

The China Equation

24/11 How Hu's US visit looks from India 11-18

PRESIDENTS Bush and Hu Jintao emerged from their summit in Washington looking more like cautious business partners than the best of friends. While both acknowledged the importance of the US-China relationship, it is clear that areas of friction between the two countries survived the bonhomie of the summit. From the American point of view the economic relationship is marred by a yawning \$200 billion annual trade deficit between the two sides, and the related issue of freeing up China's currency so that its value rises. But Hu offered only vague promises on this, without committing to concrete action. Neither was the gap closed on many of the other issues bedeviling the relationship — whether they be human rights, Chinese military spending, Taiwan, getting Iran to abandon its nuclear programme, putting pressure on North Korea to return to the talks table. The gap showed not only on substantive matters but also in cultural terms. The Chinese, who are conscious of protocol, are miffed that Bush did not honour Hu with a full-fledged state dinner. Bush likes to get to know world leaders informally and invited Hu to his Texas ranch for that reason, but Hu turned down the offer.

How does India figure in all this? As prime minister Manmohan Singh pointed out to an American correspondent "we are not developing our relationship with the US at the cost of our relationship with China, which is our neighbour and with which our trade is growing at a handsome rate". But given the many problems dogging the US-China relationship New Delhi ought to point out to Washington that India lacks some of China's disadvantages, and its concerns should be given at least as much weight as Beijing's. Unlike China India is not a nuclear proliferator, therefore the US-India nuclear deal should go through. China's lack of transparency makes it almost impossible to figure out the value of its currency, but the same is not true of the rupee. Currently the volume of US-China trade is more than 10 times that of trade between the US and India, but Washington should direct more trade and investments India's way. Parity with China should also mean, eventually, a place for India among the permanent members of the UN Security Council. New Delhi can ask Washington to balance its China equation by having both India and China emerge as significant players in Asia.

24 ADD 2006

THE TIMES OF INDIA

More Hu-pla than harmony

Heckler, Protests, Gaffes Mar Hu's Summit Meeting With Bush

By Chidanand Rajghatta/TNN

Washington: A prickly heckler, a raft of protests, and a protocol gaffe marred Chinese President Hu Jintao's summit meeting with US President George W Bush that resulted in no agreements and plenty of misgivings.

Hu's first official visit to the US, and the first by a Chinese leader after Jiang Zemin's state visit in 1997, was meant to showcase China's growing might and ability to parlay on equal terms with the United States. Instead, stormy protests and longstanding peeves only succeeded in highlighting the chasm between the two countries.

The most embarrassing moment came during the welcome ceremony on the White House lawns when a woman belonging to the religious sect Falun Gong, which is banned in China, began heckling Hu in the middle of his remarks. "President Hu! Your days are numbered," she shouted. "President Bush! Stop him from killing!"

A startled Hu paused and looked up even as Bush, perhaps used to such heckling, muttered to him, "You're okay."

To compound the incident, the Chinese national anthem at the welcome ceremony was introduced as the anthem of the Republic of China (which is what Taiwan is called) instead of that of the People's Republic of China, which is Beijing's moniker.

Then, even as the anthem finished, Hu was about to step down from the podium when Bush grabbed him by the sleeve because the ceremony was not over yet. That became the photo and video-clip of the day.

The incidents evidently upset the Chinese, who are very conscious of ceremony and protocol, though US officials claimed they took it gracefully. The US side later said Bush, angry at his own aides for the lapses, apologised to Hu when they sat down in the Oval Office. "This was unfortunate, and I'm sorry this happened," Bush was quoted as saying.

Domestic critics of Washington's China policy roasted Bush



THIS IS FOR YOU, MR HU: A Chinese-American journalist shows a banner at the White House ceremony, protesting against the 'suppression' of Falun Gong members in China

China willing to clean up rights record

Washington: Hu Jintao indicated at the summit with George W Bush that China will make advances on human rights in coming weeks, a senior US official said.

Stephen Hadley, the president's national security adviser, told CNN TV that Bush had presented Hu a list of "about six persons who are in detention in China that he hoped would be released."

Asked whether the president made any progress on the human rights issue with Hu, the national security adviser recalled that the Bush administration has been raising the issue for some time, as well as other issues, such as free-

dom of religion.

"There are a couple things that the Chinese have indicated they will—will be trying to do in the weeks ahead," he said. Hadley noted that Hu, in comments to the press after his restricted meeting with Bush, had "talked, actually, about freedom and democracy in China and movement in that direction."

Asked if the Chinese leader had offered a specific decision involving human rights, Hadley said, "There are six things we asked them to do. They have indicated they are prepared to do three of them after this visit."

He declined to elaborate. AFP

for apologising to Hu, arguing he should have stood up and told him, "This is America; Let the woman speak."

But administration officials felt that while protests were legitimate, such an incident at a White House ceremony was unbecoming and could lead to Chinese suspicions about whether it was allowed to be staged. In fact, through the day, protests

raged across the street from the White House and near a hotel where Hu delivered a speech.

Describing the incident as a "blip", National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley went on CNN to say it was not the intent of Bush to invite the Chinese leader to the White House and embarrass him. "It was a journalist who decided to make the news rather than report it... the

Chinese delegation understood it and took it gracefully," he said.

The protests all but drowned out what little substance there was to the summit meetings. While such an incident would have been par for course in free societies like the US or India, this one was blanked out by the Chinese media, which reportedly cut live transmission to Beijing during the crucial minutes.

washingtonpost.com

U.S., China Stand Together but Are Not Equal

By Glenn Kessler
Washington Post Staff Writer
Friday, April 21, 2006; A18

On the surface, the White House visit of Chinese President Hu Jintao yesterday was a celebration of improving Sino-U.S. ties. But the subtext was the future -- and how these two countries will share the international stage.

At every turn, Hu sought to stress the equality between the two nations, which, as he put it in a luncheon toast, are the "largest developing country and the largest developed country." Speaking to reporters after his meeting with President Bush, he said an "important agreement" was reached: "Under the new circumstances, given the international situation here, that China and the United States share extensive, common strategic interests."

