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## **Governor Bill Richardson Meets with his Holiness the Dalai Lama**

WASHINGTON D.C. – New Mexico Governor Richardson met today with his Holiness the Dalai Lama to discuss the situation in Tibet and relations with the People’s Republic of China.

“After my conversation with his Holiness the Dalai Lama, I know that the spirit of the Tibetan people remains strong,” Governor Richardson said. “We agreed that the best way to help the Tibetan people is for the U.S. and the world to continue to press for a negotiated settlement for Tibet and also support the efforts by the Chinese people to develop the rule of law, freedom of information and an open society in China.

“It’s clear to both sides that the Tibetans are not seeking independence, but rather genuine autonomy. There is a way forward that allows the Tibetans to have genuine autonomy and thereby strengthens China’s territorial integrity.”

At the conclusion of the meeting, Governor Richardson also took the opportunity to invite the Dalai Lama to visit New Mexico.

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