Yara Arts Group

Feb 21- Mar 15, 2000

THROAT SINGING

Mon & Wed 6-7 PM classes in the ancient art of throat singing with masters from Siberia and Mongolia at La MaMa Theatre $15 per class. You must pre-register.

March 24 - April 9, 2000

Yara's new Music Theatre Piece with Buryat artists

Thur-Sun at 8PM + Sun at 3PM at La MaMa 74 E 4th St New York City. Tickets $15/20. Box office (212) 475-7710

April 14, 2000

URAGSHA, traditional Buryat and Mongolian music ensemble

Friday 8 PM for World Music Institute at Washington Square Church 135 W 4th St. New York City. Tickets $18. Box office (212) 545-7536

Uragsha's CD of traditional Buryat and Mongolian released by Global Village Music is now available from Yara for $15.

for more information call (212) 475-6474 e-mail yara@prodigy.net

for current schedule visit Yara's website www.brama.com/yara/

Virlana Tkacz, Yara Arts Group
306 E 11th St #3B, New York, NY 10003 USA
phone/fax (212) 475-6474 e-mail: yara@prodigy.net
visit our website: www.brama.com/yara/
with the bee business, and a gardening venture in their summer grounds, growing vegetables, wheat, raising chickens, and it also serves as a place of employment for the older children. Sadly, I found out also that Mr. Khurelbataar is suffering from serious liver disease, and had to travel to Beijing for treatment. He is now under medical care and seems to be doing better. I provided them with a cash grant of 200,000 Ts. I stayed overnight and left the following evening for the overnight trip back to UB.

On my return to UB, I met with Ms Tochtochnyam, the director of the Khuvsgalt orphanage. She had provided us with a detailed report last December so I was able to follow up with the information she had already provided. The end of 1997, she had roughly 150 sheep, which had increased to 200 by the end of 1998. It is projected that by the end of 1999, there will be 300+ sheep in the MACA herd. Based on her recommendation, I approved the hiring of an additional sheep herder at $12.00 Ts/month, and expenses for winter shelter construction for the sheep. In total, I provided Ms Tochtochnyam with 20,000,00 Ts. To cover the salaries of the sheep herders and other expenses. We had not covered their monthly salaries since the middle of 1998.

Tuition payment in support of the orphans in UB was continued.

I was not able to meet with Bat-tsetseg, who was traveling in Korea at the time of my visit. I was not able to inspect the herd personally, but I heard that it was growing. She has agreed to submit the essays of 3 outstanding students to us for selection for the yearly prize which we sponsor, and 2 of the essays have arrived already for our review. The $100. Prize can be provided to the student or Bat-Tsetseg by Nyamsuren, who is handling our bank accounts in UB. I also provided the salary of the sheep herder for our flock.

The Khotsh Commercial Bank, along with the other commercial banks are having a liquidity problem, and we were able to move MACA's money in time before the collapse.

I visited the Alpha Communities center in UB, which was a particularly rewarding experience for me. It is staffed by an American and a German woman, the latter speaks fluent Mongolian. I found out that they are a completely volunteer staff, with each volunteer putting in a 2-year hitch of duty in Mongolia. More than 95% of their donations are spent directly on their children's programs. The two women had both rented apartments, and the American woman was housing an additional 10 orphans in her apartment. They have also established 3 kindergartens, 2 in UB and 1 in Arkhangai, and all 3 are targeted to serve the educational needs of the poorest segments of the society (the 'ger kho-rool') areas. They have provided a nutritional and feeding children, and their aim is to make it a preventative effort, so the children who are not being taken care of adequately by their families don't turn into street children. I really believe that this is a program worth supporting, and we should discuss what collaborative things we can do with them. It's an outstanding program.

I then spent some time at the government sponsored street children center, which although it does not provide great care for the children, it is better than living on the streets. I also visited the Catholic Center for street children, located in a fairly large 4-story building. The care is quite good. I also had a chance to see the underground homes of some of the street children, where they survive living close to the steam heat pipes. Although it is warm, it's not clean, filled with liquor bottles and cigarettes. I took some videos of the children I visited and these will be available for viewing shortly.

Finally, I met with Zorig's brother, Bayaraa, and gave him $500 on behalf of MACA, to be presented to Zorig's mother and widow.

I left Mongolia for the states on February 26, 1999, feeling that our work in Mongolia is needed more than ever.