For his part, Bush tried to signal that China is not all that equal. The White House would not grant Hu the state dinner he dearly wanted, offering instead a lunch that fell just short of the pomp and circumstance for close allies. Meeting with reporters, Bush simply said, "It's a very important relationship."

How the relationship evolves from this point is unclear. China's foreign policy now is influenced mainly by domestic considerations, especially its desperate need for energy and materials. While the Bush administration has been distracted by the war against terrorism and the invasion of Iraq, the Chinese have forged trade links around the world, even in South America, supposedly U.S. turf.

This trade has begun to give the Chinese enormous influence in many parts of the world, especially Southeast Asia. In the past year, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has sought to counter that influence, pursuing for instance a nuclear agreement with India that could result in much closer links with New Delhi, long a rival of China. Administration officials insist that they are not trying to box China in, but want it to use its influence in productive, non-threatening ways.

In the view of administration officials, China's rise will always be tempered by its poor human-rights record and the Communist Party's unwillingness to release its grip on political power.

Yet any notion that the two countries are fierce rivals is belied by the corporate executives who were invited to the lunch at the White House, including the chiefs of Cisco Systems, International Paper, Amway, Lucent Technologies, Cargill, Caterpillar and Motorola. An additional 900 people attended a dinner in Hu's honor last night sponsored by the U.S.-China Business Council and other organizations, where he urged that China and the United States "respect each other and treat each other as equals."

The contrasting ideas about the modern U.S.-China relationship were reflected in how the two leaders used language yesterday, including the word "stakeholder." Words are very important to the Chinese

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government -- much of Bush's conversation with Hu consisted of reciting stock phrases on such issues such as Taiwan, an aide said -- and nuance usually has a purpose and design.

Greeting Hu on the White House lawn, Bush said, "As stakeholders in the international system, our two nations share many strategic interests."

Bush's use of the word "stakeholder" was deliberate. For the past six months, the administration -- especially Deputy Secretary of State Robert B. Zoellick -- has urged China to become a "responsible stakeholder" in the international system, meaning that it shed its habit of looking at the world through its narrow commercial interests and instead take a broader view. In particular, U.S. officials want China to curtail its dealings with countries such as Iran and Sudan as a way to alter the behavior of those countries.

At the luncheon, Hu also mentioned the concept of the stakeholder, but he framed it differently, again appearing to place China on an equal level with the United States. "China and the United States are not only stakeholders, but they should also be constructive partners -- be parties of constructive cooperation."

A key test of that partnership will be how China reacts to U.S. efforts to counter the development of Iran's nuclear program -- and whether it can force its patron North Korea to return to six-nation talks on ending its nuclear ambitions. Hu suggested China wants to work with the Bush administration on those issues, but he also urged "flexibility" on North Korea -- Chinese code for the desire that the United States make concessions.

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April 20, 2006

China's Leader, in Seattle, Tells U.S. Not to Dwell on Divisive Issues

By JOSEPH KAHN

SEATTLE, April 19 — Gamely donning a Boeing baseball cap and mingling enthusiastically with local business executives, President Hu Jintao of China said Wednesday that his nation and the United States "enjoy extensive common interests" and could avoid major problems in their relationship if they "avoid politicizing" the issues that divide them.

Mr. Hu, on the second day of his first visit to the United States as China's top leader, continued a charm offensive directed mainly at commercial interests and offered an overview of economic relations that broke little new ground but displayed a prodigious memory for statistical data.

In a lunchtime address to 600 local officials and business leaders at a Boeing plant in Everett, Wash., Mr. Hu, only occasionally consulting his notes, recited the number of fixed-line telephone users in China (740 million), the installed capacity of nuclear power plants there (30,000 megawatts), China's export volume in 2005 (\$1.4221 trillion) and the number of foreign-invested enterprises that have set up shop there since 1979 (530,000, including 49,000 linked to the United States), as examples of the boundless opportunities the two countries share.

He will meet President Bush at the White House on Thursday. While their talks are likely to cover a variety of topics, including the Iranian nuclear program, religious freedom and energy policy, Mr. Hu on Wednesday mainly took aim at a recent surge of protectionist pressure in Congress and defended the mutual benefits of open trade.

He cited research conducted by the American Chamber of Commerce in Beijing and Morgan Stanley, the investment bank, that he said underscored how trade with China was overwhelmingly beneficial to the United States.

"According to Morgan Stanley, in 2004 alone, high-quality yet inexpensive Chinese goods saved U.S. consumers \$100 billion, and trading with China created over four million jobs in the United States," he said. "The fast-growing bilateral business ties have delivered great benefits to our peoples."

Mr. Hu acknowledged that some problems existed in ties between the countries, calling them "hardly avoidable." But unlike the Bush administration, which has laid out concerns about China's military spending, currency policy and quest for oil in considerable detail, Mr. Hu offered mostly oratorical platitudes.

He did not signal that he planned to reach major new accords with Mr. Bush. He stood firm on China's management of its currency, repeating the now standard line that Beijing intends to keep the exchange rate "basically stable," even as he promised to move toward greater flexibility down the road. The Bush administration and Congressional leaders have said the yuan is greatly undervalued and gives China an artificial trade advantage.

"China and the United States are fully capable of settling the problems that have occurred in the course of business growth and keeping their business relations on a sound track," Mr. Hu said.

Earlier in the day, he met a group of Chinese and American former officials and scholars who were convened in Seattle to discuss Chinese-American relations and China's rising power.

Although the participants included former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger; William J. Perry, a former secretary of defense; and many other notables from both countries, Mr. Hu delivered a few remarks about China's "peaceful development" strategy and did not engage in any dialogue, participants said.

At the Boeing lunch, he selected two written questions from a pile submitted by people in the audience, both of which turned out to be gently worded requests for him to expand on his vision for bilateral ties.

