

interested in containing China's rise. As I indicated in the answer that I gave a previous questioner, we welcome China's rise. We just want to make sure that that rise is done—that that rise occurs in a way that reinforces international norms and international rules and enhances security and peace, as opposed to it being a source of conflict either in the region or around the world.

And these security and economic dialogues that we've established are precisely designed to lessen suspicions, to enhance mutual understanding. The more we understand each other's challenges, the more we can take advantage of opportunities.

President Hu. As the journalist who raised that question said that in today's world mankind faces more and more global challenges. And I would like to stress here that no country can remain unscathed in face of so many global challenges. And no country can singlehandedly tackle global challenges.

For example, in the field of fighting terrorism, upholding the security of humanity, or in tackling the international financial crisis, promoting the growth of the world economy in addressing regional hotspots, fighting transnational crimes, fighting piracy, and preventing and treating communicable diseases—in all these areas, countries need to work together to meet the challenge.

China is the biggest developing country, and the United States the biggest developed country. In this context, it is ultimately necessary for China and the United States to strengthen their cooperation to meet such challenges.

How can China and the U.S. do a better job in working together to meet global challenges? I think there are three points I would like to make, and these three points deserve our serious attention and consideration.

Number one, that our two sides have acted in the spirit of cooperation, as if we were in the same boat and we should row in the same direction, when we tackled previous international challenges. And I think we need to keep up the spirit in future, as we tackle challenges.

Number two, we need to increase our communication and coordination. And number three, we need to respect and accommodate each other's interests and concerns. I'm convinced that as long as our two sides continue to act in this spirit and as long as we continue to work together with other countries concerned, we will be able to engage in cooperation in an even broader range of areas to the benefit of world peace and development.

President Obama. All right, everybody. Thank you so much for your patience, due to the technical difficulties.

President Hu, once again, we appreciate your visit. We appreciate the dialogue. And we are looking forward to having dinner with you later this evening.

Thank you, everybody.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 1:27 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama; and Steve Ballmer, chief executive officer, Microsoft Corp. President Hu, his spokesman, and two reporters spoke in Chinese, and their remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Statement on Senator Joseph I. Lieberman's Decision Not To Seek Reelection

January 19, 2011

I want to congratulate Senator Joe Lieberman on an extraordinary career in public service. Joe has spent four decades fighting for what he believes in on behalf of the people of Connecticut. From cracking down on polluters and deadbeat dads as Connecticut's attor-

ney general to his years of work defending our Nation's security on the Armed Services and Homeland Security Committees to his relentless efforts in recent months to repeal "don't ask, don't tell," his work has touched countless lives in his home State and across the

country. Even if we don't always see eye to eye, I always know Joe is coming from a place of principle. I know he will carry with him

that integrity and dedication to his remaining work in the Senate and to whatever he chooses to do next.

Remarks at a State Dinner Honoring President Hu Jintao of China January 19, 2011

President Obama. Good evening, everybody. Please have a seat. On behalf of Michelle and myself, welcome to the White House. And thank you for joining us as we host President Hu and the Chinese delegation and as we pay tribute to the bonds between two great nations and two proud peoples.

There are too many distinguished guests to mention all of you tonight. But I do want to acknowledge a few who have championed relations between our nations: First of all, President Jimmy Carter and his wonderful wife Rosalynn Carter are here, as well as President Bill Clinton and my outstanding Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton.

President Hu, we have met today in a spirit of mutual respect: the United States, the oldest democracy in the world, and China, one of the oldest civilizations in the world. And while it's easy to focus on our differences of culture and perspective, let us never forget the values that our people share: a reverence for family; the belief that, with education and hard work and with sacrifice, the future is what we make it; and most of all, the desire to give our children a better life.

Let's also never forget that throughout our history, our people have worked together for mutual progress. We've traded together for more than 200 years. We stood together in the Second World War. Chinese immigrants and Chinese Americans have helped to build America, including many who join us here tonight.

The Chinese and American people work together and create new opportunities together every single day. Mr. President, and today we've shown that our governments can work together as well, for our mutual benefit. And that includes this bit of news: Under a new agreement, our National Zoo will continue to

dazzle children and visitors with the beloved giant pandas.

I'm told that there is a Chinese proverb that says: "If you want 1 year of prosperity, then grow grain. If you want 10 years of prosperity, then grow trees. But if you want 100 years of prosperity, then you grow people."

And so I propose a toast.

To our people, the citizens of the People's Republic of China and the United States of America: May they grow together in friendship, may they prosper together in peace, and may they realize their dream of the future for themselves, for their children, and for their grandchildren.

[At this point, President Obama offered a toast.]

President Obama. Cheers. *Ganbei.*

President Hu. President Obama and Mrs. Obama, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, dear friends: Good evening. I am delighted to once again come to the United States and pay a state visit at the invitation of President Obama.

Since setting foot on this beautiful land, we have received the gracious hospitality of the U.S. Government and people. This evening President Obama is hosting this welcoming dinner for us and has just made warm remarks. On behalf of my colleagues and in my own name, I want to express heartfelt thanks to President and Mrs. Obama and other American friends present today.

I also wish to convey through you the best wishes of the Chinese people to the friendly American people and extend cordial greetings to people from various sectors of the United States who have given care and support to the growth of China-U.S. relations.

The purpose of my visit is to increase mutual trust, enhance friendship, deepen cooperation,