



## **BARACK OBAMA AND JOE BIDEN'S PLAN TO RENEW U.S. LEADERSHIP IN ASIA**

“AND AS WE STRENGTHEN NATO, WE SHOULD ALSO SEEK TO BUILD NEW ALLIANCES AND RELATIONSHIPS IN OTHER REGIONS IMPORTANT TO OUR INTERESTS IN THE 21ST CENTURY. IN ASIA, THE EMERGENCE OF AN ECONOMICALLY VIBRANT, MORE POLITICALLY ACTIVE CHINA OFFERS NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROSPERITY AND COOPERATION, BUT ALSO POSES NEW CHALLENGES FOR THE UNITED STATES AND OUR PARTNERS IN THE REGION. IT IS TIME FOR THE UNITED STATES TO TAKE A MORE ACTIVE ROLE HERE - TO BUILD ON OUR STRONG BILATERAL RELATIONS AND INFORMAL ARRANGEMENTS LIKE THE SIX PARTY TALKS. AS PRESIDENT, I INTEND TO FORGE A MORE EFFECTIVE REGIONAL FRAMEWORK IN ASIA THAT WILL PROMOTE STABILITY, PROSPERITY AND HELP US CONFRONT COMMON TRANSNATIONAL THREATS SUCH AS TRACKING DOWN TERRORISTS AND RESPONDING TO GLOBAL HEALTH PROBLEMS LIKE AVIAN FLU.”

- BARACK OBAMA SPEECH AT THE COUNCIL ON GLOBAL AFFAIRS, CHICAGO, APRIL 23, 2007

### **AT A GLANCE**

BARACK OBAMA AND JOE BIDEN RECOGNIZE THAT AMERICA'S FUTURE SECURITY AND PROSPERITY IS LINKED TO ASIA, AND THEY WILL WORK TO FORGE SECURITY, DIPLOMATIC, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ARRANGEMENTS THAT GO BEYOND TRADITIONAL BILATERAL AGREEMENTS, OCCASIONAL SUMMITS, AND AD-HOC ARRANGEMENTS. BARACK OBAMA AND JOE BIDEN WILL:

#### ***Enhance Regional Stability & Prosperity***

OBAMA AND BIDEN WILL DEVELOP MORE EFFECTIVE MECHANISMS TO COMBAT THE SHARED THREATS TO PEACE AND PROSPERITY, INCLUDING A MORE COLLABORATIVE APPROACH ON TERRORISM, PANDEMIC DISEASE, ENERGY SECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE.

#### ***Invigorate Alliances and Seek New Partnerships***

OBAMA AND BIDEN WILL WORK TO STRENGTHEN TIES WITH LONG-STANDING ALLIES, NOTABLY JAPAN, SOUTH KOREA, AUSTRALIA, THAILAND, AND THE PHILIPPINES AS THE PILLARS OF AMERICA'S ENGAGEMENT IN ASIA, WHILE BUILDING AN INFRASTRUCTURE WITH COUNTRIES IN ASIA THAT CAN PROMOTE BROADER STABILITY AND PROSPERITY.

#### ***Advance Opportunity from the Bottom-up***

OBAMA AND BIDEN WILL SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR WORLD PARTNERS, AND EMBRACE THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL OF CUTTING EXTREME POVERTY AROUND THE WORLD IN HALF BY 2015, AND THEY WILL DOUBLE OUR FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO \$50 BILLION TO ACHIEVE THAT GOAL.

### **THE PROBLEM**

#### ***Disengagement from the Region***

THE PREOCCUPATION WITH THE WAR IN IRAQ HAS LEFT A LEADERSHIP VACUUM IN ASIA, UNDERMINING THE WAR EFFORT IN AFGHANISTAN, HARMING THE EFFORT TO ADDRESS NORTH KOREAN NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND CONSTRAINING OPPORTUNITIES TO FORGE A MORE EFFECTIVE REGIONAL SECURITY ARCHITECTURE.

### ***Climate and Energy***

THE THREE LARGEST OIL IMPORTERS AND ENERGY CONSUMERS IN THE WORLD ARE THE U.S., JAPAN, AND CHINA, AND HALF OF THE GROWTH IN OIL CONSUMPTION BETWEEN NOW AND 2020 WILL COME FROM ASIA, NOTABLY CHINA AND INDIA.

### ***North Korean Nuclear Proliferation***

PRESIDENT BUSH CLAIMED HE WOULD NOT TOLERATE A NUCLEAR NORTH KOREA, BUT IN THE PAST 7 YEARS NORTH KOREA HAS REPORTEDLY QUADRUPLED ITS NUCLEAR ARSENAL, CARRIED OUT A NUCLEAR TEST, AND RESUMED TESTING INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILES.

