

# The West Condemns the Crackdown

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Western nations and Chinese around the world condemned the military crackdown and bloodshed in Beijing yesterday with anguished protests, pleas for restraint and calls for economic and political sanctions against China.

The United States, Britain, France, West Germany, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands and Sweden all issued statements deploring the shooting of hundreds of demonstrators by the Chinese Army. Pope John Paul II, in Finland, expressed hope that the tragedy would lead to positive changes in China.

The Soviet Union did not comment on the events in China. Moscow television spoke of Beijing as "a front-line city," but gave only sketchy accounts of casualties and did not mention that tanks had been used to attack pro-democracy demonstrators. Polish television carried witness reports of the killings from Tiananmen Square.

China's Asian neighbors were slower to react, but Chinese students and other protesters marched tearfully and angrily in Hong Kong, Macao and Taipei as well as in Paris, London, Oslo and Vancouver and in many cities across the United States.

Up to 200,000 people joined demonstrations in Hong Kong, where fears have run high in anticipation of the transition to Chinese sovereignty in 1997. As many as 150,000 people - a quarter of the population - were involved in protests in the Portuguese colony of Macao, and 10,000 more rallied in Taipei. Western Denunciations

President Bush denounced China for using military force against its own people and implied that the action could damage relations between Washington and Beijing. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of Britain said she was "appalled by the indiscriminate shooting of unarmed people."

The French Foreign Minister, Roland Dumas, said he was "dismayed by the bloody repression" of "an unarmed crowd of demonstrators." The West German Foreign Ministry urged China "to return to its universally welcomed policies of reform and openness." The Netherlands and Sweden also deplored the bloodshed.

While statements by President Bush, Prime Minister Thatcher and other Western leaders were forceful, it was the anguish etched on the faces of ordinary people - many of them with relatives in China - that captured the depth of emotions unleashed by the weekend massacre of Chinese people by their own Government.











"Sometimes, I thought I would go back and help my country," said a 29-year-old graduate student at Long Island University who attended one of several rallies in New York City. "But I don't think there's any hope at this moment."

Other demonstrators, outrage visible behind the sobs, compared the leaders of their homeland to Hitler and spoke of Prime Minister Li Peng as a murderer. Some raised Chinese flags that had been spray-painted with Nazi swastikas. Calls for End to Arms Aid

Many protesters and public officials said the Beijing Government had lost its legitimacy and no longer deserved the people's support. Some predicted the fall of the Government

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and called for political isolation of China. Others urged economic sanctions that could damage China's economy through a loss of tourism, trade and investments.

Senator Paul Simon, an Illinois Democrat, urged President Bush to suspend military aid to China and to work with American allies to suspend economic aid. Representative Bill Paxon of New York urged Mr. Bush to recall the American Ambassador and to consider imposing economic sanctions.

Weeping and chanting, wearing emblems of mourning, carrying banners and placards denouncing the Beijing Government leaders, thousands of Chinese students and Chinese Americans rallied and marched in New York, Washington, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, Houston, New Orleans and other cities. No violence was reported at any of the protests.

In New York, where one of the biggest protests unfolded, 6,000 demonstrators marched across Manhattan from the Chinese Consulate on 42d Street and 12th Avenue to the United Nations. "We don't recognize the Government," said Qiang Peng, a University of Rhode Island student from Beijing. Many protesters were from colleges across the Northeast.

Some marchers wore T-shirts emblazoned with "Democracy in China," and black arm bands mourning their dead countrymen. Others bore signs declaring: "Punish the Slaughterers," and "Drown the Dictators with Our Blood." Among the chants was one that applauded Zhao Ziyang, the moderate Communist Party leader, who has dropped out of sight. Other Protests in New York

Elsewhere in New York, there were other protests. At Columbia University, about 1,000 Chinese students heard a series of impassioned speeches condemning the Beijing Government. And 400 people rallied at Confucius Plaza in Chinatown; many signed postcards urging Mr. Bush to "take immediate diplomatic and political measures" against China.

In Chicago, 6,000 people from 35 universities in the Middle West marched in a mock funeral procession to mourn the Beijing dead. They demanded the resignations of Mr. Li and China's senior leader, Deng Xiaoping, and extensive reforms of the Chinese Communist Party. Senator Simon urged Congress to consider a resolution condemning China.

Rallying outside the Chinese Embassy in Washington, 3,000 protesters - many of them from universities in the East, South and Middle West who rode in cars and buses all night to take part - demanded that the Chinese Ambassador to the United States, Han Xu, and other officials come out and justify their Government's actions.

"Why don't they come out?" one protester roared over a bullhorn. "Are they ashamed? They hide like mice from us, from democracy."

Two Chinese students from Penn State University tried to present a huge mourning wreath at the front door for those killed in Beijing, but they were turned away by security guards. The embassy shades remained drawn all day, although a man was seen in an upper-story window taking photographs of the protesters.

In San Francisco, about 3,000 people gathered outside the Chinese Consulate with banners in Chinese and English proclaiming: "Students Are Bleeding and We Are Weeping," and "Blood Must Aton for Blood." Marching later to City Hall and through Chinatown, they also carried poster caricatures of Mr. Deng and Mr. Li in fascist garb. "There's No Longer Any Hope"

"Two weeks ago, we still had some illusions," said David Chien, an engineer. "Now, there's no longer any hope unless the Government steps down." Behind him on the side of the consulate, spray-painted in red were the words: "Remember Beijing Massacre, June 4, 1989."

In Los Angeles, more than 1,000 protesters assembled outside the Chinese Consulate to decry the violence in Beijing, express support for the Chinese democracy movement and demand the ouster of the Communist Government. The demonstrators also called on the United States to take a strong stand against the violence.

"They shouldn't use guns and tanks," said Ming Tan, a former University of Arizona student from Shanghai. "Those are weapons for war."

About 1,000 Chinese students and others from Texas and nearby states gathered in Houston and marched to the Chinese Consulate for an orderly but angry protest in 88-degree heat. Two representatives of the protest were allowed inside to speak to the Consul General, Yao Xianni, but he declined to address the crowd.

About 650 Chinese students and Chinese Americans held an emotional rally near Independence Hall in Philadelphia. Other protests took place over the weekend in Seattle, New Orleans, St. Paul and Buffalo.

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