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UPHEAVAL IN CHINA; Bush Urges Protesters To 'Stand Up' for Beliefs

By BERNARD WEINRAUB and SPECIAL TO THE NEW YORK TIMES MAY 22, 1989

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Saying he hoped that the crisis in China would not turn bloody, President Bush today urged pro-democracy forces there to follow a nonviolent path and "stand up for what you believe in."

In his first public comments on the uprising in China, Mr. Bush made it clear at a news conference here that he supported the demands for steps toward democracy of the huge throngs in China defying martial law.

"Continue to fight for what you believe in, stand up for what you believe in," said Mr. Bush, chief of the United States mission in China from 1974 to 1975, when asked by a reporter if the protesters should go home. "But beyond that I cannot go."

Mr. Bush made his comments at a news conference at Boston University, where he and President Francois Mitterrand of France received honorary degrees at commencement ceremonies. Mr. Mitterrand met with the President over the weekend to discuss the Western alliance. 'I Do Not Want to See Bloodshed'

Mr. Bush sought to walk a delicate line in his comments on China. On the one hand he expressed support for the defiant demonstrators and said the United States would always endorse pressures for democracy and encourage democratic values. On the other hand, Mr. Bush, who encouraged closer ties to China before he

became President, refrained from direct criticism of the Chinese Government and said he hoped that bloodshed would be avoided.

Mr. Bush urged the pro-democracy forces to adhere to the style of protest of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "There's certainly an enormous expression on the part of many people, students and others, for change, for movement toward democracy," Mr. Bush said. "I'm one who feels the quest for democracy is very powerful, but I'm not going to dictate or try to say from the United States how this matter should be resolved by these students.

"We do support freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom of the press and clearly we support democracy. I don't want to be gratuitous in giving advice but I would encourage restraint. I do not want to see bloodshed. 'A Time for Caution'

"We revere the model of Martin Luther King in this country for his peaceful protests, and so I might suggest a familiarization with that for the people in China. And I would urge the Government to be as forthcoming as possible in order to see more democratization and to see a peaceful resolution of this matter."

Mr. Bush, who spent the last few days at his summer residence in Kennebunkport, Me., has been briefed by Brent Scowcroft, his national security adviser, who flew to Boston with him today. The President said today that he had been in touch with the United States Embassy in Beijing.

Asked about the Administration's cautious response to the turmoil in China, Mr. Bush replied: "I think this perhaps is a time for caution because we aspire to see the Chinese people have democracy but we do not exhort in a way that is going to stir up a military confrontation."

"We do not want to have a situation that happened in Burma or some other place," he said, referring to the violent student riots there.

"And so as we counsel restraint, as we counsel peaceful means of effecting change, that is sound advice," said Mr. Bush. "To go beyond that and encourage steps to lead to bloodshed would be inappropriate."

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