

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
Sent: Saturday, July 16, 2011 1:08 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Obama's meets with Dalai Lama; Chinese complain (AP)

From: OpsNewsTicker
Sent: Saturday, July 16, 2011 01:05 PM
To: NEWS-China; NEWS-DRL; NEWS-Mahogany; NEWS-EAP
Cc: SES-O
Subject: Obama's meets with Dalai Lama; Chinese complain (AP)

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Barack Obama is meeting with the Dalai Lama - a fellow Nobel Peace laureate - and China isn't happy.

The Tibetan spiritual leader has been in Washington for an 11-day Buddhist ritual. Thousands of expatriate Tibetans joined a 76th birthday celebration Wednesday for the Dalai Lama, who's just relinquished leadership of Tibet's government-in-exile.

The White House says Saturday's private meeting in the Map Room shows Obama's support for preserving Tibet's culture and protecting human rights.

A Chinese crackdown led the Dalai Lama to flee into exile in India in 1959. China says he's welcome to return if he drops his separatist activities, accepts Tibet as an inalienable part of China and recognizes Taiwan as a province of China.

Obama last met the Dalai Lama in February 2010.

News Tickers alert senior Department officials to breaking news. This item appears as it did in its original publication and does not contain analysis or commentary by Department sources.