

# THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

*Advisers to the Nation on Science, Engineering, and Medicine*

National Academy of Sciences  
National Academy of Engineering  
Institute of Medicine  
National Research Council

June 26, 2000

The Honorable Janet Reno, Attorney General  
United States Department of Justice  
Constitution Avenue and 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Madam Attorney General:

We write with regard to our original March 10 inquiry to you about the case of Dr. Wen Ho Lee (#99-1417) and to express our appreciation for the May 24 response that we received from Mr. John J. Dion.

The information that Mr. Dion provided about Dr. Lee's case was, of course, of interest to us. However, because Mr. Dion did not address many of the questions that we posed in our initial letter of inquiry, we are taking the liberty of requesting, once again, information on the conditions and circumstances under which Dr. Lee is being held. Surely, the answers we seek cannot in any way impinge upon the just prosecution of a pending case.

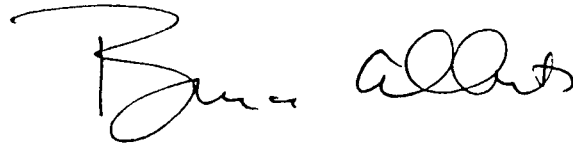
It is our understanding that Dr. Lee has been held in solitary confinement since his arrest on December 10, 1999, that he has been denied bail, and that he will not be brought to trial until November 6. We would like your personal assurances that his conditions of confinement have been in full accordance with all U.S. and international standards. We have inquired as to what and how much contact Dr. Lee is permitted to have with his family, defense counsel, and lawyers. Although Mr. Dion said in his letter that arrangements have been made to allow Dr. Lee's family to meet with him "for more than one hour per week," he did not say what the new arrangements for Dr. Lee allow nor did he report with whom he is now allowed to meet. We would also like to know whether, as has been alleged by Dr. Lee's family, instruments of restraint are being applied to him. If so, what instruments are used, when and for how long are they applied, why, and under what circumstances?

With regard to the need for a fair and timely trial, we seek your personal assurances that Dr. Lee's rights not to be coerced into giving a confession and not

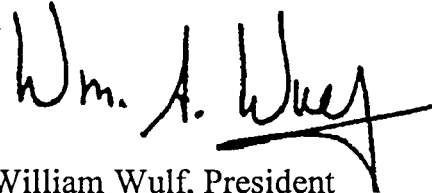
to be held in a coercive environment are being fully respected. We would also like to know what access Dr. Lee's lawyers are being given to information needed to adequately prepare his defense.

You should know that the above questions are identical to those that our Academies regularly pose to foreign governments when we desire assurances that the rights of our imprisoned colleagues in other countries are being fully respected. Surely, we cannot expect less from our own government. We are grateful for your attention and look forward to your reply.

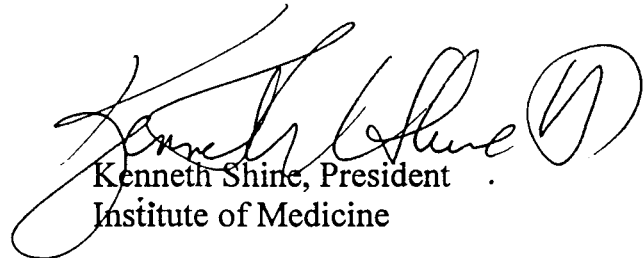
Very truly yours,



Bruce Alberts, President  
National Academy of Sciences



William Wulf, President  
National Academy of Engineering



Kenneth Shine, President  
Institute of Medicine

cc: Mr. John J. Dion, Acting Chief  
Internal Security Section  
US Department of Justice