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General Xing Shizhong
President
National Defense University
People's Liberation Army
People's Republic of China

Dear General Xing:

Please accept my sincere appreciation for your invitation to address your students at the National Defense University. Our National Defense Universities have played a leading role since 1985 in the development of our military to military relationship. In many ways it has been the bedrock of our military relationship, making it a most appropriate forum for us to exchange views. I encourage you to continue your firm support in working to further improve the relationship between our two militaries and our peoples.

I recall our meeting in Washington in early 1999 when you were hosted by our National Defense University President, General Chilcoat. The General asked me to wish you well. He is retiring this month and will be followed by Vice Admiral Paul Gaffney, who looks forward to visiting China later this year and continuing the fine Defense University relationship.

Thank you again for your hospitality and for the opportunity to engage your students in a very informative question and answer session. You can be certain you are educating an excellent officer corps for the 21st Century that will serve your nation well and continue to carry forward our military to military relationship.

Sincerely,