

and developer and participant, and also beneficiary. We are willing to work with all other countries to firmly defend the fruits of victory of the Second World War and the existing international system—U.N.—centered on the U.N. and, at the same time, promote them to developing a more just and equitable direction.

China has raised the One Belt One Road Initiative and proposed to establish the AIIB, et cetera. And all of their aims are to expand mutual and beneficial cooperation with other countries and realize common development. These initiatives are open, transparent, inclusive. They are in—consistent in serving the interests of the U.S. and other countries' inter-

est. And we welcome the U.S. and other parties to actively participate in them.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 12:22 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, President Obama referred to Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama; and Maisy and Finnegan Biden, grandchildren of Vice President Joe Biden. President Xi referred to the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the East Sea (DOC); the Code of Conduct in the East Sea (COC); and the proposed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). President Xi spoke in Chinese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

## Remarks at an Armed Forces Farewell Tribute in Honor of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Martin E. Dempsey at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Virginia

September 25, 2015

Forty-five years ago, in June of 1970, a telegram arrived in Upstate New York at the home of 18-year-old Marty Dempsey. "Congratulations," it read, "You are appointed to the West Point Class of 1974. . . ." [Laughter] Marty was honored. But he had just finished high school, and he wasn't entirely sure he wanted to head off to the Academy. His mother, I'm told, thought different. She urged him to "give it a try for the summer"—which sounds like Beast Barracks meets sleepaway camp. [Laughter] Sound advice, with a little Irish charm, runs in the Dempsey family.

Over the decades that followed, he patrolled the Iron Curtain, commanded divisions on desert battlefields, and led America's soldiers. And more than a few times, he burst into song. And over these last 4 years, Marty's wisdom, his vision, and his character have helped lead the greatest fighting force the world has ever known.

Secretary Carter, Deputy Secretary Work, Members of Congress, and the Joint Chiefs, Service Secretaries, men and women of the Defense Department, our Armed Forces, and our military families: It is a deep honor to join

you as we pay tribute to a singular leader for our military and our Nation and one of the finest men that I know, General Martin Dempsey.

A little over 4 years ago, I tapped Marty to serve as Chief of Staff of the Army. We let him enjoy it—for 1 day. Then, I asked him to be Chairman. So let me say, Marty, and more importantly, Deanie, this time I promise, no surprises tomorrow. [Laughter]

I chose Marty for these leadership roles because of his moral fiber and his deep commitment to American strength and American values. I chose him because of his vision for our military as a more versatile and responsive force. I chose him because he had the steady hand we needed in this moment of transition, as we tackle emerging threats and support so many of our troops as they transition to civilian life. And I've watched Marty manage each of these challenges with integrity and foresight and care. But perhaps most of all, I chose Marty because he's a leader you can trust.

Marty, you've always given it to me straight. I can't tell you how much I have appreciated your candor and your counsel. And I've seen

you build that trust not just with me, but across our military, with our troops and their families, with Congress and our allies abroad, and with the American people.

Today, thanks in no small measure to Marty's leadership, America has reassured allies from Europe to the Asia-Pacific. We ended our combat mission in Afghanistan and brought America's longest war to a responsible end. We've forged new partnerships from South Asia to the Sahel to meet terrorist threats. We've built a coalition that is combating ISIL in Iraq and Syria. We have bolstered our cyber defenses. We helped halt the spread of Ebola in West Africa.

None of this would have been possible without Marty's guidance and leadership. And what makes it more remarkable is that he's guided our forces through a time of reckless budget cuts. With less than a week before Congress needs to pass a budget to keep the Government open, let me just say, now is not the time for games that lock in sequester. It's not good for our military readiness, it's not good for our troops, it's not good for our families, and it's not good for our country. As Commander in Chief, I believe we should invest in America and in our national security, and not short-change it.

And yet, even in these tough fiscal times, Marty has made sure we maintain our military superiority. And no one can match our services because no one can match our servicemembers, our sons and daughters who he's cared for like his own. In them, he sees the West Point classmates of his youth. He sees those he commanded. He sees their families, and in them, he sees his own.

There's Deanie, of course, Marty's high school sweetheart, lifelong better half, whose grace and resilience and good cheer embodies the military spouses she fights so fiercely for; Chris, Megan, and Caitlin, who followed in their father's footsteps to wear our Nation's cloth; Marty's mother Sarah, who we thank for making him give the military a try "for the summer." [*Laughter*] And there are his nine grandchildren, who we can be confident will mark this Nation in so many positive ways in

the future. On behalf of the American people, I want to thank the entire Dempsey family for their service to our Nation.

