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Claiborne Pell

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May 7, 1982

Honorable William J. Bennett  
Chairman  
National Endowment for the Humanities  
806 15th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20506

Dear Mr. Chairman:

It has come to my attention that the Nalanda Foundation of Boulder, Colorado has recently submitted an application to the Media Program at the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Support is being sought for the completion of a major film project on the life of the Tibetan Buddhist leader, His Holiness the XVIIth Gyalwa Karmapa. The Karmapa, a world religious figure equal to rank to the Dalai Lama, died in 1981 in Sikkim. It was his death that became the occasion for the film documentation of a religious tradition that started in the 12th century. Due to the uncertain political climate in Sikkim, this may be the last time these ceremonies are performed in the complete cultural context of the Tibetan Buddhist tradition. The documentary film will certainly become a classic anthropological and religious study.

I want to express my support for this film project and hope that, after careful consideration, the Humanities Endowment will act favorably on the grant request.

With warm regards,

Ever sincerely,

Claiborne Pell

AC/ap