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**Meeting with Vice President / First Vice Chairman of the Military
Commission Hu Jintao
Wednesday, July 12**

U.S. Attendees: CORE 10

Chinese Attendees: TBD

Background:

Politburo Standing Committee Member and Vice President Hu Jintao was appointed to be the First (senior) Vice Chairman of the Military Commission in September 1999. This is widely seen as a signal that he is President Jiang's designated successor. The appointment serves to give Hu a means to develop a working relationship with the senior PLA leadership and an understanding of military issues and perspectives. He is expected to have a prominent role, whether it is as President or not, in the 16th Party Congress leadership which will be selected in 2002. He has had minimal, if any, direct contact with the U. S. military.

Objectives:

- Set the foundation for a long term working relationship between the Defense Department's civilian leadership and the Vice President Hu.

Key Themes:

- Importance of mil-mil relations as key component of bilateral relationship: promotion of dialogue and mutual understanding
- Restraint on Taiwan, peaceful resolution, and no use of force
- Importance of US approval of PNTR and China/Taiwan entry into WTO
- Potential for increased contacts between civilian leadership of the military establishments of both countries
- **BIO FOLLOWS AT NEXT PAGE**

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