



U.S. Department of Justice

Criminal Division

Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dr. Karl Perusich, Ph.D.
The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.
P.O. Box 1331
Piscataway, NJ 08855

Dear Dr. Perusich:

This is in response to your letter to the Attorney General concerning the prosecution of Wen Ho Lee. She has asked me to respond to you on her behalf. Although I am not able to comment in detail about a pending case, I hope you will find the following information useful.

This prosecution is based solely on the facts and the law. Dr. Lee's Chinese heritage and ancestry played no role whatsoever in the decision to prosecute him. Like you, I am very disturbed by news accounts suggesting that Dr. Lee has been singled out for investigation and prosecution because of his ethnicity. Let me assure you that this is not the way the Department of Justice or the Criminal Division operates. To render a decision on a potential prosecution on the basis of race or ethnicity, even in part, would violate the Department's ethical canons, as well as my own personal beliefs.

As you may know, Dr. Lee was ordered to be detained pending trial by United States Magistrate Judge Svet and, thereafter, by United States District Judge Parker, who heard extensive testimony and legal argument. On February 29, 2000, a three-judge panel of the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit unanimously affirmed Judge Parker's decision.

With regard to the conditions of Dr. Lee's incarceration, I am advised that the limitations on visits by his family are the same as those for other similarly-situated prisoners at the facility where Dr. Lee is being held. We have, however, been able to accommodate the Lee family recently by arranging for a Mandarin language interpreter to be present for several meetings so that Dr. Lee's family can speak with him in his native language. We will continue to make the interpreter available as often as possible. Furthermore, we have arranged with the prison facility to allow Dr. Lee's family to meet with Dr. Lee for more than one hour per week.

Thank you for taking the time to write to express your views.

Sincerely,

John J. Dion, Acting Chief
Internal Security Section