

Transcript of President Bush's Remarks at Tsinghua University
布什总统清华大学讲话白宫与新华社发稿内容

<p>President Bush's Speech - New China News Agency Version 新华社</p> <p>(In eleven parts).</p> <p>(I.) Vice President Hu, thank you very much for your kind and generous welcome. Thank you very much for welcoming me and my wife Laura.</p> <p>I am very grateful for the warm welcome from all of you, very honored to come to China. Tsinghua University is one of the world's greatest universities. I also know that Tsinghua University is very important to Vice President Hu. He not only received his degree here, but also met his graceful wife here. I also want to thank all of the students seated here for giving me this opportunity to meet with you, talk a little about my own country, and answer some questions.</p> <p>(II.) Tsinghua University's standards and reputation are known throughout the world, I know that testing into this school is an achievement. Congratulations to all of you. I don't know if you know this or not, but my wife and I have two daughters, who, like you, are in college. One daughter goes to the University of Texas. One goes to Yale. They're twins. I am very proud of</p>	<p>President Bush's Speech – White House Version</p> <p>Vice President Hu, thank you very much for your kind and generous remarks. Thank you for welcoming me and my wife, Laura, here. (Applause.) I see she's keeping pretty good company, with the Secretary of State, Colin Powell. It's good to see you, Mr. Secretary. (Applause.) And I see my National Security Advisor, Ms. Condoleezza Rice, who at one time was the provost at Stanford University. So she's comfortable on university campuses such as this. Thank you for being here, Condi. (Applause.)</p> <p>I'm so grateful for the hospitality, and honored for the reception at one of China's, and the world's, great universities. This university was founded, interestingly enough, with the support of my country, to further ties between our two nations. I know how important this place is to your Vice President. He not only received his degree here, but more importantly, he met his gracious wife here. (Laughter.) I want to thank the students for giving me the chance to meet with you, the chance to talk a little bit about my country and answer some of your questions.</p> <p>The standards and reputation of this university are known around the world, and I know what an achievement it is to be here. So, congratulations. (Applause.) I don't know if you know this or not, but my wife and I have two daughters who are in college, just like you. One goes to the University of Texas. One goes to Yale. They're twins. And we are proud of our</p>
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our two daughters, I'm sure your parents are just as proud of you.

(III.) My visit to China comes on an important anniversary, as the vice president mentioned. Thirty years ago this week, an American president arrived in China on a trip designed to end decades of estrangement and confront centuries of suspicion. President Richard Nixon showed the world that two vastly different governments could meet on the grounds of common interest in the spirit of mutual respect. And as they left the airport that day, Premier Chou En-Lai said this to President Nixon: "Our handshake crossed the widest ocean in the world: 25 years of no communication."

From that time, America and China have exchanged many handshakes of friendship and commerce. (IV.) As our two countries have had increasing contact with each other, the citizens of both countries have gradually learned more about each other. And that's important.

Once America knew only that China was a country with a rich history, a great country as well as its civilization. Today we see a China that still attaches great importance to the traditions of family, scholarship and honor. At the same time, we see a China that is becoming one of the most dynamic and creative societies in the world, as demonstrated by the knowledge and potential right here in this room. (V.) China is on a rising path. And America welcomes the emergence of a strong, peaceful and prosperous China.

As America learns more about China, I am concerned that the Chinese people do not always see a clear picture of my country. This happens for many reasons. And some of them are our own making. Our movies and television shows often do not show a

daughters, just like I'm sure your parents are proud of you.

My visit to China comes on an important anniversary, as the Vice President mentioned. Thirty years ago this week, an American President arrived in China on a trip designed to end decades of estrangement and confront centuries of suspicion. President Richard Nixon showed the world that two vastly different governments could meet on the grounds of common interest, in the spirit of mutual respect. As they left the airport that day, Premier Zhou Enlai said this to President Nixon: "Your handshake came over the vastest ocean in the world -- 25 years of no communication."

