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2,000 Protest in Beijing At Public Security Office

By NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF and SPECIAL TO THE NEW YORK TIMES JUNE 1, 1989

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About 2,000 students and workers protested in front of the Public Security Ministry tonight, and three union leaders were released after two days of interrogation.

The release suggested that the Government may be apprehensive about the reaction if it arrests leaders of the democracy movement. The three, who are leaders of a newly formed labor union in the capital, were detained Monday night.

It was principally concern over their fate that prompted demonstrations Tuesday and again Wednesday in front of the Public Security Ministry, tying up traffic on the Avenue of Eternal Peace, a major street.

As word spread among today's demonstrators that the three had been freed, they changed the purpose of the protest to demand the release of 11 other workers whom the Government acknowledged on Tuesday that it had arrested. All 11 own motorcycles and had been part of a band of several hundred motorcyclists who joined student demonstrators over the last 10 days. A New Tactic

The Government, which has reacted in various ways to the demonstrations of the last six weeks, tried a new tactic today by arranging official demonstrations to protest against unofficial ones: Several thousand participants, many of them peasants, walked carefully in neat rows, carrying banners reading: "We are against

chaos."

The authorities also sent trucks of troops across the city, apparently in a show of force. But the troops seemed friendly and waved to the crowds, and there were no confrontations.

There was little indication today on developments in the power struggle under way within the Communist Party headquarters. Li Tieying, China's Education Minister, told a visiting delegation from New Zealand that there would be no changes in China's liberalization program, a participant in the discussion said. But Mr. Li did not give any clues about who was gaining or losing in the power struggle.

An official in the Communist Party headquarters said today that the Central Committee would be convened either at the end of this week or early next week to dismiss the party leader, Zhao Ziyang. The reason for the delay in holding the meeting, he said, has been the need for small meetings with Central Committee members to convince them of the need for the action. Troop Locations an Issue

While that suggested some disagreement with the proposal to dismiss Mr. Zhao, the official said Mr. Zhao had no hope of remaining as party General Secretary.

The official said the only remaining decisions were precisely what accusations would be leveled publicly against Mr. Zhao; if he would be allowed to hold on to any position, and if he would be allowed to remain in Beijing.

The official also said that one senior Communist Party cadre in the headquarters was arrested recently for giving information about troop locations to student demonstrators.

While there have been mixed reports about whether Mr. Zhao and some others are under house arrest, the cadre was the first party official known to have been formally arrested. ---- Protesters Support Students TAIPEI, Taiwan, May 31 (AP) - An estimated 1 million people linked hands in the rain today to support the student-led democracy movement in China, organizers said.

They said the human chain, from Keelung in the north to Kaohsiung in the south, stretched about 240 miles over highways and city streets and was broken only at intersections to allow traffic to pass.

Participants, most of them students on their lunch break, sang patriotic songs. In some cities they heard speeches during the 30-minute demonstration.

"Students on mainland China are facing a turning point in history, but they are not alone in shouldering their duties because we are firmly behind them," Ko

Chien-wei, a student leader at National Chengchi University, told a rally in Taipei.

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