EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

EDWARD MCMILLAN-SCOTT
VICE-PRESIDENT

Mr Guan Chengyuan
Ambassador of the People's Republic of China
Avenue de Tervuren 443-445
1150 Brussels
Belgium

Brussels, 18 December 2006

Hand-delivered to the Chinese Embassy, Brussels

Ambassador,

I have received your letter of 24 November 2006, which was occasioned by my appeal on behalf of two individuals, one of whom, a former prisoner, I met while in Beijing on 21 May 2006 - Cao Dong - and the other a distinguished human rights attorney - Gao Zhisheng - with whom I spoke at some length upon my return to Europe in June 2006. Both of these men were subsequently arrested and Gao Zhisheng has been secretly tried and imprisoned.

I also received on 28 November 2006 a deputation of officials from your embassy led by Mr Yu Xuzhong. The deputation confirmed that Mr Cao Dong had been re-arrested for 'propagating Falun Gong' on 21 May immediately after meeting with me.

Consequently, his 'crime' was meeting the Vice-President of the European Parliament and that institution's *rapporteur* for democracy and human rights and not for any other crime, for which in any event he had served four years in one of your jails.

As to the other case referred to, namely that of Gao Zhisheng, please note my reference to this case in the European Parliament on December 14:

Edward McMillan-Scott (PPE-DE). – Mr President, I received this information too late to add it to the resolution. Mr Gao Zhisheng, a distinguished human rights attorney in Beijing who was arrested in August, has been tried secretly this week and imprisoned. I am sure the House would wish to express its regret at that news, part of a continued crackdown on human rights activists in China.

(Applause)

Room ASP E102, European Parliament, Brussels 1047 Email emcmillanscott@europarl.eu.int Tel (+32) 2 284 5959

Subsequently, a number of colleagues congratulated me on my intervention. My inference from the so-called secret trial is that the officials involved have taken note of my repeated wordings that all those involved in the persecution of human rights defenders and other categories in China are now being identified for future trials under the International Criminal Court.

In light of the fact that these actions have been taken as a result of contacts with me, I am accordingly copying this letter to the President of the European Commission and to the President of the European Parliament.

Edward McMillan-Scott