

And so part of what we want to do in Afghanistan is to find ways that we can train teachers and create schools and improve agriculture so that people have a greater sense of hope. That won't change the ideas of a Usama bin Laden who are very ideologically fixed on trying to strike at the West, but it will change the pool of young people who they can recruit from. And that is at least as important, if not more important over time, as whatever military actions that we can take. Okay?

All right, I have had a wonderful time. I am so grateful to all of you. First of all, let me say I'm very impressed with all of your English. Clearly, you've been studying very hard. And having a chance to meet with all of you, I think, has given me great hope for the future of U.S.-China relations.

I hope that many of you have the opportunity to come and travel and visit the United States. You will be welcomed. I think you will find that

the American people feel very warmly towards the people of China. And I am very confident that, with young people like yourselves and the young people that I know in the United States, that our two great countries will continue to prosper and help to bring about a more peaceful and secure world.

So thank you very much everybody. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:18 p.m. at the Museum of Science and Technology. In his remarks, he referred to Yang Yuliang, president, Fudan University; Yao Ming, center, National Basketball Association's Houston Rockets; Mayor Han Zheng of Shanghai; and Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization. He also referred to his sister Maya Soetoro-Ng and her husband Konrad Ng. Some participants spoke in Chinese, and their remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Statement on the Release of the 2008 Household Food Security Report *November 16, 2009*

As American families prepare to gather for Thanksgiving, we received an unsettling report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture that found that hunger rose significantly last year. This trend was already painfully clear in many communities across our Nation, where food stamp applications are surging and food pantry shelves are emptying.

It is particularly troubling that there were more than 500,000 families in which a child experienced hunger multiple times over the course of the year. Our children's ability to grow, learn, and meet their full potential, and therefore, our future competitiveness as a nation, depends on regular access to healthy meals.

My administration is committed to reversing the trend of rising hunger. The first task is to restore job growth, which will help relieve the

economic pressures that make it difficult for parents to put a square meal on the table each day. But we are also taking targeted steps to prevent Americans from experiencing hunger. Earlier this year, we extended help to those hit hardest by this economic downturn by boosting SNAP benefits. And Secretary Vilsack is working hard to make sure eligible families are able to access those benefits as well as the School Lunch and Breakfast Program. In addition, a bill I signed into law last month invests \$85 million in new strategies to prevent children from experiencing hunger in the summer.

Hunger is a problem that we can solve together, and I look forward to working with Congress to pass a strong child nutrition bill that will help children get the healthy meals they need to grow and succeed and help keep America competitive in the decades to come.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With President Hu Jintao of China in Beijing, China

November 17, 2009

President Hu. I am very happy to have talks with you, Mr. President. This is your first state visit to this country. To begin with, please allow me to extend on behalf of the Chinese Government and the Chinese people and in my own name, a warm welcome to you—welcome to China.

Mr. President, you attach importance to China and you have also worked actively to promote the further growth of this relationship. You have underlined that you welcome a strong, prosperous, and successful China that plays a even greater role on the world stage.

I very much appreciate your statements. I'm willing to have a in-depth exchange of views with you, Mr. President, on how to further the China-U.S. relationship and on how to step up our cooperation in regional and international affairs.

Mr. President, as you are our distinguished guest who have traveled from afar, I would like to give the microphone to you first.

President Obama. Well, Mr. President, let me say on behalf of the American people, my

delegation, as well as myself, we are very grateful for your hospitality. We have very much enjoyed our visit in China so far. As you indicated, the United States believes that a strong U.S.-China partnership and dialogue is important not only for the well being and prosperity of our two nations, but also of the world.

And I believe that in these conversations today and in the future, we can continue to build on the progress that's been made over the last three decades and that the United States and China can work on a whole range of global issues, including climate change, making sure that we have economic growth and prosperity, and ensuring that together we are bringing about a more peaceful world.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:01 a.m. in the Great Hall of the People. President Hu spoke in Chinese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. Audio was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Prior to an Expanded Meeting With President Hu Jintao of China in Beijing

November 17, 2009

President Hu. Mr. President, I'm very happy to have talks with you. This is your first state visit to China. To begin with, please allow me to extend on behalf of the Chinese Government and of the Chinese people and in my own name, a warm welcome to you, Mr. President, and all the delegates of your delegation.

Just now we already had good talks in the smaller group meeting, and we reached agreement in many important fields. I'm now willing to have a in-depth exchange of views with you, Mr. President, at this expanded meeting on the bilateral relationship and on major regional and international issues. continued to move forward in a way that can bring

As you are our distinguished guest from afar, I would like to hand over the microphone to you first.

President Obama. Well, thank you very much once again, Mr. President, for your extraordinary hospitality. I can tell you that both my delegation as well as myself, we have had an excellent visit so far. And I thought that the discussions that we just had in the smaller meeting were very constructive.

As we both affirmed, the United States and China have a great many mutual interests. And after 30 years of bilateral relations, I think it's fair to say that our two Governments have con-even greater cooperation in the future.