EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: ASA 17/19/94 Distr: UA/SC

3 May 1994

Further information on UA 92/94 (ASA 17/13/94, 7 March 1994) - Medical Concern

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA: Bao Tong, aged 60

Bao Tong has been transferred from Qincheng Prison to a hospital in the centre of Beijing. According to his family he was moved in March to Fuxing hospital after suffering from severe pain due to inflammation of the shoulder joints.

Bao Tong already suffers from a variety of potentially serious ailments: a reduced white blood cell count, chronic gastritis, growths in his colon and intestines, swollen lymph nodes and constricted salivary glands, as well as arthritis for which he needs regular injections. The doctors at the hospital have now detected six tumours in his thyroid glands, which they say need further observation before a decision to operate is made.

Despite repeated written appeals to the authorities Bao Tong's family have still not been given access to his medical records, and are concerned that the growths and tumours Bao Tong has developed could be cancerous. Before his transfer to hospital his family were allowed to visit him once a month. It is not known whether they will be permitted the same visiting rights now he is in hospital.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes and airmail letters in Mandarin, English or your own language:

welcoming Bao Tong's transfer to hospital, and urging that he be allowed to seek medical treatment at home;urging that he not be returned to prison, but immediately and unconditionally released as a prisoner of conscience.

APPEALS TO:

Premier of the State Council
 Peng Zongli
 Guowuyuan
 Xihuangchenggenbeijie
 Beijingshi 100032
 People's Republic of China
 Telexes: 210070 FMPRC CN or 22478 MFERT CN
 Faxes: + 86 1 512 5810 (via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
 Telegrams: Premier Li Peng, Beijing, China
 Salutation: Your Excellency

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2) Minister of Justice of the People's Republic of China
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Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Beijing Daily
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and to diplomatic representatives of China accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your Section office, if sending appeals after 14 June 1994.