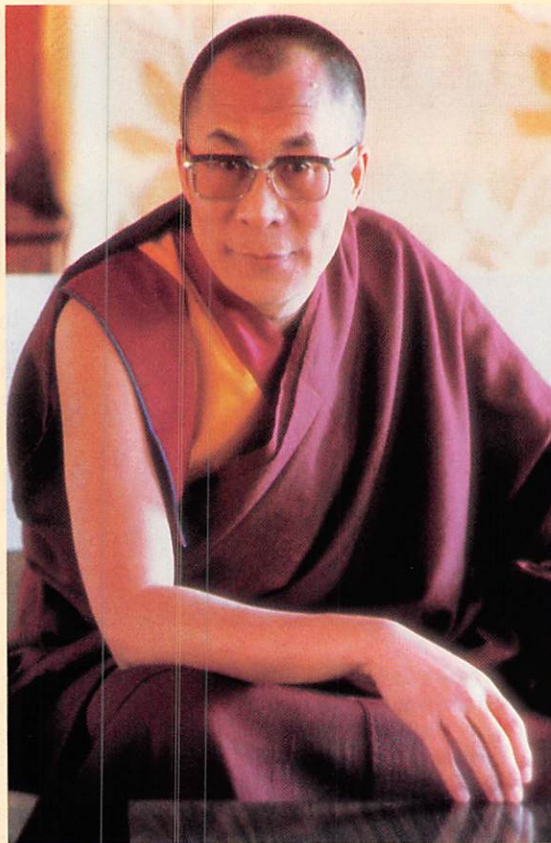


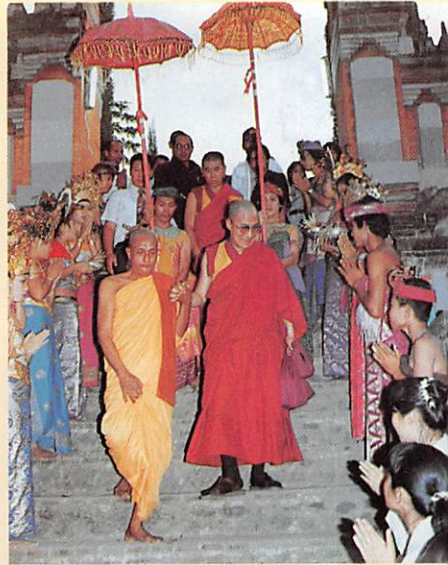
I. YESHI



JAN-PAUL KOOL



DHARMAWATI BRECHBU



His Holiness the Dalai Lama has become a familiar and well-loved representative of peace to millions around the world. He travels and teaches extensively, in both the East and West, and the demands for him are growing.

In 1982 His Holiness travelled for the first time to Malaysia, Indonesia and Australia. He spent three weeks visiting the major cities, teaching and meeting with thousands of people.

In the autumn, at the invitation of the FPMT and other groups, His Holiness taught for a month in Europe. He landed in Rome on September 27th and two days later met with His Holiness Pope John Paul II. This meeting seemed to capture the imagination of Catholic Europe and set the tone for the next month.

After Rome, His Holiness visited Barcelona, Granada and Bubion in Spain; Toulouse, Lavaur, Paris and Strasbourg in France; Milan, Pisa and Pomaia in Italy; and finally six cities in Germany.

The four FPMT hosts were Nagarjuna Institute in both Barcelona and Bubion, near Granada; Vajra Yogini Institute and Nalanda Monastery in France; and Lama Tzong Khapa Institute in Italy.

Photographer during the European tour, American nun **Thubten Yeshe** reports her impressions.

It was a bizarre mix—motorcades tearing through the cities of Europe, scenes from *Driver*, and the slow solitude of ancient monasteries; talks with Christian Milarepas who had been meditating alone for up to forty years, and with politicians and intellectuals com-

pletely involved with the worldly aspects of contemporary society; lectures to over-flow crowds of devoted Buddhists, and press conferences and interviews that sought to draw His Holiness out on political issues.

But this was not a political trip. This was a journey to the West that would inspire people on a spiritual level, and forge cultural ties with the people of Europe. This was the 1982 European tour of H.H. the Dalai Lama, and the message was clear, from one stop to the next—we are all human beings, seeking happiness and an end to pain; we have the capacity, and the responsibility, to realize these goals for ourselves and others.

That inspiration was manifest throughout the trip in people's responses to His Holiness. The old and dying clinging to him at a hospice near Pisa. Smiling pictures and double page spreads in Spain's major dailies. Thousands cramming into the already overcrowded city halls. A peace award from a group of Italian school children. The radiant smiles of reclusive Catholic monks after hours of shared insights with this Buddhist monk. The mayor of a major European city, to His Holiness after a private interview: 'This has been the most important and moving day of my life.'

## A man of peace on tour

Sightseeing tours and walkabouts did not seem to be the way the Dalai Lama thought best to spend his time, and they were frequently rushed and cut short. However, in small intimate meetings with Christian monks, educators, philosophers and scientists he was most at ease, animated and deeply interested. These were moments of listening and often a profound sharing of wisdom. At the monastery of Sant' Anselmo in Rome, meeting with a group of monks—Eastern and Western Europeans, Americans, Asians—discussing monastic life and the ways the Church in Eastern Europe had found to co-exist with Communist governments. An interview with the speakers from the Universal Education conference in Pomaia in which His Holiness did the interviewing—looking for Western educational wisdom that he could apply to the Tibetan situation.