### ***Deteriorating Conditions in Afghanistan***

ALMOST 7 YEARS AFTER 9/11, THE TERRORISTS WHO ATTACKED US – INCLUDING OSAMA BIN LADEN – ARE STILL AT LARGE. AL QAEDA IS GAINING GROUND, AND THE TALIBAN IS RESURGENT WITH A SAFE-HAVEN ALONG THE AFGHANISTAN-PAKISTAN BORDER. U.S. CASUALTIES IN AFGHANISTAN NOW EXCEED THOSE IN IRAQ, YET TODAY, THE U.S. HAS FIVE TIMES MORE TROOPS IN IRAQ THAN AFGHANISTAN.

## **BARACK OBAMA AND JOE BIDEN'S PLAN**

### ***Focus on the True Battleground in the War Against Terror***

BARACK OBAMA AND JOE BIDEN WILL END THE WAR IN IRAQ, REDEPLOY AT LEAST TWO COMBAT BRIGADES TO AFGHANISTAN, AND WORK TOWARD POLITICAL AND NON-MILITARY SOLUTIONS TO FINISH THE JOB IN AFGHANISTAN. IN GETTING STRATEGIC PRIORITIES RIGHT, THEY WILL USE THIS ADDITIONAL COMMITMENT TO SEEK GREATER CONTRIBUTIONS – WITH FEWER RESTRICTIONS – FROM NATO ALLIES AS WELL AS OUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES IN ASIA. THE OBAMA-BIDEN PLAN WILL FOCUS ON TRAINING AFGHAN SECURITY FORCES AND CONTRIBUTING AN ADDITIONAL \$1 BILLION IN NON-MILITARY ASSISTANCE YEARLY, WITH MEANINGFUL SAFEGUARDS TO ENSURE FUNDS ARE SPENT EFFECTIVELY. TO PREVAIL, THE AFGHAN PEOPLE MUST BELIEVE THAT OUR COMMITMENT TO THEIR FUTURE IS ENDURING, BECAUSE THE SECURITY OF AFGHANISTAN AND THE UNITED STATES IS SHARED.

### ***Enhance U.S. Focus on Asia***

OBAMA AND BIDEN HAVE LONG RECOGNIZED THAT ASIA IS CRITICAL TO U.S. SECURITY AND PROSPERITY IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY AND WILL FOCUS ON DEVELOPING MECHANISMS TO TACKLE SHARED CHALLENGES. THEY WILL ASSURE THAT THE UNITED STATES IS FULLY AND APPROPRIATELY ENGAGED IN CURRENT INSTITUTIONS, SUCH AS ASEAN AND APEC, AND EXPLORE ENHANCED COLLABORATION TO RESPOND TO NEW AND NON-TRADITIONAL THREATS.

### ***Transform our Alliance with Japan***

OBAMA AND BIDEN UNDERSTAND THAT OUR ALLIANCE WITH JAPAN IS THE CORNERSTONE OF AMERICAN-POLICY IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION AND OF A PEACEFUL, PROSPEROUS ASIA. WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEEPEN AND WIDEN COOPERATION TO RESOLVE GLOBAL CHALLENGES FROM CLIMATE CHANGE TO COMBATING CHRONIC POVERTY.

### ***Invigorate our Partnership with Korea***

OBAMA AND BIDEN UNDERSTAND THAT U.S. AND SOUTH KOREA ARE BOUND TOGETHER BY COMMON ADVERSARIES, BUT ALSO BY OUR SHARED VALUES AND MUTUAL INTERESTS. WE NEED TO DEVELOP A COMMON VISION FOR THE ALLIANCE TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THE 21ST CENTURY.

### ***Strengthen U.S. Relations with India***

OBAMA AND BIDEN BELIEVE IN STRENGTHENING U.S RELATIONS WITH INDIA BECAUSE, AS THE WORLD'S LARGEST DEMOCRACY AND A GROWING ECONOMIC POWER, INDIA IS A NATURAL STRATEGIC PARTNER OF THE U.S. THE INDIA CIVILIAN NUCLEAR ACCORD IS ONE NEW COMPONENT OF AN ENHANCED RELATIONSHIP. THAT PARTNERSHIP SHOULD ALSO EXTEND TO COOPERATION ON ALTERNATIVE ENERGY AND COMMERCIAL ENGAGEMENT.

