

Keynote Speech by Ambassador Qin Gang at the Welcome Event by the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations Board of Directors

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Dear Dr. Kissinger,
Secretary Lew,
Ambassador Hills,
President Orlins,
Friends,

I wish to thank the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations for hosting this welcome event. It's my great pleasure to meet with you online.

Over its 55 years of history, the National Committee has played an important and positive role for China-U.S. relations. Dr. Kissinger, you have been very dedicated to China-U.S. relations even at an advanced age. You have visited China and met with Chinese President Xi Jinping and other leaders for many times. I had the honor to be present at many of your insightful meetings. Secretary Lew, when you were the Treasury Secretary, you visited China twice to co-chair the China-U.S. Strategic and Economic Dialogues. I was also present at both sessions, and I witnessed the fruitful outcomes of China-U.S. dialogue and co-operation. When I participated in the China-Yale Senior Government Leadership Program in 2013, I visited the Hills & Company, and had face-to-face communication with Ambassador Hills. You answered my question patiently. During President Xi's state visit to the U.S. in 2015, the National Committee held a welcoming banquet for him in Seattle, together with other friendly organizations. That event has left a remarkable imprint in the history of China-U.S. relations. I still vividly remember the friendly and

尊敬的基辛格博士，
尊敬的雅各布·卢主席，
希尔斯名誉主席，
欧伦斯会长：

感谢美中关系全国委员会为我举行欢迎活动，很高兴同各位董事会成员见面。

美中关系全国委员会成立55年来，为促进中美关系发展发挥了重要积极作用。基辛格博士不顾年迈，为推动中美关系奔波操劳。你曾多次访华，受到习近平主席等中国领导人接见，我有幸多次现场聆听您的真知灼见。卢主席任财长时曾两次赴华主持中美战略与经济对话，当时我都在场，见证了中美对话与合作的丰硕成果。我2013年来美参加交流项目时，还有幸走访希尔斯咨询公司，同希尔斯名誉主席当面交流，你耐心回答了我的提问。2015年，习近平主席对美进行国事访问时，委员会同其他美国友好团体一道在西雅图为习主席举行欢迎晚宴，在中美关系史上留下浓墨重彩的一笔，当时友好热烈的场面至今历历在目。为筹办这场活动，我

lively scene. To prepare for that event, Mr. Orlins and I worked together very well.

Dear Friends,

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Dr. Kissinger's secret visit to China and Ping-Pong diplomacy. 50 years ago, at the height of the Cold War, the elder generation of Chinese and American leaders showed great strategic wisdom, vision and courage. They went beyond ideological differences and reopened the door of China-U.S. relations.

Over the past five decades, China and the U.S. have put down past grudges. Our interests have been closely entwined, and people-to-people exchanges have deepened. All this has delivered huge benefits to the two peoples. The growth of China-U.S. relations has changed the international strategic landscape, accelerated the end of the Cold War, advanced globalization, brought unprecedented opportunities to the Asia-Pacific, and greatly promoted world peace and prosperity. In the age of estrangement and confrontation, we had to rely on the small ping-pong ball to move the "big ball" of China-U.S. relations. But now, many "small balls" are moving around this "big ball".

Now the China-U.S. relationship has come to another historical juncture, and it faces a very severe situation. The extreme China policy of the previous U.S. administration has caused serious damage to our relations, and such a situation has not changed. It is even continuing. It goes against the fundamental interests of Chinese and American people and the wishes of the international community. Some people are trying to deny the achievements of China-U.S. ties in the past 50 years and redefine our relations by strategic competition. They assert that the era of engagement and cooperation is over, and it must be replaced by competition and confrontation.

There are three wrong beliefs on China-U.S. relations in the United States.

—Some people believe that China is betting against America, and China's goal is to challenge and displace America. This is a serious misjudgment of China's strategic intention.

