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E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/25/07

TAGS: PREL, SENV, PHUM, CH

SUBJECT: MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH JIANG ZEMIN,
PRESIDENT OF CHINA (U)

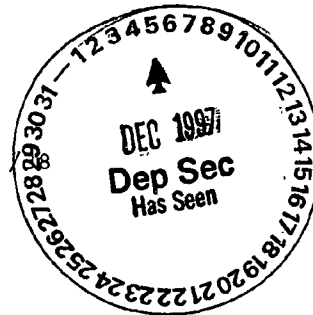
1. (U) Classified by Glyn T. Davies, NSC Executive
 Director. Reason: 1.5 (b,d).

2. (U) This cable contains a memorandum of the President's
 conversation with Jiang Zemin, President of China, on
 November 24, 1997. I ask that you not permit copies to be
 made of this message, and that you not distribute it
 outside of the mission's executive office.

3. Memorandum of Conversation:

(U) PARTICIPANTS: United States
 The President
 Madeleine Albright, Secretary of State
 Charlene Barshefsky, U.S. Trade Representative
 Samuel R. Berger, Assistant to the President
 for National Security Affairs
 Sylvia Matthews, Assistant to the President
 and Deputy Chief of Staff

Daniel Tarullo, Assistant to the President
 for International Economic Affairs
 Gene Sperling, Assistant to the President
 for Economic Affairs
 James Steinberg, Deputy Assistant to the
 President for National Security Affairs
 Larry Summers, Deputy Secretary of Treasury
 Sandra Kristoff, Special Assistant to the
 President and NSC Senior Director for Asian
 Affairs (Notetaker)
 Vivian Chang, Interpreter





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China:

Jiang Zemin, President
 Qian Qichen, Vice Premier of State Council
 and Foreign Minister
 Wu Yi, Minister of Foreign Trade and
 Economic Cooperation
 Teng Wensheng, Special Assistant
 Li Zhaoxing, Vice Minister, Ministry
 of Foreign Affairs
 You Xigui, Special Assistant
 Qian Yongqiu, Secretary to the President
 Shen Guofang, Director General, Information
 Department
 Mei Ping, Director General North American
 and Oceanian Affairs Department, Ministry
 of Foreign Affairs
 Zhang Yesui, Director General, Protocol,
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 Chen Jinghua, Deputy Director General, North
 American and Oceanian Affairs Department,
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs

DATE, TIME November 24, 1997, 12:45 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. PST
 AND PLACE: Vancouver, Canada

(S) . The President: There are three topics I want to address. First, we are extremely pleased with your visit; I look forward to my return visit to China next year. I think you did a good job making the American people and the Congress understand the importance of our relations.

(S) . I also am pleased China has made a new and significant WTO proposal. I want to move forward quickly and suggest our trade ministers report to us on their further talks by the first quarter of 1998. I will stay very personally involved in this issue.

(S) . I am sending to the Congress my certification on the 1985 agreement on peaceful uses of nuclear energy. This should open the way for us to do more things together.

(S) . We discussed the Kyoto conference in Washington. The United States, Europe, Japan, Canada and other developed countries are committed to adopting binding targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2010. We also agree that it would not be fair to ask developing countries, including China, to adopt such binding targets. It is an open question whether there is some way developing countries can participate in recognition that this is a global problem; it cannot be solved if only developed countries are involved. We need developing countries to participate in a way that does not ask them to sacrifice growth. Our approach suggests developing countries adopt a different set of goals and includes a system of joint implementation. Investment and technology will flow to China and some credit will go to the country financing a project in meeting its emissions targets. This is a way to approach a global problem globally without asking developing countries to sacrifice economic growth.

(S) . I appreciate very much the release of Wei Jingsheng. Your responses to press questions have been received - favorably. I hope you can find a way to deal with similar cases, such as Wang Dan; this would be very positive. I hope you can join the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Having a systemic approach on human rights is consistent with the strategic role you seek. As I have said before, I do not seek confrontation on this issue. I want to avoid one issue being taken out of the context of our overall relations; I don't want this issue to be blown up in the press.

(S) . As you know, there are some differences of approach on Iraq. Saddam said he took his recent steps because he is convinced the United States will never agree to lifting sanctions. That is not true. But sanctions should be



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continued until there is compliance with UN resolutions. The United States does not intend to insist on sanctions for as long as Saddam is in power. I also sympathize with the suffering Iraqi people and I want to find ways to relieve that suffering. But it would be a terrible mistake to give concessions to Baghdad for its defiance of the UN. It is the only country with weapons of mass destruction that has used those weapons. It could put such weapons in

the hands of terrorists, drug cartels and international criminals. We need to be firm and I hope we can work together on this. I am trying to work with France and Russia and I spoke to Yeltsin on this recently. Again, it would be a mistake to send the signal we are prepared to walk away from our determination to stop the buildup on weapons of mass destruction. This issue is important, especially this month as you chair the UN Security Council.

