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Vice President Hu Jintao  
Office of the Vice President  
People's Republic of China

Dear Vice President Hu:

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to meet with me last week during my visit to China. I was very pleased to visit China for the second time in my tenure as Secretary of Defense. This visit and our dialogue demonstrated the progress and mutual benefit of positive U.S. - China relations.

Our discussion on the key issues in the U.S. -China relationship was a very valuable step in advancing our military to military engagement. Just as the uniformed members of our armed forces routinely carry out strategic dialogue, it is important that the civilian leadership of our military forces also conduct regular discussions. Our first meeting together was a very important part of that process and I sincerely hope we continue these meetings in the future.

I look forward with anticipation to working with both the military and civilian leaders of your government as we continue our combined efforts to create a stable military to military relationship for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Sincerely,