

Opening Statement of Larry M. Wortzel, Chairman
March 18, 2006
Washington, D.C.

Good morning and welcome to the third hearing of the U.S.-China Commission's 2008 reporting cycle. Today, the Commission will examine the impact of China's expanding global influence and activities on U.S. economic and security interests. Our purpose is to collect information concerning the strategies and intentions of China's foreign policy and the tools used to implement that policy.

This hearing will look at China's diplomacy by addressing three main categories of diplomatic "tools": economic and trade, military and security, and diplomatic and political. The testimony from this hearing hopefully will provide the Commission with an understanding of the trends of China's diplomatic activities in regions around the world, and what diplomatic tools the United States can use to ensure that its global interests are protected.

To help us understand these issues, we will be joined by a number of expert witnesses from the Government, academia, and the private sector. The Commission's Vice Chairman, Carolyn Bartholomew, and Commissioner Dan Blumenthal are serving as the co-chairs for today's hearing and each has opening remarks. Once again, I welcome all of you to this hearing, and I now turn the proceedings over to Vice Chairman Bartholomew.