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Good early evening, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for joining us for our panel to discuss the various views on US/China relations; the outlook for Taiwan; is Taiwan like Ukraine? What about the bipolar ideological conflict that seems to be developing with China and the outside world?

We have done some planning for this session. In order to try to make it more interesting for all of you, and for ourselves, we are going to change the format a little bit from the normal presentation and sequence of different points of view on the same subject; but try to develop some interchange.

I come from the United States, where we have been protected by two oceans, so the rest of the world always looks very similar. We take a position on terrorism; or communism; or some other issue, and we expect the rest of the world to take the same position because they are all the same out there.

What I hope today's panel does is show how different the perspectives are from different national points of view – and we are going to ask each of our participants on the panel to speak on their particular viewpoints.

There is a quality, I mean, we are assuming that there is a US position and that it is pretty strong in opposition to China going into this discussion. I will point out that, this afternoon, the czar of American Indo-Pacific in Washington, Kurt Campbell, made a presentation in which he said, 'In fact, we are returning', he did not use the word 'to engagement' because he is the author of the obituary of 'engagement with China', but he said, 'We are returning to normal interstate relations', as a result of China effectively capitulating to American policy over the next year. We can talk about that and many other subjects over the course.

However, today, we have a very distinguished panel that represents a fairly broad reach. Unfortunately, it is a 'manel' – not a panel with men and women representatives. We all apologize in our own way for not being able to reflect the gender differences that we should be on this stage.

You have the biographies of our presenters. We have got John Andrews, who is the senior journalist for *The Economist*; Jean-Pierre Cabestan, who is a long-time China scholar and is at the Institute for Research in Hong Kong; Renaud Girard is from *Le Figaro* in Paris; Mr. Hosoya, Professor from Keio University and doing a lot of international policy research; Hye Min Lee, who is a long-time trade professional for the Korean Government and is now



working for Kim & Chang, a very distinguished law firm; and we have got Mr. Samir Saran from India, from Delhi, from the Observers Research Forum; and then, via the virtual connection, we have Professor Wang Jisi from Peking University, who we are glad to welcome here.

I am greatly disappointed we cannot have you here in person, Jisi, but we are so happy you could at least participate this way.

Now, to get us started, I am going to ask panelists to respond to a question about just how far do you think, does your government at home, think the US will succeed in evoking or forcing your government – the government you watch closely from your perch – to follow the US in its policy of pursuing a bipolar world, where we divide between those who are in favor of China's disruption of the liberal international order; or support the American position of protecting and developing the international order?