

Good afternoon. Thank you for your warm and gracious introduction. It is a pleasure to be here today.

Today, I would like to talk about the U.S. relationship with both New Zealand and Samoa. I will provide a general overview of the U.S. relationship with these two countries and discuss my objectives for both.

### ***[Christchurch Earthquake]***

Before I get started, however, I would like to take a moment to recognize the challenges that the people of Christchurch are facing. As most of you are probably aware, in the early hours of September 4, Christchurch was hit by a 7.1 magnitude earthquake. There was widespread damage to infrastructure and private property, but there was thankfully no loss of life. However, the people of Christchurch are battling to put their lives back together, and we stand ready to assist as we can.

We at the U.S. embassy began closely following the situation only moments after it happened. We made contact with the numerous Americans living in the area, ensured that U.S. government personnel there were safe, and reached out to the local and national governments to see if there was any way we could lend a hand. While there was nothing in the way of material support that the New Zealand

government required, the United States is providing a team from the U.S. Geological Survey to help survey the area and work with New Zealand to come up with ways to help reduce the hazards from such quakes in the future.

### ***[OVERVIEW AND HISTORY OF NZ RELATIONSHIP]***

Now, let me start with a general overview of the relationship with New Zealand where we have a consistently close, warm and deep interaction. Today, relations with New Zealand are the strongest they have been in many years, and I see them getting even stronger.

New Zealand and the United States have for a long time shared common values.

We work together on a range of global and regional challenges from Antarctica to Afghanistan to the Pacific region. Our close bond and shared goals form the bedrock of our relationship.

- We are both relatively young countries, firmly committed to democratic principles and human rights.
- We are both heterogeneous countries that celebrate diversity.
- We share the liberal values of freedom, peace, and justice.

- And, we have the common goal of a world that is stable, peaceful, prosperous, democratic and environmentally sustainable.

The U.S. and New Zealand also share elements of history. In fact, the bilateral relationship is about as old as New Zealand itself. In 1839, the United States first established consular representation in New Zealand.

Direct diplomatic ties came in 1942 when the threat of Japanese invasion encouraged closer U.S.-New Zealand cooperation in the Pacific campaign.

During World War Two a large number of American military personnel were stationed in New Zealand to support the counter-offensive in the Pacific.

The bilateral relationship throughout the post-war period was characterized and formalized by the ANZUS security treaty of 1951, which also included Australia.

The abrogation of the ANZUS Treaty in 1986, following the enactment of the nuclear-free legislation in New Zealand, led to a suspension of U.S. security cooperation with New Zealand. Subsequently, aspects of the relationship cooled for a period, but we are committed to looking forward and charting a more robust relationship. We both acknowledge our differences, as all friends should do, and

the warmth has returned to our friendship. There are simply too many areas where we can and must work together and make a difference.

### ***AREAS OF COOPERATION]***

I would now like to turn to the building blocks of our present day relationship – those areas where we are partnering to make a difference. Specifically, I will address our cooperation in the areas of science, security, and economic growth.

### ***[AREAS OF COOPERATION- SCIENCE]***

One area where Americans and Kiwis have long worked together is in the related realms of science and the environment. In fact, science cooperation forms one of the longest and deepest threads of the bilateral relationship. It dates back to the 1950s in Antarctica and continues today in great cooperative spirit, supported by concrete action.

In the Antarctic, longstanding cooperative ventures between our two nations both at the U.S. station at McMurdo and New Zealand's Scott base have generated many significant scientific achievements.

This was aptly illustrated in January this year when the U.S. National Science Foundation and U.S. Department of Energy teamed up with various New Zealand agencies and organizations to install wind turbines on the ice that will help provide renewable energy to both McMurdo Station and Scott base, situated only a few kilometers apart. This joint venture will also aid in the research of clean energy.

The U.S and New Zealand also work together in the oceanic surrounds of Antarctica to advance environmental management and work towards protecting the fragile marine ecosystem.

Much of the good work we do together in Antarctica is due to New Zealand's cooperation and hospitality, where for many years Christchurch has served as a staging area for joint logistical support operations in Antarctica.

