

The true significance of the recent summit is brought into focus when it is examined against the backdrop of the cycles just summarized. In a world, in which the old system, as identified by reference to those cycles, expresses an unwholesome creature seized by its own moral unfitness to survive, the meeting between the two Presidents, here in Washington, this week, shows itself the seed-crystal around which an alternative can be built, a better age for humanity than the one which is now in the process of destroying itself today.

## Clinton, Jiang broaden U.S.-China ties

by William Jones

The first state visit of a Chinese leader to Washington since the visit of Deng Xiaoping in 1985, has resulted in the beginnings of a "constructive strategic partnership" between these two nations—one, the greatest economic power in the world, and the other, the most populous nation in the world with 1.2 billion people. This was the characterization given by U.S. President Bill Clinton and China's President Jiang Zemin in the joint communiqué released at the conclusion of the Oct. 29 summit.

For both Presidents, the summit represented a personal victory. Chinese President Jiang Zemin, continuing the direction given the Chinese nation by his predecessor and mentor, Deng Xiaoping, is keen to establish closer relations with the Western powers, and particularly with the United States. Deng was intent on bringing China out of the throes of the insane Cultural Revolution and into the modern world as a major industrial power. Jiang wishes to consolidate that initiative as China enters the twenty-first century.

President Clinton successfully beat back anti-China insanity in the Congress, going into the summit. In an address on Oct. 24, President Clinton outlined his policy toward China. "At the dawn of the new century, China stands at a crossroads. The direction China takes toward cooperation or conflict will profoundly affect Asia, America, and the world for decades. The emergence of a China as a power that is stable, open, and non-aggressive; that embraces free markets, political pluralism, and the rule of law; that works with us to build a secure international order, that kind of China, rather than a China turned inward and confrontational, is deeply in the interests of the American people," the President said.

Rejecting the arguments of the nay-sayers in Congress and elsewhere who want to maintain China as an "enemy image," President Clinton warned, "Isolation of China is un-

workable, counterproductive, and potentially dangerous. Military, political, and economic measures to do such a thing would find little support among our allies around the world, and more importantly, even among Chinese themselves working for greater liberty. Isolation would encourage the Chinese to become hostile and to adopt policies that conflict with our own interests and values."

### 'We fought shoulder to shoulder'

President Jiang traveled first to Hawaii on Oct. 26 on his way to Washington, where he visited the Arizona Memorial, commemorating the men fallen during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. In Honolulu, Jiang referred to the U.S.-Chinese cooperation during World War II. "In that war which brought untold suffering to mankind, the Chinese and American peoples once fought shoulder to shoulder against fascist aggression," Jiang said. "In today's world, China and the United States share broad common interests . . . on important matters which bear on peace and development of mankind." Jiang had also referred to the figure of Franklin Roosevelt, the U.S. President who had crafted that war-time relationship.

Jiang then traveled to Williamsburg, Virginia, where he visited the seat of old colonial America, and donned a Revolutionary period cocked hat to show his appreciation for the unique American traditions. Jiang noted that Williamsburg "once made an important contribution to the struggle of the American people against colonialism and for national independence," a message conveying China's determination to overthrow the vestiges of the colonialism to which it had been subject for centuries, through rapid and steady economic development.

President Jiang arrived in Washington on Oct. 28. Throughout his trip he was dogged by a variety of protests. Arriving at Blair House, demonstrators around the corner on 17th Street were calling for an independent Tibet. They were occasionally relieved by others who were demanding the independence of Taiwan. These protests would continue throughout the summit, with navel-watcher-turned-political-guru, actor Richard Gere, leading the pack. Gere is not only trying to boost the box-office returns on his latest movie dealing with judicial abuse in China. He is also a fervent disciple of the Tibetan Dalai Lama, the feudal potentate of the Tibetan priest-caste, who, with all his New Age glitter, has been a useful tool to his British interlocutors in causing difficulties for China. This panoply of agitators, however, was offset by a Schiller Institute rally on Oct. 29 in support of President Clinton's policy of "constructive engagement" with China, and for development of the New Silk Road to bring economic development to China.

