December 12, 1980

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
President
Rockefeller University
New York, New York 10021

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

The growth in contacts at all levels between China and the United States since normalization has exceeded everyone's expectations. In 1980 the National Committee conducted 22 exchanges, as against nine in 1978 and 17 in 1979. But despite the proliferation of contacts, there are vast and critical areas of misunderstanding between our societies which we must work to bridge. Given the opportunities for greater selectivity and substance, the Board of Directors has decided to focus on developing programs in considerable depth in several primary areas (civic and world affairs, management and productivity, education and culture, communications, and urban affairs).

To fulfill the Board's mandate, the staff hopes to draw on the expertise of our membership in these areas of concentration. More than ever before, we must also call upon you for financial assistance, and for help in finding new sources of corporate support. While the Committee receives specific grants from foundations, corporations, and from the government, it has no annual dues and depends upon members for support of programs which do not receive direct grants. Our expenditures have considerably exceeded income in 1980, and the financial picture has continued to deteriorate in the fiscal year which began October 1.

We count on all our members to contribute. Please lend substance to your support of the Committee's work by enclosing your contribution in the attached envelope. As you know, the National Committee is a tax-exempt public organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code.

Sincerely,

Charles W. Yost