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BG Corpus began his talk by describing the perceived threat in his home region (Southeast Asia) over the last half century.

- 1950s-1970s: China was the perceived major regional threat  
  - It was fighting or threatening to fight with most of its neighbors (Soviet Union/India/Viet-Nam)
- In the last 15 years, perceptions of China have been changing  
  - Joining regional alliances
• 1991 – attended first ASEAN related conference
• 1997 – first ASEAN-China summit
• Dec 14, 2005: first East Asian Summit
  • Will have no American leaders
  • Shows China’s willingness to not use force for policy
    o Using its soft power (economic / diplomatic)
• China no longer seen as main threat – US is now the threat
  o US is now being isolated in the region

Most significant geo-political event of the new century: improving relationship between China and Russia
• Undeclared military alliance now
• Primary causes:
  o Collapse of Soviet Union & NATO’s eastward expansion
  o Bombing of Chinese embassy in Belgrade
  o New US bases in Central Asia (old Soviet Union territory)
  o Taiwan Strait issues, especially related to Theater Missile Defense
  o Fear of closer US-Japan military relationship
  o Russian and China now see each other as a “strategic rear”
  o US abrogation of the ABM Treaty and fear of a new arms race
  o US military embargo of China (so forced to go to Russian for weapons)
  o US/UK unilateral actions in Iraq
  o China’s need for Russian oil
  o Russia’s need for markets and financial aid
  o Operation Summer Pulse – US exercise in July, 2004
    • 7 carrier battle groups converged in South China Sea
    • A historic first – 2/3 CVBG’s is the norm
    • China felt very threatened
  o Joint desire to counter balance the single superpower
• Indicator: China and Russia held first joint “anti-terrorist” exercise, August 2005
  o However, included strategic bombers
• This coming together of Russia and China means that the US would face opposition much greater than they did with the old Warsaw Pact

New groupings and alliances developing in the region
• Guam Group – 1997
• Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) – 2001
• Want US and other western countries to leave Central Asian bases
• New alliances developing that include China: BRICS (2002)
  o 75% of world population
  o 80% of world natural resources
  o Economies combined predicted to be greater than that of G6 by 2039

The speaker noted that statements by US officials often raise concerns in SE Asia. Example:
• 1998 – Dick Cheney, as an oil executive, noted that the importance of Caspian Sea resources would be worthless unless piped through Afghanistan

BG Corpus listed several facts and predictions indicating how fast and how much China is rising especially in comparison to the US. Examples:
• China produces 442,000 engineers a year / the US graduates 60,000
• China’s GDP growth since 1978 averaged about 9.4%
• China’s trade surplus with the US at about $200B in 2005
• China holds over $250B in US Treasury Bonds
  o What would happen if China abandons them?
  o Could cause serious harm to US interest rates and housing market to start
  o Could have major impact on the dollar as world currency
• Some other comparisons
  o China has more cell phone users than the US has people
  o China savings rate is about 50% while the US rate is about 2%
  o Harbin City building new city larger than New York City

What does future hold for emerging power China and Superpower America?

• Question: How will America use its power?
• Developing/fostering peace and prosperity?
• Reducing poverty and protecting the environment?
• Or…enforcing a Pax Americana with military might

The speaker noted a number of statements by US leaders that generally bother non-Americans about American use of power and national security policies including:
• National Security Strategy from 2001
• Defense Policy Guidance from 1992

These concerns have lead to suspicions about recent and current US activities in Iraq and Afghanistan
• Statements about preemption policies
• Statements about willingness to carry out unilateral actions
• Statements about making no distinction between terrorists and those who harbor terrorists

To “ordinary observers” these statements sound like a call for a non-benevolent world order – a Pax Americana brought and maintained by force

Corpus: “The framers of the National Security Strategy of the United States of America hoped that such world order will last throughout the ‘New American Century.’ I say: Highly doubtful.”
Worst Case Scenario for the New American Century

Why the Worst Case Scenario:

- Lessons from history show many worst cases were not considered by planners
  - Starting from Hannibal crossing the Alps to attack from the rear
  - Through Pearl Harbor and the Maginot Line
  - Right up to September 11th
- Current US Administration is still not preparing for the worst case as can be seen in the planning for Iraq

SCENARIO ONE: U.S. Launches Preventive War Against China

US becomes increasingly concerned about China’s rising power as a challenge to its position as the only superpower

