

A008
RELEASE

President Jiang Zemin
Office of the President
People's Republic of China

Dear President Jiang:

I was delighted to have the opportunity to meet with you again during my visit to China. We recognize that your personal efforts to make time in your schedule for our meeting reflects the importance of the U.S. - China relationship to both of our nations and to peace and stability worldwide. I am pleased to report that I had a very successful visit as a result of the friendly and forthright discussions I had with your top government and military leaders.

I am especially pleased that I was able to return to the great city of Shanghai, which I had not visited since 1996. During my speech at the Shanghai Stock Exchange I stressed the importance of China's continuing economic development to both our nations. Passage of permanent normal trade relations and China's entry into the World Trade Organization will set the stage for even greater economic cooperation in the future.

Along with our growing economic cooperation, our military engagement program supports the furthering of our mutual interests and is a critical component of the U.S.-China relationship. It is a program I fully support and one that is in the interests of both of our countries. I welcome the encouraging responses I heard during my visit indicating your desire to join with the United States in continuing our efforts to carry forward and improve our military to military relationship as we go into the 21st Century.

Sincerely,