Before his lunch speech, Mr. Hu toured the Boeing site in a golf cart, met privately with company executives and visited a mock-up of the Boeing 787 Dreamliner, a next-generation airplane. China has said it will buy 60 of the new twin-engine, widebody jets, becoming what Boeing calls a "launch customer" for the line of aircraft.

As he did at Microsoft on Tuesday, Mr. Hu turned on the charm when talking about China's enthusiasm for Boeing products. He sounded at times like a Boeing salesman, rattling off statistics about past deliveries and current orders for Boeing planes, the number of Boeing aircraft Chinese airlines now fly, 542, and the amount of money China has spent buying Boeing planes since Richard Nixon's historic visit in 1972, \$37 billion.

"Boeing is a household name in China," Mr. Hu said. "When Chinese people fly, it is mostly in a Boeing plane. I'm pleased to say that I came to the United States on a Boeing plane."

Mr. Hu actually arrived in Seattle on Tuesday and flew to Washington on Wednesday from Paine Field, Boeing's private airport. His Air China 747-400 stood on the tarmac outside the Future of Flight museum where he spoke at lunch.

Alan R. Mulally, president of Boeing's commercial aircraft division, introduced Mr. Hu to a group of 5,000 Boeing workers in an event that had the aura of a pep rally. After Mr. Hu made a glowing tribute to Boeing's tradition of innovation, Mr. Mulally said simply, "China rocks."

Leslie Wayne contributed reporting for this article.

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Bush-Hu Meeting To Highlight Role That China Plays

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In the case of Iran, China has frequently joined with Russia to thwart the tougher action sought by the United States at the United Nations. Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Dai Bingguo, standing on the same stage as Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice at a news conference in Berlin, rejected the idea of sanctions last month, saying that "there has already been enough turmoil in the Middle East."

The U.N. Security Council demanded that Iran halt its uranium enrichment activities by April 28, and instead Iran's president announced last week that the Islamic republic had reached a new technological milestone. Talks held in Moscow this week by diplomats for the permanent members of the council and Germany yielded no consensus on the next steps.

The U.S. official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said the discussions today will be an "opportune moment" for the two presidents to discuss Iran, with Bush planning to outline to Hu how he hopes to proceed against Tehran. Speaking to reporters Tuesday, Bush stressed that "we want to solve this issue diplomatically," but he pointedly refused to rule out using nuclear weapons to destroy underground Iranian nuclear facilities if diplomacy failed.

In his talks with the Chinese,

Enlarge This Photo



Chinese President Hu Jintao, left, spoke to Boeing Co. employees led by Executive Vice President Alan R. Mulally at a factory in Everett, Wash. (By Elaine Thompson -- Associated Press)

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, AT 11: 00 A.M. ET

Chinese President Makes Visit to U.S.
Washington Post staff writer Edward Cody,

Zoellick has suggested that Iran's acquisition of a nuclear weapon would destabilize the Middle East and would probably raise the cost of crude oil, directly affecting Chinese interests. Chinese officials privately told Zoellick in January that they share with the United States the same principles on Iran but that they may differ on tactics. Now, U.S. officials are hoping that Hu will publicly declare this week that China wants to work cooperatively with the United States to stop Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons.

On North Korea, China remains Pyongyang's key economic and political patron and has played a crucial role in hosting six-nation talks to resolve the impasse over that country's nuclear programs. But the talks have stalled, and U.S. officials have felt frustrated that China has been reluctant to use its leverage to force North Korea to return to the talks. Generally, China -- concerned about the potential collapse of North Korea -- has enticed Pyongyang with inducements, such as a new glass factory, rejecting U.S. efforts to cut off oil supplies or take other negative measures.

"What we are urging the Chinese to recognize is that they need to be more than a mediator" on North Korea, Zoellick said at a public forum on Monday.

Hu is very formal, but U.S. officials hope to build on his personal relationship with Bush.

In April 2003, shortly after Hu ascended to the top post, Bush ended a phone conversation by telling him he was a strong leader and doing a good job. It was one of Bush's standard lines -- later made famous when he used it to laud one of his top aides after the Hurricane

who is based in Beijing, answers questions about the visit of Chinese President Hu Jintao to the U.S. to discuss trade and relations between the two countries.

PHOTOS



Chinese President Begins U.S. Trip
Chinese President Hu Jintao arrives in the Pacific Northwest, where trade issues have been carefully massaged in recent days to put a cheery face on China's chronic problems with software piracy, an undervalued currency and a soaring trade surplus with the United States.

CHINESE PRESIDENT BEGINS U.S. TRIP

Bush-Hu Meeting to Highlight Role That China Plays

Upbeat on Trade, Hu Offers No New Fixes for Imbalance

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Bush-Hu Meeting To Highlight Role That China Plays

Iran, North Korea at Top of the Agenda

By Glenn Kessler
Washington Post Staff Writer
Thursday, April 20, 2006; A20

When President Bush sits down with Chinese President Hu Jintao this morning in the Oval Office, some of the biggest foreign policy challenges facing the United States will be on the table, including the nuclear ambitions of Iran and North Korea.

Increasingly, administration officials believe, the key to these issues and other overseas problems may lie in Beijing, a reflection of the pivotal position China has come to play on the international stage.

China, consumed with domestic problems at home and eager for stability overseas, has long resisted playing a leading role in foreign policy. But, especially in the past year, the Bush administration has pressed China to shed its traditional neutrality and take a more aggressive stance against governments that U.S. officials believe could potentially threaten U.S. interests and, more broadly, the international system.

"In both Iran and North Korea, China has a very serious role to play, and in some ways is the pivot for whether we're successful in dealing with those problems," said Michael J. Green, until December senior director for Asia policy at the White House and now senior adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "Hu will be under some pressure to say something and to signal, not only domestically here but to those countries, that China's patience is wearing thin."