**Two Sentenced in Death of Yudina in Kalmykia**

RUSSIA. A Moscow court sentenced two men to 21 year prison terms for killing opposition newspaper editor Larisa Yudina in the southern Republic of Kalmykia last year, AP reported on 30 November. Prosecutors called it a contract murder, but no one has been charged with ordering the hit. AP described Yudina, editor of Kalmykia's only opposition paper, "Sovetskaya Kalmykia," as "zoroing in" on a corruption scandal involving President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov. According to human rights groups, the case illustrates the challenges Russian reformers face in confronting corruption.
Mingantu Cup Contest Sponsorship Announced by the Injannashi Educational Fund

The following is an edited version of the Injannashi Educational Fund’s (IEF) year end report of the completion of their Mingantu Cup contest project. For further details are available at the IEF website at <http://members.home.net/injannashi>.

The Injannashi Educational Fund (IEF) is pleased to announce the successful completion in December 1999 of its debut funding project in connection with the "Mingantu Cup Contest" or “Mingantu Hundagijn Uraldaan”, named after the famous 18th century Mongol scientist Mingantu. The contest is an annual event organized by the Department of Ethnic Education (DEE) of the Inner Mongolia Educational Commission, aimed at promoting academic excellence among physical science students who are enrolled in Mongol language medium middle schools across all parts of Inner Mongolia. IEF’s contribution of $400 toward the 1999 contest directly benefited 20 students.

Today’s educational reforms in China are characterized by market forces replacing state-controlled job assignments. In addition, educational institutions are increasingly expected to get by on their own. Until recently, graduates of minority educational institutions were shielded from the marketization drive, but this is coming to an end. Under such circumstances, fewer students are going to Mongol language medium schools because parents feel Mongol schooling puts their children at a disadvantage in finding employment following graduation. Given this larger social context, the Mingantu Cup Contest is intended to play an increased role in promoting ethnic pride as well as ethnic culture and education, in addition to encouraging academic excellence. IEF’s sponsorship has generated considerable enthusiasm among students by encouraging interest and enrollment in Mongol medium schools and therefore has a significance far beyond the dollar amount contributed by IEF. IEF seeks to also impart the message that learning the Mongol language and culture are valuable and conducive to a successful career.

Given IEF’s substantial positive effects on the Mingantu Cup Contest, the project is viewed to be a real success. IEF is committed to the goal of continued educational support to Mongol language institutions, and with this record of initial success, IEF looks forward to robust growth in its future operations as well as greater moral and material support from interested organizations and individuals.

To the IEF Steering Committee members, Chagaanbaatar, Almaz, Chuluu, Minganchot and Temtsel, MACA congratulates them on a job well done, and wishes them continued success in their future endeavors.

Editor’s Note : TOLBO readers who wish to support the IEF with a cash contribution should send a check made out to MACA, specifically indicating that the contribution is intended for the IEF.

1999 late year end contributions to the MCADF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C. Goldfarb</td>
<td>$25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jean Evans</td>
<td>$55</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Snyder</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jenny Lawrence</td>
<td>$500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tek Digital Corp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tony Ettinger</td>
<td>$200</td>
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<tr>
<td>James A. Baker III</td>
<td>$200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Wu (Oyuntu)</td>
<td>$300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Howard Roth</td>
<td>$250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter Mattingly</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erdenbat</td>
<td>$325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Allsen</td>
<td>$80</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,435</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The accountant will set up the final 1999 figures.
The Best Contributors Of The Year

The correspondent of the newspaper Udrin Sonin B. Ganchimeg for her interviews with O.Dashbalbar "My Beloved Nice Girls", S.Erdene's "The Old Bird Folding Its Wings" and the Grand Titan J.Munbat's "The Avarga (Champion) Remains The Avarga" has been selected as the 1999 best articles of the newspaper. MP B.Batbayar alias Baabar has been selected as the best publicist for his articles "The Fight For Justice", "The Worst Takes The Advantages Of The Revolution" and "The Globalization and Mongolia", the special prizes of the newspaper went to reporter B. Handdolgor, general designer L.Munbat and the correspondent from Suhbaatar aimag A.Tumur-Ochir.

