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Quotes Of The Month

"The Commission finds no improvement overall in human rights conditions in China over the past year, and increased government restrictions on Chinese citizens who worship in state-controlled venues or write for state-controlled publications...The Commission notes that the Chinese government continued to pursue certain judicial and criminal justice reforms that could result in improved protection of the rights of China's citizens. Yet these positive steps were clouded by new detentions and government policies designed to protect the Communist Party's rule and tighten control over society." ~ **Congressional-Executive Commission on China (CECC)** describing China's human rights situation in its newly released 2005 Annual Report.

Source: CECC, October 11, 2005

Trivia Question

How many state visits has President Hu Jintao made since assuming power in 2003? (cont pg 3)

FEATURE ESSAY

Health-Related Cooperation Becomes Critical Part of U.S.-China Agenda

BY BATES GILL and XIAOQING LU

On October 31, 2005, Chinese Minister of Health Gao Qiang visited Washington. This was the first Chinese Health Minister visit to Washington in more than three years, and culminated a multi-year effort to complete a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish a collaborative U.S.-China program to address emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases. With negotiations for the MOU first begun in the wake of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) crisis in 2003, this recently-concluded agreement is particularly timely given heightened global concern over a potential influenza pandemic emanating from Asia.

With this agreement, and with avian flu at the top of President Bush's agenda during his trip to China this week, health concerns have emerged as a far more critical part of the U.S.-China bilateral relationship.

Following the outbreak of the SARS epidemic in 2003, then-Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Tommy Thompson and Chinese Vice Premier and then-Health Minister Wu Yi initiated negotiations on increasing bilateral cooperation to address infectious diseases. The new agreement signed last month outlines the establishment of biennial Ministerial meetings, a collaborative committee of senior U.S. and Chinese government experts which will meet once a year, a bilateral secretariat for program management, and a bilateral program implementation office to be housed within China's Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The practical result of the agreement will be a significant increase in official bilateral interaction related to emerging and re-emerging diseases, and a ramping up of American expertise on the ground in China to help implement cooperative programs to monitor and combat the spread of such diseases as SARS, influenza, West Nile virus, and plague. The agreement also points toward expanded health-related cooperation across the board between the two countries.

(cont pg 2)

In The News

LONDON President Hu Jintao concluded his three-day state visit to London from November 8 to 10 as part of his European tour to the U.K., Germany and Spain. During the visit, he sought to promote China as a peacefully developing power that should not be subject to the E.U. weapons embargo. President Hu's tour comes at a time when China is active on the international stage, as Beijing is hosting a new round of six-party talks and will play host to U.S. President Bush on November 19. Yet, analysts say no major breakthroughs are expected from President Hu's European tour.

BEIJING After a four-day annual plenary session of the Party's 354-member Central Committee in early October, China's communist leaders have drawn up the latest economic plan spanning five years from 2006. The Eleventh Five-Year Plan calls for doubling the China's per capita GDP to about USD1,700 in 2010 from USD 854 in 2000. The plan also reiterates China's determination to build up internationally competitive industrial groups, improve social welfare and narrow the wealth gap between the rich and the poor in China.

One of the most prominent areas for U.S.-China health cooperation is on avian flu, given the urgent need for prevention and response efforts. Avian flu has so far most seriously affected Asia, where some 70 deaths have been reported. It is particularly critical to address this disease in China. China's large human and poultry populations, their close proximity in many parts of China, and China's growing interdependence with East Asia and the rest of the world, make the country a pivotal point in the global effort to prevent an avian flu pandemic.

Yet, there are a number of serious concerns over China's management of the avian flu challenge. The Chinese government found itself under harsh international scrutiny during the SARS epidemic due to its initial denial and subsequent delay in fully reporting the SARS outbreak. Although the Chinese government has pledged to accelerate disease surveillance and reporting, the international community still has some doubts and hopes China can be even more transparent. News in recent days of China's first confirmed avian flu deaths in humans, and the country's widespread culling and vaccination of poultry are steps in the right direction and suggest a new and welcome transparency. Even so, despite the commitment of the central government, early warning and reporting at local levels remain questionable due to local officials' fears of political censure, and a lack of resources and capacity to monitor and respond to outbreaks more effectively.

