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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

January 13, 2003

His Excellency Yang Jiechi
Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary
Embassy of the People's Republic of China
2300 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20008

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

I am writing to urge that your government review the case of Mr. Jude Shao who has been imprisoned in Shanghai's Qingpu prison since April of 1998. It is my understanding that Mr. Jude Shao is a naturalized American citizen.

In March 2000 Mr. Jude Shao was convicted in the Shanghai No. 1 People's Intermediate Court of tax evasion and falsely issuing Value Added Tax (VAT) invoices and sentenced to sixteen years in prison. However, it is my understanding that the court's findings of fact were based on an incomplete and erroneous "Judicial Accounting Audit Report" which Mr. Shao was not afforded an opportunity to review, and thus rebut, prior to trial. The court also found that Mr. Shao also "confessed" the crimes to the police, a confession which he strenuously denies. As you may know, his legal difficulties were profiled in an April 9, 2002 article appearing in the *Wall Street Journal*.

In addition, I also understand that although Mr. Shao was healthy when he was arrested, he has subsequently developed high blood pressure and also suffers from depression. In this regard, I understand that Chinese law provides for medical parole for prisoners who have a serious illness and need to remain out of custody in order to obtain proper treatment.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

James A. Leach
Member of Congress

JL:jwm

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