

from the Cardinal Kung Foundation to Chinese President Ju Hintao. The Cardinal Kung Foundation advocates on behalf of the persecuted underground Catholic church in China.

SEPTEMBER 1, 2005.

President HU JINTAO,
People's Republic of China, c/o Ambassador Yang Jiechi, Embassy of the People's Republic of China, Connecticut Avenue, NW Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT HU: September 8, 2005 will be remembered as your historical first visit to the United States and to Yale University as the President of the People's Republic of China. The world will be eagerly listening to your vision for China. However, September 8, 2005 is also being observed by 12 million Roman Catholics in China and millions more worldwide as the 50th anniversary of the unjust and brutal assault on the Roman Catholic Church in Shanghai when the Chinese government simultaneously arrested the late Bishop Ignatius Kung Pin-Mei, at the time the Roman Catholic Bishop of Shanghai, 21 priests, 2 nuns, and approximately 300 Roman Catholics for practicing their Roman Catholic religion.

Today, fifty years later, we commemorate and weep silently about this gross injustice and tragedy that your government had inflicted upon these innocent Catholic religious and faithful. All of them were sentenced to 10-30 years and even to life imprisonment. In honor of these bloodless martyrdoms, the late Pope John Paul II secretly (in pectore) elevated Bishop Kung Pin-Mei to a Cardinal in 1979 while he was still in jail and publicly proclaimed him a cardinal in 1991 amidst a 7-minute standing ovation before an audience of 7,000 people.

Since 1949 when your government took over China, literally tens of thousands of Roman Catholic bishops, priests, nuns, and their faithful have been imprisoned for 5, 10, 20, 30 or even 40 years. Many of them, such as Bishop Fan Xueyan of Baoding (34 years in solitary confinement), died in jail. Some of them are still in jail on this date or have vanished after they were arrested. Many of them were released after a very long period in jail. Some of those released are still living in China or in other parts of the world. Some, such as Cardinal Kung Pin-Mei, whom the late Pope John Paul II called "this noble son of China and of the Church" (30 years in solitary confinement and 2.5 years in house arrest), and Archbishop Dominic Tan Yee-Ming of Canton (24 years in jail without a trial), have since died.

It does not matter if these prisoners are dead or living today. They are still considered criminals because the "criminal" charges against them were never erased by your government.

There are thousands more like Cardinal Kung, Bishop Fan and Archbishop Tang. They are all loyal citizens of China and they love China.

Mr. President, you have the power and the leadership to bring modern China into an era of true religious freedom. Mr. President, you also have the wisdom and historical acumen to realize that a country without religious freedom is never peaceful and constructive. You know the importance of changing the world's perception of China's human rights policy for the better and you can do it. And, we pray that you will do it.

The Chinese government has justifiably exonerated numerous political prisoners in the past. On this 50th anniversary of the unjust and brutal assault of the Roman Catholic Church in Shanghai described above, the Cardinal Kung Foundation appeals to you once again, as we have appealed to your Ambassador Yang Jiechi on March 23, 2005, that all these prisoners, including Cardinal Kung,

Bishop Fan and Archbishop Tang and many others, both living and dead, be officially and posthumously exonerated of so called crimes of which the Chinese government falsely and unjustly accused them, some as long as five decades ago. We also appeal to you to release all current religious prisoners from prison and labor camp as per the attached list. By your doing so, the reputation of these living and dead religious prisoners of conscience in China can be restored. Those who are still living can at least once again enjoy equal treatment in the society. To do so will be a powerful testimony to the Chinese government's respect for and adherence to human rights and liberty. To do so will also prove that China is honoring the spirit of the Olympic Games that you will have the honor of hosting in 2008.

God love you.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

JOSEPH KUNG,
President, Cardinal Kung Foundation.

CONGRATULATING NED MCGINLEY
 ON THE OCCASION OF HIS SERVICE
 AS NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF
 THE ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Ned McGinley, of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, who is serving his second, two-year, term as national president of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Born in Pittston, Pennsylvania, Ned graduated from Wilkes College in 1966. He was captain of the wrestling team and was named All American in 1963. Married for 36 years to his wife, Maryellen, the couple has three children and five grandchildren.

A school teacher for 31 years in the Wyoming Valley West School District, Ned is now athletic recruitment coordinator for King's College in Wilkes-Barre. A member of the AOH since 1978, Ned served in numerous leadership roles within the organization. In June, 2002, he was elected national president without opposition. Having visited Ireland 25 times in the past 16 years, Ned has been devoted to furthering the Peace Process in Northern Ireland.

He is a strong proponent of the Hibernian Charity Corporation, instituted in 2005, to bring tax deductible contributions to Project St. Patrick, stipends for religious vocations and support for the Hibernian Hunger Project.

Under Ned's leadership, the AOH is working to introduce a resolution on the Molly Maguires to the Pennsylvania legislature. The AOH is convinced that the Irish men convicted of crimes in the Pennsylvania coal fields of Luzerne and Schuylkill Counties in the 1870s were denied legal due process during their trials. During Ned's term of office as national president, the AOH has called upon the Irish Republican Army to renounce violence in its struggle for a united Ireland. Last July, the IRA agreed to do that and limit itself to using the political process to achieve goals.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Ned McGinley for his devoted service to

the Ancient Order of Hibernians, a proud organization committed to preserving Irish history and culture and to promoting Irish values.

WINNING THE WAR IN IRAQ

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, last night while participating in a special order hour, I misspoke and substituted the name of my wonderful wife Melissa for that of my young daughter Claire. I would like to reiterate how proud I am of our brave men and women in uniform and of their contributions to keeping American families safe.

SUPPORT FOR OUR COAST GUARD

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 889, the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2005, and in strong support of the U.S. Coast Guard.

Mr. Speaker, I have never been more proud of the men and women that serve in the United States Coast Guard. In the past 2 weeks, these valiant men and women have shown their dedication to our Nation. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the Coast Guard was the very first government entity to arrive. The Coast Guard is solely responsible for saving thousands of Americans from the destruction and flood waters brought by Hurricane Katrina.

The Coast Guard, whose motto is Semper Paratus, always ready, was prepared to respond to this storm. Before levees ever broke, the Coast Guard was flying additional helicopters and extra aircrews to the Gulf region. Once the storm hit, the Coast Guard air and boat crews were operating 24 hours a day to save their fellow citizens.

The best decision that the President has made in the past 2 weeks is to place Vice Admiral Thad Allen in charge of the emergency response to the Katrina disaster. To the Coast Guard, being prepared to respond to a disaster is not just a paper exercise to sit on the shelf when the big one comes. Responding to emergencies and tragedies is a part of the daily routine for the Coast Guard. By working to create relationships with State and local government officials, and those in the private sector, the Coast Guard has the resources to respond in times of crisis. To date, the Coast Guard has saved over 12,500 lives with their air resources, and in using boats or other surface transportation methods has saved over 11,500 lives. They have also evacuated over 9,400 people to hospitals.

And when the storm had passed, they remained on the scene helping to cleanup the mess and protect the environment. In New Orleans, they are coordinating the cleanup of 15 significant oil spills, and helping to coordinate the removal of sunken ships and barges.

Mr. Speaker, the Coast Guard has responded with all of the resources at their command to the Katrina disaster. It is time for the