

Introduction of Xi Jinping President of the People's Republic of China San Francisco – November 15, 2023

- Thank you, Secretary Raimondo, for those welcoming comments and your leadership.
- Good evening. I am Evan Greenberg, Chair of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations and CEO of Chubb Insurance. Tonight, I am honored to welcome President Xi Jinping.
- It is fitting that we gather in San Francisco to hear from President Xi. This city is where he first touched American soil nearly four decades ago.
- In the decades since, much has changed. China has lifted hundreds of millions of its citizens out of poverty. The country has emerged as a great power with influence on the world stage.

- New patterns for the U.S.-China relationship have emerged while others have evolved. Leader-level interaction continues to set the tone for relations. Deep interdependence has developed between both countries. And connections have formed across a broad spectrum of our populations – between students, scholars, scientists, farmers, and businesspeople. These connections have infused vitality and ballast into the relationship.
- Today’s meeting between President Biden and President Xi provided a powerful example of their shared support for mutual respect and engagement.
- Both leaders recognize that engagement is not a form of surrender. It does not mean we have to admire each other. Engagement is how relationships are built and knowledge is shared. It is how people in both countries acquire the understanding about each other and how trust is developed at a personal level.

- Ultimately, governments and institutions do not give energy to the relationship. People do.
- It is not surprising that our two governments face major challenges in our relationship. After all, our two countries have different cultures, histories, visions, ambitions, and systems of government.
- No leader can be expected to solve these differences. But they should responsibly manage them.
- Acknowledging our need for peaceful coexistence is not an act of charity or a sign of weakness. It is a wise recognition of reality.
- The United States and China are – and will remain – the two most powerful countries in the world for the foreseeable future.

- As the world's two most capable countries, both benefit from collaborating to address global challenges, and both are harmed by ceaseless confrontation.
- Solutions to threats from war, disease, famine, global warming, artificial intelligence, and proliferation are much more within reach when the United States and China are pulling in the same direction than when they are splitting apart.
- It was very good to see President Biden and President Xi move down this path today. It was their first contact since they met a year ago in Bali. The leaders of the world's two strongest powers need to engage more frequently with each other. The immense global challenges of our time demand that our leaders show statesmanship and shared purpose.
- Like many others in this room, I believe that a strong and prosperous China that supports and invests in the international system can be a force for good in the world.

- Ultimately, the trajectory of China's rise will be determined far more by the choices China makes for itself than by any decisions others make about it.
- So, we are gathered today to gain insight from President Xi into his vision for the future of his country and of the relationship between the United States and China.
- Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in welcoming President Xi Jinping.