### ***Enhance Cooperation with Pakistan***

OBAMA AND BIDEN RECOGNIZE THAT OUR EFFORT IN AFGHANISTAN IS INEXTRICABLY LINKED TO PAKISTAN, AND THAT WE MUST EMPOWER PAKISTAN'S MODERATE MAJORITY, AND STRENGTHEN DEMOCRACY AND THE RULE OF LAW IN PAKISTAN, IN ORDER TO PREVAIL AGAINST EXTREMISM. IN ADDITION TO WORKING WITH PAKISTAN TO DO MORE TO CRACK DOWN ON TERRORIST SANCTUARIES ALONG THE AFGHANISTAN-PAKISTAN BORDER, THEY WILL BROADEN U.S. AID AND ENGAGEMENT WITH PAKISTAN ON CRITICAL CHALLENGES LIKE ILLITERACY, POVERTY, AND CIVIL SOCIETY. OUR PAKISTAN POLICY SHOULD EMPHASIZE SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRACY AND SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, NOT ONLY COUNTER-TERRORISM.

### ***Advance American Interests and Values with China***

OBAMA AND BIDEN SEE ELEMENTS OF COOPERATION AND COMPETITION IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA, AND UNDERSTANDS WE MUST ENHANCE AREAS FOR COLLABORATION WHILE STRENGTHENING THE ABILITY OF AMERICAN WORKERS AND COMPANIES TO COMPETE. WE MUST BE VIGILANT ABOUT CHINA'S MILITARY MODERNIZATION, RECOGNIZING THE BEST WAY TO MANAGE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA IS TO DRAW IT FURTHER INTO THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM.

### ***Complete and Verifiable Elimination of North Korea's Nuclear Weapons Programs***

OBAMA AND BIDEN UNDERSTAND THAT TOUGH AND DIRECT DIPLOMACY IS NECESSARY TO ASSURE THE COMPLETE AND VERIFIABLE ELIMINATION OF ALL OF NORTH KOREA'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAMS, AS WELL AS ITS PAST PROLIFERATION ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING WITH SYRIA. THEY WILL NOT CEDE OUR LEVERAGE, AND WILL TIE SANCTIONS RELIEF TO NORTH KOREA'S PERFORMANCE.

### ***Work to Eliminate the Education Deficit***

EDUCATION IS A CRITICAL COMPONENT FOR ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND EMPOWERMENT, YET AN ESTIMATED 100 MILLION CHILDREN ARE NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL. OBAMA AND BIDEN PLAN TO ESTABLISH A \$2 BILLION GLOBAL EDUCATION FUND TO INCREASE THE SCOPE AND QUALITY OF EDUCATION WORLD-WIDE, WHILE ALSO SUPPORTING AN INCREASE IN THE INTENSITY OF EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE.

### ***Renew American Diplomacy***

OBAMA AND BIDEN WILL REBUILD THE DIPLOMATIC LINKS TO ASIA THAT HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO WITHER UNDER PRESIDENT BUSH. THEY ARE WILLING TO MEET WITH THE LEADERS OF ALL NATIONS, FRIEND AND FOE, IF IT WILL ADVANCE U.S. INTERESTS TO DO SO. THEY WILL LAY THE GROUNDWORK CAREFULLY FOR SUCH INTERACTIONS, BUT BELIEVES IT IS IMPORTANT TO SIGNAL THAT AMERICA IS READY TO COME

TO THE TABLE, AND IS WILLING TO LEAD. AT HOME, OBAMA AND BIDEN WILL RESTORE AMERICA'S STANDING, REPUTATION, AND AUTHORITY IN THE WORLD BY LEADING BY EXAMPLE AND RESPECTING CIVIL LIBERTIES, ENDING TORTURE, AND RESTORING HABEAS CORPUS.

### ***Work Towards Energy Security***

BARACK OBAMA AND JOE BIDEN WILL EMBRACE THE GLOBAL EFFORT TO FORGE A PATH TOWARD SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND CLEAN ENERGY. THEY WILL INCREASE INVESTMENTS IN ALTERNATIVE ENERGY RESOURCES LIKE WIND AND SOLAR, BIOFUELS, AND CLEAN COAL, AND WILL ALLOW INDUSTRIAL CARBON EMITTERS TO OFFSET SOME OF THEIR COSTS UNDER HIS CAP-AND-TRADE SYSTEM BY INVESTING IN LOW CARBON ENERGY PROJECTS. THEY WILL SHARE TECHNOLOGY, ENFORCE ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS IN OUR TRADE DEALS, AND WORK WITH INSTITUTIONS LIKE THE WORLD BANK TO SUPPORT THIS EFFORT. CRUCIAL TO THIS EFFORT WILL BE THE DELICATE DIPLOMACY WITH INDIA AND CHINA NECESSARY TO MAKE MEANINGFUL INROADS TO REDUCE WORLDWIDE EMISSION LEVELS.