### An informal exchange of views

Although the summit was not scheduled to begin until the morning of Oct. 29, President Clinton invited President Jiang to the White House for a more personal discussion shortly

after he arrived at Blair House on Oct. 28. President Jiang was accompanied by Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and his national security adviser, Liu Huaqiu. In attendance with the President were National Security Adviser Sandy Berger and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

President Clinton led his visitors on a 15-minute tour of the White House, where he took the opportunity to elaborate somewhat on American political traditions. When they viewed an original copy of the Gettysburg Address hanging in the Lincoln Bedroom, President Jiang recited the first few lines of the Address, which he had learned by heart as a boy in a missionary school in China.

They then had longer discussions about Taiwan and Tibet, and a more philosophical discussion on the differing interpretations of the concept of human rights, National Security Adviser Berger told the press after the meeting. President Jiang had stressed the importance of economic and social stability for China, Berger explained, a country which, Jiang underlined, had more often than the United States been marred by disintegration, chaos, and cultural revolution.

On Tibet, Berger said, "President Jiang reviewed that history from the Chinese perspective, and what they assert they have done in Tibet over the last 20 years in terms of freeing slaves and improving the standard of living." As the Chinese have reiterated whenever the subject of human rights has been broached, they also consider the social and economic conditions of the people to be part of the "rights of the individual." Just prior to the summit, the Chinese government had agreed to invite a delegation of three religious leaders to China to observe how religious freedoms are practiced. They also announced that they were going to sign the UN Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights.

At a luncheon given in President Jiang's honor by the New York Council on Foreign Relations, Jiang elaborated the Chinese view of human rights. "As a developing country of 1.2 billion people, China's very reality determines that the right to subsistence and development is the most fundamental and most important human right in China," he said.

The two Presidents reached substantive agreement on the overall direction of the relationship. In a joint statement released at the end of the meeting, it was stated that "the two Presidents are determined to build toward a constructive strategic partnership between the United States and China through increasing cooperations to meet international challenges and promote peace and development in the world."

### **A go-ahead on nuclear energy**

President Clinton also made the much-awaited announcement that the United States is prepared to "move ahead with the U.S.-China agreement for cooperation concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy." The Chinese, after months of negotiations, had agreed to abide by all the various non-proliferation requirements demanded by the United States as a condition for the agreement. According to the legislation

that accompanied ratification of the 1985 agreement with China on cooperation on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy that had been negotiated by the Reagan administration, the President is required to certify that China is not exporting technology that would allow a non-nuclear power to become a nuclear power.

In addition to the non-proliferation requirements imposed upon China by the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which China signed in 1992, the United States had also been demanding that China cease all nuclear trade with Iran, a measure not required by the NPT, because Iran is a signator of the treaty as well. China has agreed to this additional demand, and Presidential certification will be forthcoming — although probably not without a fight on Capitol Hill. China has expressed interest in the U.S.-made light-water reactors, which would provide it with a "family" of reactors as it begins to increase the nuclear energy component of its growing energy sector.

### **Other topics of discussion**

Other topics discussed during the summit touched upon the major global issues on which the United States and China have been cooperating. The two Presidents agreed to give new impetus to the four-party talks on Korea. They discussed the need for further efforts in dealing with the famine danger in North Korea. The Chinese have provided 100,000 tons of food a year for the past few years to the North Koreans.

There was also a longer discussion about the overall issue of security in Asia. The Chinese had expressed considerable concern about the new defense guidelines worked out between the United States and Japan, seeing them as possible interference in the China-Taiwan issue. "The President made clear to President Jiang," Berger told the press on Oct. 29, "that the Chinese ought not to see the new defense guidelines between the United States and Japan and our strategic relationship as directed against China. . . . It [the U.S.-Japan security relationship] is a way of strengthening our relationship with Japan and actually is a stabilizing influence in the region, rather than a destabilizing influence."

More importantly, there was a discussion of the international financial situation as it touches on Asia. National Security Council spokesmen would not elaborate on the contents of the discussion, referring questioners to the Treasury Department on the issue. But, the two Presidents decided that Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and Vice Premier Zhu Rongji (soon to become premier) "should come together to develop a closer working relationship on those issues of economic stability in Asia," Berger said. The crisis in the Asian markets caused by speculation against the Hongkong dollar led quickly to a 550-point fall on Wall Street, the greatest one-day loss since the October 1987 crash. The relationship with China would be a key factor at the point President Clinton must act to deal with an increasingly bankrupt financial system on a more systematic basis.