During the 30 years since, America and China have exchanged many handshakes of friendship and commerce. And as we have had more contact with each other, the citizens of both countries have gradually learned more about each other. And that's important.

Once America knew China only by its history as a great and enduring civilization. Today, we see a China that is still defined by noble traditions of family, scholarship, and honor. And we see a China that is becoming one of the most dynamic and creative societies in the world -- as demonstrated by the knowledge and potential right here in this room. China is on a rising path, and America welcomes the emergence of a strong and peaceful and prosperous China. (Applause.)

As America learns more about China, I am concerned that the Chinese people do not always see a clear picture of my country. This happens for many reasons, and some of them of our own making. Our movies

and television shows often do not show a comprehensive picture of America. (VI.) Our successful businesses show the strength of American commerce, but our spirit -- community spirit -- and contributions to each other are not always visible as monetary success.

(VII.) There is no question that my country certainly has its share of problems and shortcomings. Like most nations, we're on a very long journey.

and television shows often do not portray the values of the real America I know. Our successful businesses show a strength of American commerce, but our spirit, community spirit, and contributions to each other are not always visible as monetary success.

Some of the erroneous pictures of America are painted by others. My friend, the Ambassador to China, tells me some Chinese textbooks talk of Americans of "bullying the weak and repressing the poor." Another Chinese textbook, published just last year, teaches that special agents of the FBI are used to "repress the working people." Now, neither of these is true -- and while the words may be leftovers from a previous era, they are misleading and they're harmful.

In fact, Americans feel a special responsibility for the weak and the poor. Our government spends billions of dollars to provide health care and food and housing for those who cannot help themselves -- and even more important, many of our citizens contribute their own money and time to help those in need. American compassion also stretches way beyond our borders. We're the number one provider of humanitarian aid to people in need throughout the world. And as for the men and women of the FBI and law enforcement, they're working people; they, themselves, are working people who devote their lives to fighting crime and corruption.

My country certainly has its share of problems, no question about that. And we have our faults. Like most nations we're on a long journey toward achieving our own ideals of equality and justice. Yet there's a reason our nation shines as a beacon of hope and opportunity, a reason many

(VIII.) Freedom grants our citizens many rights yet expects them to exercise important responsibilities.

We're a nation of laws. Our courts are independent. I'm the president but I can't tell the courts how to rule. And neither can any other member of the executive or legislative branch of government. Under our law, everyone is equal and free. No one is above the law.

throughout the world dream of coming to America. It's because we're a free nation, where men and women have the opportunity to achieve their dreams. No matter your background or your circumstance of birth, in America you can get a good education, you can start your own business, you can raise a family, you can worship freely, and help elect the leaders of your community and your country. You can support the policies of our government, or you're free to openly disagree with them.

Those who fear freedom sometimes argue it could lead to chaos, but it does not, because freedom means more than every man for himself. Liberty gives our citizens many rights, yet expects them to exercise important responsibilities. Our liberty is given direction and purpose by moral character, shaped in strong families, strong communities, and strong religious institutions, and overseen by a strong and fair legal system.

My country's greatest symbol to the world is the Statue of Liberty, and it was designed by special care. I don't know if you've ever seen the Statue of Liberty, but if you look closely, she's holding not one object, but two. In one hand is the familiar torch we call the "light of liberty." And in the other hand is a book of law.

We're a nation of laws. Our courts are honest and they are independent. The President -- me -- I can't tell the courts how to rule, and neither can any other member of the executive or legislative branch of government. Under our law, everyone stands equal. No one is above the law, and no one is beneath it. All political power in America is limited and it is temporary, and only given by the free vote of the people.

We have a Constitution, now two centuries

American moms and dads love their children and work hard and sacrifice for them because we believe life will always be better for the next generation. In our families, we find love and learn responsibility and mold character.

