

welcome the peaceful rise of China, your neighbor to the north, and India, your neighbor to the west. The United Nations—the United States will work with any nation, large or small, that will contribute to a world that is more peaceful and more prosperous and more just and more free. And the United States will be a friend to any nation that respects the rights of its citizens and the responsibilities of international law.

That's the nation—that's the world—that you can start to build here in this historic city. This nation that's been so isolated can show the world the power of a new beginning and demonstrate once again that the journey to democracy goes hand in hand with development. I say this knowing that there are still countless people in this country who do not enjoy the opportunities that many of you seated here do. There are tens of millions who have no electricity. There are prisoners of conscience who still await release. There are refugees and displaced peoples in camps where hope is still something that lies on the distant horizon.

Today I say to you—and I say to everybody that can hear my voice—that the United States of America is with you, including those who have been forgotten, those who are dispossessed, those who are ostracized, those who are poor. We carry your story in our heads and your hopes in our hearts, because in this 21st century with the spread of technology and the breaking down of barriers, the frontlines of

freedom are within nations and individuals, not simply between them.

As one former prisoner put it in speaking to his fellow citizens: "Politics is your job. It's not only for politicians." And we have an expression in the United States that the most important office in a democracy is the office of citizen: not President, not Speaker, but citizen.

So as extraordinary and difficult and challenging and sometimes frustrating as this journey may seem, in the end, you, the citizens of this country, are the ones who must define what freedom means. You're the ones who are going to have to seize freedom, because a true revolution of the spirit begins in each of our hearts. It requires the kind of courage that so many of your leaders have already displayed.

The road ahead will be marked by huge challenges, and there will be those who resist the forces of change. But I stand here with confidence that something is happening in this country that cannot be reversed, and the will of the people can lift up this Nation and set a great example for the world. And you will have in the United States of America a partner on that long journey. So *chezu tinbade*.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:39 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Member of Parliament and National League for Democracy Party Leader Aung San Suu Kyi and President Thein Sein of Burma; and U.S. Ambassador to Burma Derek J. Mitchell.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda of Japan in Phnom Penh, Cambodia

November 20, 2012

President Obama. I want to say how wonderful it is to see Prime Minister Noda again. He very graciously called me shortly after the election. And this becomes yet another opportunity for us to reaffirm the extraordinary alliance between our two countries.

That alliance between the United States and Japan has been a cornerstone of prosperity and security in the region, and we are going to have the opportunity to further discuss steps that

we're taking to renew that vision and that alliance for the 21st century.

In fact, in April, when Prime Minister Noda visited Washington, we released a joint vision statement that's guiding that effort going forward to further strengthen our alliance.

And I'm sure we'll also have an opportunity to discuss the economic issues that the world is facing right now. As the world's two—two of the world's largest economies, I think it's going

to be very important for us to continue to coordinate effectively to promote jobs and growth, trade and investment throughout the Asia-Pacific region, which has a huge impact in the world.

So I want to welcome the Prime Minister and look forward to a good conversation.

Prime Minister Noda. President Obama, I would like to, first of all, again congratulate you on your reelection to your second term.

I welcome the U.S. policy to place importance on the Asia-Pacific region. Basing on the shared vision that we announced in April, I would like to further cooperate and work in or-

der to generate synergy effects between the policies of Japan and the United States.

With the increasing severity of the security environment in East Asia, the importance of the Japan-U.S. alliance is increasing evermore further. I would like to proceed with concrete cooperation to develop our alliance, and I hope to discuss this with you today.

President Obama. Thank you very much, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:50 a.m. at the Peace Palace. Prime Minister Noda spoke in Japanese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Premier Wen Jiabao of China in Phnom Penh

November 20, 2012

President Obama. Well, it's good to see Premier Wen again. We last met at the East Asia Summit in Bali a year ago.

It's very important that we use multilateral meetings like the EAS to discuss shared regional and global challenges, and I'm committed to working with China, and I'm committed to working with Asia. It's important that our two countries cooperate to build a more secure and prosperous future for the Asia-Pacific region and for the world.

Premier Wen and I have also worked very closely together on our bilateral and global economic problems. And as the two largest economies in the world, we have a special responsibility to lead the way in ensuring sustained and balanced growth, not only here in Asia, but globally.

I very much believe that the cooperative and constructive approach that we've taken to our bilateral relations is good for both our countries and the world. And it is very important that as two of the largest economies in the world, that we work to establish clear rules of the road internationally for trade and investment, which can increase prosperity and global growth.

So I very much appreciate Premier Wen's engagement with the United States on these issues. I'm sure this will be another honest and

constructive conversation and will help to continue the process of strengthening the relationship between China and the United States.

Premier Wen. Mr. President, it is a great pleasure to see you again. This is our fifth meeting.

Let me use this opportunity to first, once again, extend my congratulations to you, Mr. President, on your reelection, and I also wish to convey the best regards from President Hu Jintao and the newly elected General Secretary Xi Jinping to you.

Mr. President, you have set out your vision on many occasions that you want to lead the United States to address various challenges more effectively, in particular to revitalize the economy, to create more jobs, and to enhance international security and cooperation. I wish you all the best.

You and I share the view, Mr. President, that China-U.S. relationship is one of the most important bilateral relationships in the world. The long-term sound and steady growth of China-U.S. relations serves the fundamental interests of both countries. It is also important for peace, stability, and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific and the world.

I hope our meeting today will send out such a positive message to the world: a positive mes-