Marty will be the first to tell you that he couldn't have done his job without his outstanding Vice Chair. And I, too, have depended on the advice and experience of Admiral Sandy Winnefeld. Thank you, Sandy, for your outstanding service.

In General Joe Dunford and General Paul Selva, two of the most respected officers in our military, we have tested leaders ready to carry on Marty and Sandy's work. I could not be prouder of them and the service they've already rendered this great Nation. And I could not be more confident in the advice and counsel that they'll provide me. Thank you to them. Thank you, Ellyn. Thank you so much for everything that you've done.

Now, we're going to have a lot of work to do long after not just Marty is gone, but I'm gone from the stage. There are always new threats, there are always new challenges in this ever-changing world. We have to degrade and ultimately destroy ISIL, the remnants of Al Qaida, terror networks around the world. We have to adapt our defenses for the 21st century. We have to give our troops the support they need to meet their missions. We have to make sure that our forces and our families receive the pay and the benefits and the quality of life that they have earned. That is how we maintain a military that is second to none. And I am confident that we are up to the task.

I'm told that on Marty's desk there's a box. It's a cigar box with 132 cards, each one with the name, picture, and story of every one of the 132 soldiers who gave their lives under his command in Iraq. And on top of the box are three words: "Make It Matter." Make it matter. And every morning, Marty places three of those cards in his pocket so that every moment as Chairman—every meeting, every trip, every decision, every troop review—every moment of every day some of those fallen heroes are with him.

Those cards were with him a few years back when, for the first time as Chairman, Marty spoke to a group of military children who had

lost a parent. And that day, as he walked through the crowd—with some 600 Gold Star kids, young, so full of hope—he began to think about their lives and how each of them would have to make their way without a father or a mother. And Marty had planned to speak, but he couldn't. So he did one of those things that he does best. He began to sing.

And in that moment, the highest ranking military leader in our Nation forged a bond with those children—boys and girls who, at such a tender age, had given up so much—in a way that perhaps nobody else could. And year after year, they've invited him back, because they know Marty Dempsey will always give them everything he has: his voice, but even more, his full heart and soul.

This is the man we honor today. A friend to so many troops and families across our military. A patriot with a profound love for our country and those who sacrifice for it. A trust-

ed leader who in a time of great change “made it matter” all the time.

I am extraordinarily grateful to have had him by my side through the bulk of my Presidency, and I am extraordinarily proud to call him my friend.

Marty, for your lifetime of extraordinary service, you have the deepest thanks of a grateful nation. God bless you, and God bless our men and women in uniform.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:09 p.m. at Summerhall Field. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of Defense Ashton B. Carter; Chris Dempsey, Megan Bailey, and Caitlin Boganski, children of Chairman Dempsey; Gen. Joseph F. Dunford, Jr., USMC, Chairman-designate, and Gen. Paul J. Selva, USAF, Vice Chairman-designate, Joint Chiefs of Staff; and Ellyn Dunford, wife of Gen. Dunford. He also referred to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) terrorist organization.

## Joint Statement by President Obama and President Xi Jinping of China on Climate Change *September 25, 2015*

In November 2014, President Barack Obama and President Xi Jinping stood together in Beijing to make a historic U.S.-China Joint Announcement on Climate Change, emphasizing their personal commitment to a successful climate agreement in Paris and marking a new era of multilateral climate diplomacy as well as a new pillar in their bilateral relationship. On the occasion of President Xi's State Visit to Washington, D.C., the two Presidents reaffirm their shared conviction that climate change is one of the greatest threats facing humanity and that their two countries have a critical role to play in addressing it. The two Presidents also reaffirm their determination to move ahead decisively to implement domestic climate policies, to strengthen bilateral coordination and cooperation, and to promote sustainable development and the transition to green, low-carbon, and climate-resilient economies.

### *Vision for the Paris Climate Conference:*

- The two Presidents reaffirm the U.S.-China Joint Announcement on Climate Change of November 12, 2014. Recalling the Durban mandate to adopt a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties, they strengthen their resolve to work together and with others toward an ambitious, successful Paris outcome that furthers the implementation of the objective of the Convention, mindful of the below 2 degree C global temperature goal.
- They reaffirm their commitment to reach an ambitious agreement in 2015 that reflects the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light of different national circumstances. They further con-