And many Americans voluntarily take time to serve others. Many volunteer time every week to make their communities better by mentoring children or by visiting the sick or caring for the elderly or helping with many other needs and causes. This is one of the great positive aspects of my country. People take responsibility for helping others of their own accord.

old, which limits and balances the power of the three branches of our government, the judicial branch, the legislative branch, and the executive branch, of which I'm a part.

Many of the values that guide our life in America are first shaped in our families, just as they are in your country. American moms and dads love their children and work hard and sacrifice for them, because we believe life can always be better for the next generation. In our families, we find love and learn responsibility and character.

And many Americans voluntarily devote part of their lives to serving other people.

An amazing number -- nearly half of all adults in America -- volunteer time every week to make their communities better by mentoring children, or by visiting the sick, or caring for the elderly, or helping with thousands of other needs and causes. This is one of the great strengths of my country.

People take responsibility for helping others, without being told, motivated by their good hearts and often by their faith.

America is a nation guided by faith.

Someone once called us "a nation with the soul of a church." This may interest you -- 95 percent of Americans say they believe in God, and I'm one of them.

When I met President Jiang Zemin in Shanghai a few months ago, I had the honor of sharing with him how faith changed my life and how faith contributes to the life of my country. Faith points to a moral law beyond man's law, and calls us to duties higher than material gain.

Freedom of religion is not something to be feared, it's to be welcomed, because faith gives us a moral core and teaches us to

(IX.) If you travel to America, you will find people of many different ethnic backgrounds and many different faiths. We're a varied nation. We're a home to 2.3 million Americans of Chinese ancestry, and that number is growing. There are Chinese working in our large corporations, in our government bureaus. In the Olympic games, representing America in ice-skating is also a Chinese.

hold ourselves to high standards, to love and to serve others, and to live responsible lives.

If you travel across America -- and I hope you do some day if you haven't been there - you will find people of many different ethnic backgrounds and many different faiths. We're a varied nation. We're home to 2.3 million Americans of Chinese ancestry, who can be found working in the offices of our corporations, or in the Cabinet of the President of the United States, or skating for the America Olympic team. Every immigrant, by taking an oath of allegiance to our country, becomes just as just as American as the President.

America shows that a society can be vast and it can be varied, yet still one country, commanding the allegiance and love of its people.

And all these qualities of America were widely on display on a single day, September the 11th, the day when terrorists, murderers, attacked my nation.

American policemen and firefighters, by the hundreds, ran into burning towers in desperation to save their fellow citizens.

Volunteers came from everywhere to help with rescue efforts. Americans donated blood and gave money to help the families of victims. America had prayer services all over our country, and people raised flags to show their pride and unity.

And you need to know, none of this was ordered by the government; it happened spontaneously, by the initiative of free people. Life in America shows that liberty, paired with law is not to be feared. In a free society, diversity is not disorder.

Debate is not strife. And dissent is not revolution. A free society trusts its citizens to seek greatness in themselves and their

(X.) It was my honor to visit China in 1975. Some of you sitting here weren't even born then. This shows how old I am. Since then, your country has changed a lot. China's made amazing progress in openness and enterprise and economic freedom, and, with this progress, people can all see China's great potential. China has joined the World Trade Organization. A modern China will have a superb rule of law to govern commerce and secure the rights of its people.

The new China your generation is building will need the profound wisdom of your traditions.

(XI.) Behind China's economic success today are talented, brilliant, and energetic people. Tsinghua university is not simply training specialists, it is preparing citizens.

And citizens are not spectators in their affairs of their country, they're participants in its future.

country.

It was my honor to visit China in 1975 -- some of you weren't even born then. It shows how old I am. (Laughter.) And a lot has changed in your country since then. China has made amazing progress -- in openness and enterprise and economic freedom. And this progress previews China's a great potential. China has joined the World Trade Organization, and as you live up to its obligations, they inevitably will bring changes to China's legal system. A modern China will have a consistent rule of law to govern commerce and secure the rights of its people.

