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Dear Mr.

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On behalf of President Bush, thank you for your letter of October 7, 2002 regarding U.S. military operations at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and the detention of enemy combatants there.

Under international law the detainees at Guantanamo are not prisoners of war but unlawful combatants. These individuals were detained as enemy combatants captured in connection with an ongoing armed conflict. Our detention is lawful and necessary to prevent them from returning to the battlefield or re-engaging in their ongoing armed conflict against Americans and other coalition members.

We are reviewing the continued detention of each enemy combatant on an ongoing basis taking into account a variety of factors, including intelligence, security threats, law enforcement and health considerations.

I greatly appreciate your shared interest in our continuing efforts to protect the security interests of the United States and our coalition partners in this war on terrorism.

Sincerely,

Pierre-Richard Prosper

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