- Need economic power to have military power
- To try to hold back and counterbalance China the US:
  - Employs protectionist trade policies and weapons embargoes
  - Improves alliances with Japan
  - Other measures to dampen Chinese economic growth

China’s reaction is to strengthen ties with others in its region and carry out many moves which are already happening

- Improving military ties with Russia / Iran
- Signing economic free trade pacts with others
- Developing diplomatic alliances world-wide
- Trying to offset US superpower with multiple country power
- Signing huge oil deals with countries world-wide

Reaction: US planners decide to launch a preventive war to stop China

- Led by The Project for the New American Century

The Project for the New American Century is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to a few fundamental propositions: that American leadership is good both for America and for the world; and that such leadership requires military strength, diplomatic energy and commitment to moral principle. ... intends, through issue briefs, research papers, advocacy journalism, conferences, and seminars, to explain what American world leadership entails.

William Kristol, Chairman www.newamericancentury.org/

- As a pretext for war, instigates Taiwan to declare independence
- Reaction: China launches a multi-faceted missile attack at Taiwan
- China plays first *trump card*: Dumps huge holdings of US Treasury Bonds – goes to Euros and gold
As expected, 7 CVBGs plus 2 from UK head for South China Sea, Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean

Since the US has no effective Anti-Ballistic Missile System in place, US cities are vulnerable to Chinese and Russian ICBMs and other missile attacks

- Chinese cities have enormous nuclear defense tunnels
- Result: US chooses not strike first with nuclear weapons

US has many other weaknesses:

- CVBGs vulnerable to missiles that already exist in Chinese inventory
  - Supersonic, highly accurate cruise missiles
  - Short and medium range ballistic missiles from trucks or other land installations along chokepoints and coastlines
- Aegis radars have no known defense against sea-skimming supersonic missiles
  - Highly accurate, pop-up end maneuvering, fire-and-forget missile threats
  - Already in China’s inventory
  - Phalanx system would not any help either
  - Attacks launched from several types of existing platforms
- No known defense against high-speed rocket torpedoes already possibly owned by China, Russia, North Korea

China built its worst case scenario based on the 2004 7-CVBG exercise of its coast

- China planning for 12 CVBGs plus 3 from the UK
- Would start with a strategic retreat when faced with converging CVBGs
- But would also have Chinese and Russian subs sitting silently at forward locations
- Expect US CVBGs to enter the sea anticipating no real resistance

China’s second *trump card* is disruption of US & UK C4ISR satellite systems

- Could use ASATs against US sensor and communications satellites
- Also could have space mines, ASAT lasers, parasite satellites
- Chinese & Russian hackers would also start attacks on US/UK networks

China’s third “trump card” would be a saturation barrage of missiles against all available targets

- Use all types of missiles at all types of targets especially those weakened by earlier C4ISR denial attacks
- Uses Chinese principle: “Win victory with one strike”
- Subs would encircle CVBGs and destroy them with assortment of missiles and torpedoes
- All US bases through the Far East would be hit at the same time
Chinese doctrine includes the concept of Active Defense—will strike while the threat is growing

In the Middle East, China’s ally Iran would also get into the act

- Launches land-based cruise missiles against CVBGs in the Persian Gulf
- Cuts off oil deliveries by blowing up ships in chokepoints

Power of Asymmetric Warfare

- “Weak” countries really can obliterate aircraft carriers
- “Victory through inferiority over superiority”

Summary of China’s “Trump Cards”

- Huge holdings of US bonds that underlay US economy
- An assortment of ASAT weaponry
- Supersonic cruise missiles that cannot be defended against
- Rocket torpedoes that cannot be defended against
- Subs with nuclear-tipped land attack cruise missiles (LACMs)
- Advanced RMA weapons: lasers, microwave, EMP

But that’s not all

- Russia launches cruise missile attacks against US Central Asian military bases
- Other members of China’s regional alliances would take part in land attacks
- Would all happen over a few hours across three regions of the world

US could not fight all these major conflicts at one time

- Could not withstand such an asymmetrical attack for even a few hours
- Major geo-political reality: US would be fighting on exterior lines
  - China and Russia would be fighting using interior lines
  - 10,000 km SLOCs would be difficult to protect under any conditions
  - Numerically superior Chinese forces can easily be concentrated anywhere that the US tries a land invasion
  - A modern Peoples’ War would overrun any US/Allied land force

Bottomline: So, can America launch a preventive war against China and expect to win?