PRIME MINISTER HANDS OVER AWARD TO BEST CALLIGRAPHIST

Ulaanbaatar, January 12. /MONTSAME-OANA/. Mongolian Prime Minister R.Amarjargal handed over today an award to Yo.Erdenetsetseg, a teacher of the 5th secondary school of Ulaanbaatar, who won the "Mongolian Best Calligraphist-99" (for Mongolian old script) competition which was organized by the "Humuun Bichig" paper of the MONTSAME news agency. The weekly newspaper "Humuun Bichig" is published in the old Mongolian script.

Winners of the competition, were handed over the awards by the MP N.Togtokh, writer D.Purevdorj, poet Tangadyyn Galsan, D.Dorligjav, the head of the Association of Mongolian Script, T.Galdan, the Editor-in-Chief of the "Humuun Bichig" paper. More than 1500 calligraphes from 21 aimags and cities were sent to the "Mongolian Best Calligraphist-99". Main goal of the competition is to select the best calligraphist among the Mongolian old script calligraphists and to stimulate wider spread of the old Mongolian script.

MNWA Named Eight Best Wrestlers

The Mongolian National Wrestling Association named the best 8 wrestlers of the passing Year of the Rabbit: Grand Titan B. Bat-Erdene (77,067 points), Elephants A.Suhbat (75,988 points), D.Sumyabazar (28,100), Lion D.Munh-Erdene (22,874), Elephants B.Gantogtsoh (20,563), G.Usuhbayar (16,413), Falcons I.Dorjsambuu (14,289), and Ch.Batzorig (13,891 points). All them are now entitled to a monthly cash award until the end of the Year of the Dragon. (EDN NEWS 12/31/99)

Highlights Of 1999

The newspaper Udrin Sonin and Mongolyn name the most significant events of Mongolia in 1999. The Udrin Sonin writes:
1. The first amendments to the Constitution;
2. The President N.Bagabandi's official and working visits to 5 European and Central Asian countries;
3. The Mongolia Assistance Group Meeting in June held for the first time in Mongolia;
4. The visit of the high ranking officials of China and Japan;
5. The stepping down of J.Narantsatsralt Government;
6. Lawmakers are imprisoned;
7. The 10th anniversary of the Democratic Revolution;
8. The first Mongolian World Champion of Professional Boxing;
9. Falcon Ts.Begzsuren's shooting at 4 people;
10. The drought.
However the newspaper Mongolyn Medee names the 5 significant events as the most important, but they are the same as 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of above mentioned. (EDN News No. 254)

The Year 2000 In Mongolia

The newspaper Mongolyn Medee (Mongolian News) reports of the following main events which will take place in 2000.
- The election of the State Ih Hural;
- The local election;
- The census of the population which is carried out once in 10 years;
- The year of the support of the development of children;
- The start of building apartment houses for the officials of the state organs and elderly citizens by the aid of China;
- The completion of the highway between Ulaanbaatar and Altanbulag and the start of the construction of the Ulaanbaatar-Zamyn-Uud highway;
- The East-Asian regional meeting of the world commission of the lands under special protection. (EDN NEWS 12/31/99)
ICE-HOCKEY FINAL GAMES STARTS IN BAGANUUR
Ulaanbaatar. January 12. /OANA-MONTSAME/. Final games of the ice hockey league, traditionally organized by the Mongolian Hockey Federation has started in Baganuur on Wednesday.
Four clubs, including "Sharyn gol", "Baganuur", "Bilegtkhuu" and "Ermel" will compete for the first place. The games will last for a week.

KIDNEY SANITARIUM TO BE ERECTED IN DUNDOGBI
Ulaanbaatar, January 12. /MONTSAME-OANA/. A kidney sanitarium will be established in the Oosh Mankhan area located in the Otzit soum, Dundogbi aimag, within the Japanese "Grass Root" aid programme.
An agreement on rendering financial support to the establishment of sanitarium, has been signed today by M.Hanada, the Japanese Ambassador to Mongolia, and J. Narantsatsral, the head of the Local's Council of the Dundogbi aimag. USD 31,200 will be allocated for the construction of the sanitarium.

D.MONKHBAYAR WINS TWO GOLDS AT INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION
Ulaanbaatar, January 14. /MONTSAME-OANA/. D.Monkabayar, the Mongolian sportswoman, the World Champion is shooting, won two gold medals at the "Rea" International Shooting Championship, which was recently held in Luxembourg.
She has also got the right to participate in the Asian Shooting Championship to be held on January 22-30, in Dankavi, Malaysia. D.Monkabayar won gold and silver medals at the World Shooting Championship, held in 1998, and acquired two rights to participate in the "Sydney-2000" Olympic Game to be held in 2000, in Australia.

