

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 17, 1997

Dear Joe:

Thank you for your letter reiterating your support for renewal of most-favored-nation status for China and sharing your views regarding Cuba policy.

As you know, the U.S. policy of support for Cuban democracy and isolation of the current Cuban regime has enjoyed bipartisan support for 36 years. That consensus has grown stronger in recent years as democracy swept through our hemisphere, with Cuba remaining the only dictatorship among the 35 nations of the Americas. Cuba's unlawful shutdown of two U.S. civil aircraft in February 1996 further strengthened the isolation of that regime. To eliminate the embargo while President Castro steadfastly clings to personal power and his failed socialist model, denying citizens even basic political rights, would not likely have the liberalizing effect that we all seek.

Our policy does not rely on pressure alone. We have energetically implemented provisions of the Cuban Democracy Act that directly benefit the Cuban people and encourage the emergence of civil society. My Administration has approved more than \$150 million in humanitarian shipments and promoted numerous exchanges between American and Cuban non-governmental organizations. We are making every appropriate effort to signal to the Cuban people our peaceful intentions and to support their democratic aspirations. Our policy of outreach recognizes that change in Cuba must come from within, led by Cubans on the island who yearn for democracy and freedom.

Again, thank you for writing. I value your thoughts on how best to promote our shared goal of a democratic Cuba.

Sincerely,



The Honorable John Joseph Moakley
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515