U.S.-China Relations: Affirmative Agenda, a Responsible Course

Outline of remarks by Frank Jannuzi, Hitachi International Affairs Fellow of the Council on Foreign Relations Tokyo, May 17, 2007

I. Overview: Despite gains over 35 years in China and for U.S.-China relations, an important relationship under strain:
   - Trade deficit
   - Human rights
   - Expanding influence at expense of U.S. leverage
   - Military modernization
   - U.S. distracted and weighed down (Iraq, Afghanistan, GWOT)

II. Strategy of integration needed
   - Enhanced engagement
   - Weaving
   - Balancing (hedging?)

III. China’s immense difficulties
   - Economic disparities (3-1 urban-rural, 10-1 rich province, poor province)
   - Environmental degradation (16 of 20 worst cities for air pollution, 300,000 deaths/year from respiratory illness, etc.)
   - Demographic challenges (an aging society)
   - Middle class clamoring
   - Volatile ethnic and religious minorities,
   - Corruption and crisis of legitimacy

Bottom Line
Despite gains, China’s leaders face daunting domestic challenges, and therefore require and desire a peaceful and stable international environment – especially good relations with the United States.

IV. Building on common interests
   - Defining the “affirmative agenda” and “responsible course”
   - Forging habits of cooperation and reducing lingering mutual suspicions
   - Getting our own house in order
   - Human rights agenda based on institution building, not condemnation

V. The hedging debate: China’s uncertain future
   - Unilateral steps
   - Working with partners