MONGOLIAN PRESIDENT’S WEBSITE APPEARS IN THE INTERNET
Ulaanbaatar. January 12. /OANA-MONTSAME/. Mongolian President's administration has placed a website about the president in the Internet, reported the daily Onoodor.
The website contains Mongolian president N.Bagbandi's autobiography, work programme, foreign visits, photographs and also Mongolian first lady A.Oyunbileg's autobiography etc.
The site is available in both English and Mongolian languages. The address is: http://www.mng.net/president

"GOLOMT" BANK LAUNCHES MASTERCARD
Ulaanbaatar, January 21. /MONTSAME-OANA/. The "Golomt" bank today launched its mastercard, into the market. The Golomt bank joined the Mastercard International organization, in May last year, aiming to penetrate credit card system in Mongolia. More than 70 organizations in Mongolia, mainly hotels and restaurants will serve by the mastercard, said S.Bayasgalan, the President of the "Golomt" bank. At the time, 386 million people own mastercard worldwide and 16 million organizations in more than 220 countries serve by the card. 20,000 pieces of the Golomt bank’s mastercard of three types: golden, ordinary and institutional, were printed in Germany. The card has two classifications, for international and domestic use.
THREE PARLIAMENTARIANS LEAVE THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY
Ulaanbaatar, January 20. MONTSAME-OANA/ Three Parliamentarians, S. Billisai Khan, D. Khuvigitgoldor and Kh. Dashveeg have applied to leave the Mongolian National Democratic Party (MDP), reports the daily Zuuny Medee. Totally 400 members of the MNDP have applied to leave the party, the paper said, citing initiators of the Mongolian Democratic Party. The Organizing Committee of the Mongolian Democratic Party (MDP) handed over applications of 208 members of the MNDP, who want to leave the party in order to join the new MDP, to the MNDP administration, Wednesday, reported the Press service of the MNDP.

Inner Mongolia To Invest 5 Billion Yuan in Highways
Hohhot, January 3 — The Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region in north China plans to invest five billion yuan (about 600 million U.S. dollars) in highway construction this year, 33 percent more than in 1999.

The massive investment complies with the national strategy of accelerating the development of western China, according to a regional economic meeting held here recently. Inner Mongolia is a vast landlocked region spanning from northeast China to the northwest.

The autonomous region plans to draw more foreign investment for a number of road expansion projects, and build new highways linking the regional capital of Hohhot to the major cities of Baotou and Jining.

CHINESE DEFENCE MINISTER TO VISIT MONGOLIA
Ulaanbaatar. January 13. OANA-MONTSAME/. Chinese Defence Minister Chi Haotian will arrive in Mongolia on January 24 for a two-day visit, the daily Zuuny medee said on Thursday.

Quoting the Russian news agency RIA-Novosti, the daily said that the Defence Minister arrived in Great Britain. After London, Chi Haotian travels to Moscow and Seoul and will have meetings with Russian and South Korean counterparts.

NEW TELEPHONE BOOK PUBLISHED
Ulaanbaatar, January 7. MONTSAME-OANA/. The Mongolian Telecommunication company has released a new "Mongolian Telephone Book" and launched into sale.

Over 100,000 telephone numbers of clients of the company included in the book, divided into three parts: telephone numbers related to government, business and individuals.

5,000 copies of books were printed and the book costs 20,000 togrog.

MONGOLIAN TEAM OF SHOOTING WON BRONZE MEDAL AT ASIAN CHAMPIONSHIP
Ulaanbaatar, January 28. MONTSAME-OANA/. A Mongolian team of shooting won a bronze medal in the pistol shooting competition at the Asian Championship which was held in Lankavi, Malaysia, on January 22-30, as reports B. Altansesseg, the coach of the Mongolian National Team of Shooting.

Mongolian sportswomen D. Monkhsayar, T. Monkzhul and O. Gundagmaa participated in the competition. The Chinese team of shooting took first place and the Japanese team took second place at the Asian championship.