The new China your generation is building will need the profound wisdom of your traditions. The lure of materialism challenges our society -- challenges society in our country, and in many successful countries. Your ancient ethic of personal and family responsibility will serve you well.

Behind China's economic success today are talented, brilliant and energetic people. In the near future, those same men and women will play a full and active role in your government. This university is not simply turning out specialists, it is preparing citizens. And citizens are not spectators in the affairs of their country. They are participants in its future.

Change is coming. China is already having secret ballot and competitive elections at the local level.

Nearly 20 years ago, a great Chinese leader, Deng Xiaoping, said this -- I want you to hear his words. He said that China would eventually expand democratic elections all the way to the national level. I

China has an ancient tradition of religious tolerance.

China will attract the attention of and enrich the world.

Six years from now athletes from America and around the world will come to your country for the Olympic Games. I'm confident they will see a China that is becoming a strong country, a leading nation, a country at peace with the world.

Thank you for letting me come.

look forward to that day.

Tens of millions of Chinese today are relearning Buddhist, Taoist, and local religious traditions, or practicing Christianity, Islam, and other faiths.

Regardless of where or how these believers worship, they're no threat to public order; in fact, they make good citizens.

For centuries, this country has had a tradition of religious tolerance. My prayer is that all persecution will end, so that all in China are free to gather and worship as they wish.

All these changes will lead to a stronger, more confident China -- a China that can astonish and enrich the world, a China that your generation will help create. This is one of the most exciting times in the history of your country, a time when even the grandest hopes seem within your reach.

My nation offers you our respect and our friendship. Six years from now, athletes from America and around the world will come to your country for the Olympic games. And I'm confident they will find a China that is becoming a da guo, a leading nation, at peace with its people and at peace with the world.

Thank you for letting me come.
(Applause.)

布什总统清华大学讲话问答白宫与新华社发稿内容

新华社	White House Version
<p>Q: Will the TMD system cover Taiwan?</p> <p>PRESIDENT BUSH: Very good question. First of all, I want to compliment you on your English. Very good.</p> <p>I've had many discussions with Chinese leaders and each time I've reiterated our support for the "one-China" policy. Moreover, this has been my government's policy for a long period of time, and it hasn't changed.</p> <p>As to missile defenses, I have made it clear that this is a defensive system to help our allies and some other countries protect themselves from the attacks of rogue nations. We are currently in the process of developing a system, and don't know yet if it is possible.</p>	<p>PRESIDENT BUSH: I'll be glad to answer a few questions.</p> <p>Q Mr. President, yesterday I watched the press conference made by you and President Jiang Zemin. At the conference, you didn't clearly answer a question, which is a concern by almost everybody. It's why the TMD system will cover Taiwan. And what's more, whenever you talk about the Taiwan issue, you always use a phrase just like, peaceful settlement. You never use the phrase, peaceful reunification. What's the difference and why?</p> <p>PRESIDENT BUSH: Very good question. First of all, I want to compliment you on your English. Very good. I -- the first thing that is important on the Taiwan issue is that my government hopes there is a peaceful, as I said, dialogue, that there is a settlement to this issue; but it must be done in a peaceful way. That's why I keep emphasizing peaceful. And by the way, "peaceful" is a word intended for both parties; that neither party should provoke, that -. I --- we've had many discussions with your leaders and I've reiterated support for the one-China policy. It's been my government's policy for a long period of time, and I haven't changed it.</p> <p>I also -- in your question about missile defenses -- have made it clear that our nation will develop defenses to help our friends, our allies and others around the world protect ourselves from rogue nations that have the -- that are trying to develop weapons of mass destruction. To me, that is essential for peace in the world. We have yet to develop a system, and therefore,</p>

