

## President Sarkozy meets prominent Buddhist monk

14 April 2008

The Elysee Palace has confirmed a meeting that took place between French President Nicolas Sarkozy and Matthieu Ricard, a prominent French Buddhist monk known for his role as the Dalai Lama's French translator. The meeting took place in order to discuss *"a range of options"*. *"The president was very concerned that a dialogue should be opened and that the question of Tibet be resolved in a satisfactory manner"*, Ricard said after the discussions. Ricard emphasised that he was not authorised to speak on behalf of the Dalai Lama but met with the President in order to *"impartially and sincerely"* review the situation in Tibet. Ricard also added that Sarkozy *"put the focus on the credibility of the information coming out on behalf of the Tibetans"*.

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