(S) . President Jiang: We are already old friends and have had six summit meetings. My visit to the United States was very successful and was regarded so by not only the American and Chinese people but by world public opinion as well. I now look forward to your visit to China. Through our joint efforts we can make your visit fully successful.

(S) . Now that our two trade ladies have had very good exchanges they should continue talks so all issues can be resolved fairly soon in the coming year. I appreciate your personal and positive interest. This is very important.

(S) . I also welcome the start of the implementation of the agreement on peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

(S) . I majored in electrical engineering in my third year at the university in 1945 and 1946. I read a book on steam power engines that analyzed boiler gas burning technology and described the process of emitting carbon dioxide and sulfur dioxide. I did not realize then the significant impact such gases would have on our environment today. We agree on the general direction needed and I want to work together to improve the environment.

(S) . But I am concerned the current amounts of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere are the result of long term accumulation. For a long time, capitalist countries in the West had greater levels of carbon dioxide emissions than developing countries. This fact should be taken into account. Developing countries, however, should not adopt the attitude that it is now their turn to emit; they should not do that. We should work together to reduce emissions. I appreciate your point that developing countries should pay attention to environmental protection and at the same time not jeopardize their economic development. The developing countries really are required to support and assist developed countries in initiating efforts on climate change. We need the exchange of investment and technology to speed up our own environmental protections efforts.

There is a huge gap between developed and developing countries in energy consumption which results from differences in living standards and excessive consumption. It will be difficult for developing countries if uniform targets on emissions reductions are set.

(S) . The President: There can't be uniform targets. In the United States, we have available technology which allows us to get the same amount of growth for less energy use. If we can transfer technology to help China and not slow its growth rate, we could have the answer to climate change. No developing country should be asked to give up future growth. We need to find cheaper ways for developing countries to protect the environment and maintain growth levels.

(S) . President Jiang: There is not a large gap between us in terms of general direction. We already have cooperative



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projects with the United States to replace combustion engines and gas turbines with clean coal generated energy.

(S) You raised dissidents and Wang Dan. In our October 28 White House conversation, I said you should not play up this issue in the press as that would not help resolve it. So my answer to earlier shouted press questions is not just diplomatic parlance. These questions must be decided consistent with Chinese judicial procedures. The central government, large parts of it, has no say in these matters which belong to the judiciary. So the Wei question is resolved. I told you Wei was not somebody we must keep in China or that he was someone we can't do without. Today you raised Wang Dan. His case should be dealt with by the legal and judicial procedures of China.

(S) On my way here I saw a placard with the slogan "Jiang is a tyrant." It reminded me of history lessons where I was taught that the first Emperor of China was a tyrant. Am I now an emperor? No, I think I am elegant, don't you.

(S) The President: Yes, I do.

(S) President Jiang: I believe conversation between leaders is very important. As I said, this is our sixth meeting; every meeting we have had has brought our people closer, increased our mutual understanding and removed some misunderstandings.

(S) The issue of signing the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights is being seriously studied. China takes international agreements seriously and we must study agreements to understand if we can implement them. We must keep our word once given; therefore, we study closely international agreements before we sign on to them.

(S) All along I have hoped Iraq would comply with UN resolutions and the matter would be resolved gradually and in a peaceful manner. I also share your concern about the suffering of ordinary Iraqi people. I had received your letter on this issue just as I was meeting with Yeltsin in Beijing. I believe our attitude toward this matter is a positive one.

(S) I look forward to your early visit next year. You surely will be warmly received. But I am not so good at golf.

(S) The President: We can play golf anytime, but on my first trip to China there will be so much to do and see. wish I did not have to sleep.

(S) President Jiang: I have gotten golf clubs as a gift, but I have never used them.

(S) I don't believe there will be many difficult issues this year at the APEC meeting.

(S) The president: I agree, but we need to signal our strong confidence in the economies of Asia, endorse the Manila framework, press for economic reform and adopt the nine sectors for trade liberalization. APEC can draw us together and I believe the meeting will be positive. Thank you.

President Jiang: Thank you. (U)

--End of Conversation--
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