

## Urging Chinese Democracy, 100,000 Surge Past Police

By NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF and SPECIAL TO THE NEW YORK TIMES MAY 5, 1989

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A defiant and enthusiastic crowd of more than 100,000 workers and students forced its way through police cordons in the capital today to demand more democracy, and smaller demonstrations were held in many other cities around China.

The occasion for the marches today was the 70th anniversary of famous nationalist demonstrations in Beijing that led to the May 4 Movement, which led a generation of Chinese intellectuals to seek a major re-examination of Chinese society. The movement also foreshadowed the rise of the Communist Party.

By far the largest demonstration outside Beijing was in Shanghai, China's largest city, where the crowd suddenly swelled tonight to perhaps 20,000 or more, said a Western resident of the city who witnessed the march.

The flurry of demonstrations was among the largest in Communist China's history, and in Beijing the protest appeared to draw record numbers of workers.

### Workers Outnumber Students

While the nucleus of the crowd was still students, they were easily outnumbered by the young workers who came to express dissatisfaction with the inflation, corruption and other frustrations that most bother them. Inflation is running at a rate of about 27 percent a year.

"I hope student demonstrations will make the Government do something about inflation," said Yuan Jun, an iron worker who came from out of town to join in the demonstration. "But even if the students don't bring up the inflation problem, I'll still support them. They demand press freedom, which is something we need, too. Now we have no freedom at all."

Worker participation in the recent unrest has been one of the Government's greatest fears, but today the workers still seemed to be coalescing around the students rather than forming their own organizations. This is likely to give the Government some reprieve, particularly as most of the students seem to be planning to end their class boycott and focus their attention once more on their books.

Wuer Kaixi, a student leader, told the crowd that the students reserved the right to hold further demonstrations, but for now there was no clear issue that seemed likely to send large numbers of them into the streets.

Their protests began as mourning for Hu Yaobang, the dismissed Communist Party leader who died April 15, and then drew inspiration in the approach to today's anniversary of the founding of the May 4 Movement.

Important anniversaries often carry more political significance and resonance in China than they would in the West. Because the original May 4 protesters - numbering only 3,000 - have been sanctified by history, both the Government and the students have been jostling to gain the legitimacy that comes with being seen as the rightful inheritors of the May 4 legacy.

The Communist Party held its own parades and festivals today to commemorate the anniversary, but they paled beside the outpouring for the students' illegal march.

In the northeastern city of Changchun, 8,000 to 10,000 student demonstrators gathered at the provincial headquarters this afternoon, while in the port city of Dalian more than 2,000 students from several universities marched for democracy, a Western diplomat said tonight.

In addition, the diplomat said, student demonstrators in the northeastern cities of Shenyang and Harbin were locked into their campuses and not allowed to march onto the streets.

Other small demonstrations also occurred today in the cities of Changsha, Nanjing, Wuhan and Xian, reports reaching Beijing said. Support for the Students  
The protests today were a display of support for the students and their

demands - particularly freedom of the press, which has become an increasingly important issue in the last few weeks. But the march in Beijing lacked the drama and fervor of the protest a week ago, which is already being viewed as a historic occasion by students and intellectuals in China.

On that occasion, a crackdown seemed imminent, and army troops had been called in to stop the students. Some thought that the demonstration would fizzle completely, and yet more than 150,000 protesters applauded by hundreds of thousands of cheering onlookers swept through the city like a liberating army, forcing the Government to back away from the repression that had apparently been planned.

Perhaps it was only a sign of how much has changed in the last two weeks that today a crowd of more than 100,000 could roll through police lines to take over Tiananmen Square, the political focal point of the nation, without anyone registering much surprise.

"The Government can't crack down on us," said a worker in a radio factory who took part in today's march, "because 90 percent of the population supports the students."

Several hundred journalists for official publications gathered today in front of the official New China News Agency to protest false and biased reporting and to call for the reinstatement of Qin Benli, the editor of a Shanghai newspaper and one of the boldest journalists in the country. Mr. Qin was dismissed last week after insisting on publishing comments that supported student demonstrators.

Students were delighted to receive support from the journalists, and as they marched by they shouted, "Long live journalists with a conscience!"

The journalists shouted back: "We support you! Long live the students!"

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