

# UPHEAVAL IN CHINA; The 8 Disparate Decision Makers: Will They Be Able to Restore Calm?

By NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF and SPECIAL TO THE NEW YORK TIMES MAY 22, 1989

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As Beijing's political crisis grows more acute, the power to resolve the deadlock and end the struggle seems to be in the hands of a relatively small number of people. Only the popular uprising binds them together, for they range from Politburo members to university students.

Some, like the senior leader, Deng Xiaoping, are household names; others are not well known even in China. A combination of events and their own willingness to play a historic role have created the conjunction that leaves them to deal with the crisis.

These are the decision makers and the roles they play. Deng Xiaoping

At 84 years of age, Mr. Deng now holds only one official post, chairman of the Central Military Commission, and normally works only in the mornings. But he still exerts almost absolute control over the Communist Party and Government. An illustration of his power came last week when the five-man standing committee of the Politburo met in his heavily guarded house at the end of an alley in the Dianmen district of the capital.

Although not a member of the committee, Mr. Deng attended the meeting and at the end decided to strip the Communist Party leader, Zhao Ziyang, of all his

powers, party officials with access to top-level information said.

Mr. Deng's power stems from two factors: his apparently absolute control over the military and his immense contribution to China's modernization.

Far more than anyone else, he is responsible for the economic revolution that has more than doubled real incomes over the last decade. This contribution and his long revolutionary experience have given him a great moral authority, although this has greatly deteriorated in the last few weeks.

In recent weeks, too, some generals have for the first time privately criticized him, but Mr. Deng nevertheless has more authority over the army than anyone else. Zhao Ziyang The loss of his powers was Mr. Zhao's penalty for pursuing a moderate line toward the students and for challenging Mr. Deng. A 69-year-old enthusiast of more rapid liberalization, Mr. Zhao had not been all that popular recently, partly because he was associated with inflation and other difficulties and partly because his children are widely believed to use the family's name to make money.

But in the last two days Mr. Zhao's stock has soared because of his effective dismissal. Many people cast him in the traditional Chinese role of the wise adviser who is punished for saying what the emperor (Mr. Deng) did not want to hear.

Mr. Zhao is now believed to be fighting to regain his authority and to edge out Mr. Deng and Prime Minister Li Peng in the process. If that happens, he will replace Mr. Deng as paramount leader, although it is unlikely that any leader soon will have quite the authority that Mr. Deng enjoyed.

Support for Mr. Zhao in the 17-member Politburo is uncertain, but is believed to be considerable in the party's Central Committee. But the committee members have by this point in their careers become so used to obeying orders that it is not clear whether they will speak out against Mr. Deng and support Mr. Zhao at their next meeting. Li Peng

A 60-year-old technocrat with expertise in hydroelectric power and engineering, Mr. Li is said to be an excellent administrator but not a visionary. A dry man, he often has difficulty gaining respect in China. For example, his office is reported to be battling with a clinic that wants to build extra floors that would overlook the compound in which Mr. Li lives and works, and his staff says this would be a security risk.

Mr. Li, who was trained in the Soviet Union, is often presented incorrectly as being against economic change. Rather, he believes that it is essential first to build

economic institutions such as a banking and legal system and then to proceed with further changes. He is wary of the unintended effects of new economic programs.

While Mr. Li does not have longtime proteges in major positions in the party or Government, he does apparently have solid support among a group of elderly statesmen like the retired leaders Bo Yibo, Peng Zhen and Chen Yun. These do not have a vote in the Politburo, but still exercise strong influence.

Mr. Li is now widely and bitterly disliked in Beijing and many expect his downfall. But he has been underestimated before. Just a year ago, many diplomats believed he would not last long in the leadership because of his lack of connections around the country. Instead, he is the most powerful man after Mr. Deng, at least for now. Qiao Shi

A somewhat mysterious man who is in charge of intelligence and security matters, Mr. Qiao is the crucial swing vote on the standing committee of the Politburo. Mr. Zhao now has the support of Hu Qili, the member in charge of propaganda, while Mr. Li has the backing of Yao Yilin, the economic czar. Mr. Qiao supported Mr. Li at first but is now being heavily lobbied and the Zhao forces hope to sway him.