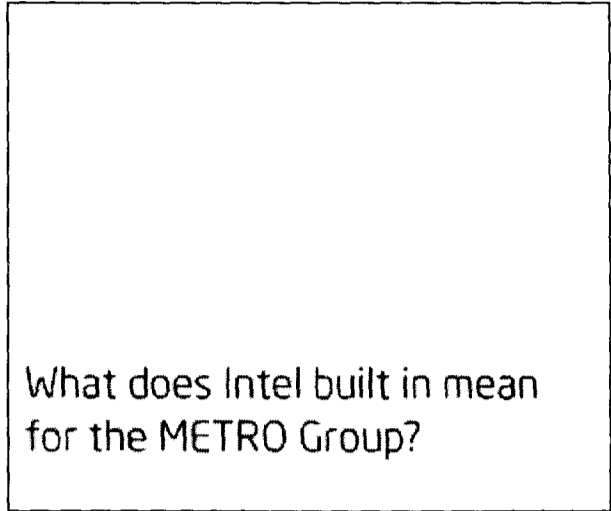
Besides providing help on Iran and North Korea, China could assist in a range of other administration priorities, including ending the deadly conflict in Sudan's Darfur region and putting pressure on the military dictatorship in Burma. But Chinese support for U.S. goals has thus far fallen short of the administration's expectations, in part because China's urgent energy needs have often trumped any concerns about the unsavory nature of other governments.

"While they recognize they are a growing international force, I believe the Chinese of today are pretty absorbed with their domestic development," Deputy Secretary of State Robert B. Zoellick, the administration's point person on China, told a small group of reporters last week. "Will the China of 10 to 15 years from now have a similar view? I can't say."

China's foreign policy has traditionally stressed maintaining the status quo. But in recent months, administration officials have begun to emphasize to the Chinese that with greater economic power comes greater international responsibility. Zoellick, in a major speech last September, said that though the United States had once tried to rein in the Soviet Union, it now wanted to draw out China and integrate it into the international system.

China, Zoellick said, should become a "responsible stakeholder," willing to tackle broad international

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concerns as any great power would.

Zoellick's phrase at first thoroughly confused the Chinese leadership because it could not be easily translated into Chinese. Officials nervously approached White House officials to understand whether Zoellick's speech was positive or negative, U.S. officials said. The Chinese now appear to realize that Zoellick's speech was intended to be positive -- but with an edge.

"They finally understand what Zoellick was getting at, and that it is the new benchmark for the relationship" said David L. Shambaugh, director of the China policy program at George Washington University. "Sitting on the fence will be judged negatively by the United States."

The Chinese have made it clear that "this is their most important foreign policy relationship," a senior U.S. official said. Administration officials hope to exploit that sentiment as they try to prod China to work with the United States on a range of issues.

Hu, who toured a Boeing Co. aircraft plant yesterday in Everett, Wash., will be greeted with a 21-gun salute on the White House lawn this morning and feted by Bush at a lunch for 200 guests. When he arrived in Seattle on Tuesday, Hu said China and the United States "share common strategic interests in a wide range of areas, particularly in maintaining world peace, promoting global economic growth, combating terrorism and preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction."

In the case of Iran, China has frequently joined with Russia to thwart the tougher action sought by the United States at the United Nations. Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Dai Bingguo, standing on the same stage as Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice at a news conference in Berlin, rejected the idea of sanctions last month, saying that "there has already been enough turmoil in the Middle East."

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Hu, Bush can't find common ground

There Is No Word If They Discussed US' Nuclear Deal With India

By Chidanand Rajghatta/TNN

Washington: Aside the fact that there was only a working lunch instead of a black-tie dinner banquet that marks a state visit, the summit meeting between US President George Bush and Chinese leader Hu Jintao offered slim pickings for analysts foraging for breakthrough news on one of the most crucial relationships in the 21st century.

There were no agreements, no fact sheets, not even as joint statement as leaders of the world's two most prominent if not powerful nations met amid a rapidly changing geo-political environment. In their three engagements together—the welcome ceremony, the luncheon and the photo-up—the two leaders indulged in subtle diplomatic thrust and parry, neither conceding much from established positions.

Bush's wish-list included getting Chinese support in cornering Iran, denuclearising North Korea, and extracting trade and finance compromises from China, which has racked up a trillion dollar surplus in US treasury bills,



government bonds and exports. All he got was vague promises and offers to work cooperatively on all issues.

US officials later said Washington

had presented six demands to China of which the Chinese had promised to consider three. They declined to identify the demands.

Meanwhile, Hu, evidently miffed by protests and protocol lapses, griped indirectly about US sustenance to Taiwan that has kept what it calls a renegade province to remain free outside its control. "We have the utmost sincerity to strive for the prospect of peaceful reunification. This being said, we will by no means allow Taiwan independence," Hu said at a brief media powwow in the White House as Bush sat shoe-tapping beside him.

There was no word if the two sides discussed the US-India nuclear deal which would put New Delhi on par with Beijing in terms of access to civilian nuclear technology.

Bush also did not get anything from Hu on actions against Iran, with whom China has a close and burgeoning economic and military relationship, or against North Korea, Beijing neighbourhood stooge, and hedge against US allies Japan and South Korea.

23 APR 2006

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Bush, Hu seek to surmount rifts

To work together to resolve international problems



A RAFT OF ISSUES: Chinese President Hu Jintao with his U.S. counterpart George Bush at the White House on Thursday. — PHOTO: AP

WASHINGTON: U.S. President George W. Bush and his Chinese counterpart Hu Jintao pledged on Thursday to narrow differences over a raft of issues and work together to resolve international problems such as the row over Iran's nuclear programme.

The two leaders made their remarks at the start of a summit expected to focus on trade and currency frictions, China's military buildup, human rights, Taiwan and nuclear non-proliferation.

"We will address our differences in the spirit of mutual respect," Mr. Bush said. "We made progress in building a relationship that is candid and cooperative, and President Hu's visit will further that progress".

"We intend to deepen our cooperation in addressing threats to global security, including the nuclear ambitions of Iran, the genocide in Darfur, Sudan, the violence unleashed by terrorists and extremists and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction."

Mr. Hu responded, "I have come to enhance dialogues, expand common ground, deepen mutual trust and cooperation, and promote the growth of constructive and cooperative China-U.S. relations in the 21st century."