Looking further afield, the U.S and New Zealand, along with Iceland, are collaborating on the Energy Development in Island Nations project, or EDIN.

This innovative international partnership helps advance the deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies in islands across the globe, including Tonga and Samoa.

Why is this important?

1. Islands are often extremely dependent on mostly imported fossil fuels for electricity and transportation.
2. Islands often have abundant renewable resources and small populations, i.e. sun and wind, making them ideal places to showcase the benefits of renewable energy.
3. Finally, islands are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, such as rising sea levels and more severe and more frequent hurricanes.

By bringing together policy advisors, technical experts, and financial leaders, EDIN works to guide clean energy development and deployment in regions and islands. This is good for the local environment *and* local economy.

New Zealand and the United States have also just begun a partnership with other countries on the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Emissions. The GRA is a tangible outcome from the Copenhagen Conference on climate change.

The GRA is an idea first floated by New Zealand in the run-up to last year's United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. It is made up of 29 nations committed to working together to develop and disseminate science-based methods of producing substantially more food while reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the agricultural sector.

The U.S. has invested heavily in this important endeavor. Up to USD \$90 million over four years has already been committed to advance the GRA concept. This is far more than any other country. Our commitment to the GRA also extends to human resources.

The work of the GRA is extremely important because agriculture produces approximately 15 percent of all greenhouse gas emissions, yet the sector is often neglected in climate change research and investment. In New Zealand, agriculture produces around 50 percent of its greenhouse gas emissions.

The issue is also closely tied to food security. Nations are unwilling to reduce greenhouse gases in this sector if it means they will not be able to feed their population. As populations continue to increase, we will need to significantly increase food production, which could result in escalating environmental degradation if not carefully managed.

The GRA was created to address this very delicate balance between food security and climate change. Part of what makes the GRA concept so powerful and laden with potential is that it is focused on scientific solutions - not political debate - and is being driven largely by scientists.

### ***[AREAS OF COOPERATION- SECURITY]***

On security, we are actively partnering in a range of areas, including nuclear non-proliferation, counterterrorism, port security, anti-piracy efforts, and stabilization efforts in Afghanistan, to name a few.

There is no doubt that new transnational security threats have emerged around the world and within our own Asia-Pacific region.



One of the most notable threats takes the form of terrorists using nuclear devices to cause mass destruction.

Quantifying the likelihood of nuclear attack by extremist groups is complex, but we do know that large quantities of nuclear weapons usable materials – including highly enriched uranium and separated plutonium – are present in both civilian and military programs in a number of countries.

The U.S. and New Zealand are working shoulder-to-shoulder to counter this threat.

One of the most recent developments is the Nuclear Security Summit convened by President Obama in Washington on April 12. The goal of the summit was to address the threat presented to global security by nuclear terrorism.

This gathering of world leaders, including PM Key from New Zealand, was a crucial step forward in reducing the global threat from nuclear terrorism. During the conference, New Zealand committed to work with the United States and 45 other countries to help ensure that threat is never realized.

The countries represented at the Nuclear Security Summit jointly released a communiqué and work-plan designed to foster closer international cooperation and underline national responsibilities for the security of nuclear materials.

By the way, there was very good U.S. engagement and interaction with the New Zealand delegation during the Summit. Prime Minister Key was wonderful, and he and his team of experts offered knowledgeable and practical ideas. The Prime Minister himself was one of the critical players who drove the deliberations, and he developed real chemistry with President Obama.

New Zealand has a long record of promoting nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. New Zealanders feel strongly about the issue and have a lot to offer in addressing these issues.

Specifically on non-proliferation, we are working together on

- North Korea;
- Nuclear safeguarding through the International Atomic Energy Agency Board of Governors and the G8 Global Partnership to secure nuclear materials in the former Soviet Union.

- The Proliferation Security Initiative, or PSI, to advance international cooperation to stop shipments of WMD, delivery systems and related materials flowing to state and non-state actors.