How about prevailing over even smaller, weaker adversaries? See Scenario Two
SCENARIO TWO: Asymmetric War: U.S. Attacks Medium Power X

Elements of Asymmetric Warfare such as could be used by Iraqi insurgents:

- Employed by the weak to defeat the strong defeat
- Considered because no major power can match a superpower
- The weak fight and win by avoiding the enemy’s strength and attacking his weakness
- Many examples throughout history such as David & Goliath
- Superiority can be defeated by invisibility
  - Fought at team level with small and even improvised weapons
  - Fighters can easily merge into local populace
  - No electronic signals emitted when communications hand carried
  - HUMINT will do most for the local side
  - Psyops will be better done by the local force, not the invaders
- Asynchronous warfare: attack when least expected – can wait for a long time
- Can go anywhere, do anything
  - Can use bio weapons, dirty bombs, anything
  - Could even deliver such weapons to Capitol Hill
- Might get some advanced weapons from more advanced friendly states
  - Laser weapons or high-frequency weapons, etc.
  - New things like swarms of attacking robot ants that blow-up on command when directed into important enemy infrastructure network computers
- US also must worry about large numbers of hackers being recruited
  - Could be used in attacks on US banking system or infrastructure networks
  - US is now especially dependant on its computers – an Achilles’ heel

Bottomline: What would happen if the US had to face 10 different little Iraq-like enemies all trying an assortment of asymmetric methods?

Speaker’s CONCLUSION

- United States stands at a crossroad.
- One road leads to world domination.
  - Using military might, it can
    - strike at any perceived threat
    - change sovereign regimes at will
    - grab precious mineral resources
    - control local economies with its transnational corporations
  - But the road to world domination is full of risks
    - What is planned on paper may not turn out as dreamed of
  - Pursuing this path can ignite the outrage and hatred of people all over the world
- The other road leads to world leadership
o U.S. can choose to use its power, wealth and influence to sincerely do good for the people on this planet
o It can lead in easing or obliterating the debt burden of developing countries.
o It can focus on the fight against poverty
  ▪ or the fight against drugs,
  ▪ or the effort to save the deteriorating environment of planet earth
o By gaining the world’s sympathy and support, terrorism directed against Americans and the U.S. mainland will be greatly minimized if not totally eliminated.
o This alternate road, in fact, is the key to defeating the phenomenon of “terrorism” gripping the world today.

Speaker’s Bottomline:

If the US chooses the latter, I am confident that America will gain the hearts and minds of all of humankind.

Then it can be a true world leader.

Only then can it maintain its preeminent world status.

QUESTION & ANSWER DISCUSSION

About the Philippines

BG Corpus noted that he had joined the rebels when he was young because he desired to change the status quo at that time

- There is still a social structure where only the elite control economic and political power
  o A plutocracy, not a democracy
  o Big gap between the rich and the poor
    ▪ This is the reason for problems in many countries
    ▪ With such a structure the rich get richer and the poor poorer.
  o Advances in information technology are making things worse
    ▪ Only a few can now access the information highway
    ▪ 80-90% are cut off from it
- Suggested solution: Use advances in IT to bring education to the masses
  o Every village should have broadband capabilities
  o This would bridge the digital divide
  o Could bring good teachers to every rural school
  o This would empower the poor economically
    ▪ They want social justice
• US must help this happen by making broadband and other advanced IT widely available
• Based on the concept of teaching people to fish is better than giving them fish
  • The best thing that the people of the Philippines remember about the US colonization period was that it brought modern education
    o Now need to bring the hardware to connect villages but not happening
    o Promised $33M for Mindanao improvements but money went away when the Philippines pulled its people out of Iraq
  • US can’t win against insurgents, terrorists, and rebellions by military power alone
    o Such phenomena are like weeds – can’t just cut them down
    o Must take care of the root causes – that gap between rich and poor
    o Quality education for the masses would help greatly to expand horizons

Can there be quality education without stability which is being provided by the US in many places around the world?

• US needs to be involved all over the world but must use its soft power
• US needs to attack poverty, disease, drugs, foreign debts, etc.....
• US must recognize that it will not be able to control oil resources
• US must recognize that it will not be able to change the systems in other countries at will since they have a right to diversity, too
• Bringing education to the masses will attack the root causes of insurgency
  o However, must have both a right handed and left handed effort
  o The poor can be empowered if they have access to qualified teachers