



STEVEN ERLANGER

Chief Diplomatic Correspondent, Europe, for the *New York Times*

Ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. Here again, I really do feel, we happy few, we band of brothers. Thank you for being here. I think we have one of the best-qualified panels on a topic of this whole conference. It is my great honor to try to moderate this group on the issues of East Asia. Again, I am Steve Erlanger and I am with the *New York Times* and I do have an ancient history in South East Asia, China and Japan, and I have tried to keep a real interest in it. There are all kinds of issues that I think are obvious, from China, Russia, North Korea, Hong Kong, and there is a lot to discuss. We have an hour and I am going to try to reserve at least 15 minutes at the end, maybe 20, for your questions to this panel. I think you can read about everyone if you like, it is all in front of you.