It was almost restful to arrive at the four Foundation centres in southern Europe after the hurly-burly of the rest of the tour. His Holiness spent a day at Nagarjuna's retreat centre which clings to the side of a mountain reminiscent of dry Himalayan peaks where the monasteries and retreats are indistinguishable from the rocky landscape. The Dalai Lama of Tibet seemed at home in this calm place; it was easy to let the imagination run and fantasies fill the mind.

'The sunshine that we had this morning was His Holiness; the rain that is pouring down now is *you*.' That was Sogyal Rinpoche in an introductory lecture before His Holiness gave the bodhisattva vows at Vajra Yogini Institute. Not merely a lecture, but an exhortation

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to 'feel the Presence of The Presence, Kun-du Rinpoche,' His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Informed by Sogyal's urging, we were most certainly in the Presence the next day at that joyful ceremony. Who noticed hours of slogging, standing, kneeling in cold mud? Who minded the icy drip down the back of the neck? Who indeed? The sun was shining.

The external wind and rain followed us to Italy, and there were times when we doubted that the tent would survive another night of storms. But, The Presence prevailed and in a fitting climax gave the rare Gyalwa Gyatso initiation to 500 soggy, but glowing, Buddhists. Having bestowed this wonderful gift, his Presence, His Holiness left us with the sun shining. Not just a few of us lingering in the Pisa airport long after his plane had gone wondering where we had been, and what was next.

*His Holiness the Dalai Lama (clockwise top left) at Monserrat Monastery, outside Barcelona, with Benedictine monk, a "modern Milarepa"; being interviewed; being greeted in Bali; with Indonesian Vice President Malik; arriving at Nalanda Monastery, France; a break from filming during TV interview at Sant'Anselmo Monastery, Rome; introducing FPMT director Jacie Keeley to His Holiness Pope John Paul II at the Vatican; sight-seeing with government host in Pisa; arriving at press interview in Rome; being greeted at Barcelona airport by Lama Yeshe and Nagarjuna Institute directors Alberto Vinoly and Carmen Montanes; with FPMT voluntary security force in Pomaia; teaching to packed auditorium in Milan.*

## FPMT invitation

The Foundation first invited His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Europe in 1979. The invitation was repeated in 1980 and again in 1981 at a private interview between the FPMT directors and representatives and His Holiness in Dharamsala. This time, His Holiness accorded the Foundation the great honour of accepting the invitation.

Later that year, at a meeting between His Holiness and Lama Yeshe, it was agreed that he would visit three of the Foundation's European centres—Nagarjuna in Spain, Vajra Yogini in France and Lama Tzong Khapa in Italy.

Less than a year before the visit, FPMT director Jacie Keeley set in motion the daunting task of preparing for this auspicious event. This was no ordinary visitor. The Dalai Lama is a leader of Buddhists worldwide, revered as the manifestation of Buddha of compassion, Chenrezig, and the respected political head of the half million exiled Tibetans. A spiritual and temporal king, no less.

Throughout the coming months, Jacie worked closely with Tsering Dorjee of the Office of Tibet in Switzerland, liaising between him and FPMT Centre directors Har-

vey Horrocks in Italy, Alberto Vinoly and Francois Camus in Spain and Elisabeth Drukker in France, ensuring that all requests and requirements were passed on and carried out.

In the early months of 1982 Jacie prepared an extensive set of guidelines for the FPMT hosts, covering all matters of the coming tour from the appropriate menus for His Holiness to the intricacies of protocol and national security. As September neared, she joined Tsering Dorjee on a pre-tour of the venues for His Holiness's visit and embarked alone on another, final, pre-tour shortly before the tour commenced.

The Centre directors and their teams of hundreds of dedicated students worked tirelessly to prepare for His Holiness and the influx of the expected thousands of people.

For months on end before and during the tour they laboured for love as cooks, gardeners, child minders, builders, carpenters, electricians, public relations officers, printers, secretaries, journalists, chauffeurs, photograph-



ers. And security guards: fifteen FPMT students, men and women, travelled with His Holiness's party throughout Spain, France and Italy and worked around the clock as a volunteer security force. They were organized by Paula de Wys Koolkin who worked closely with government and police security at all venues to ensure the safety of His Holiness.

The financial responsibility for the tour lay with the FPMT, both centres and students. The \$200,000 bill for travel and accommodation expenses of the official entourage, the preparations at the centres, internal travel requirements, public relations and printing costs was borne by the centres themselves who, in turn, relied upon the hundreds of people who paid and donated and loaned in order to make His Holiness's tour a reality.

Donations also made possible the production in four languages of 20,000 colour booklets about His Holiness that were given away by the Foundation throughout the tour.

As Jacie Keeley said in her report of the tour to His Holiness's office, 'The gratitude and appreciation we hold in our hearts for His Holiness the Dalai Lama is beyond words. His Holiness is the root of our inspirations and the height of our aspirations, both as individuals and as a group working to build the Foundation for the Preservation of the Mahayana Tradition. We dedicate the success of His Holiness's 1982 tour to the fulfillment of his wishes. We pray that our capacity to bring benefit to all increases and that we continually please His Holiness. We hope that the conditions arise so that we may directly serve His Holiness again in the future.'