The Americans pulled out the ceremonial stops as Mr. Hu arrived for the first summit since Mr. Bush travelled to China in November.

A 21-gun salute boomed across the White House lawn on a bright spring morning and Mr. Hu was greeted by a military band and American Revolutionary-era fifes and drum corps.

But there was one discordant note as a protester from the Falun Gong spiritual movement, standing amid the press corps, raised slogans as Mr. Hu spoke. She was hauled away while Mr. Bush looked on, visibly embarrassed.

Mr. Hu's trip came amid mounting concern in Washington over China's growing military and economic clout and increasing influence in regions from Asia to Africa to Latin America.

Support

But it also highlighted the extent to which the Bush administration was counting on Chinese support to help solve a range of international issues, notably the nuclear ambitions of Iran and North Korea.

China has been one of the major opponents of a U.S. push to seek tough U.N. action against Iran for its suspected bid to build a nuclear bomb. Beijing is also key to multinational efforts to rein in North Korea's nuclear programme.

"We are ready to continue to work with the U.S. side and other parties concerned to peacefully resolve the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula and Iranian nuclear issue through diplomatic negotiations," Mr. Hu said. — AFP

Dinner with world's richest man opens US gates for Hu

ASSOCIATED Press
Washington, April 19

CHINESE PRESIDENT Hu Jintao began his four-day US tour on Tuesday evening in Washington state. He had dinner with Bill Gates, head of software giant Microsoft, and the world's richest man. On Wednesday, he dropped in at a Boeing jet plant

He now heads for Washington for his lunch date at the White House on Thursday. But US President George W. Bush faces a delicate political balancing act when he welcomes Hu to the White House: seeking China's help to end nuclear stand-offs in Iran and North Korea, while urging changes to economic, military and political policies that critics say hurt US interests.

For Bush, the success of Hu's visit will be judged largely by whatever concessions Washington wins on a long list of complaints. Those include allegations that China mistreats its citizens, that an undervalued currency hampers US competition,

that China's growing military strength could lead to conflict in the Taiwan Strait, and that Beijing has pursued energy deals with countries the United States considers tyrannical.

For Hu, the visit provides a chance to burnish China's image at a time.

The strain in relations is perhaps most evident in the furore in Congress over China's economic policies, which, critics say, contributed to the United States' record \$202 billion trade deficit with China last year.

Senator Lindsey Graham reflected a growing sentiment among lawmakers last month when he blasted Beijing as a "government without a conscience," intent on manipulating its currency to the detriment of American producers and allowing widespread piracy of copyrighted US goods.

The meeting will be the two leaders' fifth encounter in nearly a year and Hu's first trip to the White House since he became China's leader in 2003.



Bill Gates (left) and Hu Jintao at the dinner thrown by the Microsoft boss in the Chinese President's honour Seattle on Tuesday evening.

AP

20 Apr 2005

Friends or foes?

CHINESE President Hu Jintao's meeting with President George W. Bush at the White House on 20 April will be an opportunity for the two leaders to grapple with the complexities of the world's most important bilateral relationship. While no major agreement may emerge for the two leaders, the opportunity to listen directly to each other's perspectives and coordinate their respective positions on a range of sensitive global and bilateral issues could be an investment in strategic stability and each nation's interests.

The Sino-American summit comes at a propitious moment because the agenda of issues of concern to the two governments has grown much more complicated in recent months. Strategic suspicions of the other's actions and motives grow in each capital. For Washington, in particular, frustrations have recently risen over three issues:

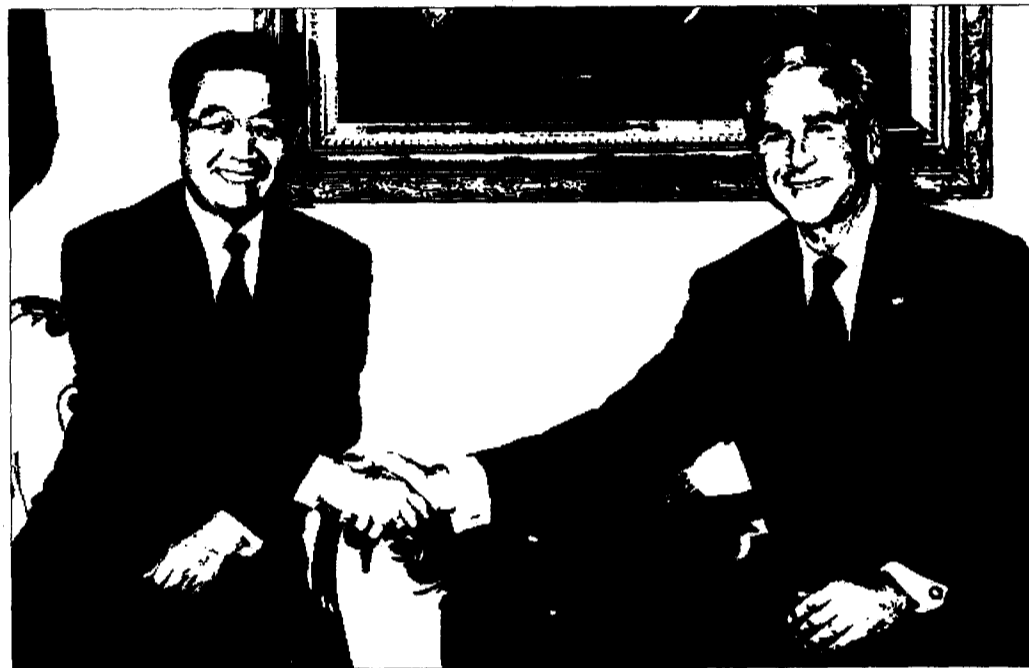
First, the USA is frustrated by Beijing's and Russia's foot-dragging in the UN Security Council to condemn Iran's enrichment of uranium and suspected nuclear weapons development programme. Condemnation by the five permanent members of the Security Council is the first step towards likely sanctions and other punitive measures – moves resisted by Beijing.

