

Steer clear of Expo's 'Heavenly Tibet' pavilion, group tells Canadians

By JOAN DELANEY
Epoch Times Staff

The Canada Tibet Committee is asking Canadian officials and tourists visiting the Shanghai 2010 World Expo to stay away from the pavilion showcasing Tibet.

The CTC's Dermod Travis says the pavilion, called "Heavenly Tibet," is an attempt by the Chinese regime to whitewash China's human rights abuses in Tibet.

The pavilion is billed as displaying "the unique charms of Tibetan culture, Tibetan people's patriotism, resolution to make progress, and aspiration for well-off life, peace and harmony, through exhibited items like Qinghai-Tibet Railway, Housing Project, multimedia interactive streets and short videos."

Pointing to religious repression and the arrest and imprisonment of thousands of activists since the unrest in 2008, Travis says the pavilion's portrayal "flies in the face of what the world knows all too well about life inside Tibet."

"We've always seen, whenever China does any type of exhibit related to Tibet, whether it's inside China or a travelling exhibit abroad, that they present a very biased view, a very jingoistic view, talking about the patriotism of Tibetans, their role, what they believe, and the liberation of Tibet in 1949—which was in fact a military occupation of the country."

Travis also notes that in addition to its failure to depict human rights



Crowds line up outside the Canada Pavilion at Expo 2010 in Shanghai. The expo, the biggest in history, runs from May 1 to Oct. 31. DEPARTMENT OF CANADIAN HERITAGE

abuses, the pavilion does not include a single photo of the Dalai Lama, Tibet's spiritual leader who lives in exile in India.

Having a Tibet pavilion without

mention of the Dalai Lama, he says, is "equivalent to somebody doing a pavilion on the Roman Catholic faith and not having a photo of the pope."

"It's completely incongruous to ban a core element of Tibetan's religious life, their cultural life from an exhibit that, ironically enough, they're calling 'Heavenly Tibet.'"

The CTC will be writing to Canadian dignitaries and politicians who plan to visit Expo 2010, asking them to cross the Tibet pavilion off their itineraries.

Travis also warns Canadian officials of the possibility that a visit to the pavilion could be used for propaganda purposes by the regime—as happened when a Tibet exhibit toured Canada last year. Politicians who attended the exhibit found that "their smiling photo would end up in Sing Tao or Ming Pao the following week, giving that exhibit an aura of credibility that it otherwise would not have had," he said.

"We want Canadian leaders to understand that there is not just the jingoistic bias of this pavilion, but there's also the danger that they could find that they're lending it a credibility that it doesn't deserve by visiting and then being used in these types of propaganda efforts."

One of the themes of the expo is sustainability—something Travis is critical of, saying China's policies in Tibet are far from being sustainable, in particular the damming and diverting of some of the country's major rivers.

"It is highly ironic that there is not a single Government of China policy in Tibet today that is sustainable, whether it's tourism, the environment, economic development, or the protection of human rights and religious freedom," he says.

"To even have such a pavilion at an exhibition that's based on sustainability really is a slap in the face to what that word means."

CANADA PAVILION FITS SUSTAINABILITY THEME

The Canada Pavilion, one of the largest at the expo, is designed to provide "a glimpse of life in a Canadian urban centre" according to its website. Built in a unique geometric design, the three-story structure is the product of collaboration between the Canadian government and Cirque du Soleil.

The entire exterior of the pavilion is composed of Canadian red cedar boards which are individually fastened to a steel frame, allowing easy dismantling so the wood can be reused later. This adds to the sustainability aspect of the building—one of the themes of Expo 2010.

Built into the courtyard, where entertainment will take place, is a 15- by 40-metre "green wall" of evergreen seedlings. Canada's theme is "The Living City: inclusive, sustainable, creative." Inside, the pavilion contains a "Living City" exhibit, a conference centre and visitors' lounge, a restaurant, and a gift shop showcasing Canadian goods.

Stockwell Day, Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway, will be the first Canadian MP to visit the Canada Pavilion during an upcoming trip to China and Japan. He will also open the Vancouver Pavilion along with B.C. Premier Gordon Campbell.

At 5.28 square kilometres and with about 240 participating countries, Expo 2010 is the largest World's Fair since the event was first held in London in 1851. It is also the first in a developing country. With a theme of "Better City, Better Life," the expo promotes the huge metropolis of Shanghai as the "next great world city."

Montreal worried Toronto will steal business

TORONTO CONTINUED FROM P1
Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Finance Minister Jim Flaherty have both been quick to point out during question period that joining the regulator will be voluntary and provinces will have the option not to join.

Opposition MPs are alleging that the head office for any such regulator would be in Toronto. Harper says no decision has been made on where it would be headquartered.

"Effective financial regulatory reform is being discussed worldwide. We must follow suit in Canada. Nonetheless, Quebec is entitled to opt out. The other provinces have the right to take part in this, and we will work with them," the PM said on Tuesday.

Flaherty said a national regulator is essential for Canada to keep on track with the rest of the world.

"Canada is the only major industrialized country in the world without a common or national securities regulator. We cannot afford to wait endlessly."

Flaherty cites a study that John Coffee, a law school professor at Columbia University, presented to the feds



Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said a national regulator is essential for Canada to keep on track with the rest of the world. REUTERS/CHRIS WATTIE

in June which estimated that Canada loses \$10 billion a year in economic output and 65,000 jobs because of the different requirements for companies by each provincial securities regulator.

