

Speech by Chinese Ambassador to the U.S. Xie Feng at the Carter Center Forum Commemorating the 45th Anniversary of the Establishment of China-U.S. Relations

驻美大使谢锋在卡特中心纪念中美建交45周年研讨会上的演讲

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Speech at the Carter Center Forum Commemorating the 45th Anniversary of the Establishment of China-U.S. Relations 在卡特中心纪念中美建交45周年研讨会上的演讲

Xie Feng, Chinese Ambassador to the United States

中国驻美大使 谢锋

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Chief Executive Officer Alexander,
Ambassador Burns,
President Orlins,
Ambassador Allen,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

January 1 this year marked the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the People's Republic of China and the United States of America. President Xi Jinping and President Joe Biden exchanged congratulatory letters, speaking highly of the historical significance of the event, recognizing the historic achievements in China-U.S. relations over the past 45 years, and expressing readiness to jointly steer the relationship forward.

As you gather in Atlanta, I am on the flight from Beijing to D.C., so please allow me to join you virtually through this video speech. Atlanta is the hometown of President Jimmy Carter, and was also an important stop in Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping's visit to the United States in January 1979 shortly after the establishment of diplomatic relations. President Carter sees establishing diplomatic relations with China as one of the most correct decisions he has ever made in his life. It is therefore of special significance that the Carter Center, the National Committee on US-China Relations, the US-China Business Council and the Center for American Studies at Fudan University are co-hosting this forum at this moment in Atlanta to commemorate the 45th anniversary of China-U.S.

尊敬的亚历山大首席执行官，

伯恩斯大使，

欧伦斯会长，

艾伦大使，

女士们，先生们，

大家上午好！

今年1月1日，是中华人民共和国和美利坚合众国建立外交关系45周年。习近平主席和拜登总统互致贺信，高度评价中美建交的历史意义，充分肯定45年来中美关系取得的历史性成就，表达了共同引领中美关系继续向前发展的积极态度。此刻我正在从北京飞往华盛顿途中，只能以视频致辞方式与大家“云相聚”。这里是卡特总统的故乡，是45年前中美建交后当月邓小平副总理访美时重要一站。卡特总统曾表示，与中国建交是他一生最英明正确的决定之一。此时此地卡特中心、美中关系全

diplomatic ties.

I would like to propose that we first pay tribute to the older generation of Chinese and American leaders, including Mr. Deng Xiaoping and President Carter, who made the historic decision to establish diplomatic relations with extraordinary political courage and vision. Our heartfelt thanks also go to all friends in both countries who have long cared for and supported the development of the relationship. May President Carter enjoy good health and every happiness.

Over the past 45 years, the China-U.S. relationship has kept forging ahead despite twists and turns, growing into the most important bilateral relationship in the world today. It has boosted the well-being of the two peoples, and also contributed to peace, stability and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific and the world. Taking stock of the past 45 years, we believe that the most important inspiration is that China and the United States stand to gain from cooperation and lose from confrontation, and working together is our only correct choice. The broadest consensus is that we should make the China-U.S. relationship work and not mess it up, which is also a shared expectation of the international community. The only right way to get along is mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the recent years, the China-U.S. relationship has run into unprecedented difficulties. But to our encouragement, President Xi and President Biden held a historic summit meeting in San Francisco two months ago. It has not only helped to restore stability to the bilateral relationship, but also fostered a future-oriented San Francisco vision, charting the course for the sound, stable and sustainable development of China-U.S. relations in the new era. We need to embark on a new journey from San Francisco onward, start with concrete steps, and faithfully deliver on the important common understandings reached between our Presidents.

It is important to reject the Cold War mentality, and develop a right perception toward each other. Policymaking is based on how we perceive each other, which will then lead to actions with results. Are we adversaries, or partners? This is the fundamental and overarching question we need to answer. If one sees the other side as a primary competitor, a pacing threat and a target for containment, improving and stabilizing bilateral relations would be out of the question.

China's domestic and foreign policies are open and transparent, with clearly stated strategic intentions and development goals. Our central task is to advance national rejuvenation on all fronts by pursuing Chinese modernization, so as to deliver better jobs and better lives to the 1.4 billion people, and ensure every child receives good education.

Following the path of peaceful development is China's solemn commitment. We aspire to build a community with a shared future for mankind with other countries. We will never seek hegemony with growing strength. Still less do we plan to challenge or unseat the United States. It is our sincere hope to be partners and friends with the United States. We are convinced that the Earth is big enough for China and the United

国委员会、美中贸易全国委员会和复旦大学美国研究中心举办研讨会，纪念中美建交45周年，具有特殊意义。

首先我提议，为45年前邓小平先生和卡特总统等两国老一辈领导人以非凡的政治勇气和远见卓识作出中美建交的历史性抉择表示崇高敬意，向长期关心和支持中美关系发展的两国各界人士表示衷心感谢，衷心祝愿卡特总统健康长寿。

45年来，中美关系历经风雨，砥砺前行，成长为当今世界最重要的双边关系，既增进了两国人民福祉，也促进了亚太乃至世界和平、稳定和繁荣。回顾这45年，最根本的经验是中美合则两利、斗则俱伤，合作是双方唯一正确选择。最广泛的共识是中美关系只能搞好，不能搞坏，这也是国际社会的共同期待。唯一正确的相处之道是相互尊重、和平共处、合作共赢。

