

中华人民共和国大使馆

THE EMBASSY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

2300 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

CE 057/04

The Embassy of the People's Republic of China presents its compliments to the Department of State of the United States of America and has the honor to make a statement on the following matter.

At about 6:30 on the evening of April 22, when Chinese Minister of Commerce Bo Xilai and other members of the entourage of Vice Premier Wu Yi were walking into the lobby of the Fairmont Hotel in Washington, D.C. on their way to the dinner hosted by the U.S.-China Business Council, the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations and the American Chamber of Commerce in honor of the Vice Premier who came to the United States for the 15th Session of the China-U.S. Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JCCT), an unidentified man suddenly rushed toward Minister Bo and other members of the Chinese entourage, and attempted to throw an object at them. Minister Bo and other members of the Chinese entourage swiftly dodged this physical attack. This man's act constituted a criminal assault, a grave threat to the personal safety of Minister Bo and other members of the Chinese entourage. Thereafter, the man attempted to escape from the site, but was intercepted by U.S. police officer, Sergeant Regina A. Randolph. After taking his deposition, the man was allowed to leave.

It was following the consensus reached by Premier Wen Jiabao and President George W. Bush and at the express invitation of the U.S. Government that Minister Bo and other members of the Chinese delegation came to the United States with Vice Premier Wu Yi to attend the 15th Session of the JCCT. The U.S. Government had the full responsibility to ensure security and safety of Minister Bo and other delegation members during their stay in the United States. The Chinese side had repeatedly requested the U.S. side to take necessary measures, including providing security details and safe and unobstructed passage for Minister Bo. However, the U.S. side had asserted that Minister Bo had no security risks in the United States and refused to do so, which has resulted in this criminal assault and the extremely unpleasant situation. The Chinese Government hereby expresses its strong dissatisfaction with the U.S. Government, and has made solemn representations with it.

This year's JCCT meeting is the first session since the level of officials attending it having been raised, and it is of important significance for promoting China-U.S. economic relations and trade as well as overall bilateral relations. The fact that the Chinese delegation was headed by Vice Premier Wu Yi and was composed of officials from over 10 departments of the Chinese Government, including 12 senior officials at ministerial and vice-ministerial levels, fully demonstrates the high importance the Chinese Government has attached to this JCCT session. It should be stressed that Minister Bo, as the head of the Ministry of Commerce which is the Chinese organizer of the JCCT session, has played an important and active role in making the meeting a success. Regrettably however, due to the reasons of the U.S. side, the assault incident which should not have happened took place anyway. This has not only done harm to the personal safety and dignity of Minister Bo, but has also cast a shadow over the exchanges and cooperation between China and the United States and between the relevant governmental organizations of the two countries. The Chinese Government strongly urges the U.S. Government to recognize the gravity of this assault incident, charge the police with the responsibility to investigate this matter, punish the attacker in accordance with the law, and ensure that similar events will not reoccur in the future.

The Embassy of the People's Republic of China avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Department of State of the United States of America the assurances of its highest consideration.



Department of State
 United States of America
 Washington, D.C.

- Cc: The National Security Council
- The Department of Justice
- The Department of Commerce
- The Office of the United States Trade Representative