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BARACK OBAMA: PROTECTING U.S. INTERESTS AND ADVANCING AMERICAN VALUES IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA

"China's rise offers great opportunity, but also poses serious challenges. It is critical the U.S. do all it can to assure China's rise is peaceful, and, if it remains so, the U.S. should welcome China's continuing emergence and prosperity."

[Obama Statement, 5/23/07]

BARACK OBAMA'S PLAN TO ACTIVELY ENGAGE CHINA

Barack Obama understands that China's rise may pose one of the most important foreign policy challenges to the U.S. in coming years. He will not demonize China because he understands both the magnitude of the challenges facing a developing China and the importance of a constructive relationship to foster continued peace and prosperity. Obama believes that the best way to manage our relationship with China is to draw it further into the international system and to work with China on shared political, economic, environmental, and security objectives. At the same time, we must remain vigilant about China's military modernization, ensure that China and Taiwan peacefully resolve their differences, and insist that China lives up to its obligations as a member of the international system.

Support Our Allies in the Region; Conduct Candid Dialogue with China: Obama understands that China's rapidly modernizing military capabilities require vigilance and preparedness on our part. Obama believes we must do all we can to guarantee that China's rise is peaceful. This requires that the United States maintain a military that is second to none, that we strengthen our alliances in the Asia-Pacific region, and that we retain our forward deployment there as well. We should seek additional opportunities to cooperate on shared security issues such as a denuclearized Korean Peninsula and energy security. Obama also favors expansion of military-to-military relations to improve transparency, broaden communication, and improve our understanding of the ultimate goals and motivations of China's military development

Obama recognizes the importance of maintaining the One China policy, as laid out in the Three Communiqués, and he also underscores that the Taiwan Relations Act, an act of the U.S. Congress passed on March 29, 1979, undergirds our relations with Taiwan. Obama will work to ensure that a military conflict across the Taiwan Strait never arises – by maintaining good relations with China and Taiwan and by making clear that we expect them to resolve their differences peacefully and through dialogue. While Obama opposes the use of force to resolve the issue, he will act to ensure that Taiwan, a thriving democracy, is not coerced into accepting a change in its status against its will. As Obama said in May 2007, "This means maintaining our military presence in the Asia-Pacific region, strengthening our alliances, and making clear to both Beijing and Taipei that a unilateral change in the status quo in the Taiwan Strait is unacceptable."

Rebalance Our Economic Relationship: America and the world can benefit from China's rapid economic growth, which can provide a boost to the global economy and an important market for our exports. But these

benefits will be realized only if China itself plays by the rules and acts as a positive force for balanced world growth. Obama will use all diplomatic means at his disposal to achieve change in China's manipulation of the value of its currency, a practice that contributes to massive global imbalances and provides Chinese companies with an unfair competitive advantage. He will vigorously enforce our trade laws and trade agreements to ensure that American companies have a fair opportunity to compete and to counteract piracy of intellectual property. He will insist that our imports from China and other countries be safe.

Make China a Constructive Partner on International Energy and Environmental Issues: Barack Obama believes it is essential that we move to decrease our country's dependence on carbon-based sources of energy, particularly imported oil, at a time when global warming is occurring and increased international demand has contributed to tight oil markets. To succeed on these accounts, Obama believes that the United States, China, and other countries around the globe can and must cooperate to combat climate change and to create more secure, affordable, and dependable energy supplies. It also requires that China conduct its overseas exploration for oil in ways that do not interfere with international markets or undercut global standards for governance and investment. We need to work together, not at cross purposes, on this vital issue.

End Chinese Support for Genocidal and Repressive Regimes: In Sudan, China is supporting one of the most reprehensible regimes in the world. Obama believes that we must use all available tools to demand that China use its influence to prevent Sudan and other regimes from acting contrary to international law and peace and security. China's support for such regimes runs counter to the interests of the people of those countries, to the interests of the international community, and to China's longer-term interest in being seen as a leader and responsible international actor. Obama will press China to end its support for regimes in Sudan, Burma, Iran and Zimbabwe.

Press China to Live Up to Human Rights Standards: From Tibet to cracking down on democracy and religious freedom activists, China has failed to live up to international standards of human rights. Barack Obama believes the United States has to be frank with the Chinese about such failings and will press them to respect human rights.