

**Adolfo Barrantes**

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**De:** Maritza Pacheco [actc@tibetencostarica.com]

**Enviado el:** Martes, 05 de Agosto de 2008 01:17 p.m.

**Para:** Tsewang Phuntso

**CC:** Mili Rodriguez; Adolfo Barrantes; Marco Vinicio Cespedes; gerardo rojas; Carmen Carhuamaca; Blanca Estela Cañenguez Melendez

**Asunto:** ACTC/His Holiness the Dalai Lama's visit to Costa Rica

Dear Tsewang-La:

I respectfully address you, personally and on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Asociación Cultural Tibetano-Costarricense, to confirm our conversations of yesterday afternoon and this morning, whereby I informed you of a message and a personal call, respectively, that I received from President Oscar Arias regarding His Holiness the Dalai Lama's forthcoming visit to Costa Rica, and Arias' personal request for postponement of our Association's invitation.

As I have informed you, during our telephone conversation this morning President Arias based his request on three arguments:

- 1) That he had originally invited His Holiness to Costa Rica as part of the Nobel Peace Laureates' meeting to be held in Costa Rica in September of this year. However, such event had to be canceled because of the numerous and impossible requisites that PEACE JAM had imposed on the Arias Foundation. Notwithstanding, he said that he was planning to reschedule such a relevant event for sometime at the beginning of next year, possibly in March, and His Holiness would of course be amongst the distinguished guests.
- 2) That he would not be in Costa Rica in September (for His Holiness' visit) because he had an official visit to Spain in his agenda.
- 3) That the Chinese President would not come to Costa Rica, as intended for the end of this year, (if His Holiness came to Costa Rica). Arias mentioned an unjustified rivalry on the part of the Chinese in detriment of His Holiness and acknowledged that His Holiness had never requested independence for Tibet. However, he said that such dispute was a political reality and I had to understand that diplomatic relations with China were in the country's best interest.
- 4) That he was appealing to our personal friendship and my understanding.

To these arguments, I replied on behalf of the Asociación Cultural Tibetano-Costarricense and personally, as follows:

- 1) His Holiness' forthcoming visit to Costa Rica is not an official event, nor does it respond to a Government invitation. When His Holiness' visit to Costa Rica was planned as part of the Nobel Peace Laureates' meeting in September 2008, he had gracefully accepted our Association's invitation to reserve one day --after the event-- to impart teachings to the Buddhist community in Costa Rica and for a public talk.

Upon his acceptance, these events were duly scheduled and arrangements were contractually accorded with the Teatro Nacional and the National University, where they were scheduled to take place. More importantly, however, both the Buddhist community and the Costarican public are anxiously awaiting His Holiness' visit and teachings.

2) That His Holiness had rivalry with no one, and his position towards the Chinese government had historically and consistently been one of conciliation and equanimity, without insults or anger. But nonetheless, the forthcoming visit was not political, but rather of a purely religious and cultural nature, and that we would prefer to keep it that way.

3) That I and the members of the Board of Directors of the Tibetan Costarican Cultural Association were unconditionally devoted to His Holiness the Dalai Lama and at the service of the the Tibetan People and their Government, and therefore, I could not, in all honesty, accept his request for postponement of our invitation. I could, however, refer his message to the Representatives of His Holiness at the Office of Tibet in New York. (This last answer was given to Arias in accordance with your instructions of yesterday).

To this he answered by indicating that, in such case, it would be better if they contacted the Office of Tibet in New York directly. He requested that I give his secretary your email and telephone number; I told him my secretary would call his secretary and give her all required data. This we have been trying to accomplish during the morning, but his secretary has been out of the office. We will continue to insist until we successfully deliver the information. I suspect that the Office of the President will probably contact you in the very near future.

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Before I conclude this report, please allow me to respectfully convey, through your kind intercession and that of H.E. Tashi Wangdi, our message of profound devotion to His Holiness the Dalai Lama, as well as our unconditional support of the Tibetan Government in Exile and the Tibetan People. The Board of Directors and all members of the Asociación Cultural Tibetano-Costarricense devoutly wish and hope that His Holiness will come to Costa Rica as scheduled, to honor and inspire us with his presence and his wisdom. We are at his and your service for whatever action is deemed convenient, at the present conjuncture or at any time in the future, and anxiously await your further communications to this respect.

Thanking you beforehand for your kind attention and response to this communication, I avail myself of the opportunity to reiterate the expressions of our highest consideration and esteem.

ASOCIACIÓN CULTURAL TIBETANO-COSTARRICENSE

Maritza Pacheco A.

President