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CCTV Opening Remarks 2/26/89 [OA 6343]

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PRESIDENT'S OPENING STATEMENT -- CCTV INTERVIEW

Today, I am pleased to be the first American President to broadcast live on Chinese television. And the message I bring from the American people is one of friendship. This broadcast symbolizes the importance both our countries attach to direct Chinese-American contacts. There are many bridges to be built between us, but this is the most important of all because it spans the distance between nations with the contact between peoples.

America and China are destined to cooperate. That I believe. And history bears me out. American citizens of Chinese descent have made valuable contributions to our national heritage. The American people as a whole have long been fascinated by your rich history and beautiful land. Over the last two decades, not only our leaders, but the American and Chinese people, have gotten to know each other much better. Both Barbara and I have been privileged to play a part in this process.

As you may know, we made our home here some thirteen years ago when I served as Chief of the U.S. Liaison Office. Those personal contacts with our neighbors, the friendship and hospitality we experienced across this vast land -- that's how we remember China and the memories are dear to us.

Barbara and I often recall those wonderful years. We enjoyed both the hard work and the happy times -- our summertime picnics in the beautiful countryside near the Ming Tombs, our early morning walks and bicycle excursions in Beijing. In the intervening years, Barbara and I have returned to China many times. Each visit added to our warmth toward the Chinese people and to our admiration for your accomplishments.

So, as President, improving, deepening, and developing U.S.-China relations is a high priority for me and a source of personal satisfaction.

Our two countries continue to weave an increasingly rich fabric of relations through our expanding trade, cultural and scientific exchange, and most importantly, through human contacts. Our students study the Chinese language in many of your universities. And we continue to welcome thousands of Chinese students and researchers to educational institutions across America. Our exploration of these paths of people-to-people contact has even opened a pathway to the stars. Our two nations are working together to launch U.S. satellites on China's rockets.

The whole point of our growing contacts and cooperation, of course, is to make a better world here, on earth, for our peoples and all peoples. In the years ahead, our two nations must continue to work together to ensure a peaceful and prosperous world.

Together, we must further political solutions to regional conflicts. We must foster global growth. And, together we must seek solutions to worldwide concerns such as environmental issues and the proliferating dangers from terrorism, the use and spread of chemical and biological weapons and international drug trafficking.

During my years as President, I look forward to cooperating with your leaders with these objectives in mind.

I have spoken to the American people about a "new breeze" blowing in the world today. I think we all have begun to feel this new breeze. China was one of the first nations to feel it and to move with it. The winds of change are sometimes gentle, sometimes bracing, but they are sweeping us forward. Old ways of doing things are changing. I see a worldwide movement toward greater freedom -- a freeing up of human creativity and market forces, an opening up of new opportunities for the future.

To me, that future is not an abstraction. I wish I had my family here with me now so that you could see them. Just a few weeks ago, Barbara and I were blessed by our eleventh grandchild. I know that our two peoples share a very strong sense of family. It's another value that unites us. And that is why I am confident that we will work very hard together to shape a better future for the generations that follow.

Thank you.

((Winston))

February 19, 1989

5:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OPENING STATEMENT FOR CCTV INTERVIEW  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1989

It is a great honor for me to be the first American President to speak to the Chinese people in a live broadcast. I feel as if I were speaking to old friends who while out of sight have never been out of heart and mind.

Fourteen years ago, Barbara and I came to your beautiful land when I served as Chief of the U.S. Liaison Office. We knew at once that the relationship that we would establish between ourselves and the Chinese people and between our two nations would be a special one indeed.

We were right. Today, the bridges that we began to build on that day in October so many years ago join our peoples together in friendship and respect. Our two countries continue to weave an increasingly rich fabric of relations through our expanding trade, and cultural and scientific exchange. American students study at many of your finest universities and we welcome thousands of Chinese students and researchers to educational institutions across America.

The understanding and friendship that these students have developed will only help to improve and deepen relations between our two countries in the years ahead.

I have spoken to the American people of a "new breeze blowing" in the world today. I see a worldwide movement toward greater freedom -- freedom of human creativity and freedom of economic opportunity.

We have all begun to feel the winds of change sweep us toward an exciting and challenging new century. These winds are sometimes gentle and sometimes strong and powerful. China was one of the first nations to feel this new breeze and like a young tree in a winter wind, you have learned to bend and adapt to new ways and new ideas.

