

our Founding Fathers threw into the Boston Harbor in 1773 to protest British taxes was from China.

For most of our history we have looked upon China as a distant friend across the sea. As the Bamboo Curtain opened, Americans and Chinese learned about each other all over again. Starting with pandas and ping-pong players, we have built a broad and friendly relationship.

Today China and the United States cooperate across a wide range of enterprises, in business, in the arts, in the academic world, and in the personal friendship that unites Chinese and Americans. More than 1 million Americans trace their roots to China. Every day, Chinese-Americans build a better America, as entrepreneurs and architects, artists and public servants. And we form lifelong bonds with the thousands of Chinese students who study with us every year, teaching us their culture as they learn from ours.

Americans are proud that many of China's leaders spent time in the United States. Dr. Sun Yat-sen visited six times between 1896 and 1911, and he was in Denver when he learned he would become China's new leader. The great teacher Hu Shih was a student in New York when he pioneered a new system of expressing vernacular Chinese, an idea that changed China forever. I look forward to seeing Beijing University during its centennial year, a monument to Hu Shih and so many other friends of America.

As two great nations, the world looks to us to set a good example. In the last few months, we have seen how much we can and must do together, in our strong response to the crisis in India and Pakistan, our efforts for lasting

peace on the Korean Peninsula, our cooperation to stem the flow of dangerous weapons around the world. In so many different ways, we are upholding the teachings of Mencius, who said, "A good citizen in one community will befriend the other citizens of the community; a good citizen of the world will befriend the other citizens of the world."

Mr. President, the American people admire the great strides China has taken. Your people are leading lives inconceivable just a generation ago. Your phenomenal growth over 20 years has opened new worlds of possibility, for jobs, for more schools, for greater mobility, for instant access to the outside world. We Americans appreciate the mutual respect of our relationship, a relationship based on cooperation, candor, and recognition of each nation's values and traditions.

An ancient Chinese proverb tells us, "Be not afraid of growing slowly; be only afraid of standing still." Let us commit to keep moving forward together, turning small steps into giant strides for our people, our nations, and the world.

I ask you now to please join me in a toast to the President and the First Lady of the People's Republic of China and to the friendship joining our two peoples and the future we will build together. *Gan bei*.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 9:30 p.m. in the Banquet Hall of the Great Hall of the People. In his remarks, he referred to President Jiang Zemin of China and his wife, Wang Yeping.

## Remarks at Chongwenmen Church in Beijing *June 28, 1998*

Thank you, Reverend Wu, Reverend Siu, Reverend Yin. Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for making me and my family and our party of Americans feel so welcome in your church today. We are a long way from home, but we felt very much at home with you here in this church.

We celebrate with you the growth of the practice of our faith in China, and we rejoice to hear Reverend Siu cite the numbers of churches

and other places of worship where people are practicing their faith today.

The sermon today was on the unity of the church and our unity with God in the church. I would like to add only one point: I believe our faith calls upon us to seek unity with people across the world of different races and backgrounds and creeds. In the Book of Acts, the 26th verse, it is said that God has made from one blood every nation to dwell on the surface

June 28 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1998

of the Earth. I believe that is true. Therefore, I believe that Chinese and Americans are brothers and sisters as children of God. We come here in that spirit today, grateful for your welcome.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:31 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to Rev. Wu Wei and Rev. Siu Zeshing, principal ministers, and Rev. Yin Hongtao, minister trainee, Chongwenmen Church. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

## Exchange With Reporters at the Great Wall in Mutianyu, China June 28, 1998

### *Visit to the Great Wall*

Q. What are your impressions of the wall, Mr. President?

*The President.* Quite unbelievable. It's amazing to imagine that it was done so long ago. They've even had bricks here for 400 and some odd years.

Q. Do you see any analogies, sir, to the way China is now and the way it was then?

*The President.* No. [Laughter] I said yesterday that I felt—I believe this wall now is a symbol that China shows to the rest of the world, not a wall to keep people out. It sort of unifies the country for over 7,000 kilometers.

### *Visit to Chongwenmen Church*

Q. Mr. President, could you tell us what the woman in the church wanted to talk to you about today?

*The President.* She just kept saying how happy she was I was in the church and how she wished I could come to the little village where she was from. She was very emotional. But as nearly as I can tell, there was nothing specific that she was saying. She kept thanking me for being

there and saying that she was glad I was there, and she wished I could come to her village, her home village.

### *Visit to the Great Wall*

Q. What do you think, Mrs. Clinton? What are your impressions?

*Mrs. Clinton.* Magnificent.

*The President.* You know, the part—the steep incline you see up there, we were told, is the steepest part of the wall. So if we had a couple of hours, we could walk 10 kilometers, and we'd hit the biggest incline, and we'd all be in very good shape when we finished. Or we'd be finished. [Laughter]

Q. Was it a good workout anyway?

*The President.* It was a good workout. It was great.

Nice cap, Peter [Peter Maer, NBC Mutual Radio].

Q. Thank you, sir.

NOTE: The exchange began at 2:45 p.m. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

## Remarks and a Question-and-Answer Session With Students at Beijing University in Beijing, China June 29, 1998

*The President.* Thank you. Thank you, President Chen, Chairman Ren, Vice President Chi, Vice Minister Wei. We are delighted to be here today with a very large American delegation, including the First Lady and our daughter, who is a student at Stanford, one of the schools with which Beijing University has a relationship. We

have six Members of the United States Congress; the Secretary of State; Secretary of Commerce; the Secretary of Agriculture; the Chairman of our Council of Economic Advisers; Senator Sasser, our Ambassador; the National Security Adviser; and my Chief of Staff, among others. I say that to illustrate the importance