Given the potential threat of avian flu to global stability and prosperity, this situation provides new and pressing opportunities for U.S.-China cooperation. Under the new MOU, cooperative programs will include information sharing, exchange of technology and know-how, training of scientists and healthcare personnel, capacity building of Chinese laboratories, and assistance with infectious disease diagnosis. Building from the MOU, President Bush and President Hu will speak to joint U.S.-China health-related efforts during their Beijing summit, giving further impetus to bilateral cooperation in this field.

Bilateral collaboration on health issues goes beyond avian flu. The United States and China already cooperate extensively in combating HIV/AIDS, to include government-to-government programs and public-private cooperation. Through programs at various U.S. government agencies – such as the HHS, the National Institutes of Health, the U.S. CDC, the Department of Labor, and others – the U.S. government has pledged some \$40 million to assist China in fighting its HIV/AIDS challenge. Private entities – including the Ford Foundation, the Clinton Foundation, the Gates Foundation, and Merck & Co., Inc. – have likewise committed millions of dollars to stand up prevention, training, and treatment programs to combat HIV/AIDS in China.

There are other areas calling for bilateral cooperation as well. Minister Gao expressed a particular interest to ramp up dialogue and cooperation which would help him address the delivery of health care services in China's rural areas where some 700 million Chinese reside, and where the health care system is increasingly weak. The two sides also share an interest to work together to examine and address the causes of chronic disease in China, improve China's weak occupational health and safety record, help rebuild and expand China's health care financing system, and increase the export of American health care technologies and services.

HHS Secretary Leavitt – who was governor of Utah at the time of the Salt Lake City winter Olympiad, and who is President Bush's designated representative on Olympic issues – has a particularly strong and personal interest to work with China to assure the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing are safe and healthy. The two sides should also explore the role of Chinese community-based non-governmental organizations in helping improve the delivery of health care services in China, especially in the poorer, remote, and rural parts of China where health care needs are most acute.

All in all, opportunities abound for both public and private U.S.-China collaboration in the health sector. In the near-term, there is an urgently pressing need to expand engagement in this area, especially in the face of a potentially devastating global avian flu pandemic. Over the longer-term, this area of cooperation also stands out as one where the two sides share far more mutual interests than differences. With the conclusion of the MOU last month, and with health issues taking a prominent place at the Bush-Hu summit this week, it appears health-related cooperation will become a growth area for the bilateral relationship in the coming years.

Dr. Bates Gill is the Freeman Chair in China Studies at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Ms. Xiaoqing Lu is a research associate with the Freeman Chair in China Studies at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

PUBLICATIONS

"*China's Evolving Regional Security Strategy*", in *Power Shift: China and Asia's New Dynamics*. University of California Press: 2005.
By **Bates Gill**, Freeman Chair in China Studies, CSIS

The chapter, published in the new book—*Power Shift: China and Asia's New Dynamics*—edited by David Shambaugh, examines China's evolving regional security strategies, defined as Beijing's contemporary political and diplomatic efforts (not strictly its military posture) with its immediate regional neighbors. The chapter concludes that while current trends favor a strengthened regional security role for China, and China's relative strength and influence are likely to grow in Asia, this process is still open to contradictions and complications over the longer term. Nevertheless, China's increasing regional security influence has been overlooked by many analysts and deserves closer scrutiny.

"*More Strait Talk: Ten Years after the Taiwan Missile Crisis*", *China Brief*, Jamestown Foundation, October 25, 2005
By **Bates Gill**, Freeman Chair in China Studies, CSIS and **Chin-Hao Huang**, Research Intern, Freeman Chair in China Studies, CSIS

Gill and Huang examine cross-Strait relations since the Taiwan missile crisis in 1995. They observe that in the past decade Beijing and Taipei have indefinitely suspended the dialogue initiated in the early 1990s on basic functional issues, such as repatriation operations and counter-smuggling. Gill and Huang argue that today the questions of maritime safety and illegal activities in the Taiwan Strait call for closer cooperation between the two sides. It is in the best interest of Beijing and Taipei to engage in constructive dialogue on simple, functional, and non-contentious issues.