## Major trade deals

In connection with the summit, there was also a major Chinese trade delegation in Washington. On Oct. 20, one day after the summit, the delegation announced a major deal with Boeing aircraft, in which China would purchase eight Boeing 777s, one 747, five 757s, and thirty-six 737s, for a total value of \$3.5 billion! With all the fuss over the U.S. trade deficit with China, the increasing willingness of the United States to sell high-technology equipment to China has opened up the possibility of dealing with the trade deficit by increasing purchases from the United States of the type of high-tech equipment the Chinese are interested in obtaining.

The lying media tended to miss entirely the historical significance of the Clinton-Jiang summit, with their fixation on the alleged "human rights" issue and on Richard Gere's Tibet sideshow. The significance of the visit was, however, reflected in statements by President Clinton and President Jiang. In a toast to President Jiang at the state dinner at the White House on Oct. 29, President Clinton touched upon this significance. "Long before the United States was even born, China was a stronghold of creativity, knowledge, and wealth," the President said. "From the printing China invented to the poetry it produced, from medicine and mathematics to the magnetic compass and humanistic philosophies, many of China's earliest gifts still enrich our lives today.

"Now the Chinese people are dramatically building on this legacy. Economic reform has transformed China's landscape and its people's daily lives," the President continued, "lifting millions from poverty, giving more people education, shelter, choice of work, and a chance to provide for their children, bringing the Chinese people closer to the rest of the world and into a greater leadership role in the community of nations. . . . Now on the verge of the new century, both our nations seek to continue this progress, to contribute to China's growing prosperity, to encourage its democratic development, to support its emergence as a responsible global power and partner."

Other important agreements emerged from the summit. The two agreed that they would hold regular summit meetings in the two capitals. In their evening meeting at the White House on the eve of the summit, President Jiang invited President Clinton to visit China next year, which the President readily accepted. They also agreed that there would be a regular exchange of visits at the higher cabinet levels, and exchanges in the areas of finance, foreign affairs, and trade. The two countries will also strengthen cooperation in combatting international organized crime, narcotics trafficking, alien smuggling, counterfeiting, and money laundering. For the first time, China will also permit agents of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration to work out of the U.S. Embassy in Beijing. An agreement was also signed for cooperation on environmental issues, such as clean energy and urban air pollution control, and rural electrification. They also agreed to establish a Washington-Beijing "hot line," to facilitate direct contact between the two leaders.

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## Documentation

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*The following are excerpts from the U.S.-China joint communiqué:*

. . . The two Presidents . . . agree that a sound and stable relationship between the United States and China serves the fundamental interests of both the American and Chinese peoples and is important to fulfilling their common responsibility to work for peace and prosperity in the 21st Century.

They agree that while the United States and China have areas of both agreement and disagreement, they have a significant common interest and a firm common will to seize opportunities and meet challenges cooperatively, with candor and a determination to achieve concrete progress. The United States and China have major differences on the question of human rights. At the same time, they also have great potential for cooperation in maintaining global and regional peace and stability; promoting world economic growth; preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; advancing Asia-Pacific regional cooperation; combating narcotics trafficking, international organized crime and terrorism; strengthening bilateral exchanges and cooperation in economic development, trade, law, environmental protection, energy, science and technology, and education and culture; as well as engaging in military exchanges.

The two Presidents are determined to build toward a constructive strategic partnership between the United States and China through increasing cooperation to meet international challenges and promote peace and development. . . .

The United States and China agree that it is in their mutual interest to cooperate in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. To this end, they each have taken the steps necessary to implement the U.S.-China Agreement on Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation concluded in 1985. In addition, China's State Planning Commission and the U.S. Department of Energy have signed an Agreement of Intent to promote peaceful nuclear cooperation and research between the two countries. . . .

. . . [The United States and China] will strengthen cooperation in combating international organized crime, narcotics trafficking, alien smuggling, counterfeiting and money laundering. To this end they intend to establish a joint liaison group for law enforcement cooperation composed of representatives of the relevant agencies of both governments. . . .

The U.S.-China Joint Commission on Science and Technology will continue to guide the active bilateral scientific and technological cooperation program, which involves more than 30 agreements reached since 1979, and will promote the further use of science and technology to solve national and global problems. The United States and China also will identify areas for cooperative projects using space for Earth science research and practical applications. . . .