RELIGION

A. Tibet Autonomous Region.

Interim Measures of the TAR on the Administration of Religious Affairs (effective December 20, 1991; adopted on December 9, 1991 by the Standing Committee of the TAR People's Government).

(a) The government respects and protects the religious freedom of citizens. All religions, religious sects, religious groups and places of religious activity are equal.

(b) The activities of all religious groups and places of religious activity must be carried out within the scope of the State's Constitution, laws, regulations and policies. The government protects the normal religious activities and religion-related activities of religious professionals. The government protects the legitimate rights and interests of religious groups and places of religious activity.

(c) All religious groups, places of religious activity and individuals must accept the leadership of the Party and the government and support the socialist system.

(d) Religion may not be used to interfere with the executive, judicial [system], education [system] or social and public education of the State. Feudal privileges and systems of oppression that have been abolished, as well as the hierarchy relationships of temples, may not be restored.

(e) The Measures state that existing places of religious activity that have been repaired and opened in the TAR basically satisfy the needs of their adherents and therefore no new places of religious activity may be repaired or opened without the approval of the TAR people's government. Those places that have already been repaired and opened must be registered. Registered places are protected by law.

(f) The Measures implement a quota of monks and nuns for places of religious activity and sets forth the levels of authority of the government agencies that are to approve the quotas. In addition, the Measures implement an examination and registration system for persons who wish to enter a temple as a monk or nun. Applicants must be patriotic and observe the law, must be devoted to their religious beliefs and must respect religious codes and temple rules.

(g) Monks and nuns from temples outside the TAR who wish to study in temples in the TAR must first have their religious departments obtain the consent of the TAR religious departments. Adherents from provinces outside the TAR may enjoy a religious life in places of religious activity, but without the permission of the governments at the county level or above, may not carry out proselytizing activities.

(h) Tibetan compatriots from abroad who return to China to visit relatives and religious professionals who are tourists may live a religious life in places of religious activity that are open but are not permitted to lead religious activities for monks, nuns or the masses, to engage in sending off and blessing activities or receive alms. Without the approval of relevant departments, foreign tourist groups or individuals may not visit, worship or sightsee at places of religious activity.

(i) Approved places of religious activity and their monks or nuns may receive alms and donations that are given to them on a voluntary basis by followers under the principle that their production and lives are not influenced. However, such places and their monks and nuns are not permitted to seek property or labor from the masses in the name of repairing temples or building Buddhist statues, or to accept land that has been contracted by the masses.

(j) The Buddhist Association is a bridge for the unity and education of the Party and government and religious personnel and followers and is to actively expand its role under the administrative leadership of the religion departments of the government. The Religious Affairs Commission of the TAR is to support the TAR branch of the China Buddhist Association to, among other things, in a planned manner train a team of religious professionals who are patriotic, accept the leadership of the Party and the government, support the socialist system and safeguard the unity of the Motherland and the unity of ethnic groups and who have religious knowledge and are able to liaise with the masses.

(k) Religious groups in the TAR shall, on the basis of equality and friendship and independence, actively initiate foreign exchanges, but in such exchanges shall not accept any support from foreign forces. Invitations to or from foreign religious groups to carry out academic exchanges shall require the approval of the TAR people's government or the Religious Affairs Bureau of the State Council. Major foreign activities shall require the approval of the State Council.

(l) Religious groups and places of religious activity in the TAR must resolutely resist foreign forces carrying out illegal activities by using measures such as rebuilding temples, supporting religious activities or validating the reincarnation of the Living Buddha with the intention of controlling the temples in the TAR. All religious groups, places of religious activity and individuals are not permitted to accept religious subsidies or budgets for proselytizing from foreigners that have conditions attached to them. Major donations from foreign organizations and followers require the approval of the TAR people's government or the Religious Affairs Bureau of the State Council.

(m) The use of religion to incite trouble, create havoc or to carry out criminal activities such as separatism, destroy the unity of ethnic groups or disturb social and public order shall be resolutely attacked.

(n) Propaganda and publishing departments shall strictly control the publication of works that include religious content so that they do not violate the religious policies of the Party or the State, or harm the religious feelings of followers. Religion

may also not be used to distort history or damage State unity or the unity of ethnic groups.

B. <u>Gansu Province</u>.

Interim Provisions of Gansu Province on the Administration of Religious Affairs (effective November 16, 1991; adopted in 1991 by the 21st Session of the Standing Committee of the People's Government of Gansu Province).

(a) These Provisions are similar to the regulations described above for the TAR and Qinghai Province. Certain variances are noted.

(b) The establishment or the building, renovation or expansion of places of religious activity requires the approval of the people's government at the county level or above. Places that have already been approved must register with the religious affairs departments of the people's governments. In building, renovating or expanding places of worship, State or collective property may not be arbitrarily used and forcing contributions from the masses is not permitted.