"*China's Soft Power in Africa: From the 'Beijing Consensus' to Health Diplomacy*", *China Brief*, Jamestown Foundation, October 13, 2005
By **Drew Thompson**, Assistant Director of the Freeman Chair in China Studies, CSIS

Thompson argues that evolving from ideologically-driven interactions during the Cold War, today's China-Africa relations combine pragmatic economic and political means to achieve China's objective of establishing a world order that is peaceful and conducive to continued economic growth and stability at home. While trade and diplomacy are driven by China's newfound economic strength and subsequent demand for raw materials, China continues to support longstanding programs that deliver aid to underserved African citizens, such as sending teams of doctors and providing medicines. This long term medical cooperation builds person-to-person relations between Africans and Chinese, brings benefits to both sides, and helps China expand its influence on the continent.

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

November 15 *The Dragon's Underbelly? Assessing China's Soft Power*

Bates Gill, Freeman Chair in China Studies, and **Yanzhong Huang**, a recent Visiting Fellow with the Freeman Chair, and currently Assistant Professor at the Whitehead School of Diplomacy, Seton Hall University, presented their paper, co-authored with Sheng Ding of the Center for Global Change and Governance at Rutgers University. Drawing on the "soft power" framework first articulated by **Joseph Nye**, Distinguished Service Professor of Harvard University, the paper assesses the scope and prospects for Chinese soft power. For more information on this event, please contact Savina Rupani at srupani@csis.org.

September 26 *Building a "Harmonious Society" in China: Non-Governmental and Faith-Based Organizations as Agents of Social Change and Stability*

[The conference transcript is now available online. [Click here.](#)]

The conference was organized in cooperation with the Pew Forum on Religious & Public Life and with generous support from the Maclellan Foundation. The conference aimed to go beyond a narrow focus on political, military and economic issues in U.S.-China relations, and examine new data and developments concerning the emergent role of private civic and non-profit organizations in China in the areas of education, health, and charity.

WHAT'S NEW

We are sad to announce that Drew Thompson, Assistant Director of the Freeman Chair in China Studies, is leaving CSIS. We thank him for his enormous contributions in the past three years to our work in many areas including HIV/AIDS in China and U.S.-China relations. Mr. Thompson will lead a new HIV/AIDS initiative in China funded by Merck & Company, Inc. and is now based in Beijing. We wish him all the best in his new endeavors. To learn more about the Freeman team, please visit our [staff bio page](#).

TRIVIA ANSWER

President Hu has made 35 official state visits since 2003: 13 visits to Asia and the Pacific, 12 visits to Europe and Central Asia, 3 visits to Africa and 7 visits to the Americas. President Hu has yet to make a state visit to the U.S., but last met President Bush at the U.N. Summit in New York.

Source: "*Here is Hu Jintao: Enigmatic, but Ubiquitous*", *The Economist*, November 3, 2005

PUBLICATIONS FROM THE FREEMAN CHAIR 2005*

* Please visit our website to access archived publications dating back to 2002.

October

"*Injecting and Infecting: Stigma and Zero Tolerance in China*", Global AIDSLink, September/October 2005 - #93
By **Drew Thompson**, Assistant Director of the Freeman Chair in China Studies, CSIS
[Chinese Translation is available online.]

"*Taiwan: When No News is Good News*", Asia Times, October 8, 2005
By **Chin-Hao Huang**, Research Intern, Freeman Chair in China Studies, CSIS

September

"*Diverging Paths Hurt U.S. and Europe*", International Herald Tribune, September 6, 2005
By **Bates Gill**, Freeman Chair in China Studies and **Robin Niblett**, Director of Europe Program, CSIS

August

"*China's Emerging Interests in Africa: Opportunities and Challenges for Africa and the United States*", African Renaissance Journal, July/August 2005
By **Drew Thompson**, Assistant Director, Freeman Chair in China Studies, CSIS

"*Bringing China Closer to the Market*", Asia Times, August 02, 2005
By **Dag Detter**, founder and director of Detter & Co., and former Director of the Division for State Owned Companies of the Ministry of Industry in Sweden, and **Sue Anne Tay**, Research Assistant, Freeman Chair in China Studies, CSIS