Second, Beijing's refusal to pressure Pyongyang to abandon its declared nuclear weapons programme has also frustrated Washington.

Third, the Bush administration perceives an attempt by China to "lock up" global energy supplies as contributing to escalating prices and competition for worldwide resources. The administration is particularly troubled when China signs contracts with countries that Washington views as "rogue" or troublesome states – such as Iran, Myanmar, Nigeria, Sudan, Venezuela and Zimbabwe. In return, China has sold arms to these states and generally shields them from international condemnation.

Such moves have not only concerned Washington, but run counter to the administration's desire, as articulated by deputy secretary of state Robert Zoellick, for China to become a "responsible stakeholder" in world affairs and global governance. Zoellick argues that China is a full member of the international community, but tends to "free

There's a long list of contentious issues for Presidents Bush and Hu to discuss at the Washington summit, writes DAVID SHAMBAUGH



ride," shying away from its appropriate responsibilities as a major power.

In addition to these nettlesome issues on the US-China agenda, the two leaders must tackle other issues as well.

China questions US strategic intentions and military deployments in Asia – viewed by a number of Chinese analysts as an attempt to strategically encircle China. The characterisations of China as a potential adversary in the defence department's recently released *Quadrennial Defense Review* and other Pentagon reports fuel this perception in Beijing. President Hu Jintao will likely seek clarification of American intentions on this issue.

China, like other countries, is also concerned about the recent US-India nuclear agreement. While China has accepted India as a declared nuclear weapons state and welcomes its entry into the non-proliferation community of nations, Beijing joins other countries expressing concern about the double-standard precedent set by the US-India agreement. More broadly and not surprisingly, Beijing is wary of US attempts to enlist India in a strategic encirclement of China.

China would also like Washington to do more to encourage Japan to confront the "history issue." Sino-Japanese relations have atrophied badly over this and other

issues, and the rift does not serve US interests or East Asian stability. Awaiting Prime Minister Koizumi's successor in September, Beijing would appreciate greater American pressure on Koizumi and his successors to cease their visits to the Yasukuni Shrine and engage in a range of initiatives to deal with other elements of the history issue, such as removing the remains of Class A war criminals from Yasukuni, establishing Truth and Reconciliation Commissions, and revising textbooks.

China and other Asian states view the USA, with its official silence on these issues, as complicit in Japanese obstinacy. China is also concerned by the tightening of the US-Japan alliance and US encouragement of a greater regional and global security role for Japan.

President Hu will also raise the Taiwan issue. While the two sides have cooperated well since Premier Wen Jiabao's visit to the White House in December 2003 to keep the lid on the potential for Taiwan independence, the Chen Shui-bian government in Taiwan continues an incremental push of its independence agenda. The latest provocative step was the March 2006 announcement that the National Reunification Council and its guidelines had "ceased to function."

President Bush will likely reiterate the US commitment to maintaining the "status

quo" across the Taiwan Strait, with no unilateral actions on either side to disrupt stability. The President will also likely reiterate the standard mantra of US commitment to the three joint communiqués, as well as the Taiwan Relations Act, the One China Policy, and its desire for the governments in China and on Taiwan to enter into direct dialogue with each other.

While the Taiwan issue has always been the most sensitive issue in the relationship, Beijing and Washington have managed it well in recent years. But regular high-level communication is a necessary condition to successful management, and this meeting offers another chance for both sides to coordinate strategy.

For his part, President Bush is also likely to raise three other issues of great concern in Washington: the trade deficit, intellectual property rights and human rights. The trade deficit reached \$203 billion in 2005, as core industries across the country have hollowed out and gone under in the face of outsourcing of production to China. Accordingly, the trade deficit and job loss issue combined have gained great traction in a Congressional election year. Congressional calls for a full floatation of the Chinese currency, and legislative threats to invoke across-the-board 27 per cent tariffs on Chinese goods have added fuel to the fire.

The Chinese have tried, in advance of the Hu visit, to reduce the pressure by sending a large commercial delegation on an US buying spree, estimated at \$16.2 billion – signing contracts for a range of goods, including 80 Boeing aircraft. In fact, China is now America's fastest growing export market, but this is little noticed as long as the trade deficit with that nation remains America's greatest.

Continuing Chinese infringement on intellectual property rights is a closely related issue. On the eve of President Hu's visit, the Joint Committee on Commerce and Trade, a bilateral US-China body, reached agreement on a range of new Chinese actions aimed at stemming and stamping out copyright piracy. The new agreement, like previous agreements, is promising, but it remains to be seen if the Chinese government will actually enforce it.

Human rights in China remain contentious. The last two US State Department annual reports on human rights in China have asserted retrogression, while China now issues its own assessment of US human rights infringements.

Given all that is on their plate, President Bush and President Hu will be lucky to touch briefly on all of these topics. In some past Sino-American summits, the two leaders have been content to engage in a more philosophical exchange about the value of their relationship. They may do so again this time, and that too would be useful, but given the pressing importance of the issues at hand, it is likely to be a real working summit.

That the two presidents can have such a businesslike meeting is a testimony to the maturation of the relationship. President Bush likes to characterise Sino-American relations as "candid, constructive, cooperative, and complex" – this summit is likely to validate his description.

(David Shambaugh is professor and director of the China Policy Program at George Washington University, and nonresident senior fellow in the Foreign Policy Studies Program at the Brookings Institution.)

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Hu's chequebook diplomacy in US

Beijing: Few expect that Hu will dispel that unease during his four-day visit. But this Chinese leader is seen as having come around to the idea that China's overall foreign policy objectives depend on a benign relationship with Washington.

Chinese officials say he is eager to have his maiden trip to the United States perceived as a success.

American officials said that in the yearlong talks over Hu's trip, the Chinese side focused mainly on pomp and protocol, down to the television camera angles on the South Lawn of the White House.

The two sides argued for months over whether Hu's trip constituted a formal state visit, until they agreed to disagree.

