

Remarks by General Brent Scowcroft
US-China Business Council Gala
December 6, 2017

Evan, John, Ambassador Cui, Members of the Board, distinguished guests and friends, thank you.

I am honored and humbled to be recognized by the Council – all the more so as this recognition comes from my good friend Evan for whom I have enormous respect.

The Council and I share a lot of history. In a contest for the length of commitment to this most important relationship, I believe I have a few years more invested than the Council, but we are close.

I know that the world's most complicated relationship keeps getting more difficult to manage. I must tell you, those of us who had the privilege of participating in its early evolution are not surprised.

I urge you to keep this mind: We are dealing with the results of success, not failure. For both of us, our interests are global. Our people are better off than they have ever been. We are stronger than either nation has ever been. And we share responsibility for our planet in ways that – even a decade ago -- were unimaginable.

These are opportunities. Acting upon them adds complexity to our relationship, of course. Embrace that task. Keep in mind please that neither of our great nations poses the major risk to the other or our shared future. That risk is a failure of imagination or political will to achieve success together.

I deeply appreciate your honor.