

THE ECONOMIC CLUB

O F W A S H I N G T O N, D. C.

**Excerpts from the Signature Event featuring Tony Blair, Former British Prime Minister,
Quartet Representative to the Middle East**

June 28, 2011

“. . . the rise of China probably is the single most determining feature of 21st century geopolitics. . . . People have a question mark and the question mark is very simple – you [*China*] are going to be this huge power, what is it that you want to use that power for and what are the values that make your country tick? . . . I essentially believe that China’s development is benign. But, I also believe one of the reasons why it’s so important for us to be strong right now – you in America and us in Europe – and for us to have some confidence in our own value system is because I think that strength will be an important part of ensuring that [*China’s*] development is benign.” ~ *Tony Blair, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom; Quarter Representative to the Middle East*

“The relationship [*between the United States and the United Kingdom*] is important. There is a view partly here, but also certainly in the UK and in Europe . . . people kind of say, ‘Look, let’s put a little distance between us . . . you’ve got these new powers emerging – China and India – why don’t we have relationships with them? America’s just another relationship.’ I think this is a big mistake. I think it is precisely because there are new centers of power emerging that it is important for those who basically share our values – freedom, the rule of law, commitment to democracy – we should stick together at this moment. We should not be separated out from each other.” ~ *Tony Blair, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom; Quarter Representative to the Middle East*

“. . . this will be Africa’s century. I think they will get themselves on their feet. The tragedy of Africa is that it is a rich continent with poor people.” ~ *Tony Blair, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom; Quarter Representative to the Middle East*