

though, is something that we are reviewing. I discussed this with President Hu. We do think there are opportunities for U.S. exporters to export high-tech technology or to export high technology to China. And some of these restrictions may be outdated, so we're going to be doing a comprehensive review.

One of the main goals, I think, in the G-20 summit in Pittsburgh was to agree that we need a more balanced growth pattern in which China is increasing domestic demand and other surplus countries are increasing domestic demand and the United States is saving more and exporting more. That, I think, will help to stabilize the world financial system as well as help create higher standards of living here in China and more jobs in the United States. And so this could be part of a broader approach that we need to take, and that includes looking at trade provisions; it includes what our currency policies are. All these things go into this broader goal of more balanced growth.

#### *China-U.S. Relations*

*Mr. Xiang.* You talked twice, in Tokyo and Shanghai, that America not trying to contain China's rise. So how do you plan to carry out this policy? How do you do it?

### Remarks Prior to a Meeting With President Lee Myung-bak of South Korea in Seoul, South Korea November 19, 2009

*President Obama.* Well, Mr. President—I was telling the President, and I think the delegation would agree, that this was the most spectacular ceremony for a state visit that we've been involved with since we've traveled. And I was saying that I especially enjoyed the traditional dress of some of the soldiers.

*President Lee.* But traditional uniforms are quite difficult to fight in. [*Laughter*]

*President Obama.* That's true, that's true.

*President Lee.* Well, first of all, Mr. President, welcome. And you're bringing very nice weather with you, because up until yesterday it was subzeros, frigid cold. [*Laughter*]

*The President.* Well, I think through the kinds of ongoing discussions and dialogue that we're currently having with China. It is in the United States interests to have a stable and prosperous China that helps to anchor a stable and prosperous Asia in the same way that Japan's stability, South Korea's stability creates a more peaceful world and greater commercial ties with the United States. The same is true in respect to our policy towards China.

I think that the only thing that could prevent such a positive outcome is if there are misunderstandings and miscalculations between the two sides. And that's why it's so important for us to have these continuous dialogues, both on the economic set of issues but also on security issues. And the more trust that's been established between the two countries, the less likely such misunderstandings could occur.

*Mr. Xiang.* Thank you very much.

NOTE: The interview began at approximately 11:12 a.m. at the St. Regis Hotel. In his remarks, the President referred to Yao Ming, center, National Basketball Association's Houston Rockets; and President Hu Jintao of China. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 19. Audio was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Well, once again, Mr. President, welcome to the Asian region, and of course, welcome to Korea. I know that your visit to Japan and China has been very successful. And, Mr. President, as we all like to say, you saved the best for last. [*Laughter*]

*President Obama.* Well, Mr. President, let me just say that we have been so gratified by the warmth with which we've been received here in the Republic of Korea. And I think there's every indication that the alliance between our two countries has never been stronger.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:15 a.m. at the Blue House. President Lee spoke in Korean,

and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 20.

Audio was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

## Remarks at Osan Air Base, South Korea November 19, 2009

*The President.* Hello, Osan! It is good to be here! Thank you so much.

First of all, please give Staff Sergeant Randy Gray a big round of applause for the outstanding introduction. I want to thank Randy for his service as one of the best warriors in the United States Army. Randy is a reminder that our noncommissioned officers are the strength of America's military. So thanks to Randy and to all the NCOs.

Thank you, Lieutenant Colonel Glover, for the invocation. And please give a big round of applause to Katherine Dennison for singing our national anthem. To the 8th Army Band—where you guys at?

*Audience members.* Hooah!

*The President.* There they are, up there. You look fantastic. To all the airmen and soldiers behind me—you guys make a pretty good photo op. [*Laughter*] We are grateful for your service.

I want to thank your local leaders at Osan for welcoming me here today, including Brigadier General Michael Keltz and Colonel Tom “Big” Deale. Your great senior enlisted leaders, including Command Sergeant Major Robert Winzenried and Chief Master Sergeant Michael Williams.

We are joined by America's outstanding representatives here in the Republic of Korea. I want you guys to give it up for Ambassador Kathleen Stephens and General “Skip” Sharp. Give them a big round of applause. There is a wonderful story that I just heard—that the day Skip Sharp was born in West Virginia, his dad was here serving in the Korean war. And that just says something about the extraordinary tradition of your family and service to our country, and we salute you for that. We are grateful to you. Thank you so much.

Listen, it is great to be here at Osan Air Base. We've got the 51st Fighter Wing. We've got the 7th Air Force and Air Forces Ko-

rea. But I know we have folks from all across U.S. Forces Korea. We've got the 8th Army and Army Forces Korea. We've got the Naval Forces Korea. We've got Marine Forces Korea—Special Operations Command. And we've got a whole lot of DOD civilians too.

*Audience member.* We love you!

*The President.* I love you back.

Now, Joanne Sharp and Michelle Remington were there to greet me, and I see that we've got a whole lot of spouses and family here. To you and all the spouses back home, I just want to remind you that you serve and sacrifice too, and America honors you as well.

And we are joined by our great allies: chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Lee and Mrs. Hwang. We are so nice—so grateful that you are here. Thank you. Members of the Republic of Korea Armed Forces, and to all our KATUSA partners—your English is better than my Korean—[*laughter*]—but let me say, *katchi kapshida*. For those of you guys who have not been doing your homework while you're in Korea, that means: We go together.

And to your neighbors, the people of Osan and this country, for more than a half a century, your steadfast resolve has earned you the respect of the world. And your hospitality to Americans serving far from home has earned you the gratitude of the United States. On behalf of us all, thank you to the people of the Republic of Korea.

Now, today I'm finishing my first visit to Asia as President. In Tokyo, we renewed and deepened the U.S.-Japan alliance. In Singapore, we worked with leaders from across the Asia Pacific to strengthen the global economic recovery. And in China, we worked to advance the partnership between our two countries on global issues, because cooperation between the United States and China will mean a safer, more prosperous world for all of us, including right here on the Korean Peninsula.