In Afghanistan, the United States and our international partners, such as New Zealand, are committed to helping provide a secure environment that will allow Afghans to realize their vision of a country that is stable, democratic, and economically successful.

On this last point, I would like to recognize the tragic loss of one of New Zealand's finest in Afghanistan just a little over a month ago. This was New Zealand's first loss in Afghanistan, and we should recognize the contributions of New Zealand and the sacrifices Kiwis are making alongside our defense and civilian personnel in such critical places.

The United States and New Zealand also work in unison to establish a framework for a vibrant civil society that promotes good government, the protection of women's rights, and religious tolerance. The United States has made a long-term commitment to help Afghanistan rebuild itself and we are honored to work together with New Zealand in this effort.

Outside of Afghanistan, New Zealand continues to showcase the successful efforts of the New Zealand Defence Force. New Zealand was able to cut its military deployment to East Timor by half as security conditions in the impoverished nation improved. Additionally, the New Zealand Defence Force contributed to the successful and peaceful elections this August in the Solomon Islands.

In the Pacific Island region, the United States and New Zealand work particularly closely on promoting political stability and democracy. We have also cooperated recently to deliver much needed humanitarian assistance to the region in the aftermath of recent earthquakes, tsunamis, and cyclones.

Many Pacific Island states are vulnerable to growing political, economic, and security challenges that thwart stability, peace, and prosperity. These challenges are sometimes compounded by longer-term threats of a transnational nature such as humanitarian disasters, drug and arms trafficking, people smuggling, infectious disease, environmental degradation, illegal fishing, and climate change.

The United States and New Zealand share the view that helping the Pacific Island region is key to our mutual security.

### ***[AREAS OF COOPERATION- ECONOMIC]***

Turning to our growing economic relationship, there is much to talk about.

Already this relationship is well established and thriving in practice.

-- The United States is New Zealand's third largest individual trading partner with two-way trade in 2009 equaling \$5.2 billion.

-- The United States is New Zealand's third largest source of overseas visitors, over 196,000 from Jan. to July 2009. In the same period, 91,000 New Zealanders visited the U.S.

-- Investment in the United States constitutes 25 percent of New Zealand's total investment overseas.

-- The United States is the source of 18 percent of total foreign investment in New Zealand.

-- New Zealand has a vibrant U.S. business community of approximately 400 companies, including well-known companies such as 3M, Citibank, Microsoft, and Mobil.

Boosting trade and investment links is critical to economic prosperity. It also helps to consolidate our long-standing friendship.

Along these lines, we presently have another great opportunity to strengthen our economic partnership through the Trans-Pacific Partnership or the TPP.

The TPP is a mechanism that brings together various Asia-Pacific economies – the United States, New Zealand, Australia, Chile, Singapore, Brunei, Vietnam and Peru – to improve economic linkages and promote more sustainable and balanced growth among regional economies.

Not only will the TPP spur our own bilateral economic relationship to greater heights, but, if done correctly, it can become a platform which we can use to work together to integrate the entire Asia-Pacific region, home to the most dynamic economies in the world and almost one-third of the earth's population.

The pace of TPP negotiations is steady. We have already had three rounds of negotiations, and the fourth round is scheduled to take place in Auckland, New Zealand.

Trade negotiations are complicated and exacting by definition - as they should be. I don't expect these negotiations to be any different. There are some tough issues to work. But as President Obama once stated "if you're walking down the right path and you're willing to keep walking, eventually you'll make progress."

***[Key Objectives in New Zealand]***

I have discussed here three concrete areas of cooperation between the United States and New Zealand to demonstrate the strength of our friendship.

However, I would like to note three key objectives for the Obama Administration's engagement with New Zealand.

1. Promoting Long-Term Mutual Understanding through Expanded Public Diplomacy Efforts.

2. Deepening and Broadening New Zealand's Cooperation with The United States on Regional and Global Security Issues.

### 3. Reasserting U.S. Leadership in the Critical Areas of Science and Technology.

#### ***[Key Objectives – Public Diplomacy]***

We are focused on aggressively building long-term relationships with future leaders and expanding Mission contacts and programs into a variety of previously under-attended segments of New Zealand society. This is particularly important for my first objective in promoting long-term mutual understanding through expanded public diplomacy efforts.

