

Dear Policy+ Subscribers,

Last Friday, the US Embassy hosted a business roundtable where David Meale, Deputy Assistant Secretary (DAS) of the Department of State, shared his insights on the current US-China trade negotiations and sentiments towards China in Washington, DC. DAS Meale's role at the State involves trade policy and negotiations. For those of you who did not join the meeting, here are some highlights:

### Talking about China in an Unprecedented Way

At the beginning of the meeting, Meale promised to everyone that he would be as candid as he could be but later pointed out that whatever people get out of the Wall Street Journal is just as good as what he knows.

For signposts on US policy towards China moving forward, Meale referred to two remarks made by US VP [Pence](#) and Secretary of State [Pompeo](#) on China. Although he didn't go into specifics, some have [interpreted](#) both remarks as a drastic shift from Washington's engagement policy to one of "disengagement."

Towards the end of the meeting, Meale brought up the NBA incident and described it as "an act of overreach from China." In his view, it was a wake-up call for many Americans, including people from the US Government and



Congress. As mentioned in Pompeo's speech, the US government can no longer ignore the fundamental differences between the US and the Chinese systems, and the impact of these differences on American security.

### Quality Commercial Interactions

Meale admitted that the US and China are not in a good position right now but he also believes that the US government is looking for "quality commercial interactions." For example, the recent launch of multi-stakeholder [Bluedot Network](#) which is an infrastructure initiative led by the US, has been seen as an attempt to compete with China's Belt and Road Initiative.

The new Under Secretary of Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment, [Keith Krach](#), was one of the leaders spear-heading this Network. Krach previously served as the CEO and Chairman of DocuSign.

That's all for today. For those of you who signed up for the Policy+ year-end banquet, we look forward to seeing you then. Please also don't forget to submit your response for the 2020 China Business Climate Survey before this Friday.

Best,

AmCham China Government Affairs and Policy Team



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