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Yvette M Wong 09/30/2004 04:29:22 PM From DB/Inbox: Yvette M Wong

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 TAGS: PHUM
 SUBJECT: CAT: LETTER TO COMMITTEE AGAINST TORTURE

1. (U) Following in para 2 below is the text of a letter to the Chairperson of the Committee against Torture for signature by Ambassador Moley. Mission is requested to deliver the text at the earliest opportunity.
2. (U) Begin text.

Mr. Fernanco Menedez
 Chairperson of the Committee Against Torture
 Geneva

I am pleased to respond to your letter of May 21 2004, which expressed your hope that the Government of the United States would submit its second periodic report on the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment by October 1, 2004, so that the Committee could expeditiously consider this submission. While the United States has been working with great energy in preparing the report in the months since it received your letter, my government felt it appropriate to wait in responding until it has a clearer idea of when it would be able to provide that submission.

As you know, the preparation of a comprehensive submission of the sort contemplated in Article 19 of the Convention Against Torture is a large and complex undertaking. The United States has worked industriously to collect the information needed for its report and to write its submission based on all of these materials. While this process has taken longer than the United States or the Committee would have hoped, we will make every effort to have a report ready for submission in 2004, we hope by the time of the Committee's November meeting.

Please be assured that the United States regards this report as a matter of great seriousness and urgency, and that we are continuing to expend the necessary time and energy to make its submission thorough and rigorous. We appreciate the Committee's understanding in this regard and look forward to working with you and the Committee on this matter.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: FRANK E SCHMELZER UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE/CASE ID: 10 DEC 2004 200303827

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