### ***Advance Opportunity from the Bottom-up***

OBAMA AND BIDEN WILL SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR WORLD PARTNERS, AND EMBRACE THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL OF CUTTING EXTREME POVERTY AROUND THE WORLD IN HALF BY 2015, AND THEY WILL DOUBLE OUR FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO \$50 BILLION TO ACHIEVE THAT GOAL. THEY WILL HELP THE WORLD'S WEAKEST STATES TO BUILD HEALTHY AND EDUCATED COMMUNITIES, REDUCE POVERTY, DEVELOP MARKETS, AND GENERATE WEALTH. THEY ALSO WOULD HELP WEAK STATES TO FIGHT TERRORISM, HALT THE SPREAD OF DEADLY WEAPONS, AND BUILD THE HEALTH CARE INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDED TO PREVENT AND TREAT HIV/AIDS, OUTBREAKS OF AVIAN INFLUENZA AND OTHER PANDEMICS.

### ***Trade Policy That Works for All***

BARACK OBAMA AND JOE BIDEN BELIEVE THAT STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC TIES ACROSS ASIA WHILE ENSURING INCREASED LIVING STANDARDS FOR WORKERS THROUGHOUT THE REGION ENHANCES BOTH AMERICAN SECURITY AND PROSPERITY. THEY WILL USE ALL TOOLS AT THEIR DISPOSAL TO END UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES IN ASIA, SUCH AS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY INFRINGEMENT AND CURRENCY MANIPULATION, AND TO ENSURE THAT IMPORTS INTO THE UNITED STATES ARE SAFE.

### ***Protect the Environment***

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE THREATENS DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES TO THE FRAGILE AND UNIQUE ECOSYSTEMS OF THE PACIFIC. BARACK OBAMA AND JOE BIDEN WILL ADDRESS MANMADE CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE BY CUTTING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS 80 PERCENT BY 2050. THE CAP-AND-TRADE SYSTEM WILL INCLUDE AN INITIAL PARTIAL AUCTION OF POLLUTION CREDITS TO RAISE MONEY THAT WOULD BE INVESTED TO UPGRADE OUR ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE; CREATE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF NEW, HIGH-WAGE JOBS; REINVEST IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION EFFORTS; AND MAKE AMERICA TRULY ENERGY INDEPENDENT.

### ***Safeguard the Pacific Islands from Disasters***

BARACK OBAMA AND JOE BIDEN SUPPORT EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S PACIFIC TSUNAMI WARNING CENTER. THEY ALSO HAVE BEEN VIGOROUS ADVOCATES OF BOLSTERING OUR NATION'S ABILITY TO RESPOND TO ACTS OF TERRORISM AND NATURAL DISASTERS IN A SWIFT AND EFFECTIVE MANNER. THEY WILL WORK TO ENSURE THAT THE PACIFIC ISLANDS ARE ADEQUATELY PREPARED FOR DISASTERS.

## **OBAMA RECORD**

## ***Effective Approach Towards Pakistan***

OBAMA CO-SPONSORED LEGISLATION WITH SENATORS BIDEN AND LUGAR TO TRIPLE NON-MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN AND SUSTAIN IT FOR THE NEXT DECADE, WHILE ALSO REQUIRING THAT CONTINUED MILITARY AID IS USED FAR MORE EFFECTIVELY TO FIGHT AL QAEDA AND THE TALIBAN.

## ***Support for U.S.-India Nuclear Energy Cooperation***

OBAMA VOTED FOR THE U.S.-INDIA NUCLEAR AGREEMENT IN 2006, DESPITE CONCERNS ABOUT THE NON-PROLIFERATION ASPECTS OF INITIAL VERSIONS OF THE AGREEMENT. HE WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE SURE THAT OUR RESPECTIVE STRATEGIC, NON-PROLIFERATION, AND ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT INTERESTS ARE ALL ADVANCED BY THE ULTIMATE DEAL.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

### ***Read the Speech***

[HTTP://WWW.BARACKOBAMA.COM/2007/04/23/THE AMERICAN MOMENT REMARKS TO.PHP](http://www.barackobama.com/2007/04/23/the_american_moment_remarks_to.php)

### ***Read the Plan***

[HTTP://WWW.BARACKOBAMA.COM/ISSUES/FOREIGNPOLICY/](http://www.barackobama.com/issues/foreignpolicy/)



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