But Hu's earlier assurance to Bush that China's domestic problems were what preoccupied him most were clearly part of a new effort to address, if not necessarily resolve, those core tensions.

In a burst of chequebook

diplomacy earlier this month, Hu dispatched China's largest-ever buying delegation to the US, which committed to purchase \$16.2 billion in American aircraft, agricultural products, auto parts, telecommunications gear and com-

puter software. Hu plans to visit Microsoft and dine with its chairman, Bill Gates, in Seattle on Tuesday.

Optimists on both sides say the attempts to build confidence amount to more than a propaganda cam-

paign. China, they say, has become a "status quo" power, committed to maintaining the international order forged primarily by the US in the postwar period.

On the American side, the trend is also towards more integration. Deputy Secretary of State Robert B Zoellick, who last fall called China a "stakeholder" in the international system, has promoted high-level strategic dialogue between the countries, which China has eagerly embraced. NYT News Service



Hu Jintao

18 DEC 2006

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Chinese media avoid White House gaffes

ASSOCIATED Press
Beijing, April 21

CHINESE NEWS reports made no mention Friday of the protester who interrupted President Hu Jintao's visit with President Bush or a White House announcer flubbing China's official name. But ordinary Chinese commenting on Web sites accused President Bush of insulting Hu.

"You can see from Bush's lack of respect for foreign leaders just how lacking he's in class," said a posting on a bulletin board run by the People's Daily, the main Communist Party newspaper.

State television devoted half of its 30-minute noon news Friday to Hu's White House visit, showing him making a speech and chatting with Bush.

While the US media featured the protester, who had obtained temporary press credentials as a reporter for a Falun Gong news

paper and pleaded with Bush to stop Hu from persecuting the banned spiritual movement, the incident was absent from official Chinese reports.

China also blacked out CNN and the British Broadcasting Corp.'s BBC World, which are available in some hotels and Western housing.

Neither was there any government or state media comment on a White House announcer who referred to China as the "Republic of China," the official name of rival Taiwan, instead of the People's Republic of China.

The gaffes were unlikely to sour Chinese leaders on the visit, which looked successful, said Shi Yinhong, director of the Center for American Studies at Beijing's Renmin University.

"The Chinese government and the Chinese public will think this kind of event is unfortunate, and think the US government should



carry the event live. Broadcasts in China by CNN and the British Broadcasting Corp.'s BBC World were blacked out repeatedly Friday by censors, apparently to prevent Chinese viewers from seeing the protester.

Despite such measures, at least some Chinese were clearly aware of Thursday's missteps.

"Announcing the 'Republic of China' ... is an insult to the People's Republic and its government," said a posting on the People's Daily site.

On *washington.net*, a Chinese-language Web site hosted overseas, postings accused the White House of intentionally allowing in the protester.

"This was absolutely planned and directed by America. Given America's anxiety over the war on terror, that person should have been shot otherwise," said an unsigned comment.

AFF
A woman protests against Chinese oppression during Hu's visit to Washington.

House appearance live but cut away when the protester appeared. So did Phoenix Satellite Television, a Chinese-language broadcaster in Hong Kong with close ties to the Beijing government. The main state channel, China Central Television, didn't

billed Hu's trip as a chance to talk directly with Bush about trade and political disputes. It also was a chance to press Beijing's views on Taiwan, the self-ruled island that it claims as its own territory. Shanghai-based Dragon Television carried Hu's White

take some responsibility for security arrangements and letting the protester in," Shi said.

"But generally, these are just individual incidents, and the Chinese government won't think too much of it."

The Chinese government

US to counter Chinese build-up in Taiwan Strait

Washington/Taipei: China's rapid military build-up changes the delicate balance of power in the Taiwan Strait, forcing the United States to adapt its military strategies, a top Pentagon official said.

Peter Rodman, US assistant secretary of defence for international security policy, noted on Thursday that China has more than 700 short-range ballistic missiles aimed at Taiwan, with numbers increasing at about 100 missiles a year.

"When there are zero ballistic missiles opposite the Taiwan Strait, and a few years later there are 700, that's a change in the status quo," Rodman told reporters after testifying before the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission, an advisory panel created by Congress. "Our job is to maintain a military balance in the region, and we take our responsibility seriously."

The US opposes unilateral changes in the China-Taiwan relationship, Rodman said. But, he testified, China's "military build-up changes that status quo and requires us to adapt to the new situation, as we are doing". He did not elaborate. When asked after his testimony what US policy changes China's military expansion might lead to, Rodman said: "We have commitments to many friend and allies, and... it's our duty to make sure we are in a position to carry out those commitments." China's build-up is believed to be intended to back up threats to attack Taiwan, the self-ruled island that the communist Beijing government claims as its own territory. The two sides split in 1949 amid civil war.

On Thursday, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Qin Gang said China is open about its military spending and has increased military exchanges with other coun-

tries. But Rodman said China has yet to explain a military budget with an average annual growth rate Beijing puts at nearly 16% from 1994 to 2004. China's reported 2006 military budget is about \$35 billion. These numbers, Rodman said, fail to capture what the Pentagon estimates is the true scope of the growth. He said the 2006 figure could be as much as \$105 billion, making China Asia's largest defence spender.

Meanwhile, America is preparing to greet Taiwanese politician Ma Ying-jeou—the



A Taiwanese man protests against buying arms from the United States

man many think will be Taiwan's next president—who on Sunday begins a six-day tour of the States. For more than a year, Ma's Nationalist Party and its allies have used their slim majority to reject a \$16 billion defence package that includes an array of submarines, Patriot missiles and submarine-hunting planes.

Ma's party has said it would propose a new weapons package, but it has yet to give details. Last weekend, Ma joined thousands of Taiwanese in Taipei as they demonstrated against President Chen Shui-bian's tough policy on China. The protestors carried signs saying, 'Money to US, Debt to Taiwan.' Agencies

March 10, 2006

In Response, China Attacks U.S. Record on Rights

By JOSEPH KAHN

BEIJING, March 9 — China criticized the human rights record of the United States on Thursday, arguing that racial discrimination remained pervasive and that the American military abused prisoners held at detention centers abroad.

