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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

PANELS TO DISCUSS CHINA IN THE 21ST CENTURY

CHARLESTON -- Speakers from China, Washington, Indiana and Illinois will soon gather on Eastern Illinois University's campus to discuss "China in the 21st Century."

Two separate panel discussions -- both open to the public -- will take place. Admission is free.

The first -- "Communist Ideology vs. Capitalist Economy" -- will feature principal speaker Mujin Zhang, former vice president of Tsinghua University, Beijing. Zhang was responsible for the political training of Hong Kong's high officials to prepare them for the 1997 Chinese take-over. This discussion will begin at 4 p.m. in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union's Charleston/Mattoon Room.

A second discussion -- "China's Role in the World" -- will feature Counselor Keyuan Zhang from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Washington. Zhang served as the advance man for China's President Zheming Jiang during his November 1997 visit to the United States.

Other panel participants will include Teh-kuang Chang, Ball State University; Robert Puckett, Indiana State University; Kevin Murphy, Millikin University; and Minh Dao, Robert Barford, Abdul Lateef, Fred Rauscher, Wolf Schlauch, Susan Kaufman and Luis Clay-Mendez, all of Eastern.