July

"*China's Asset Management Companies a Liability*", Asia Times, July 7, 2005
By **Sue Anne Tay**, Research Assistant, Freeman Chair in China Studies, CSIS

"*The 'People's War' Against Drugs and HIV/AIDS*", China Brief, Jamestown Foundation, June 21, 2005
By **Drew Thompson**, Assistant Director, Freeman Chair in China Studies, CSIS

"*China Confronts HIV/AIDS*", Population Reference Bureau, June 2005
By **Drew Thompson**, Assistant Director, Freeman Chair in China Studies, CSIS

June

"*China's Evolving Approach to Counterterrorism*", Harvard Asia Quarterly, Winter/Spring 2005
By **Bates Gill**, Freeman Chair in China Studies, CSIS and **Melissa Murphy**, Research Associate, Freeman Chair in China Studies, CSIS

May

"*Beijing's Participation in UN Peacekeeping Operations*", China Brief, Jamestown Foundation, May 10 2005
By **Drew Thompson**, Assistant Director, Freeman Chair in China Studies, CSIS

April

"*China and India: Rivals or Partners?*", Far East Economic Review, April 2005
By **Pramit Mitra**, Research Associate, South Asia Program, CSIS and **Drew Thompson**, Assistant Director, Freeman Chair in China Studies, CSIS

March

"*China's Global Strategy for Energy, Security and Diplomacy*", The China Brief, Jamestown Foundation, March 29, 2005
By **Drew Thompson**, Assistant Director, Freeman Chair in China Studies, CSIS

February

"*Tsunami Relief Reflects China's Regional Aspirations*", The China Brief, Jamestown Foundation, January 18, 2005
By **Drew Thompson**, Assistant Director, Freeman Chair in China Studies, CSIS

January

"*Taiwan's Election Results: Good News, Bad News, Or No News?*", The China Brief, Jamestown Foundation, January 4, 2005
By **Bates Gill**, Freeman Chair in China Studies and **Drew Thompson**, Assistant Director, Freeman Chair in China Studies, CSIS

FREEMAN FACTS:

Rural Land in China

1. China feeds 22% of the world's population, but only has 7% of the world's arable land.
2. From 1996 to 2004, China's arable land shrank from 130 million hectares to 122 million hectares while its population grew by 10 million annually on average.
3. China's 210 million rural households account for 1/3 of the rural agricultural families in the world, and comprise 2/3 of the Chinese population.
4. Chinese farmers do not own their land, but have a 30-year right—about one generation—to farm it.
5. In 2004, China's grain production hit 469.5 million tons, 38.8 million tons or 9% more than the previous year. It is the largest annual growth rate recorded for China.

Sources: Rural Development Institute, The World Bank

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Center for Strategic and International Studies 2005

THE FREEMAN CHAIR IN CHINA STUDIES

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About the FREEMAN CHAIR IN CHINA STUDIES

The *Freeman Chair in China Studies* was established at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in 1994 to advance the study of China and to promote understanding between the United States and the countries of the Asia Pacific region. The Freeman Family—Luther Freeman as a clergyman, Mansfield Freeman as a scholar-business leader, and Houghton Freeman as a corporate executive in a global enterprise—have established a tradition of contributing to international understanding through practical experience in East Asia and China.

The United States has a long-standing relationship with China and the countries of East Asia, which play increasingly important roles in future international economics, politics, culture, and security. In the diplomatic, public policy, business, and government fields, the peoples of both China and the United States will benefit from greater mutual appreciation and understanding through broadly based international exchange.

The Freeman Chair's active policy-oriented agenda is dedicated to delivering informed public policy debates, expert briefings, and strategic policy recommendations on Greater China and East Asia to the diplomatic, policymaking, business, and government arenas.

Current research projects

- China's domestic challenges and their consequences for U.S.-China relations and U.S. strategic interests
- The emergence of Chinese civil society and nongovernmental organizations
- China's HIV/AIDS crisis and its implications for U.S.-China relations
- Examining the economic, trade, and financial tensions in U.S.-China relations
- China's relations with key regions—including Central Asia, Europe, and Africa—and their implications for the United States
- China's military modernization and its impact on regional security
- U.S.-China-Taiwan relations

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