

Beijing, 27 July 2008

Dear Mr. Andrew Soucy and members of the delegation of the Londonderry High School Marching Band.

I read your letter carefully and was moved by the warm and kind feelings expressed in the letter. Thank you for your heartfelt condolences to people affected by the Wenchuan earthquake in Sichuan, China and for your sincere donation to children in the quake zone.

As you are aware, the earthquake disaster has claimed many precious lives and caused tremendous losses. In the face of the disaster, the Chinese Government and people launched a courageous rescue and relief campaign with strong unity and perseverance. There have emerged many young heroes of your age in the fight against the earthquake. People of the United States and many other countries offered us valuable support and assistance and we are deeply touched by your friendship. Major success has been achieved in the initial stage of the rescue and relief endeavor and recovery and reconstruction work is now well under way. I am confident that with the joint efforts of all the Chinese people and strong support of the international community, people in the affected areas will rebuild their homes at an early date.

During your trip to China, you also brought with you good wishes for the Beijing Olympic Games. To stage a successful Olympic Games is a long cherished dream of the Chinese people. It is also an aspiration shared by people around the world. In just twelve days, we will witness this exciting moment. The Chinese people will share the joy of this grand event with people of other countries and let the vision of "One world, One Dream" become our common pursuit.

Young people represent the future of a country and the future of the world. Mutual understanding and friendship between the young people of China and the United States is an important foundation for good relations between our two countries. I hope the young friends of China and the United States will strengthen exchanges, learn from each other, increase friendship and make greater contribution to promoting the friendly relations between China and the United States and to creating an even better tomorrow for the world.

I sincerely wish you progress in school, good health and happiness. Please also convey my best wishes to your teachers and parents.

(Signed)

Hu Jintao
President
The People's Republic of China