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Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

TEXT OF REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT  
TO BE DELIVERED UPON THE DEPARTURE OF  
HIS TRIP TO THE PACIFIC BASIC

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE

Good Morning:

Three times in our generation, wars in Asia disturbed the peace of the world and drew America into conflict. On this Thanksgiving weekend, we give thanks that America--and Asia--are at peace. Today, I begin a mission to Asia to consolidate that peace and to visit our two newest states--Alaska and Hawaii--which are most mindful of the importance of peace in the Pacific.

I am traveling to the People's Republic of China to strengthen our new relationship with the great nation from whom we were isolated, in mutual suspicion, for almost a quarter-century. Stability in Asia and international security benefit from the new relationship of mutual respect that we are developing between the United States and China. We will stand for our own views, as we always have. But we will seek--in the American tradition--to foster mutual understanding.

I will also visit two important friends in Asia: the Philippines, one of our oldest partners, an ally which indeed symbolizes America's historic link and commitment to Asia--and Indonesia, a nation of 120 million people, a good friend of the United States, and a country of tremendous potential and importance.

As I did last year on my visits to Japan and the Republic of Korea, I will reaffirm America's undiminished interest in the security and well-being of Asia. That vast region is vital to us and to the world.

I will bring to the people of Asia the good wishes and friendship of the American people.

Thank you.

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