<p>Q I am a broadcasting student at Tsinghua University.</p> <p>I'd like to ask the President: Does the U.S. still remember its commitment to one billion, three hundred million Chinese people, namely, abiding by the three joint communiques and the three "nos"?</p> <p>PRESIDENT BUSH: Taiwan is a problem that everyone is very concerned about. I think I've already said very clearly that I hope that there will be a peaceful resolution in my lifetime, or in your lifetime.</p>	<p>that's exactly what I said yesterday, and it's the truth, where we're in the process of seeing if we can't develop a system. And I think it will bring more stability to the world than less.</p> <p>And let me just say one general comment that's very important for you to know, and it's also important for the people of my country to know, that my administration is committed to peacefully resolving issues around the world. We want the issues resolved in a peaceful manner. And we've got a lot of issues that we deal with. We're dealing in the Middle East. And if you follow the news, it's a very dangerous period of time there. We're working hard to bring peaceful resolution there. We're working hard to bring a peaceful resolution to Kashmir, which is important for China. And I recently went to Korea, and I made it very clear that we want to resolve the issues on the Korean peninsula in a peaceful way.</p> <p>Q It's a pity you still haven't given us -- sorry -- given us a clear question (sic) about why do you always use the "peaceful settlement," but you have never said "peaceful reunification." It's a pity. Because this is a question our Chinese people are extremely concerned about. Three days ago in your speech to the Japanese parliament you said that the US will still remember its commitment to Taiwan. But my question is, does the U.S. still remember its commitment to one billion, three hundred million Chinese people, namely, abiding by the three joint communiques and the three "nos"?</p> <p>PRESIDENT BUSH: Thank you very much. As I said, this seems to be a topic on people's mind, obviously. I can't say it any more clearly, that I am anxious that there be a peaceful resolution and -- that's</p>
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It will be an important milestone.

Q: I want to welcome you in your visit and thank you for coming to speak at our university. We can see that China and the United States have a wide future in technical and cultural exchanges. Now, in your wonderful speech just now, I noticed that you regard our university very highly. So my question is, if your two daughters have a chance to continue their studies, would you encourage them to come to Tsinghua University?

PRESIDENT BUSH: They don't listen to me any more! I think you know what I mean.

First of all, I hope they do come here because China is an amazing country. I visited China for the first time in 1975. It is hard for me to describe the tremendous transformation. My first time visiting China since I became President was my visit to Shanghai. I think my daughters, like many American students, would like to come and see China. So I think our student exchange program is very important. I think our nation must be welcoming to Chinese students who would like to go study in America. I think that would benefit Chinese students, but as

going to require both parties to come to a solution. And that's what I mean by peaceful dialogue. And it is -- I hope it happens in my lifetime, and I hope it happens in yours. It will make -- it will be an important milestone.

And secondly, when my country makes an agreement, we stick with it. And there is called the Taiwan Relations Act, and I honor that act, which says we will help Taiwan defend herself, if provoked. But we've also sent the same message that there should be no provocation by either party -- for a peaceful dialogue.

Q: Mr. President, I am a student coming from the School of Economics and Management in Xinhua University. As we can see, China and the United States have a bright future in scientific and cultural exchanges. Now -- just now, you have made warm remarks about our universities. So my question is, if possible, do you -- will you be happy to encourage your daughters to study in our university? Thank you.

PRESIDENT BUSH: I -- I'm afraid they don't listen to me any more! If you know what I mean.

Let me -- first of all, I am -- I hope they do come here. It is an amazing country. You know, as I said, I was here in 1975. It is hard for me to describe the difference. It is an amazing transformation. I first saw that in Shanghai earlier this fall -- or last fall. And they would benefit from coming here, as would a lot of other United States students. I think our student exchange program is very important. I think our nation must be welcoming to Chinese students who would like to go study in America. I think that would benefit the students, but as importantly, would benefit

importantly, it would benefit American students.

If we get to know one another, spend time talking to one another, than both sides can arrive at a deeper understanding. This is in our interest, because there are some issues in our relationship that we don't see 100 percent the same. But if we can have a better understanding of other people, better mutual understanding, it is possible that we can have a better discussion of these disagreements and problems.