Everything the Communist Party of China (CPC) does is to pursue happiness for the Chinese people. Our plans and policies are all made with the people at the center. They are to serve China's development, and modernize our governance system and capabilities. In the end, they are for the purpose of meeting the people's aspiration for a better life. As an English proverb goes, God helps those who help themselves. China never bets its own future on other countries. We only want to surpass ourselves. We never take surpassing the U.S. as our goal, and we never have the ambition to challenge and displace America, or to seek hegemony in the world.

The interests of China and the U.S. are closely integrated. They cannot be cut off as anyone wishes. America has been extensively involved in China's reform and opening-up. In 2020, China-U.S. two-way trade reached 580 billion dollars. The U.S. is China's largest trading partner, and China is the second biggest holder of the U.S. Treasury bonds. China-U.S. trade supports 2.6 million American jobs. We are inseparable stakeholders, and

同欧伦斯会长等美方同事进行了很好的合作。

朋友们，

今年是基辛格博士秘密访华和中美“乒乓外交”50周年。在冷战高峰的历史背景下，中美两国老一辈领导人以非凡的战略智慧、远见和勇气，超越意识形态分歧，重启中美关系大门。

50年来，中美化干戈为玉帛，利益交融日益紧密，人文交流和友好往来不断加深，给两国人民带来巨大福祉。中美关系的发展改变了国际战略格局走向，加速了冷战终结，推动了全球化进程，给亚太地区带来了空前发展机遇，极大促进了世界和平与繁荣。在隔绝对抗的年代，中美只能借助乒乓球这个“小球”推动中美关系这个“大球”，而今天，许许多多“小球”围绕着大球转动。

当前中美关系又走到一个新的历史关口，面临空前复杂严峻的局面。美上届政府采取的极端对华政策，给中美关系造成严重破坏，而这一局面迄未得到改变，甚至还在延续，这与中美两国人民的根本利益和国际社会的普遍愿望背道而驰。有些人否定中美关系50年来的发展成就，试图以战略竞争重新定义中美关系，认为中美接触合作的时代已经终结，必须以竞争对抗取而代之。

——美国有人认为，中国在赌美国输，中国发展的目标就是要挑战和取代美国。这是对中国战略意图的严重误判。

中国共产党所做的一切努力，就是为中国人民谋幸福。我们制订的一切规则、政策的出发点和落脚点都是坚持以人民为中心，紧紧围绕中国自身发展，致力于推进国家治理体系和治理能力现代化，更好地满足中国人民对美好生活的向往。天行健，君子以自强不息。中国从来不把自己的命运押宝在别国身上，中国要不断超越的是自己，从来没有把超越美国作为目标，从来没有挑战和取代美国、称霸世界的野心。

中美利益紧密交融，剪不断、理还乱。美国一直广泛参与了中国的改革开放进程。2020年，中美贸易额达5800多亿美元，美国是中国第一大贸易伙伴，中国是美国国债第二大持有国，中美贸易支撑了美国国内260万个就业岗位。中美是密不可分的利益攸关方，各自的成功对彼此都至关重要。中国没

the success of one side is critical to the other. China does not bet against America. Instead, we are glad to see America resolve its problems by itself, not by undercutting other countries, or by prescribing medication for others. We are glad to see America remain prosperous and strong, and make greater contribution to world peace and stability. I believe that both countries can benefit from the development and prosperity of the other side.

—Some people believe that America needs to deal with China from a position of strength. They think America can win the new “Cold War” against China, just as it defeated the Soviet Union. This reflects a serious ignorance of history and China.

China is not the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union's collapse was its own making. The Communist Party of the Soviet Union had been rigid, corrupt, closed to the outside world, and detached from the people. It had been obsessed with arms race and external aggression. As a result, the country's development halted. People's lives were difficult, and they were very unhappy. The Soviet Union and the United States had little engagement at that time, and their relations were extremely tense. The two blocs of the Cold War could barely coexist. When the Soviet Union collapsed, almost none of its Party members stood out to say no. China has learned from this part of history that hegemonism will only lead to decline.