Many challenges lie before our two nations. Together, we must find political solutions to regional conflicts. We must foster global growth. And, together, we must seek solutions to worldwide concerns such as the environment of our planet, the safety of all people from the threat of terrorism, the use and spread of chemical and biological weapons and international drug trafficking.

I know your leaders share with me a determination to solve these and other problems and, as President, I look forward to continuing to work closely with them as I have done in the past.

The American and Chinese people share many things but perhaps none is more important than our strong sense of family. Just a few weeks ago, Barbara and I were blessed by a new grandchild. When I think of her and the beautiful children of China, my commitment to peace is renewed and reaffirmed.

I am confident that when future generations of Chinese and Americans look back upon this time, they will say that the winds of change blew favorably upon our lands. Thank you for your friendship, your hospitality and the many warm memories of this wonderful country Barbara and I take with us.

((Winston))

February 19, 1989

5:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OPENING STATEMENT FOR CCTV INTERVIEW

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1989

*Jeffery B. ...*

It is a great honor for me to be the first American President to speak to the Chinese people in a live broadcast. I feel as if I were speaking to old friends who while out of sight have never been out of heart and mind.

*Shanghai was broadcast on Edge TV live but not on interview R.R.'s interview was taped Ford & Nixon did not per word from China desk 1st on CCTV Embassy Beijing*

*Fifteen*

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*1989  
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Looking forward*

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INAUGURAL

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their—to their people.

*Q.* What did Deng tell you about their relations with the Soviets? And there's a report that he said to you he understood our military buildup because of the problem with the Soviets. What did he say?

*The President.* Well, there's no question but there is—we've reached an understanding. There were some areas where they had misunderstandings, and we cleared those up. In these meetings today—in these last few days, why I say we reached a new plateau—we went beyond the nuts and bolts of a tax agreement or the things that we signed the other day—that was valuable. They are things that we—practical things that need to be done. But we moved into a level of general understanding about international relations there on the global level, regional spots of possible trouble, and so forth, and found ourselves in—in great agreement on many of those.

*Q.* What about the Russians? What did he say about the Soviets, their attitudes toward them and what we are doing in the way of buildup?

*The President.* Well, Sam [Sam Donaldson, ABC News], he certainly had no disagreement with us on what we're doing in our buildup. He was in agreement with that. I would rather not quote him on anything he might have said about another—about another government. That's up to them to keep their relations.

*Q.* You are always saying, Mr. President, that it's better to talk to people than about them.

*The President.* Yes.

*Q.* Will you talk to Castro, and will you talk to the Sandinistas, and will you talk to other Communist leaders?

*The President.* I, uh, no, I explained our Central America situation to them, and they understood—all of them that I talked to understood very well—when I pointed out that you had a reverse situation between the two countries there. You had one country in which the government was trying to help the guerrillas overthrow a duly elected government on the other side—and this is what we're objecting to—and the fact that the El Salvador Government has offered amnesty to the guerrillas and asked for them to participate in the

electoral process. And the guerrillas have refused. On the other side in Nicaragua, the guerrillas, the *contras*, have asked to lay down their arms and participate in the democratic process, and the Government of Nicaragua has refused. It's a complete opposite situation in, in the two countries.

*Q.* What was your overall impression of the trip, your real feelings?

*The President.* Very good. I think they have an understanding and a confidence in us. They might not have had that confidence if I had backed down and not said things that I believed—and they likewise—and we went forward from there. I feel very good about it. I really believe we've reached a new level of understanding.

*Q.* They put you on television live in Shanghai but with no translation. You had to be able to speak English to understand you. [Laughter]

*The President.* I don't know whether they have any plans—I've heard that there's some speculation as to whether they have any plans to—

*Q.* Your speech to the university. They carried it live.

*The President.* Yes, Helen [Helen Thomas, United Press International]?

*Q.* How did you feel personally, and were you able to carry on all the meetings and never get sleepy? And were you able to handle all that vigorous talking?

*The President.* You mean physically? Yes, I have to give—pay my compliments to that doctor who has written the book about conquering jet lag. We followed that program, and I have never made a trip across several time zone changes as successfully as this one has been with regard to instantly being on their time when we arrived. You see, under this doctor's plan, by the time we arrived in China, for 2 days we had been eating our meals on China time, so that it makes a great difference that when you get off, dinnertime is the dinnertime that you've been on, and thus bedtime kind of automatically becomes the normal.

*Q.* By the way, there's a report that you're considering moving the U.S. Embassy in Israel to west Jerusalem, sort of as a compromise. Are you considering such a change?