

*file China,
ask exhibit*

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ASIAN AFFAIRS

493, OEOB
17th & Penn, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20504

Phone: (202) 456-9251
Fax: (202) 456-9250

FAX COVER SHEET

	From: Jim Keith		
	To:	Fax #:	Agency:
	Melanne Vervin	6 6244	
Date/Time:			
No. of pages to follow:			
Message:			

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

July 26, 2000

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR MELANNE VERVEER

FROM: JIM KEITH *JK*

SUBJECT: Seattle Arts Museum and China

I want to let you know in case you have any further inquiries that our Embassy in Beijing is in direct discussions with the Chinese government regarding the Seattle Museum exhibition. Our Consulate General in Chengdu, Sichuan province is also engaged in direct discussions with the provincial government.

I'm leaving the NSC at the end of this week, but my successor, Ken Jarrett, will be up on this issue in case you need to follow up for any reason.

Hope this takes care of it for you; please don't hesitate to call if you need anything more.



PO Box 22000, Seattle, WA 98122-9700
100 University St., Seattle, WA 98101-2902
tel 206 654 8900 fax 206 654 3135
www.seattleartmuseum.org

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Fax Coversheet

Date:	07/17/00	Time:	5:28 PM
To:	Melanne Verveer	From:	Mimi Gates
Title:	Chief of Staff for The First Lady	Title:	Director, SAM
Fax:	(202) 456-6244	Telephone:	(206) 654-3141
Regarding:	Letter of Support	Total Pages:	3

Comments:

- If any sheet does not transmit, please call to notify -



SEATTLE ART MUSEUM

PO Box 22000, Seattle, WA 98122-9700
100 University St, Seattle, WA 98101-2902
tel 206 625 8900
fax 206 654 3135
www.seattleartmuseum.org

SEATTLE ASIAN ART MUSEUM

PO Box 22000, Seattle, WA 98122-9700
1400 East Prospect St, Volunteer Park, Seattle, WA 98112-3303
tel 206 625 8900
fax 206 654 3191
www.seattleartmuseum.org

July 14, 2000

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

As the Director of the Seattle Art Museum, I want to thank you for hosting the Seattle Art Museum group at the White House in early March. After hearing my husband, Bill Gates Sr., talk about your experiences in Haiti together, it was a special pleasure to meet you.

I am writing to request your help on a matter of vital importance to the Seattle Art Museum's 2001 exhibition of Chinese archaeological finds. The exhibition, entitled *Treasures from a Lost Civilization: Ancient Chinese Art from Sichuan* is scheduled to open in Seattle in May 2001 and then travel to the Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, Texas, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, and the Royal Ontario Museum of Toronto, Canada. The exhibition will feature one of the most important and spectacular discoveries made in recent decades in China. It includes superb sculptures, monumental bronze works, dramatic masks covered in gold leaf, and other stunning artifacts. The exhibition will promote goodwill between the United States and China, especially Sichuan Province, which is playing an increasingly important role in the Chinese economy and international trade. Leadership grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Boeing Corporation, and the Henry Luce Foundation will help support the exhibition.

For the past three years, we have been working closely with the Sichuan Provincial Government and have reached tentative agreements in regard to the exhibits and financial arrangements. However, as the exhibition is of the highest grade in the Chinese government's classification of cultural properties, review and final authorization by the Chinese Central Government is needed before the exhibition can travel to the United States. To ensure that the Chinese Central Government gives the exhibition favorable consideration, support from government leaders is essential. I, therefore, request a letter from you to President Jiang Zemin urging his support. To this effect, I have enclosed a draft letter that I hope you will sign.

I will contact your office tomorrow.

Sincerely, ~

Mimi Gardner Gates
The Illsley Ball Nordstrom Director

Enclosures: *Treasures from a Lost Civilization* booklet
Letter to President Jiang Zemin
Diskette of letter, Word 97

cc: Melanne Verveer, Chief of Staff of the First Lady

(TO BE PRINTED ON WHITEHOUSE LETTERHEAD)

Date

President Jiang Zemin
Office of the President
Beijing, The People's Republic of China

Dear President Jiang,

The Seattle Art Museum, the largest art institution in the Pacific Northwest region of the United States, is planning a major exhibition of Chinese archeological finds in partnership with the Sichuan Provincial Government. The exhibition, entitled *Treasures from a Lost Civilization: Ancient Chinese Art from Sichuan*, is scheduled to open in Seattle in May 2001. It will be the center of "Year of China," a yearlong celebration of Chinese art and culture in Seattle. Your support of this major endeavor would be a significant contribution to its success. I sincerely urge you to express your support to the State Council.

The Northwest has become an important gateway to China and a center of high technology, biotechnology, aerospace, forestry, and shipping industries. It is timely for China to have a stronger cultural presence in our region. I applaud the Seattle Art Museum for leading the effort. This exhibition will help to develop closer ties between the United States and China in terms of economic cooperation and trade. Moreover, it promises to significantly increase our understanding and appreciation of China and its glorious cultural achievements. This exhibition will also promote goodwill between the State of Washington and China, especially the Province of Sichuan, which is playing an increasingly important role in the Chinese economy and international trade. The exhibition is scheduled to travel to the Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, Texas; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; and the Royal Ontario Museum of Toronto, Canada, thus increasing mutual benefits and good will.

Because the exhibition focuses on the Sichuan region, it is vital that we use works of art that represent the ancient culture of Sichuan at its very best. I understand that the existing checklist of the exhibits includes a high percentage of Class One artifacts. Without all of them, the quality of the exhibition would be seriously compromised. Your support and assistance is critical to its success. Please understand the importance of this show.

Again I urge you to express your support to the State Council of this exciting exhibition and partnership between China and the United States. Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Cc: Mimi Gates, Director, Seattle Art Museum, P.O. Box 22000, Seattle, WA 98122