Although attitudes toward the United States remained generally positive during the extended period of cool government-to-government relations, there has been a marked and increasing degree of public indifference towards America.

Poll data indicates that as New Zealand's demographics have diversified, the population has begun to view itself as increasingly Asia- and Pacific-oriented rather than "Western." Particularly among youth, Kiwis view their future as linked in more meaningful and tangible ways with Asia rather than the United States or Europe.



There is a particular interest in China because of the perceived economic benefits to New Zealand from the free trade agreement between those two countries, which is trumpeted by the New Zealand government as having significantly cushioned the impacts on Kiwis from the recent U.S. economic crisis. Some misperceptions exist that travel to the United States has become more difficult post 9/11, despite the fact that more visas are being issued now than before 9/11.

In some ways, all of this is a natural result of the inevitable dying-off of the World War II generation that remembers the U.S. Marines' contributions to protecting the Kiwi homeland and of a certain degree of U.S. indifference or inability to invest aggressively in long-term, values-based relationships with new generations of New Zealanders.

To address these circumstances, we are pursuing several public diplomacy objectives.

We are cultivating and maintaining relationships with students and other future opinion leaders in a variety of fields. I view young people as the real key to the success of our long-term relationship. They are the next generation to propel the relationship to even greater heights.

Since my arrival in New Zealand, I have met regularly with groups of students from each of the major universities. We meet over coffee or drinks or dinner, depending on our schedules or time of day.

They, as we know, are the most globally aware, socially networked and ‘über’ informed generation there has ever been. We neglect this group at our peril, we engage with them to the betterment of us all. When I engage young people with such clear intent and talent, I am very hopeful.

Besides my meetings with students, we are leveraging and enhancing exchanges, high-level U.S. visitors, and fellowship programs to ensure a high level of direct engagement by Kiwi youth with American culture, values, and history.

Beyond focusing on youth, we are extending public diplomacy efforts to specifically cultivate segments of New Zealand society traditionally under-served by embassy outreach efforts, including faith communities, indigenous peoples, Asian and Pacific Islander communities, other minority groups, scientists and academics, women leaders, environmentalists, and Diaspora groups. My July 4 celebration was one such example of this.

[Talk on recent July 4 event]

I am implementing and maximizing the Mission's use of social media and other modes of technology to extend, enhance, and leverage its messaging and outreach. I am a consummate blogger and a shameless tweeter.

We are focusing significant attention on cultivating, highlighting, and publicizing science and technology cooperation and exchanges. As I mentioned earlier about the GRA, EDIN, the Antarctic programs and other scientific exchanges, we are leveraging every possible opportunity to bring these to the attention of the Kiwi public.

We are also cultivating the relationships necessary to ensure fair, accurate, and positive treatment of the United States and the U.S. /New Zealand bilateral relationship in the Kiwi media.

***[Key Objectives – Regional and Global Security Issues]***

Our second objective is to deepen and broaden New Zealand's cooperation with the U.S. on regional and global security issues.

**U.S. Ambassador Briefing Series:**

Prepared remarks delivered by U.S. Ambassador to New Zealand, H.E. David Huebner on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010, at the Asia Society Washington center.

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Despite some lingering concerns in New Zealand and among others in Asia that the United States has been preoccupied elsewhere, there remain strong views in important quarters in New Zealand and throughout Asia that an engaged and supportive United States is necessary to ensure stability and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region. The Obama Administration has made great strides in this

direction in the last 20 months. The United States will work closely with New Zealand and other regional states to ensure peace, security, and stability. .

As a Pacific power, our longstanding alliances and friendships in the region, our growing involvement in regional organizations (e.g., APEC, ARF and EAS), and our relations with rising powers such as India, China, and Indonesia will prove critical to ensuring a context of stability and continued dynamism in the Asia-Pacific.

