

**REMARKS BY
COMMERCE SECRETARY DON EVANS
BOEING, G.E. AIRCRAFT ENGINES
CONTRACT SIGNING WITH CHINA
NOVEMBER 12, 2003**

[As prepared for delivery]

It's a great pleasure to welcome all of you to the Department of Commerce.

These multi-billion dollar contracts are big victories for Boeing, G.E. Aircraft Engines and the people of China. Congratulations to both Alan Mulally, Boeing's CEO for Commercial Aviation, and David Calhoun, President at G.E. Aircraft Engines, for your determination in winning these sales that were long in the making.

And congratulations to my good friend from China, Vice Chairman Zhang. I'm certain you'll be very happy with your new purchases.

I know many, many people were involved in these contracts. I'm proud to have done my part, advocating on behalf of American industry. Without a doubt, these sales are strong proof that free trade benefits both America and China.

They will generate corporate revenue, and they will support high-tech manufacturing jobs in many American communities. This will have a tremendous ripple effect throughout the economy.

Boeing has offices and plants in 27 states. It buys from 35,000 suppliers in all 50 states. And many of small and medium-sized manufacturers depend on trade like this. It's a similar story at G.E. Aircraft Engines. It has manufacturing facilities in 12 states, and 3,000 suppliers in every state in the union.

China also benefits from these sales in a very big way. The rapidly expanding Chinese aviation industry will get more of the best aircraft that money can buy on this planet. And by making G.E. engines the sole supplier for the new ARJ-21, China's first ever commercial jet will be able to deliver cutting-edge service to its passengers and its country.

President Bush is focused on leading our global economy to a place of peace and prosperity and freedom by uniting the entire world. These contracts reflect his policy of engaging other nations openly and candidly on trade, especially China.

Last month in Beijing, I had a very constructive discussion with Premier Wen. We talked about the size of the trade deficit between China and the United States. I got a strong commitment from the Premier that we were going to work harder on closing the trade gap.

These latest commercial sales are a sign that China wants to build a better trade relationship with the United States. And they are a wonderful way to kick off Vice Chairman Zhang's purchasing mission to the United States. Mr. Vice Chairman, we

look forward with great anticipation to the rest of your trip, and to the other buying delegations that are expected to visit later this month, and in early December.

The march to free and fair trade is a long march. And we must not rest until it is complete. These sales today are small steps in that direction. But clearly they are steps in the right direction.

I look forward to working with all of you in the years ahead as we strive to strengthen and to expand our commercial relationship with China.

Thank you very much.