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UPHEAVAL IN CHINA; Thousands of Chinese Rally in the U.S.

By **ROBERT D. MCFADDEN** MAY 21, 1989

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Chinese nationals and emigres in major cities across the United States rallied to the support of China's widening democracy movement yesterday with protests against the Beijing Government and calls for the resignation of Prime Minister Li Peng.

As five weeks of student demonstrations in China reached a crisis with martial law and troop movements, thousands of Chinese took to the streets of New York, Washington, Chicago, San Francisco and Houston to march and voice anger at Beijing and to urge American support for their cause.

The protests, mostly involving students and young intellectuals, were uniformly peaceful and for the most part unfolded on a warm spring day of golden sun and blue skies that belied the mood of frustration and disappointment over Beijing's planned crackdown on student hunger strikers in Tiananmen Square and protesters in other Chinese cities.

"Down with Li Peng! Li Peng must go! No martial law!" some 3,000 demonstrators chanted as they raised their fists and shouted angrily outside the Chinese Embassy in Washington. Many of the protesters were students who had driven all night from New England, the Mid-Atlantic states and nearer portions of the Middle West.

Under a banner proclaiming "Dictator No, Democracy Yes," a 26-year-old Brown University student, who asked to remain anonymous because she feared reprisals against her family in China, said of the protesters in Beijing: "The students are not alone. We have a lot of supporters all over the world." No Confrontations

The demonstrators in the nation's capital sometimes blocked traffic, but there were no arrests or confrontations with the police.

Xue You, a 27-year-old student at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, said: "We need the basic freedoms, like the freedom of the press and freedom to have an organization - the basic human rights."

A spokesman at the embassy released this statement after the students left: "We hold that the Chinese students have patriotic enthusiasm and hope to overcome corruption and promote democracy. This is in line with the goals which the party and Government have strived to achieve. But the slogans they shouted and the posters they held in front of the embassy are wrong."

In Chicago, 3,000 people, including students from 20 universities in the Middle West, marched outside the Chinese Consulate and chanted, in English and Chinese, "Long live freedom." Their shouts echoed between the facades of Chicago's skyscrapers.

Joining the Chicago protest in a light drizzle - the only bad weather to affect any of the demonstrations - were students from 10 states. They carried posters declaring "Li Peng Must Be Removed" and "Deng is Digging His Own Grave."

Huang Jinsheng, 32, a student at the University of Cincinnati who was at the Chicago protest, said: "A week ago, maybe 10 percent of these people would have been here. The situation has definitely changed. We see the people protesting in Beijing. They are our brothers and sisters and we feel for them." 'Old Men's Politics'

In San Francisco, the home of this nation's largest Chinese community, more than 1,000 people joined a protest outside the Chinese Consulate and then marched across the city for a rally at Portsmouth Square in Chinatown. As they reached the square, Chinese-Americans honked car horns in support of the demonstrators.

"Walk with us!" the protesters shouted. "For the future, for the future - down with old men's politics!"

"We hope the United States Government can support the students," said a

demonstrator who declined to give his name out of fear for relatives in China. "It is in the American interest to support the students because that is the future." Taiwan Students, Too

"China Syndrome: One Billion People, One Press Only," a banner at the San Francisco rally proclaimed in protest against the absence of a free press in the world's most populous country.

"This is a crisis that is taking place now in China," said Chen Ming Hu, an engineering professor at the University of California at Berkeley who is a native of Beijing and has lived in the United States for 20 years. "But it represents an opportunity for every Chinese person in the world to express support."

A group of students from Taiwan joined the San Francisco protest. Their spokesman, Lin Sheng Fong, a Berkeley student, said: "We are deeply moved by the Beijing students and we think unification is only possible under democracy. We are very proud of the students."

In Chinatown in New York City, about 400 chanting demonstrators gathered at Confucius Square with banners and posters to hear speeches and collect donations for the students in Beijing. Demonstrators said they had collected \$7,500 yesterday and Friday.

New York City is the home of 300,000 Chinese, the nation's second largest community of its kind. Most of the demonstrators yesterday were students, scholars and intellectuals in their 20's, but there were many ordinary workers and the owners of small businesses. Shouts From Fire Escapes

As they moved along the narrow streets of Chinatown, the protesters snaked through the heavy crowds of weekend shoppers and tourists, and their chants were joined by the shouts of people in the windows and on the fire escapes of tenements. Shopkeepers and people in restaurants emerged to observe, and some joined the protest.

"We Need Human Rights and Democracy," a banner proclaimed.

At midafternoon, a huge roar of approval greeted an announcement over a megaphone that the Chinese consul general in Houston was refusing to accept orders from the Government in Beijing. In Washington, a spokesman for the Chinese Embassy, Wu Zurong, said the report was untrue. "It is a sheer fabrication," he said.

"The Government has lost its people," declared Tsung Su, a freelance writer who emigrated from China 20 years ago. "The people are starting to reclaim their

ownership of their country. We call on President Bush to make a strong statement."

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