I know that China has a grand history of honoring family and the elderly.

I wish my country also had such a tradition.

When students get to know each other, they learn each other's values, and that is in the interest of world peace.

American students. It's so important for people to realize in both our countries that we're dealing with human beings that have got desires and loves and frustrations. Even old citizens like me and the vice president can benefit by spending time getting to know each other. Obviously, there are some issues in our relationship that we don't see 100 percent -- don't have 100 percent agreement on. But it is so much better to discuss these issues after you get to know a person, as a person. We're human beings, first and foremost. There are just some important characteristics that are real.

And you mentioned -- you know, I talked about my families in my speech. Family is just such an important, integral part of any society, and China has got a grand history of honoring family that is an important tradition, an important part of your culture. And you know, I hope my country, as well, has a -- is known for a strong tradition of family. That -- that's a concept that's not owned by a particular country; it is universal. And when students get to know each other, they learn the universality of many values, and that's going to be important for peace in the world.

Q Mr. President, I'm a student from Center for International Communication Studies. Well, your younger brother, Neil Bush, visited our university just before last Christmas, and he mentioned that there are many Americans, especially politicians, have a lot of misunderstandings about China. So just like -- just as our vice president Hu Jintao and you mentioned, you all want to make efforts to promote the Sino-American relationship to go ahead smoothly. So my question is, being the president of the United States, will it take some action to promote the contacts and exchanges between the two countries,

PRESIDENT BUSH:

First of all, my trip here -- -- and my discussion here helps promote -- people in my country are paying attention to my visit here. And it should interest you that last time I came to Shanghai first and only a short while later I've come to Beijing this winter. Coming to China twice, in a very brief period of time, should say something about how important our relationship is to me.

It's important for American political leaders to come to China, and I think many have, and more ought to come. I think if they could come to China and look around, then their descriptions of China would be more accurate when they return home. When I go back to America, I will tell them that China is a great nation, a nation that not only has a great history but also a great future.

Q Hello, Mr. President Your younger brother, Neil Bush, visited our university just before last Christmas, and he mentioned that there are many Americans, especially politicians, who have a lot of misunderstandings about China. So as both you and our vice president Hu Jintao mentioned, both countries want to promote the development of a healthy Sino-American relationship and more people to people contacts. So my question is, as the president of the United States, what specific actions will you take to promote the contacts and exchanges between the peoples of the two countries?

Many people in my country are very interested in China. They come not only to

between the peoples at all different levels? Thank you.

PRESIDENT BUSH: Well, thank you. That's a very good question -- Well, first of all, my trip here -- -- and my discussion here helps promote -- people in my country are paying attention to my visit here. And it's -- and it should interest you that I was here in the fall, and I'm back here again in the winter. Twice, in a very brief period of time. That should say something about the importance of our relationships.

It's important for our political leaders to come to China. And I know many have, and more ought to come. It's important for the rhetoric, when we describe what we've seen, to be accurate and real. And when I go back home, I describe a great nation, a nation that's not only got a great history but an unbelievably exciting future.

(The Question on the left appears above in the Federal News Service Transcript).

Many people in my country are very interested in China, and many come, as you know. They come to not only see the

see the beautiful countryside, but to learn more about the culture and the people. And we've got to continue to encourage travel between both our countries.

But I think an opportunity to make a huge difference in the world's impression of China is your hosting of the Olympics. This is an incredible opportunity because at that time people from all over the world will come to China. They won't just see the games, they will also see China's modernization. And it won't just be those who come, people around the world will see it on TV. So I think it makes sense to give Beijing the Olympics in 2008.

Q Mr. President, you came to China in 1975. In the past twenty years, you have mentioned that China has changed a lot. Aside from economic progress, have you noticed any other improvements in Chinese society?

