

Panel: China and the US (Orchid Room)

Date/Time: Wednesday, December 12, 2012 / 10:30-11:45

Talking Points for: Bonnie Glaser, Senior Adviser on Asia, CSIS

US-China Relations: Why Mutual Suspicions Have Increased in Obama's First Term?

1. Mutual suspicions between the US and China have increased in the past few years.
 - a. China pins blame on the US
 - b. The US sees China as the cause of increased tensions
 - c. Both countries continue to attach high importance to maintaining a stable relationship and continue to work to dampen suspicions and expand cooperation.
2. Chinese concerns about US policy
 - a. Pivot to Asia
 - b. US forging anti-China policies and coalitions
 - c. China is explicit target of US military strategy
 - i. Strategic guidance
 - ii. Air-Sea Battle
3. US concerns about China's policy
 - a. Trade and economic policies
 - b. Bullying of neighbors
 - i. South China Sea
 - ii. East China Sea
 - c. Economic coercion
 - d. Rapid military modernization, limited transparency
 - e. Insufficient willingness to play proactive role in support of addressing regional/global problems
 - i. North Korea
 - ii. Syria
4. China becomes a more confident power
 - a. US seen as in relative decline
 - b. Determination to defend national interests

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- c. Public opinion and various interest groups influence policy
- 5. Bilateral coordination and cooperation
 - a. Mutual recognition of importance of bilateral relationship for both countries
 - b. Iran, Sudan, North Korea
 - c. Dialogue mechanisms
 - i. 13 presidential meetings, dozens of phone calls and letters
 - ii. Elevated SAED
 - 1. New mechanisms created
 - a. Strategic security dialogue
 - b. Asia-Pacific consultations
- 6. Going forward: US-China strategic competition or coordination?
 - a. Can US and China have positive-sum relationship in Asia?
 - i. Every nation in Asia-Pacific desires positive US-China relationship
 - b. Will China be able to strike a balance between addressing domestic demands to defend Chinese interests abroad and reassuring its neighbors that China will rise peacefully?
 - c. China's perception of the global balance of power is key factor

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