# US Congressional Delegation Sparks China's Criticism by Meeting Dalai Lama in Dharamshala



A bipartisan U.S. congressional delegation met the Dalai Lama on Wednesday at his residence in Dharamshala, India, igniting criticism from China, which sees the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader as a separatist. This visit coincides with recent attempts by Washington and Beijing to rekindle relations following years of strained ties due to trade tariffs, COVID-19, and regional military tensions.

The delegation, led by Republican Rep. Michael McCaul and including Democratic former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, convened with officials from the Tibetan government-in-exile. This administration seeks greater autonomy for Tibet, a stance not recognized by Beijing, which has not engaged in dialogue with Tibetan representatives since 2010.

At a public address following their meeting, the U.S. lawmakers emphasized the Resolve Tibet Act, recently passed by Congress, aimed at promoting dialogue between the Dalai Lama and Chinese officials. Pelosi commented that the bill signifies a clear stance on Tibetan freedom, while McCaul stated it reaffirms U.S. support for Tibetan self-determination.

China reacted swiftly, with Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian urging the U.S. not to endorse Tibetan independence and warning against signing the bill into law. Jian condemned the Dalai Lama as a political exile and opposed any form of contact with him.

The Dalai Lama, who fled Tibet in 1959 after an unsuccessful uprising against Chinese rule, denies allegations of separatism, advocating instead for substantial autonomy and preservation of Tibetan culture. He plans to travel to the U.S. for medical treatment, though it remains uncertain if he will meet with officials during his visit.