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Subject: Kuhn

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Attachments: Chinese_influence_american_interests_-_Hoover_-_11.29.18.pdf

Great to meet, as ever. Looking forward to more.

First, newsflash - Ed Witten, arguably the #1 living mathematical physicist, has just agreed to appear. Very good news for Breakthroughs!

Random followups

1) Attached, by the Hoover Institution (Stanford) and the Asia Society, is the influential report, "Chinese Influence & American Interests". It was prepared by leading China experts. As one put it, "The great significance of this report is that it shows how the China-watching community has turned" - all of whom have been in the past "pro China" in seeking engagement, have now concluded, almost unanimously, that China has changed for the worse. These China experts now believe that China has become more mercantilist in economics, more repressive in politics and society, and more imperialist along its borders and around the world. Policy must be changed from pure engagement to a commitment for managing risk.

2) Please send me contact of assistant in Beijing; I'll arrange to meet her.

3) Please send a list of mathematicians you especially like. We are doing well, but you may have guys we don't know. Don't worry about their presentation skills (Peter will evaluate), just your sense of their substance, vision, understanding. Hi to Gromov; hopefully we can schedule him.

4) We'll advise when we have our New York shoot - we'll send you the whole schedule of all cities of course. You should come by for an interview of someone(s) you like. see how it all works.

Finally, after I return from Beijing, around Xmas, let's get together for some big thinking.

Robert