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Death Sentence/Fear of Execution

13 November 1990

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC): LIU Yiping

Liu Yiping, an clerk at the Guangzhou (Canton, south China) branch of the Civil Aviation Authority of China was sentenced to death on or immediately before 13 November 1990, according to a report on that day by the official *China News Service* news agency. She was accused of having stolen over 535,000 yuan (about US\$ 113,000) between May 1989 and January 1990, by allegedly forging signatures and changing ticket prices. Liu Yiping plans to appeal against the sentence. Under Chinese law she has only one chance of appeal. If her case is rejected by the Guangdong Provincial Higher People's Court, she will be unable to lodge a further appeal to the Supreme People's Court, and the sentence will stand.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The death penalty is used extensively in China. So far this year, more than 800 death sentences have been recorded by Amnesty International on the basis of official Chinese reports. The increased use of the death penalty in China since the late 1980s occurs in the context of a continuing "anti-crime" campaign. Amnesty International is concerned that death sentences in China are meted out following trials which fall far short of international standards for fairness.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing opposition to the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- expressing regret that Liu Yiping was sentenced to death for an offence which is not a crime with lethal or other extremely grave consequences;
- urging that Liu Yiping be afforded the right to seek and obtain a thorough review of her sentence;
- urging that she be given an effective opportunity to seek pardon or commutation of her sentence.

APPEALS TO:**Chief Procurator XIAO Yang, Guangdong Provincial People's Procuratorate:**

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and to diplomatic representatives of the PRC in your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 25 December 1990.