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INSTITUTIONEN FÖR ÖSTASIATISKA SPRÅK
Lund University
Dept. of East Asian Languages

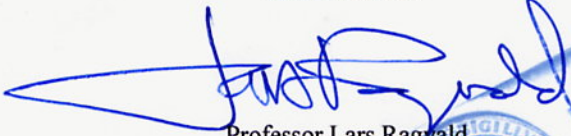
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To Whom It May Concern

Dr Bertil Lundahl, who has worked at the Department of East Asian Languages at Lund University between 1972 and 1998, is a scholar with an unusually broad knowledge within the field of Chinese studies. During his time at the department he has taught classes in modern and classical Chinese as well as in Chinese history, politics, economy, philosophy, religion, and literature. His extraordinary teaching skill has been attested not only in evaluations by students, but also by teachers, bussiness people, and others for whom he has lectured outside the university. In his major academic work, the doctoral dissertation *Han Fei Zi: The Man and the Work*, he demonstrates impressive argumentation, sound judgement, independence of mind, and commendable familiarity with ancient Chinese intellectual history, making it a work that should be read by anyone who wants to probe deeper into the *Han Fei Zi*. Among his writings for the general public there is a large number of articles for Sweden's most prestigious encyclopedia, *Nationalencyklopedin*, including the one on modern Chinese history, which has been praised by the historians on the editorial board. These articles together with those written for newspapers and magazines on Chinese politics, society, and culture show his considerable talent for clear presentation and lucid analysis. His talent as a public communicator has also been useful when he has participated as an expert in several programs on radio and TV. During research on the dissertation he read scientific texts not only in modern and classical Chinese, but also in Japanese, English, German, French, Swedish, Danish, and Russian, an evidence of his broad linguistic competence. His command of spoken Chinese is excellent with a pronunciation of standard Chinese that is better than that of most Chinese. Outside the university he has served as an interpreter for different Swedish authorities, including the Foreign Ministry, and for large multinational corporations like Tetra Laval. He has also lectured on Swedish society in Chinese for different Chinese groups and delegations visiting Sweden.

In addition to his teaching and research he has also served as an administrator in charge of different educational programs at the department and as a supervisor for students writing essays on contemporary problems in China. Finally I would like to stress that we would have liked to keep Dr Lundahl as a teacher at the university, but due to our increasingly strained financial circumstances we have no possibility to offer him a full-time position, which is the reason why he has decided to leave the department.

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Professor Lars Ragvald
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