"MORIN KHUUR-99" MONGOLIAN TRADITIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL STARTS
Ulaanbaatar, January 27. MONTSAME-OANA/. A Mongolian traditional music festival "Morin Khuur-99" started today in Ulaanbaatar. Works of professional composers alone will be performed at the "Morin Khuur-99". (Morin khuur- a two-stringed national musical instrument with a carved horse head at the top).

More than 70 songs of Mongolian well-known composers including N. Jantsannorov, D. Luvsansharav, D. Badarch, D. Battomor and D. Khayankhyaravaa, will be performed at the music competition.
FOOD LEGENDS OF MONGOLIA

Biligbaatar

Here are some Mongol legends I either heard or read about. They could be true or false. Actually nobody can prove these things but I still wanted to share them with the TOLBO readership. Another reason is that I am a food science major so I am proud to hear that Mongols invented these foods (if true!)

1. Mongols invented the first ice cream

It was said that cream was shaken and frozen in a bag made of animal intestines carried by Mongol horsemen during the cold Mongolian winters. This was the first ice cream. When Kubilai Khan moved to Beijing, he was able to make ice even in summer time and also made ice cream. Marco Polo learned about it and when he came back to Italy, he taught other people how to make it. Today, many people still use the ancient Mongolian way of making ice cream, although if you visit a modern ice cream plant, the operation of shaking and so on is completely mechanized.

2. Mongols were first to make Pizza

When Marco Polo visited Beijing, he saw people eating something called "Bin Ze" (probably a corruption of the word "Bin or Rou Bin"). After Marco Polo returned to Italy, he tried to make it by putting ground meat on flattened dough, but without sealing it. Even today, Mongols make "Sher Bin" sealing meat inside flattened dough. But Marco Polo just baked it as it was on the flattened dough and the term "Bin Ze" became "Pizza". Much later, it came to America, and Pizza is now the second most popular food item, behind hamburgers, in America. Of course, Americans only know Pizza is from Italy.

3. Mongols invented Yogurt

Food science books state that central Asian nomads invented fermented milk. I think this must be the earliest form of what we Mongols call "airag". So how did "airag" become "yogurt"? Recently I was talking with a man from Turkey, and I found out that the word "Yogurt" is a Turkish word. In Turkey, the word "yogurt" is pronounced as "Yurig". The Turkish people are said to have migrated from the Mongolian plateau, and therefore, I would claim that the word "Yogurt" derives from the Turkish word "Yurig" which in turn must have been a cognate with "airag".

4. Mongols first discovered the nutrition of soybeans

It was said that after Chinggis Khan attacked Beijing (this is the modern name) for the first time, without capturing the city, he retreated into the mountains just north of the city. The following year, he invaded Beijing again and succeeded in capturing the city. During the year that Chinggis Khan and his army spent in the mountains, they could not find anything to eat except wild soybeans. They ate them and surprisingly, survived very well. According to modern nutrition science, soybeans are a very well balanced grain. The amino acid balance values are almost the same as meat's. Soybeans also contain fiber, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals. I work for the DuPont company which produces about 70% of the world's soy protein isolates, and we have a big group doing research on soybean nutrition. Just recently the USDA and the FDA approved labeling for soy's health benefits in any soy added food product. I sometimes joke with my nutrition science colleagues that Mongolians are so far ahead of them!

5. Mongols might be the first to make sausage

Meat science has traced the earliest sausage recipe to the Chinese, known as "Lup Cheong". But the earliest Lup Cheong, they said, was made of salted mutton. Since the Chinese were not as advanced as the Mongols in raising sheep, I would speculate that the Mongols were probably the first to salt and preserve mutton, and the Chinese probably learned it from the Mongols. Another interesting thing was a story told by a Dutch friend of mine. He mentioned that pastrami was actually from Hungary. Pastrami is a salted and smoked beef product found in any US supermarket. In Hungary, some people refer to it by a very old term "Bulsinmaha" (rendered as closely as I am able). "Maha" as you know means meat in Mongolian. "Bulsin" sounds very similar to a word for "processed". So it is "processed meat"! This theory has some added credibility from the fact that some historians have identified the ancient Hungarians with the ancient "Hun" people of Mongolia. Perhaps they are still using some other old Mongolian words.

6. Hot Pot, Mongolian BBQ, and Powdered Meat

It was recorded that Kubilai Khan and his army, after a long march, were just about ready to sit down and cook slaughtered animals to eat. Suddenly it was announced that the enemy was approaching. At that moment, Kubilai Khan ordered his soldiers to cut the meat into thin slices and use their helmets to quickly cook and eat the meat. They needed to march again as soon as possible.

