

At the same time, America has spoken candidly and consistently about our concerns over the Chinese Government's behavior. We have made it clear that trusting their people with greater freedom is necessary for China to reach its full potential. We have emphasized that being a global economic leader carries with it the duty to act responsibly on matters from energy to the environment to development and Africa.

Only China can decide what course it will follow, but I'm optimistic about the prospects. Young people who grow up with freedom in one area of their lives will ultimately demand freedom in other areas. The China of the future will reflect its own culture and traditions, but it will also reflect the universal aspirations of mankind. And there's no deeper human desire than liberty.

America's relationship with China is one element of our broader strategy for the region. When I took office, I brought a clear conviction that America is a Pacific nation, and our engagement with Asia should be stronger than ever before. We've acted on that conviction by pursuing four broad objectives.

We bolstered all five of our treaty alliances in the Asia Pacific region: Japan, Australia, the Philippines, and two countries I visited this week, South Korea and Thailand. We have strengthened our relationships with other free societies in Asia, including India, the world's largest democracy, and Indonesia, a democratic nation that is home to more Muslims than any other nation on Earth. We have seized opportunities for prosperity by negotiating new free trade agreements, including an historic agreement with South Korea, an agreement which our United States Congress must pass. And we helped bring together nations throughout the Asia Pacific to fight terrorism, seek an end to tyranny in Burma, respond to natural disasters, and address other challenges to our people and our prosperity.

My trips to Asia as President have brought many uplifting moments. One of the most moving came this week in Seoul, when I spoke to American troops at the Yongsan

Garrison. These men and women are carrying the burdens of military life far from home. Yet in their faces you can see a quiet pride that comes from having an important job and doing it right. These brave Americans are preserving peace, and they're sending a broader message about our approach toward Asia. Now and always, the United States will keep our word to our friends. We will stand confidently for liberty. And we will advance our Nation's interests and ideals by staying engaged in this pivotal part of the world.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:20 p.m. on August 7 at Westin Beijing Chaoyang hotel in Beijing, China, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m., e.d.t., on August 9. In his address, the President referred to President Hu Jintao of China. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 8 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. Due to the 12-hour time difference, the radio address was broadcast after the President's remarks in Beijing. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks Following a Visit to the Beijing Kuanjie Protestant Christian Church in Beijing

August 10, 2008

You know, I've just—Laura and I just had the great joy and privilege of worshiping here in Beijing, China. You know, it just goes to show that God is universal, and God is love, and no state, man, or woman should fear the influence of loving religion.

And I want to thank the pastor for his hospitality. And I want to thank this beautiful choir for singing "Amazing Grace" and "Edelweiss." It was a touching moment. It's been a joy to worship here. Again, I want to thank you, sir, and God bless you. God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:07 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to Pastor Li Jian'an, senior pastor, Beijing Kuanjie Protestant Christian Church.

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

August 10, 2008

President Hu. I'm very happy to meet you again, President Bush. And I would like to welcome you and your family members to Beijing for the opening ceremony of the Olympic games and also to watch the games. This is already your fourth visit to China, and this has certainly made you a American President that visited China more than any other U.S. President while in office. This is a good test to the importance you've placed on U.S. relations with China.

I know that the day before yesterday, you attended the inauguration of the U.S. Embassy in China, and the new Chinese Embassy in the United States was inaugurated at the end of July. And all this must further growth of China-U.S. relationship.

Now the various events of the Beijing Olympic games are underway smoothly. And I know you just came here from swimming center, and I would like to offer you my sincere congratulations on the excellent performance of Mr. Phelps.

President Bush. Thank you. [*Laughter*]

President Hu. We are confident that he will score even better achievements in the coming games.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

President Hu. I would also like to mention the unfortunate happening yesterday. Yesterday two American tourists were attacked and one was killed; the another was injured. And I would like to take the opportunity—please accept my profound sympathy to you, Mr. President, and the family members of the victims. The Chinese side takes this unfortunate incident very seriously. Yesterday I already instructed the competent official in charge of the Chinese Foreign Ministry to go to the hospital to see the injured. We take this case very seriously, and we have already instructed the competent authorities to carry out a very serious investigation and handle the case in accordance with law. We'll keep in touch with the U.S. side on the latest developments.

We're now willing to listen to your views, Mr. President.

President Bush. Thank you, sir. First, Mr. President, thank you for your hospitality. I am so honored that you would invite my wife, my daughter, my father, my brother, my sister, and sister-in-law to lunch. And I congratulate you on the opening ceremonies. I'm not sure what it looked like on TV, but I can tell you what it looked in person; and it was spectacular.

And we are enjoying the games and, matter of fact, looking forward to tonight's big game, U.S. men's versus China men's basketball. [*Laughter*] Somebody asked me if we were going to make a bet on the game. I said, I don't think so.

I do want to thank you very much for how you handled—I do want to thank you very much, Mr. President, for how you handled the situation with the Bachman family. And I thank you for your expressions of sympathy. And the Ambassador informs me that your Government has been very attentive and very sympathetic, and I appreciate that a lot.

Today—I mean, every time I come to China, I have memorable experiences. I enjoy our conversations that we have. As you know, our relationship is constructive, and it's important. And it's also very candid, and I thank you for that.

And once again, I had a very uplifting experience by going to a church, and I want to thank you for arranging that as well. It was a spirit-filled, good feeling. And as you know, I feel very strongly about religion, and I am so appreciative of the chance to go to church here in your society.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:25 p.m. in Han Yuan Dian Hall at the Zhongnanhai. In his remarks, he referred to Todd and Barbara Bachman, who were attacked on August 9 while touring the Drum Tower in Beijing; Minister of Foreign Affairs Yang Jiechi of China; and U.S. Ambassador to China Clark T. Randt, Jr. He also referred to his daughter Barbara P. Bush; his brother Marvin P. Bush and his sister-in-law Margaret Bush; and his sister, Dorothy Bush Koch. President Hu referred to Michael Phelps, swimmer, U.S. Olympic team. President Hu spoke in Chinese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.