

Appendix B:

17-Point Agreement - 23 May 1951

1. The Tibetan people shall unite and drive out imperialist aggressive force from Tibet; the Tibetan people shall return to the big family of the Motherland – the People’s Republic of China.
2. The local government of Tibet shall actively assist the PLA to enter Tibet and consolidate the national defenses.
3. In accordance with the policy towards nationalities laid down in the Common Program of the CPPCC, the Tibetan people have the right of exercising national regional autonomy under the unified leadership of the CPG.
4. The central authorities will not alter the existing political system in Tibet. The central authorities also will not alter the established status, functions, and the power of the Dalai Lama. Officials of various ranks shall hold office as usual.
5. The established status, functions, and powers of the Panchen Ngerhtheini shall be maintained.
6. By the established status, functions and powers of the Dalai Lama and of the Panchen Ngoerhtheini are meant the status, functions, and powers of the thirteenth Dalai Lama and of the Panchen Ngoerhtheini when they were friendly and amicable relations with each other.
7. The policy of freedom of religious belief laid down in the Common Program of the CPG shall be carried out. The religious beliefs, customs, and habits of the Tibetan people shall be respected and lama monasteries shall be protected. The central authorities will not affect a change in the income of the monasteries.
8. Tibetan troops shall be reorganized step- by- step into the PLA and become a part of the national defense force of the CPR.
9. The spoken and written language and school education of the Tibetan nationality shall be developed gradually in accordance with the actual condition in Tibet.
10. Tibetan agriculture, livestock, industry, and commerce shall be developed step-by-step and the people’s livelihood shall be improved step by step in accordance with the actual condition in Tibet.
11. In matters related to various reforms in Tibet, there will be no compulsion on the part of the central authorities. The local government of Tibet should carry out reforms of its own accord, and when the people raise demands for

- reform; they shall be settled by means of consultation with the leading personal of Tibet.
12. In so far as former pro-Kuomintang officials resolutely sever relations with imperialist and the Kuomintang and do not engage in sabotage or resistance, they may continue to hold office irrespective of their past.
 13. The PLA entering Tibet shall abide by all the above-mentioned policies and shall also be fair in all buying and selling and shall not arbitrarily take a needle or thread from the people.
 14. The CPG shall have centralized handling of all external affairs of the area of Tibet; and there will be peaceful Co-existence with neighboring countries and establishment and development of fair commercial and trading relations with them on basis of equality, mutual benefit, and mutual respect for territory and sovereignty.
 15. In order to ensure the implementation of this agreement, the CPG shall set up a Military and Administrative Committee and a Military Area HQ in Tibet. And-apart from the personnel sent there by the CPG- shall absorb as many local Tibetan personnel as possible to take part in the work. Local Tibetan personnel taking part in the Military and Administrative Committee may include patriotic elements from the local government of Tibet, various districts and various principle monasteries; the name-list shall be set forth after consultation between the representatives designed by the CPG and various quarters concerned and shall be submitted to the CPG for appointment.
 16. Funds needed by the Military and Administrative Committee, the Military Area HQ and the PLA entering Tibet shall be provided by the CPG. The local government of Tibet should assist the PLA in the purchase and transport of food, fodder and other daily necessities.
 17. This agreement shall come into force immediately after signature and seal are fixed on it.

Note - Soon after his arrival in Tezpur, India, His Holiness the Dalai Lama issued a statement on 18 April 1959, explaining the 17-Point Agreement was signed under duress and that the Chinese government had deliberately violated the terms of the Agreement. Thus, from that day onwards, he declared that the agreement would be considered null and void, and he would strive for restoration of Tibet's independence.