



U.S.-CHINA ECONOMIC AND SECURITY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

## **Hearing on “China’s Media and Information Controls – The Impact in China and the United States”**

**Opening Statement of Commissioner Daniel Blumenthal, Hearing Co-chairman  
September 10, 2009  
Washington, DC**

Thank you, Chairman Bartholomew. I’d like to also extend my welcome to our panelists and guests. For China, 2009 was filled with many politically “sensitive” anniversaries and events. The Chinese government sought to manage the media’s coverage of the many anniversaries of 2009, including the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dalai Lama’s exile, and the upcoming 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China. The year also saw the July 2009 riots in Xinjiang, a tragic series of events with many parallels to last year’s violence in Tibet.

The government’s response to “sensitive” news events this year has indicated some changes in Beijing’s strategy for controlling the media. In order to take a deeper look at China’s media policies, we’ll examine today three prominent stories from the past year: the messages that the Chinese government has spread in regards to the global economic recession; the way in which the government has responded to the calls for greater individual freedom and democratic reform set forth in the “Charter ‘08” movement; and the narratives that China’s state-controlled media has promoted regarding this year’s disputed Iranian elections and subsequent civil unrest. A close examination of these stories highlights many of the Chinese government’s interests and insecurities. It also illuminates the ways in which it portrays the United States to China’s own citizens, a critical factor in shaping Chinese perceptions of the United States -- and therefore a critical factor in U.S.-China relations.

To help analyze these issues, we are fortunate to have with us today prominent experts from academia and non-governmental organizations. We welcome them, and we welcome all of those who have joined us in the public gallery.

Thank you again, Madame Chairman, and thanks to our witnesses for being here today. I look forward to your statements and our subsequent discussions. At this time, we will introduce our first panel.

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