PRESIDENT BUSH: Let me tell you the thing I've noticed the most, and of course it has a little to do with the economy, and that is that there has been change of attitudes across the whole society, because in 1975, everybody wore the same clothes.

Now, people pick their own clothes. Just look here on the front row, everybody's dressed differently. You wear what you want. For example, you made the decision to wear a beautiful red sweater. You'll say I made this decision. And when you take the initiative to make a decision, other people will follow you in making their own decisions.

beautiful countryside, but they come to learn more about the culture and the people. And we've got to continue to encourage travel between both our countries.

But you know what's going to really make significant difference in the world understanding of your great country is the Olympics. It is. It's going to be a chance for people from all over the world not only to come and visit and to stay in the hotels and to see the modernization that's taken place, but everybody in the world is going to watch it on TV too. And it's going to be a great opportunity. And I think -- and that's one of the reasons why I think it makes sense to give Beijing the Olympics in 2008.

Q Mr. President, you have been to China in 1975, and you have mentioned just now, there are a lot of changes in the Chinese society. And besides the progress in economy, have you noticed any other social progress in the Chinese society?

PRESIDENT BUSH: Well, I appreciate that. Let me tell you my most notable -- the thing I've noticed the most, and it has to do with the economy, but it also has to do with a different attitude toward the people. In 1975, everybody wore the same clothes.

Now, people pick their own clothes. Just look here on the front row, everybody's dressed differently. Because you thought, this is what you wanted. You made the decision to wear a beautiful red sweater. And when you made that decision, somebody made it.

And, in other words, the person, the individual, the demand for a product influences the production, as opposed to the other way around. Recognizing the desires of the individual in the marketplace

So you can understand why in comparing 1975 to today, I would be so amazed at the change China has undergone. And I want to add one sentence: It is a change for the better.

I'll answer one more question, then I've

PRESIDENT BUSH:

I want to tell you that that violent crime in America has already started to decline. But any crime is too much crime. Anytime somebody is violent toward their neighbor, it's unacceptable. America truly has many people living in poverty. But our government is spending a lot of money helping these poor, and I hope that in the future they will be able to help themselves.

Q I enjoyed your autobiography, and in it you wrote about some social problems in the U.S. today, like the violence on campuses, juvenile delinquency, and child poverty. But I've heard that a former student at Tsinghua University studying in the US was murdered last year. This kind of violence has become more and more common in American society and also more and more serious. As president, do you have a plan to improve human rights?

is part of a free society. It is a part of the definition of freedom. And I see that as the most significant change that I can see, besides the new buildings and all the construction. But the most important thing is the human dimension of freeing people to decide for themselves. And with that freedom comes other freedoms. So you can understand why the transformation from my memory of 1975 to today is significant. I mean, it is an amazing change -- for the better, I might add.

I'll answer one more question, then I've got to go have lunch with your president. Yes, sir, in the blue.

(The opposite response is part of the response to the below question in the Federal News Service Transcript.)

Q Thank you, Mr. Bush. Thank you, Mr. President, for giving me the last chance to ask you a question. I have read your autobiography, and in it you wrote about some social problems in the U.S. today, just like the violence in campus and the juvenile delinquency and such as the children in poverty. And we know -- I start to know a former schoolmate of our university, Tsinghua, and he studied in U.S.A. and was killed last year. And I feel so sad. And I know this kind of -- this kind of crime has become more and more serious in today U.S. As the president, do you have any good plan to improve the human rights today in the U.S.? Thank you.

PRESIDENT BUSH:

(See next page)

PRESIDENT BUSH: Sure. Well, first of all, I'm proud to report that violent crime actually is going down. But 'crime is too much crime. I mean, anytime somebody is violent toward their neighbor, it's too much violence. And there's no question, we've got people living in poverty. But, as I mentioned, our government is very generous in the amounts of money we spend trying to help people help themselves. When we all campaign for office, one of the big debates is how best to help people help themselves. Foreign policy is an important part of our campaigns, of course -- at least for president -- but the American voter really is more focused on domestic politics, what's happening at home, as you can imagine. If the economy is soft, like ours is now, they want to know what's going to happen -- what are you doing about the economy? If the economy's good, then they don't talk much about the economy.