Beyond the direct bilateral engagement, we are also working to encourage and strengthen New Zealand's participation in certain regional security efforts such as those in Afghanistan, Timor-Leste, and the Solomon Islands.

I would like to specifically note on the South Pacific that I believe there is even more we can do with New Zealand in this space. As I previously mentioned, we have long partnered with New Zealand in critical capacity building initiatives, disaster relief, humanitarian assistance, port security, interdiction, and maritime

patrols in the South Pacific region. We are also developing meaningful cooperation with New Zealand in the Pacific Islands on food security.

We're evaluating how USAID can best manage its growing climate change – adaptation portfolio in the Pacific region. A senior USAID officer is traveling in the region meeting with host governments, regional organizations, and other donors discussing our shared development agenda.

I am also working to establish, deepen, and maintain close cooperation with New Zealand on developing regional economic and security architecture. We are beginning a series of discussions with New Zealand about the larger Asian Pacific region. It's something that we've done in an ad hoc manner in the past, but after the visit of Assistant Secretary Campbell in August to New Zealand, we're hoping to do it in a more structured way going forward.

And, we are working to build and support strong economic and commercial links between New Zealand and the United States through enhanced bilateral investment

and trade, including by positioning the Trans-Pacific Partnership as a piece of strategic regional architecture that supports the security interests of both nations.

***[Key Objectives – Leadership in Science and Technology]***

I'm passionate about science and technology, and I'm excited to report that we have a large space for cooperation with New Zealand on these issues.

As I mentioned earlier, even when strong differences arose in other areas, cooperation on matters of science and technology remained an enduring strength in the bilateral relationship with New Zealand, largely in the linkages between the two nations' Antarctic programs.

However, beyond the Antarctic program, the United States has not been positioned to address matters of science and technology in New Zealand with a sufficient degree of premeditation, focus, or consistency, largely due to lack of resources.

I previously noted some of the amazing achievements we have accomplished in the areas of scientific cooperation, and I firmly believe that these individual successes in the U.S. / New Zealand bilateral relationship can serve as the foundation upon which a more premeditated strategy for scientific cooperation can and should be built.

To advance the United States' interests and the Administration's priorities with respect to problems with science-based solutions, we are aggressively pursuing several initiatives:

We are deepening cooperation with New Zealand in scientific exchanges, joint projects, and development of opportunities for leveraging the two countries' technology assets.

We are further developing meaningful cooperation with New Zealand on climate change strategy, including in the development of renewable energy, green technologies, and science-based methods of reducing greenhouse gas emissions

### ***[Samoa - Overview]***

I would now like to turn briefly to Samoa. You may not know that in addition to being the U.S Ambassador to New Zealand, I am also honored to be the U.S.



Ambassador to the Independent State of Samoa. I have visited that beautiful island on several occasions now.

To understand my objectives there, I would like to set the stage with a few key points:

The Administration has articulated publicly the importance of both the South Pacific and the Asia-Pacific region generally to the national interests of the United States. Secretary Clinton met with the heads of Pacific Island nations on the periphery of UNGA last month and articulated that importance in detail in a speech at the East West center in Honolulu last January.

Many of the priority challenges of the next few decades are manifested first or with particular urgency in this region, including climate change, food security, sustainable agriculture, sustainable economic development, poverty reduction, nutrition and public health, renewable energy, women's rights, environmental protection, nuclear non-proliferation, and geopolitical recalibration.

The Pacific Islands also constitute a potentially powerful voting bloc in multilateral institutions. Various island nations have been courted aggressively for years by outside powers seeking votes on issues unrelated to South Pacific affairs.

The Independent State of Samoa is emerging as a leader in the region. Samoa hosts a number of regional offices, and Samoan individuals and organizations are becoming increasingly active in regional affairs. The Government of Samoa and its leaders are not hesitant to speak forcefully for democratic principles and cultural interests in the region. In general terms, Samoa is developing a more assertive position in regional and global affairs and also a sense for when that role is not receiving the respect and recognition to which it believes it is entitled.