女士们，先生们，

过去几年，中美关系遭遇了前所未有的困难。令人欣慰的是，两个月前，习近平主席同拜登总统在旧金山举行历史性会晤，不仅推动双边关系止跌企稳，而且开辟了面向未来的“旧金山愿景”，为中美关系在新时期健康、稳定、可持续发展指明了方向。我们要从旧金山再出发，从一点一滴的具体事情做起，把两国元首达成的重要共识不折不扣地落到实处。

要摒弃冷战思维，树立正确相互认知。认知决定政策，政策导致行动，行动产生结果。做对手还是伙伴，是管总、管根本的问题。如果执意把对方视作最大竞争对手、步步紧逼的威胁和遏制打压的对象，双边关系就难以真正改善和稳定。中国的内外政策公开透明，战略意图光明磊落，发展方向清晰明确。我们的中心任务是以中国式现代化全面推进中华民族伟大复兴，让14亿中国人民工作得更好，生活得更好，孩子们成长得更好。我们的庄严承诺

States to develop respectively and prosper together, that our success is each other's opportunity rather than challenge, that the two sides need to help each other succeed instead of undercutting one another, and that the world should not be thrust back into division and bloc confrontation. At the same time, China has interests that must be safeguarded, principles that must be upheld, and red lines that must not be crossed.

It is important to manage differences and disagreements, and keep to the right direction of China-U.S. relations. This relationship has always been based on recognizing differences and respecting each other's core interests. Differences abound even between the United States and its allies, not to mention between China and the United States, two countries different in history, culture, social system and stage of development. But this does not mean that we are bound to collide head-on. Differences did not prevent us from establishing and developing relations 45 years ago. There is even less reason why they should block our exchanges and cooperation now.

Some people in the United States often talk about "competition". Indeed, competition is commonplace in the modern world. But it should be fair competition that abides by rules and a healthy race to the top, not a zero-sum game, still less a pretext for depriving others of their legitimate development rights and interests. Competition between countries should be like competing with each other for excellence in a racing field, not beating one another in a wrestling ring. If we do need to compete, then let's compete to do a better job in running our country and contribute more to the stability and prosperity in the region and the world.

The Taiwan question is the most important and sensitive question in China-U.S. relations. No one cherishes more than the Chinese side peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait. But separatism for "Taiwan independence" is as incompatible with peace of the Strait as fire with water. When it comes to "Taiwan independence" separatists who betray their motherland and refuse to identify themselves as Chinese, the Chinese government simply has no room for compromise.

The U.S. side should abide by the one-China principle and the three Sino-U.S. joint communiqués with concrete actions, earnestly deliver on the statements by American leaders that the United States does not support "Taiwan independence" and has no intention to use Taiwan as a tool to contain China, and work with China to maintain peace and stability across the Strait and the overall China-U.S. relations.

It is important to focus on common interests and let dialogue and cooperation define the relationship. It is common interests that brought China and the United States together 45 years ago. It is also common interests that have kept driving our relationship forward.

The world today has entered a new period of turbulence and transformation. As permanent members of the Security Council and the two largest economies, China and the United States have only more, rather than fewer, common interests and shared responsibilities in safeguarding world peace and promoting development for all. Whether it is in bilateral areas such as economy and trade, energy, agriculture, law

是坚持走和平发展道路，同世界各国一道构建人类命运共同体，不会走国强必霸的歪路，更没有挑战或取代美国的计划。我们的真挚愿望是同美国做伙伴、朋友，始终认为宽广的地球完全容得下中美各自发展、共同繁荣，中美各自的成功是彼此的机遇而非挑战，双方应该相互成就而不是相互消耗，要坚决防止世界重回阵营对立、分裂对抗。当然中国有必须维护的利益、必须捍卫的原则和必须坚守的底线。

要管控矛盾分歧，把握中美关系的正确方向。中美关系从来就是建立在承认彼此不同和尊重彼此核心利益的基础上。美国同自己的盟国不也存在这样那样的分歧吗？中美历史文化、社会制度、发展阶段不同，当然会存在分歧矛盾，但这并不意味着双方注定迎头相撞。45年前，分歧差异没有阻碍中美建立和发展关系，45年后，分歧差异更不应该成为阻隔中美交流合作的拦路虎。美方经常谈的一个词是“竞争”。现代社会竞争普遍存在，但竞争应该是讲规则的公平竞争，是你追我赶、共同进步的良性竞争，而不能是你死我活、零和博弈的恶性竞争，更不能以竞争为名剥夺他国正当发展权益。国家与国家的竞争应该是田径赛，而不是拳击赛。如果要竞争，那就正向比，看谁能把各自国家治理得更好，谁能为地区和世界贡献稳定与繁荣。台湾问题是中美关系中最重要最敏感的问题。没有人比中方更珍视台海和平稳定，但“台独”与台海和平水火不容，对于那些数典忘祖、不承认自己是中国人的“台独”分子，中国政府没有妥协的余地。美方应该以实际行动遵守一个中国原则和中美三个联合公报规定，将美国领导人不支持“台独”、不寻求把台湾问题作为遏制中国工具的表态落到实处，与中方一道维护台海和平稳定和中美关系大局。

要聚焦共同利益，让对话合作成为主基调。共同利益是中美重新打开交往大门的动因，也是双边