In a sharply worded response to the annual State Department report on human rights conditions globally, which was released in Washington on Wednesday, China's cabinet said the American government should concentrate on improving its own rights record.

"As in previous years, the State Department pointed the finger at human rights situations in more than 190 countries and regions, including China, but kept silent on the serious violations of human rights in the United States," the Chinese report said.

The State Department's survey, which assesses human rights conditions in all foreign countries, "fully exposes its hypocrisy and double standard on human rights issues," the Chinese study said.

The section of the State Department's report dealing with China said the situation worsened there in 2005, reversing a modest trend toward improved respect for rights that the department had observed earlier.

It cited "increased harassment, detention and imprisonment" of people who were viewed as threats to the government.

The report also criticized tighter controls on the Chinese press and more assertive censorship of all kinds of media, including the Internet.

Chinese diplomats pay close attention to the tone of the State Department report because it often indicates how aggressively the United States will work to censure China at the annual United Nations human rights convention in Geneva, which takes place in April.

Though Beijing publicly dismisses the value of the State Department's report, Chinese diplomats often lobby Washington privately to soften criticism and avoid pushing motions for sanctions on Beijing, Chinese and American diplomats say.

Human rights discussions between American and Chinese officials have been especially tense this year because China has detained and arrested a number of well-known journalists, lawyers, religious leaders and human rights activists, people involved in the talks said.

Police officers and thugs hired by the authorities also have used force to suppress social unrest in the countryside.

The New York Times

International

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U.S. Lawmakers Warn Europe on Arms Sales to China

By [Name] and [Name]

Published: March 2, 2005

ASHINGTON, March 1 - Senior members of Congress from both parties emerged from a meeting with President Bush on Tuesday warning Europe that if it lifts its ban on arms sales to China, the United States may retaliate with severe restrictions on technology sales to European companies.

The warning came after Mr. Bush, on his trip to Europe last week, twice cautioned the Europeans not to lift the restrictions, in place for 15 years. His insistence was based, at least in part, on a new American intelligence assessment that Beijing is rapidly becoming better equipped to carry out a sophisticated invasion of Taiwan and to counter any effort by the United States to react to such an attack, administration officials and intelligence analysts say.

After the White House meeting on Tuesday, Senator Richard G. Lugar, the Indiana Republican who is chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, said that if the ban is lifted - as European leaders have said they plan to do in coming months - Congress could react with "a prohibition on a great number of technical skills and materials, or products, being available to Europeans." The ranking Democrat on the committee, Senator Joseph R. Biden Jr. of Delaware, called a lifting of the ban "a nonstarter with Congress."

Their statements reinforce warnings that Mr. Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice made in meetings with Europeans over the past several weeks that the weapons sales would amount to a transfer of even more



China Newsphoto via Reuters

Chinese soldiers gave demonstrations Tuesday after completing three months of training at a base in Hubei Province in the center of the country.

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embargoes :

sophisticated military technology to China. But European officials say that the concerns are overstated, and that they are considering a compromise proposal that would keep advanced technologies from being exported.

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Although Mr. Bush and Ms. Rice have spoken publicly about the sale of heavy weapons, Pentagon officials say the biggest concern is the technology that goes with it, including radar and battlefield communication systems that could take China's rapid military buildup to a new level. And to make their case, the officials have begun to discuss how such technology would give China an increased ability to intimidate Taiwan with the threat of invasion if it moves too aggressively toward independence.

The motivations for the officials to discuss this intelligence in interviews over the past two weeks are varied, and certainly include concerns about how the Chinese buildup could affect American security interests. But the discussion also comes as Congress takes up Mr. Bush's new spending proposals, which devote a majority of supplemental funding to land forces and the war in Iraq, while missions related to perceived threats from China fall mainly to the Navy and the Air Force.

In addition, some administration hawks are concerned about China's rapid growth as a military power in the Pacific at a time that American attention is focused on the Middle East.

The new intelligence reports indicate that since Mr. Bush came to office, China has raced ahead with one of the most ambitious military buildups in the world - including building 23 new amphibious assault ships that could ferry tanks, armored vehicles and troops across the 100 miles to Taiwan, and 13 new attack submarines.

Also in Real E

"Their amphibious assault shipbuilding alone equals the entire U.S. Navy shipbuilding since 2002," one intelligence official said.

The official said Chinese military purchases abroad and domestic production of ships and warplanes "definitely represents a significant increase in overall capacity." At the same time, any advances in radar and communications ability would improve how rapidly and effectively those ships and planes could support an invasion or counter American moves in the region.

Military experts in European capitals and in Washington say they do not dispute the American intelligence reports on the growth in quality and quantity of Chinese arms. But European political leaders argue that the sanctions were placed to punish China because of its killing of pro-democracy demonstrators in Tiananmen Square 16 years ago, not because of its military power.

Now that a new generation of leaders has taken over in Beijing, they say, the specific cause of the sanctions is removed.

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USA wants more space with China

Associated Press

BEIJING, Jan. 11. — US President Mr George W Bush has said he wants space cooperation to feature in a summit with Chinese leader Mr Hu Jintao in April, a member of a US delegation visiting China said today.

The US China Working group is meeting with Chinese officials to prepare a summit agenda, and Mr Bush had conveyed that he wanted to include space cooperation, co-chairman Mr Mark Kirk said. "He directed Ambassador (to China, Clark T) Mr Randt to find some ground for space cooperation," said Mr Kirk, a Republican lawmaker from Illinois.

China was very enthusiastic about a proposal to upgrade Shenzhou space capsule to be able to dock with any US space vehicle or the International Space Station, Mr Kirk said after meeting China's defence minister Mr Cao Gangchun. "It's a serious proposal. Now that China has a manned space industry, there could be a time when they need help," he said. "It should be in our capability to rescue them, and vice versa," Mr Kirk said.

THE STATESMAN

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