There is a long history of friendly relations between Samoa and the United States. The two countries are bound by historical relationships, economic relationships, and family and demographic ties. There are more Samoans and Samoan-Americans living in the United States than in Samoa, for example, and remittances from the Samoan Diaspora, including those in the United States, as

well as significant communities in New Zealand and Australia, constitute a significant percentage of Samoa's GDP.

The support and friendship of Samoa, however, cannot be taken for granted. Some view the United States as ceding leadership in the South Pacific, but we recognize the importance of Samoa and the Pacific Islands, and reengagement with them is a key tenet of the Obama administration's Asia policy.

When one of the ministers spoke at the dedication of a school rebuilt by PACOM's Pacific Partnership humanitarian project, he said it was nice to have the United States back after an absence of over 20 years. We'd been there all along, but too often not noticeably.

It is in the best interests of the United States to move into a more active and visible role in the region, to demonstrate that America's attention will be sustained rather than transitory, and to persuade Samoa of the significant importance that United States places on our relationship with Samoa and the region.

It is for these reasons the Administration and the Department have been increasingly emphasizing publicly and privately our commitment to and the importance of U.S. reengagement in the South Pacific.

In line with the scope of the bilateral relationship, and to support the work necessary to address bilateral and regional issues in the long-term interests of the United States, I am focused on several goals:

***[Samoa - Goals]***

It is in the long-term interest of the United States to demonstrate our commitment and interest in engaging Samoa and the South Pacific in tangible and visible ways.

Just like in New Zealand, the embassy and I are:

-- cultivating relationships with students and other future Samoan opinion leaders,

- extending public diplomacy efforts to specifically cultivate segments of Samoan society traditionally untapped by traditional diplomacy programs,
- implementing and maximizing the Mission's use of social media and other modes of technology,
- and cultivating the relationships necessary to ensure fair, accurate, and positive treatment of the United States and the U.S./Samoa bilateral relationship in the Samoan media.

Beyond these goals, we are also:

- engaging the Samoan Government more actively as a potential partner in addressing issues of mutual concern in multilateral forums,
- increasing in a meaningful way the frequency and scope of consultations with the Samoan Government on regional and global issues,
- strengthening cooperation on law enforcement, disaster preparation, and disaster recovery programs;
- and focusing attention on issues of sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, and climate change, including science-based solutions for environmental problems.

Toward this end the USDA has recently formally extended the responsibilities of the agricultural Attaché in New Zealand to cover Samoa as well;

In addition, we have:

- aggressively expanded efforts to offer Samoans opportunities to participate in U.S. exchange and training programs;

- increased the ways we offer support through small grants from various sources, particularly to support NGOs;

- through a library collection and school-to-school partnerships, we're expanding access to U.S. source materials and expertise for Samoan students and scholars,

- and the outstanding Peace Corps volunteers and staff have targeted English literacy and health among their primary project areas and are serving as a significant development partner in these sectors.

The new regional USAID officer will make his first trip to Samoa soon, hopefully finding partnerships first on climate change and then gradually on other development sectors.

Our renewed focus on the South Pacific, as well as Samoa's more assertive posture in regional and global affairs, is straining the capacity of Embassy Apia. I should

note that Embassy Apia has only one American officer, who is called upon to handle all functions in the Mission on an as-needed basis, including consular services.

And, these consular services are not insignificant. There are as many as 300 American visitors from the U.S. mainland and Hawaii in Samoa at any one time. There are an additional 3,000 or more American nationals from American Samoa who live and work in Samoa, often with little or no contact with embassy unless or until an emergency situation develops. The embassy team provided commendable support during the September 2009 tsunami aftermath and in March 2010 when a tsunami warning was issued after the earthquake in Chile. Our team notified the entire registered American community by middle-of-the-night phone calls. Notwithstanding these demands, the Mission is successfully performing its functions and puts the best possible face on the consular relations between the two nations' peoples.

I am optimistic about the U.S. relationship with Samoa, and I firmly believe that it is in our interest to put more resources into developing this important relationship.

Now, I would like to conclude my formal remarks and open it up for Q&A.