

## Hu Jintao wants free religious belief

*by UPI*

BEIJING -- Chinese President Hu Jintao Wednesday promised a policy of free religious belief that will also encourage all believers to help develop the Chinese society. The policy will give support to self-governance of religious groups, he said. Speaking to a meeting of the Political Bureau's committee on religious affairs, Hu, who is also general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, said, "We shall fully carry out the party's policy of free religious belief and manage the relevant affairs in line with the law," the official Xinhua news agency reported. Hu said China's management of religion would be based on human understanding and mutual respect. He said the party and government will encourage believers of all religions to contribute to the development of Chinese society and unification of the country. "The party and government shall reach out to religious believers in difficulties and help them through their problems," he said.

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