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November 17, 2006

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice
Secretary
Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Rice:

I am writing to follow up with you on my October 5th letter regarding the two Long Island pilots currently being detained by Brazilian authorities who are investigating the crash of Gol Airlines Flight #1907.

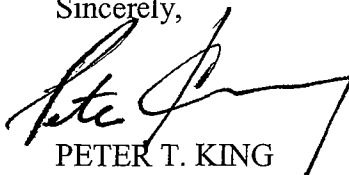
According to media reports, Brazilian officials recently issued a preliminary report that offered no conclusions and said it would take an additional 10 months to complete the investigation. As you know, the pilots, Joseph LePore and Jan Paladino, have already been held in Brazil for seven weeks while they and their attorneys have fully cooperated with the investigation. It is also my understanding that the pilots have had no interaction with Brazilian authorities since October 3rd.

Joseph LePore and Jan Paladino have not been charged with any crime yet they are being prevented from returning home to their families in violation of Brazilian law and international aviation treaties. I am greatly concerned that their detention will be extended indefinitely.

I urge you to intervene with the Brazilian government so that these Americans are allowed to return home safely and immediately.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


PETER T. KING
Member of Congress

PTK/ap