

HOUSE OF COMMONS LONDON SW1A 0AA

20 May 2006

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am writing to congratulate you on the 231st anniversary of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, wherein Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, became the first municipal body to declare independence from the British crown.

As a friend of the United States, it is with mixed feelings that I pass along these well wishes, for if things had perhaps turned out differently, we might still remain countrymen!

However, despite the unfortunate events of 1775, the United States and the United Kingdom remain united by deep and broad mutual interests, affections and outlook.

Our shared beliefs and values offer hope to the oppressed peoples of the globe and we have it within our power to help shape a better world around us.

I wish you well in your commemoration events.

Yours truly,

Dr Liam Fox MP