



THE DALAI LAMA

## FOREWORD

In the mid-1950s, before the Chinese takeover, Thuten Kesang was among the few fortunate children whose parents sent them from Tibet to India to study. He was admitted to Dr Graham's Homes, a Christian boarding school in Kalimpong, near the Tibetan border.

Following the upheavals in Tibet in 1959, Thuten Kesang learned not only that the Chinese authorities had arrested his father, but also that he had subsequently perished. This left him with no funds to continue to pay his school fees. As luck would have it, a kindly benefactor enabled him to continue his schooling. Subsequently, he migrated to New Zealand and became the first Tibetan to settle there.

For many years he was the only Tibetan in New Zealand, but he became a good citizen of his adopted country while working to create a greater awareness of the Tibetan people's struggle for freedom and dignity. Mindful of the kindness of the benefactor who had helped him complete his education he sought ways to serve the community while earning his living as a printer. In the process, he earned the affection of many New Zealanders.

Through the Tibetan Children Relief Society of New Zealand and the Friends of Tibet (New Zealand), Thuten has provided valuable humanitarian and educational assistance to Tibetan refugee community. He has also, over the years, been involved in the organization of my visits to New Zealand and it has regularly been my pleasure to see his face on arrival

He has deservedly received accolades, including the Queen's Service Medal for public service. He is someone of whom both Tibetans and New Zealanders can feel proud. I am sure many readers will find his story full of interest and inspiration.

February 18, 2017

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'H. H. H.', written in a cursive style.

