Warm up MT 3.1

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama on Tuesday promised more than $33 billion in public and private investments in Africa. The United States, he said, wants to deliver business and development to the rapidly booming continent, where China already has a massive presence.

Obama made the remarks as he addressed the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit, the first of its kind and the largest event any American president has held with African leaders.

Countries including China have held similar events for years as they’ve sought access to African markets for oil and other natural resources. The United States, however, wants a different kind of relationship, Obama insisted.

“We don’t look to Africa simply for its natural resources,” Obama said. “We recognize Africa for its greatest resource, which is its people and its talents and their potential.”

**Investment Helps Layers Of People**

The attention to Africa included a dinner at the White House late Tuesday night hosted by the president and first lady Michelle Obama. Singer Lionel Richie was to perform and the menu included touches of Africa, including beef served with chermoula, a marinade popular in North Africa.

The push for more investment with Africa comes at a favorable time. Many African countries are increasingly eager to process their natural resources inside their borders, rather than simply exporting their raw material, said Vera Songwe of the World Bank.

She called it a good time “for U.S. companies with the cutting-edge expertise to come in and partner with the continent to do this, and I think this is what we’re seeing more and more of.”

The U.S. approach to business in Africa “is almost the opposite of the Chinese approach,” said Witney Schneidman, a former deputy assistant secretary of state for African affairs. He noted that when American companies like Microsoft, Procter & Gamble or GE invest in Africa, they generally hire and train Africans. Their approach “has an incredible ripple effect and it helps to create skills, it helps to create this middle class.”

**Obama says time to build partnerships and invest in Africa**

By McClatchy Washington Bureau, adapted by Newsela staff 08.07.14

1. ***According to the article, what is the main reason that the US government is wanting American businesses to invest in African countries?***
   1. Countries like China already have created a massive presence seeking access to African natural resources
   2. The US approach is almost opposite of that of the Chinese.
   3. The push comes at a favorable time
   4. The United States, he said, wants to deliver business and development to the rapidly booming continent
2. ***Defend your answer to #1.***
3. ***Highlight the main idea of the article***