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December 9,2001

Honorable Donald L. Evans
Secretary of Commerce of the United States
Department of Commerce
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Mr. Secretary,

On behalf of our law firm, which is one of the largest law firms in the World and has a very active office in Almaty, Kazakhstan, I would like to express our strong support for a determination by the Department of Commerce that Kazakhstan should now be classified as a market economy.

I have been practicing law in the former Soviet Union continuously for the past 31 years and currently divide my time between New York, where I serve as Chairman of the International Department of our law firm, and Almaty, where I serve as Managing Partner of our office. From personal experience over all these years, I can personally assure you that the economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan currently bears no resemblance to the Administrative command economy of the former Soviet Union. The Kazakhstan economy is, in reality, truly a market economy. Our Firm has one of the most active law practices in Kazakhstan, and we represent foreign investors, Kazakhstani private companies and Kazakhstani State-owned companies, as well as the Government of Kazakhstan in certain instances. Increasingly we find that we are dealing with private companies in Kazakhstan, and I would estimate that over 75 percent of our practice involves representing private Kazakhstani companies in their dealings with other private Kazakhstani companies, or with foreign companies, as well as representing foreign companies in dealing with Kazakhstani private companies.

In summary, on behalf of our Firm, I would like to state that classifying the Republic of Kazakhstan as a market economy would do much to improve economic

interaction between the U.S. and the private economy of Kazakhstan, would greatly benefit our Firm and would, from the perspective of my tenure in the international affairs area in the White House in the Nixon and Ford Administrations, substantially improve the political relationship with the Republic of Kazakhstan, which is increasingly important to the strategic interest of the United States.

Thank you for your kind consideration of our views on this matter.

Respectfully yours,

John I. Huhs
Chairman
International Department