(c) Without the approval of relevant departments, no place of religious activity or individual may edit, publish or distribute religious books, pictures, paintings or recorded materials or sell religious video or sound recordings.

(d) Places of religious activity may not have loud speakers to read scriptures or preach and may not affect social and public order or interfere with the work, study or lives of units and the masses in the vicinity.

(e) No unit or person may propagate atheism in a place of religious activity. A place of religious activity and religious teachers may not preach, proselytize or do evangelical work outside the place of religious activity.

(f) Normal religious activities include the carrying out of religious activities such as praying to Buddha, reading scriptures, burning incense, going to church, chanting scriptures, preaching, saying Mass, baptism, abstinence and observing religious holidays in places of religious activity or the homes of adherents. The State protects the religious freedom of citizens and normal religious activities.

(g) Religious activities shall support the principles of "each goes his own way," non-interference and mutual respect. The equality and unity of religions and sects and within sects shall be safeguarded. No religions or sects may establish or support the privileges of other religions or sects. No new sects or factions may be established.

(h) Preaching activities by self proclaimed preachers and other illegal preaching activities are prohibited.

C. Qinghai Province.

Provisions of Qinghai Province for the Administration of Places of Religious Activity (effective October 1, 1992; adopted by the 28th Session of the Standing Committee of the Seventh People's Congress of Qinghai Province).

(a) The term "places of religious activity" means Buddhist temples, Muslim mosques, Daoist temples, Catholic and Protestant churches and places of religious activity that have been approved in Qinghai Province.

(b) Approval is required from the people's government or administrative offices for the opening or building of a new place of religious activity. No place of religious activity may be repaired or built in any agency, school or enterprise. Any cancellation, merger or modification in the address or name of a place of religious activity requires the approval of its original approval authority.

(c) Places of religious activity are to be democratically managed by patriotic religious groups and religious personnel under the leadership of the local people's governments and the ethnic religious affairs departments at the county level and above. The democratic governance agencies of a place of religious activity shall be comprised of persons democratically selected by religious personnel or people of the faith. The members must support the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and socialism, be patriotic and observe the law, safeguard the unity of the State and of ethnic groups, and be fair and honest, have religious knowledge, comply with religious rules and have administrative capabilities and credibility with the masses. Their term of office shall be one to three years, and they may be reelected for consecutive terms. State personnel may not participate in the governance agencies for places of religious activity.

(d) Religious activities must be carried out within the scope permitted by the Constitution, laws, regulations and religious policies. Religious activities may not obstruct social order, production or work or affect the work, study or lives of residents. Religious feudal preferences and systems of oppression that have been abolished may not be restored.

(e) The use of places of religious activity to create conflict or incite disputes between sects or to affect the unity of ethnic groups or social order and stability is strictly forbidden.

(f) Upon the approval of and registration by relevant government departments, places of religious activity may sell religious books, religious articles and religious art work.

(g) Places of religious activity that organize training classes for religious personnel must obtain the approval of the ethnic religious affairs departments at the county (area or municipal) level or above. It is strictly forbidden for a private person to establish any form of religious schools, scripture classes or voluntary work classes.

(h) In external exchanges, places of religious activity must support the principles of independence and autonomy in religious affairs and implement self governance, proselytizing by themselves and self maintenance, and shall not receive the support of any foreign religious forces. Patriotic religious groups and personnel who have exchanges with foreign religious groups, personnel or adherents must respect the principles of mutual respect, mutual status and non-interference. Foreign religious personnel and adherents who come to Qinghai are permitted to live a religious life in approved open places of religious activity, but may not interfere with internal religious affairs, lead religious activities, designate religious responsibilities or develop disciples. Without approval, they may not broadcast tapes or videos of sermons by foreign religious personnel or distribute religious tracts.

D. <u>Yunnan Province</u>.

Provisions of Yunnan Province on the Administration of Religious Affairs (effective January 1, 1998; adopted on December 2, 1997 and issued on December 25, 1997 by the 39th Session of the Standing Committee of the People's Government of Yunnan Province).

(a) These Provisions follow in the vein of the regulations described above. Only certain variances are noted.

(b) Provincial level religious groups may apply to establish religious schools, by submitting an application to the religious affairs departments of the Provincial people's government and following the consent of such departments obtaining the approval of the Provincial people's government. Religious schools shall be subject to the supervision, inspection and guidance of the relevant departments of the government.

(c) Provincial level religious groups may print religious texts, doctrines and canons that are used internally by their religions, but prior to publication must obtain the consent of the religious affairs departments of the provincial people's government and the approval of the provincial news and publications administrative bureaus.

(d) Religious groups, schools and places of religious activity may accept unconditional donations from foreign religious organizations and persons.