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November 20, 2002

Lorne W. Craner
Assistant Secretary of State
Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor
US Department of State
2201 C Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Craner:

I hope that this note finds you well

As you recall, we met last year at the time of my testimony at the inaugural panel of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China. I spoke about Chinese legal development and its pertinence to rights issues.

I am writing now to add my voice to others that have already been expressed to you regarding the matter of Yang Jianli. As you know, Dr. Yang has been detained in China for many months now. Even if, as has been alleged, Dr. Yang broke Chinese law at the time he entered the PRC last April, the refusal of Chinese authorities to inform his family of his whereabouts and to provide him with access to counsel is in contravention of Chinese law and international human rights norms.

I hope that you will once again be able to raise his case when you travel to China next month. His early release will not only be valuable in and of itself, but for the US-China relationship and for the continued development of respect in China for international human rights.

Thank you for considering this letter.

Sincerely yours,

William P. Alford

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