

U.S.- CHINA ECONOMIC AND SECURITY REVIEW COMMISSION

## U.S.-CHINA COMMISSION ELECTS CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN TO LEAD ITS FOURTH YEAR OF WORK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Kathy Michels – 202-624-1409 kmichels@uscc.gov

Washington, D.C. – The U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission unanimously elected a Chairman and Vice Chairman to lead its fourth year of work for the Congress assessing the national security implications of trade and economic ties between the United States and the Peoples' Republic of China.

The Commission elected Dr. Larry M. Wortzel as its Chairman on February 3, 2006. Chairman Wortzel previously served as the Director of the Asian Studies Center and Vice President for foreign policy at the Heritage Foundation. He is a leading authority on China, Asia, national security and military strategy, and is a former Colonel and director of the Strategic Studies Institute of the U.S. Army War College. He resides in Williamsburg, Virginia. His full bio is available at <u>http://www.uscc.gov/about/commissioners/worpg.htm</u>. Chairman Wortzel was appointed to the Commission by House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert for a two-year term expiring December 31, 2006.

The Commission elected Ms. Carolyn Bartholomew as its Vice Chairman on December 8, 2005. She served as the Commission's Acting Chairman beginning December 31, 2005. Vice Chairman Bartholomew is the former Chief of Staff, Counsel, Legislative Director, and Foreign Policy Advisor to House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi. Her full bio is available at <u>http://www.uscc.gov/about/commissioners/barpg.htm</u>. Vice Chairman Bartholomew was reappointed to the Commission by House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi for a two-year term expiring December 31, 2007.

Chairman Wortzel said, "I am honored to be elected as Chairman of the Commission for the 2006 reporting cycle at a time when many aspects of U.S.-China relations, particularly those we are charged to look at by the Congress, are becoming front burner issues in the U.S. policy arena. We are fortunate in this fourth year of the Commission to be able to build on such a solid foundation of work undertaken during our first three years. I am confident that we can continue the Commission's record of identifying and assessing for the Congress cutting-edge issues affecting U.S. economic and national security interests."

Vice Chairman Bartholomew stated, "The Commission will seek to stay ahead of the curve on the fastmoving developments in U.S.-China relations and identify issues needing Congressional attention. Our 2005 Report addressed an array of problematic trends in the relationship that we will continue to assess closely, enabling the Congress to gauge year-to-year improvements or backsliding."

The Commission released its third Annual Report to Congress on November 9, 2005, and began its 2006 hearing schedule on February 2. The Commission plans to hold a series of public hearings on a broad array of topics within its legislative mandate, to continue its examination of the industry sector, regional, and national security implications and impacts of U.S.-China trade and investment. The full 2006 schedule of hearings will be posted on line at <u>www.uscc.gov</u> soon.

The Commission's three Annual Reports to Congress, transcripts of its public hearings, research papers, trade and economic related data, and translations of relevant Chinese-language materials are available on line at <u>www.uscc.gov</u>.