Under the leadership of the CPC, China's socialist democracy keeps improving. The people are the master of their own country. The nation enjoys economic development, social stability and better livelihoods for the people. It has eliminated absolute poverty. Meanwhile, the CPC enforces strict discipline over itself. With over 95 million Party members, the CPC always bears in mind its original aspiration to pursue happiness for the people. It shares one mind with the people, and works together with the people. Harvard Kennedy School has conducted a survey on Chinese public opinion for 10 years in a row. According to the results, over 90% of the Chinese citizens surveyed are satisfied with their government, and this has been the case for the whole decade.

China is closely linked to the U.S. and integrated with the world. It's the world's second largest economy, the biggest trader in goods, and the number one destination of foreign investment. It is the biggest trading partner of over 120 countries and regions. China never engages in aggression or expansion. It never exports its political system or development model. It is committed to peaceful, open, cooperative and common development, and works to build a community with a shared future for mankind. Does such a country look like the Soviet Union? Does the CPC look like the Soviet Union's Communist Party?

The Cold War is not too far in our memory. The conflict between major countries is just like yesterday. It would be absurd and dangerous to apply the “Cold War playbook” to today's China-U.S. relations, and to take China as its rival and imaginary enemy, just like when Don Quixote tilted at windmills. Is any country willing to take sides between China and America? I have never heard any country say so. To the contrary, many countries are reluctant or concerned about being forced by the U.S. to pick sides. I hope American politicians would seriously consider:

有赌美国输，而是乐见美国凭借自身的力量，而不是靠压制别国或让别国吃药解决美国自身的问题，继续保持繁荣强大，为世界和平稳定做出更多贡献。相信中美都能继续从彼此的发展繁荣中获益。

——美国有人认为，美国要从实力地位出发与中国打交道，可以像战胜前苏联一样赢得对华“新冷战”。这是对历史和中国的严重无知。

中国不是前苏联。前苏联输在自身。苏共封闭僵化、腐败蜕变、脱离人民，沉溺于军备竞赛，热衷于对外侵略扩张，导致国家发展停滞，民生凋敝、民怨载道。美苏彼此隔绝，关系剑拔弩张，两大阵营水火不容。前苏联解体后，十四万人齐卸甲，竟无一人是男儿。前苏联的命运就是国霸必衰的前车之鉴。

今天中国共产党领导下的中国，社会主义民主制度不断完善，人民真正当家作主，经济繁荣发展，社会和谐稳定，民生不断改善，中华民族彻底摆脱了绝对贫困。中国共产党全面从严治党，9500多万党员时刻牢记为人民谋幸福的初心和使命，同全体人民想在一起，干在一起。哈佛大学肯尼迪政府学院连续十年对中国民众进行的民调结果显示，中国民众对政府的满意度连续十年都保持在90%以上。

中国同美国和世界紧密融合，是世界第二大经济体、第一大货物贸易国、第一大外资流入国，是120多个国家和地区的最大贸易伙伴。中国从来不搞侵略扩张，从来不输出自己的政治制度和发展模式，坚定不移走和平发展、开放发展、合作发展、共同发展道路，积极推动构建人类命运共同体。这样的中国是前苏联吗？这样的中国共产党是前苏共吗？

冷战的硝烟仍未散尽，大国冲突的浩劫仍历历在目。把“冷战剧本”生搬硬套到今天的中美关系，把中国当作对手和假想敌，如同堂吉珂德挑战风车一样荒诞和危险。有哪个国家愿意在中美之间选边站队？我从未听到有任何国家明确这样说。相反，更多的国家表达了他们对美国迫使他们在中美间选边站队的无奈或忧虑。希望美国的决策者们认真思考，处处围堵打压中国能得逞吗？究竟符不符合美自身利益？由此给中美关系和世界造成的灾难性后