(Continued on page 13)
Karmapa.............. 
Chinese leaders installed the boy as the head of the Karma Kagyu religious order and used him as a symbol of their rule over Tibet. He is the most important Tibetan figure to defect since the current Dalai Lama and many senior Buddhist clerics fled to India following an abortive anti-Chinese uprising in 1959.

China's State Council Information Office acknowledged the Karmapa had left his monastery in central Tibet with a "small number of followers," the state-run Xinhua News Agency reported Friday.

The report said the Karmapa had gone abroad to get musical instruments and the black hats used by his predecessors and cited a letter saying he did not mean to "betray the state, the nation, the monastery or the leadership."

Robbie Barnett, a Tibet scholar at Columbia University in New York, said the Karmapa left the 800-year-old Tsurphu monastery on Dec. 28 with a handful of attendants and walked to India, arriving Wednesday in Dharamsala.

The Karmapas virtually ruled Tibet until they were supplanted by the Dalai Lamas and the Gelugpa order 350 years ago.

The 17th Karmapa was chosen as the reincarnation of the 16th Karmapa after a divisive battle among senior disciples in the group's exiled headquarters in Sikkim, India. The winning disciples then worked with the Chinese leadership to see the boy installed at Tsurphu, traditional seat of the Karmapas.

Policy papers issued by the Chinese government have pointed to the 17th Karmapa's investiture and the restoration of Tsurphu as examples of Beijing's support for Tibetan Buddhism.

Last year the Karmapa appeared in public with another controversial reincarnation, the boy whom China forced Tibet's clergy to name as the Panchen Lama, passing over a rival candidate named by the Dalai Lama.

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(Continued from page 12) Food ..............

Later, soldiers found that this was an effective way to cook meat. The technology then became widely spread and has come to be used even today.

Some Chinese restaurants employ chefs who use a pan which looks like a big helmet to grill and stir-fry meats and vegetables. They refer to it as Mongolian BBQ. I was told that this also originated from ancient Mongolian times, when soldiers used their helmets to grill meat.

Powdered meat supplied food and energy to Chinggis Khan's armies during their military campaigns all over Europe and Asia. It was said that a whole cattle carcass could be dried and powdered and completely stuffed into the cattle's guts. Chinggis Khan's soldiers ate this food, one cup of powdered meat with two cups of water, and could campaign for a month without additional food supplies. No wonder the Mongol army battled all over the known world, defeating enemies who nearly always outnumbered them. Chinggis Khan understood the importance of nutrition to the military man, he was truly the first scientist-general.

As I wrote at the beginning of this note, I cannot claim that my explanations are too scientific. None can prove these things, but my point is that the Mongols have a glorious history, no less than any other people or culture but because of our nomadic lifestyle and culture, many things were not preserved.

(EDN News, No. 841, 1/28/00)

Tsagaan Sar

The oriental new year by lunar calendar is approaching with the fire breathing dragon on the horizon. Mongolians call this national holiday as Tsagaan Sar, the white month, which symbolizes happiness and welfare in the year to come. The occasion is celebrated by the entire nation officially for three days in a traditional way with a code of special ceremonies and rituals.

However, some people question these day whether they are the authentic ones or should people be that much un pragmatic. Huge expenses are the part of the festivity, for the more abundant is the table the more wealthy and happy is the coming year, they say. Extravaganz is quite a burden for the seniors, who are the hosts to numerous guests. According to some old chronicles, the holiday had meant a lot as a symbol, and by and large, everybody had his or her own choice in welcoming and treating guests. In other words, not every family, but some honourable elders and statesmen prepared the whole sheep and presented gifts symbolically to a few close relatives.

Heated debates on this matter has been springing up on the eve of every Tsagaan Sar since it was re-introduced as an official holiday a decade or so ago. But so far it has had a little effect on the way people greet each other on this occasion. The Year of the Dragon is for sure not going to be an exception.
A Letter to Congressman Pallone

To Appeal For adding Mongol Language to the Radio Free Asia

January 22, 2000

The Honorable Frank Pallone
House of Representatives
Washington DC

Dear Congressman Pallone,

I and my colleague are Mongol-Americans writing you on behalf of many of our friends, associates and colleagues who wish to bring to your attention something that we see as a critical need in the operations of Radio Free Asia (RFA). Radio Free Asia as you probably know, disseminates open and accurate news and commentary throughout the Asian continent in 9 languages. The Mongol language is not one of the 9, and we would like your support in gently suggesting to the RFA that there is a critical need here.