Opposition MPs from the Bloc and NDP challenge those figures.

NDP MP Thomas Mulcair was vehement in his opposition to the idea on Wednesday, shouting during question period that the government should "Mind its own business. Let the provinces regulate."

The government has sent the matter to the Supreme Court of Canada to get clarification on whether a national regime would contradict the constitutional rights of the provinces.

In the meantime, the government has been funding a new transition office to work with the provinces to prepare a national regime.

PI testifies at Jaffer hearing

JAFFER CONTINUED FROM P1
Among the biggest surprises revealed during the hearing was Snowdy's allegation that Liberal Party president Alfred Aapps was the "getaway driver" for Gillani's cons. Snowdy said Aapps, who works as a lawyer for Fasken Martineau, a leading international business law and litigation firm, represented Gillani in a case that bankrupted one of his previous victims.

Contradicting this charge were documents presented at the hearing that say Aapps and his firm turned down Gillani's request for representation.

The statement from Aapps's firm said Gillani requested representation through Aapps in 2006 but the firm turned him down and Aapps returned the retainer cheque.

Not much of the hearing focused on the matter at hand, which was whether or not Jaffer has participated in unregistered lobbying, a situation Snowdy said he knew little about because his focus was on Gillani and his knowledge of Jaffer's dealings was incidental to that investigation.

Another surprise was that Snowdy had met with Conservative Party lawyer Arthur Hamilton four times to discuss the Gilani-Jaffer-Guergis affair. Although Snowdy met Hamilton as recently as this week, the PI says the two did not discuss his upcoming testimony before the committee.

Ottawa celebrates Falun Dafa Day

CELEBRATION: Falun Gong practitioners hold banners and signs in downtown Ottawa with the group's Tian Guo Marching Band playing in the background as part of a celebration of Falun Dafa Day on Wednesday. Festivities included a parade through downtown and speeches, dance and music performances, and Falun Dafa exercise demonstrations on Parliament Hill. The events marked the 18th anniversary of the public introduction of the self-improvement practice on May 13, 1992. The practice includes a set of meditation exercises and is centred on the principles of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance. Among the speakers were Senator Consiglio Di Nino; MPs Stephen Woodworth, Borys Wrzesnewskyj, Bill Siksay, and Rob Anders; former cabinet minister David Kilgour; Lyle Notice, pastor of the Ottawa Seventh-day Adventist Church; and former diplomat Brian McAdam. Falun Dafa Association of Canada received greeting letters from Prime Minister Stephen Harper and other officials. Mr. Kilgour's speech can be read in the Opinion section of The Epoch Times website at www.TheEpochTimes.com. DONNA HE/THE EPOCH TIMES



83-year-old man gets jail for anti-Semitic graffiti

By HELENA ZHU
Epoch Times Staff

An 83-year-old man was sentenced Monday to six months in jail for scrawling anti-Semitic graffiti in various public locations around Guelph, Ontario, last year.

German native Max Mahr also received 40 hours' community service and two years' probation. In March, Mahr pleaded guilty to wilfully promoting hatred against an identifiable group, namely Jews.

Justice Norman Douglas said Mahr's behaviour reflected the "mindset which led to the Holocaust" and that his graffiti, which included "kill the Jews" and "exterminate Israelis," is an offence that will not be tolerated in Canada.

Between January and September 2009, Mahr wrote hateful remarks in washrooms at Wal-Mart, Pizza Pizza, and Chapters. He also left messages and drew the Star of David with a black marker on a pathway and on walls leading to the washroom at Stone Road Mall in Guelph, the court heard May 5.

Mahr joined the German Navy during the Second World War, when he was 17. After he was shot and injured in 1944, he was captured by the Russians and sent to a Russian hospital. Upon escaping he was captured by the Americans, who held him until the end of the war.

He was also in the Hitler Youth movement, which his lawyer,

Matthew Stanley, argued had indoctrinated his client to think a certain way. Stanley argued that the court should consider house arrest given Mahr's age, lack of a criminal record, and the fact that he is remorseful for his actions.

from the Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) saying "decades of anti-Semitic literature had deluded common Germans into believing that the Jews manipulated the world economy."

Justice Douglas, however, said he found it difficult to believe that someone who is responsible for so many instances of anti-Semitic graffiti is merely a "product of his times."

"When both counsels say he is a product of his times, the problem with that submission is that we are dealing with crimes that have occurred in 2009," he said, adding that the defendant is basically "advocating, by his comments, and promoting and encouraging and inciting people to kill Jews today."

The CJC on Monday commended Douglas in handing down a jail sentence for Mahr.

"Justice Douglas clearly reflected how Canadians feel about crimes of hate," CJC CEO Bernie Farber said in a release. "The sentence and its unequivocal message speak volumes about the importance of protecting minority communities in this country."

Frank Dimant, executive vice president of B'nai Brith Canada, said the judge has sent a "strong message to the public."

"We are very satisfied that the judge took Mahr's crimes very seriously and that through today's sentence a powerful message in the ongoing fight against anti-Semitism, in all its forms, has been sent."

'When both counsels say he is a product of his times, the problem with that submission is that we are dealing with crimes that have occurred in 2009.'

—Justice Norman Douglas

Assistant Crown Attorney Steve Hamilton said Mahr's "repugnant and vile" actions caused fear in Guelph's Jewish community.

Also recommending house arrest, Hamilton said Mahr is a product of both his upbringing and his war experience. He quoted from an impact statement

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