

Upheaval in China; 7 on New York Chinese Newspaper Quit in Protest

By CONSTANCE L. HAYS MAY 25, 1989

About the Archive

This is a digitized version of an article from The Times's print archive, before the start of online publication in 1996. To preserve these articles as they originally appeared, The Times does not alter, edit or update them.

Occasionally the digitization process introduces transcription errors or other problems. Please send reports of such problems to archive_feedback@nytimes.com.

Half the editorial staff of a New York-based Chinese newspaper quit in anger yesterday after the publisher demanded that they print a commentary he wrote urging China's leaders to call in troops to keep order in Beijing.

Four reporters and three editors, including the editor in chief, walked out shortly after 8 A.M., just two hours before the paper, The Center Daily, was to begin its press run. The publisher, Chaochu Fu, called on typists and graphics editors to compose the front page to include his article, which the editor in chief and others had objected to as reactionary.

The Center Daily is published six days a week, but not on Sunday. It has a circulation of about 60,000 and is the second-largest Chinese newspaper published in the United States.

The paper was founded by Mr. Fu in 1981.

Efforts to reach Mr. Fu for comment yesterday were unsuccessful. His daughter, Candace Fu, who works at The Center Daily, did not return telephone calls for her there. Two Sections Missing

The walkout created chaos in the newspaper's Chinatown offices yesterday, said Peter Lee, one of the reporters who resigned, effective June 1. The paper, normally in four sections, came out with two of those sections missing. An editor's

note on the front page advised readers that the newspaper had been somewhat rearranged.

The advertising department was described as embarrassed to sell ads based on the paper's most recent edition. "They are ashamed to go out and seek clients because of the position of Mr. Fu's commentary," Mr. Lee said.

The dispute began Monday when Mr. Fu demanded publication of another commentary, which he signed, that praised Deng Xiaoping for his contributions to contemporary Chinese society. Without Mr. Deng, China's foremost leader, the country would not have students studying overseas and would not have a man like Zhao Ziyang in a position of authority, the commentary said. Mr. Zhao, the Communist Party general secretary, has emerged as a rallying figure for the protesting students in China and a Deng adversary.

Mr. Fu signed the article not with his given name but with a pen name, Tongzhen Wen.

That article brought a storm of objections from students and other readers. "We got about 100 threatening phone calls," said the editor in chief, Powin Lin. "The students are so mad." Covering Demonstrations

The paper had been covering the student demonstrations in Tiananmen Square in Beijing since they began, staff members and readers said, and that coverage had not been unsympathetic to the demonstrators. Several staff members speculated that Mr. Fu, who is close to Mr. Deng, had begun to fear for his future and decided to trumpet support for Mr. Deng.

After the article ran in Monday's editions, staff members signed a notice saying that the article did not reflect their positions. The notice was posted outside the newspaper's offices at 128 Lafayette Street in lower Manhattan.

Mr. Fu had wanted to run the article calling for a Government crackdown on Tuesday, but editors refused. "I told him, 'This article is so reactionary,'" Mr. Lin recalled. "I told him not to run the article, because it is against the students and the whole world supports the students."

Mr. Fu demanded the article go into yesterday's paper, prompting the wave of resignations.

The other editors who resigned were the first deputy editor, Lixing Tan, and the front-page editor, Suren Huang. Three reporters, as well as Mr. Lee, also resigned.

Correction: May 26, 1989

Friday, Late City Final Edition An article yesterday about a protest at a New York-based Chinese newspaper, The Center Daily, referred incorrectly to the publisher's daughter, Candace Fu. Although she has an office at the newspaper's building in Long Island City, she says she does not work for the paper. In some copies, the article and a caption incompletely described the status of some of those involved in the protest. Two reporters, Peter Lee and Harry Lo, say their resignations are effective on June 1.

A version of this article appears in print on May 25, 1989, on Page A00011 of the National edition with the headline: Upheaval in China; 7 on New York Chinese Newspaper Quit in Protest.