Mongolia, China, Central Asia and areas of the Russian Federation are home to some 8 million Mongol language speakers who are in many cases denied free and open access to news and commentary, not only about world events, but also events in their own countries. These Mongol speakers should have free access to RFA broadcasts, certainly to the same extent that Burmese, Cantonese, Mandarin, Khmer, Tibetan, Uyghur, Korean, Vietnamese, and Lao speakers have through the RFA. The events in Central Asia are increasingly gaining strategic importance to American interests, and all the peoples of Central Asia should have access to American views of world events as much as to open information about current stories which could have significant impact on their future.

Congressman Smith, you represent a district which has a significant Mongolian population, and is home to the Mongol-American Cultural Association, the only such organization in the entire US. On behalf of your Mongolian constituents and the Mongol speakers of Central Asia, we appeal to your sense of fairness and freedom in bringing this need to the attention of the RFA. We understand that Congress will soon be deliberating the RFA budget. We would like to urge you to place a special provision allocating a budget for Mongol language broadcasts by the RFA.

Congressman, my colleagues and I would like to meet with you at your convenience to make our appeal personally, and we would be grateful if you could allocate some of your time at your earliest convenience, either in Washington or in New Jersey, to hear our plea. We have also asked Congressman Chris Smith to also support this proposal, since he too has Mongol-Americans in his constituency.

Sincerely yours,

Sanj Altan   Erden Batu

Inner Mongolian Dissident Tortured, Mental Health is in Question

Princeton, NJ - Dec. 10, 1999

The Inner Mongolian People’s Party recently learned that Mr. Hada, one of the prominent dissidents of Inner Mongolia, is constantly tortured and denied visits from his family members. Mr. Hada, a native of Khorchin Right Wing Front Banner of Inner Mongolia, was chairman of an underground organization “Southern Mongolian Democratic Alliance” (SMDA). The goal of the organization is to preserve and protect the endangered Mongol culture and to promote the values of democracy, civil rights in Inner Mongolia by peaceful means. He and a dozen other members of the SMDA were arrested on Dec. 10, 1995 after staging a peaceful demonstration in Hohhot, the capital city of Inner Mongolia. He was charged of espionage and being a separatist and sentenced to 15 years in jail in Dec 1996. He is currently jailed in the Number 4 Prison of Inner Mongolia in the city of Chi Feng with regular criminals.

According to Ms. Xinna, wife of Hada, the jail authority asked the inmates to beat Mr. Hada constantly and even supplied the inmates with rubber clubs and electric prods. 2 officials from the prison, identified as officer Yang and Song by Xinna, threatened to kill Mr. Hada by pointing a handgun to his head twice. The jail authority also demanded Hada to divorce Ms.
manded Hada to divorce Ms. Xinna.

In a recent interview with us, Mr. Xinna also said that she believes her husband's mental health is in question. Hada experienced severe memory loss and hallucination. Upon repeated demands from Ms. Xinna, Mr. Hada was taken to a mental hospital for examination, but the authorities refused to release the result.

According to Ms. Xinna, visits by Mr. Hada's family members have been denied by the authorities. On August 27, 1999, after getting a refusal from the jail authorities to see Hada, Ms. Xinna applied to stage a demonstration in front of the city hall in the city of Chi Feng with her 14 years old son Uiles. The jail authority then agreed to deliver the clothes Xinna brought to Hada, but still refused to let her visit Mr. Hada. To date, Ms. Xinna hasn't been able to see her husband again.

Xinna believe that attention and pressure from the international community can help her husband. "Hada gets a bit better treatment from the authorities for a while every time there is a pressure from the outside, " She said. Currently her only hope is that the Chinese authorities can grant her request to transfer Mr. Hada to a jail in the city of Hohhot where Ms. Xinna lives. It takes Ms. Xinna about 20 hours to travel to the city of Chi Feng to see Mr. Hada.

More information on Mr. Hada is available on the Inner Mongolian People's Party's website at www.InnerMongolia.org.

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