But always we talk about two key issues to address your problem. One is welfare; how do we structure a welfare system that helps people in need, and in my judgment, should not make them dependent upon their government. And the other big issue is education. It's always a not only important part of campaigns, but it's an important part of being -- once you're in office.

When I was the governor of Texas, I used to always say, an educated child is one less likely to commit a crime. As a governor, and now as president, I have spent a lot of time working with members of both political parties to develop an education plan that starts making sure children learn before they just get shuffled through the system.

One of the saddest facts about my country

One of the saddest facts about my country is that there are a significant number of fourth grade students who cannot read at grade level. Imagine a child who can't read in the fourth grade is a child that's not going to be able to read in the eighth grade. And if a child can't read in the eighth grade, it's likely that child's not going to be able to read sufficiently when they get out of high school, and therefore won't be able to go to college. Allowed to continue, that situation puts America on the road to ruin.

I believe education is the best anti-crime program. It's important to enforce the law. It's important to hold people accountable for their actions. It is important to have consistent policy that says, if you harm somebody, there will be a punishment for that harm. So it is in the best interests of my country, that is, the long-term solution is to make sure everyone (TEXT IS CUT OFF)

(Transcript ends with Vice President Hu Jintao's closing remarks.)

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So as part of an education bill I managed to get through Congress last year, we've got a significant reading initiative, where we'll work with the states and the local jurisdictions to focus on an education program that emphasizes reading. This year I hope to work with my wife and others on a early childhood development program, so the youngsters get the building blocks to learn how to read.

I'm actually working my way to your question, I promise you. Because education is the best anti-crime program. It's important to enforce law. It's important to hold people accountable for their actions. It is important to have consistent policy that says, if you harm somebody, there will be a punishment for that harm. But in the best interests for my country, the long-term solution is to make sure the education system works for everybody. And when that happens, there will be a more hopeful future for people, and there will be less poverty, less hopelessness, and less crime.

Listen, thank you for letting me come. God bless you all.

Coverage of Bush's Speech Elsewhere in the Chinese Press from New China News Agency Wire Reports

Version 1

In his speech, Bush first reviewed the development of US-Sino relations, mentioning the meeting of the two countries' leaders thirty years ago that ended decades of estrangement and formed the basis for bilateral contacts and cooperation. He said, Since my first visit in 1975, China has undergone a tremendous transformation, China is now becoming one of the most dynamic and creative societies in the world. China is rising, and America welcomes a China that is strong and prosperous. Bush explained the relationship between the American government's legislative, judicial and executive branches, and also discussed his own family and religious beliefs, as well as his views on immigration, and combating terrorism. Bush hopes to improve and strengthen educational and cultural exchanges, and increase cooperation between Tsinghua University and American universities. Afterwards, Bush answered the questions of Tsinghua University students.

Version 2

In his speech, Bush first reviewed the development of US-Sino relations. He said, China is now becoming one of the most dynamic and creative societies in the world. China is rising, and America welcomes a China that is strong and prosperous. Bush explained the relationship between the American government's legislative, judicial and executive branches, and also discussed his own family and religious beliefs, as well as his views on immigration, and combating terrorism.

Version 3

In his speech, Bush said, since my first visit in 1975, China has undergone a tremendous transformation, China is now becoming one of the most dynamic and creative societies in the world. China is rising, and America welcomes a China that is strong and prosperous. Bush explained the relationship between the American government's legislative, judicial and executive branches, and also discussed his own family and religious beliefs, as well as his views on immigration, and combating terrorism. Bush hopes to improve and strengthen educational and cultural exchanges, and increase cooperation between Tsinghua University and American universities. Afterwards, Bush answered the questions of Tsinghua University students.