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March 1, 2005

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice  
Secretary of State  
Department of State  
2201 C Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Madam Secretary:

Congratulations on your recent confirmation and thank you for your service to our country.

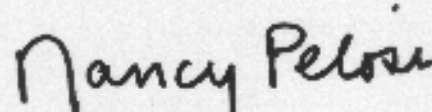
I respectfully request that you consider the case of Jude Shao, an American citizen who has been unjustly imprisoned in China for more than six years and whose health is deteriorating. Earlier this month, the Chinese Supreme Court denied Mr. Shao's petition for a retrial and failed to review new exculpatory evidence. I have written about Mr. Shao's case to the Honorable Xiao Yang, Chief Justice of the Supreme People's Court of The People's Republic of China, but have received no response. I also wrote to Secretary Powell on October 21, 2004, regarding this matter but have yet to receive a response.

In 1993, Mr. Shao established China Business Ventures (CBV), a medical equipment vending company with offices in San Francisco and Shanghai. Four years after the company began operations in Shanghai, local tax auditors seized Mr. Shao's accounting records, and refused to return them unless a "tax audit bond" was paid. When he refused to pay, police arrested Mr. Shao, and in May 2000 Mr. Shao was convicted of tax fraud for failure to pay import taxes. Mr. Shao has served more than six years of his sentence, and ten years remain. Mr. Shao suffers from a heart ailment as well as debilitating back pain and headaches, yet his family's petition for a medical parole remains unanswered.

I renew my request that the State Department ensure the full and fair investigation of Mr. Shao's case. I also urge you raise Mr. Shao's situation with Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxin and recommend that the Chinese Supreme Court carefully review Mr. Shao's case and his petition for a medical parole.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. I look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,



NANCY PELOSI  
Democratic Leader