Little is known about the political or economic views of the 65-year-old Mr. Qiao. But late last month he undermined Mr. Deng, who had ordered a violent crackdown on April 27 against student demonstrators, by issuing an order the evening before that policemen and troops should avoid violence, party and Government officials say. Mr. Qiao is believed to stress the importance of order, but is also distressed by the prospect of violent repression of demonstrators.

If Mr. Li is discredited and Mr. Zhao cannot muster enough support to regain his authority, Mr. Qiao could emerge as the next Communist Party General Secretary. Wan Li

A 73-year-old elderly statesman, Mr. Wan serves in what has been the somewhat ceremonial post of head of the National People's Congress, the normally rubber stamp parliament. But a move is now afoot to use the standing committee of the Congress to revoke martial law and possibly even to use the full Congress to impeach Mr. Li.

Such moves would probably require a certain amount of cooperation from Mr. Wan and therefore all factions are trying to win his support. Mr. Wan, who is on a visit to Canada and the United States, probably has conflicting loyalties.

On the one hand, he is an old friend of Mr. Deng and would be unlikely to turn

against him. On the other hand, he favors political liberalization and does not regard the student movement to be so serious as to require a military crackdown. If the Congress is used as a means to challenge Mr. Li, Mr. Wan will play a crucial role. Yan Mingfu

Mr. Yan is perhaps the Communist Party official with the best reputation among the demonstrators and he could rise very far if Mr. Zhao is restored to power. The 58-year-old head of the party's United Front Department, which maintains links with non-Communist organizations, Mr. Yan was responsible for negotiating with the hunger strikers on Tiananmen Square and expressed sympathy for them in a speech he gave there.

A strong supporter of conciliation, Mr. Yan was overruled by Mr. Li and other top leaders, and subsequently was hospitalized for illness and exhaustion after his marathon negotiation efforts.

Earlier, Mr. Yan was one of the key figures in preventing a harsh crackdown on April 27. Mr. Yan, who has considerable influence on Mr. Qiao, led a campaign to convince him and other high leaders that violence would be counterproductive and inappropriate. Wuer Kaixi

A 21-year-old student from Xinjiang Province in northwest China, Mr. Wuer is head of the interuniversity student committee that has planned the protests for the last month. A freshman who is an eloquent and witty speaker, Mr. Wuer is a member of the minority Uighur ethnic group, rather than a Han Chinese, and that accounts for his unusual name.

A natural leader, Mr. Wuer was merciless toward Mr. Li in a nationally televised meeting last week, even criticizing him for being late.

The ever-flamboyant Mr. Wuer was on a hunger strike at the time and even fainted during the meeting. He had to be revived by a group of doctors and nurses who were hovering in the background.

While Mr. Wuer is bitterly critical of corruption and inefficiency in the Government and Communist Party, he is not against the party itself. His father is a party official, and he says he too would like to join the party. Wang Dan

Mr. Wang, a 20-year-old history student, is less eloquent and dynamic than Mr. Wuer, but he has been the main organizer of the student movement at Beijing University, the most important campus in the country. Mr. Wang, whose large glasses and small frame make him look the stereotype of an intellectual, is less enthusiastic about the Communist Party than Mr. Wuer, but says he is not against

the "correct" leadership of the party, although he emphasizes the word correct.

At first one of the more militant of the student leaders, Mr. Wang goes out of his way to sound reasonable and conciliatory. He emphasizes the importance of nonviolent tactics, and it is his impressive organizational skills that has insured that the student demonstrations have maintained high discipline.

Mr. Wang and other student leaders would presumably like Mr. Deng and Mr. Li to step down, but they would settle for less if the matter came to negotiations. The leadership of the student organizations often is less radical than those who follow, perhaps because the leaders have more reason to fear getting in trouble. But the general attitude of the students and their hostility toward Mr. Li and Mr. Deng might constrain Mr. Wang and Mr. Wuer in reaching an agreement to leave Tiananmen Square and return to their campuses.

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