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BEIJING TIGHTENS PRESS RESTRICTION

By NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF and SPECIAL TO THE NEW YORK TIMES JUNE 2, 1989

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The Government announced tough new restrictions on foreign reporters today that, if enforced, would in effect bar correspondents from writing any articles about the nation's democracy movement.

On their face, the rules go much further than restrictions that other governments, like those of South Africa and Israel, have placed on foreign reporters when they were faced with popular upheavals. The rules announced today involve not just censorship of some reports or restrictions on news gathering, but a virtual ban on press coverage itself.

It is not clear to what extent the authorities intend to enforce the new rules.
BBC Reporter Warned

Earlier regulations, announced on May 20 after martial law was imposed in parts of Beijing, forbade foreign journalists from conducting almost any kind of interview. But these rules were not enforced, although a few journalists have been warned in the last 10 days by the Foreign Ministry or State Security Bureau. A correspondent for the British Broadcasting Corporation was ordered today to stop violating the restrictions or "accept all the consequences."

In addition, the police slapped and detained a Japanese photographer this evening when he photographed a crowd in front of the Public Security Bureau,

witnesses said. The Japanese Embassy said it was unaware of the incident, and other Japanese journalists said they did not know his name or affiliation because he is not based in China.

Hundreds of students jostled with the police outside the Public Security Bureau headquarters tonight to protest the beating of the journalist, and also of two other students who they said were also beaten.

Responding to the new press restrictions, the Foreign Correspondents Club of Beijing issued a strong protest this evening and called the rules "a deplorable case of press censorship and harassment."

"This calls into question China's policy of openness to the outside world," the statement added.

Ding Weijun, the Beijing city government spokesman who announced the new restrictions, presented them as "explanations" of the previous rules. While both sets of rules are nominally from the city government, they almost certainly would have to win approval of senior officials in the central Government. The Government's Rules

The new restrictions include these:

* "During the period when martial law is enforced in some districts of Beijing, press coverage . . . is subject to prior application to, and approval of, the office of foreign affairs of the Beijing Municipal People's Government."

* Bans on "press coverage, photographing and video taping of activities prohibited by the [martial law] decrees at Tiananmen Square . . . or at other public places; or press coverage in a disguised form, such as making appointments with Chinese citizens to meet at the offices or residences of foreign journalists . . . or at hotels or elsewhere, for interviews on activities prohibited by the decrees." The decrees prohibit demonstrations, so any press coverage of demonstrations would violate the rules.

* "Without approval . . ., foreign journalists . . . shall conduct no press coverage, photographing and videotaping of the troops enforcing martial law."

It is unclear if the rules presage a new crackdown. Other signs, as usual in Beijing these days, were contradictory. Students Tell of Kidnapping

The most peculiar incident was the assertion by students occupying Tiananmen Square that four people tried to kidnap two student leaders from their tent at 3 A.M. today.

According to the students' account, Chai Ling, the general commander of the

Tiananmen Square students, and her husband, Feng Cengde, the deputy general commander, were awakened by four people who tried to gag them with towels and carry them away.

Mr. Feng escaped and shouted for help, and other students seized and interrogated the four people. Three of them were also students, and one was a member of a Beijing citizen organization that has supported the demonstrators, but most students were convinced that the four were Government agents.

The students noted that it has been a carefully guarded secret where the student leaders will sleep on any night, and they frequently move around, so the kidnapping attempt had to have been supported by some careful investigation work. In addition, at about the same time, the students loudspeaker system and telephone were sabotaged so that they could not summon help, they said.

The Government has strongly condemned the student occupation of Tiananmen Square, and particularly the raising of a 27-foot reproduction of the Statue of Liberty, but so far the authorities have not intervened.

The Government's next moves may depend on the meetings now under way each day in the Communist Party headquarters to try to resolve the political crisis that has paralyzed China for two weeks. The only indication today was an acknowledgment by the Foreign Ministry spokesman that there have been no changes in the positions of the leaders of the Communist Party, army or Government.

But the spokesman, Li Jinhua, professed not to understand a question about whether the formal positions might be unchanged but somebody might now be "acting" general secretary of the party. While rumors are flying in every direction, the consensus is that no one has yet been dismissed, but that the party General Secretary, Zhao Ziyang, has been relieved of his powers and will be dismissed from his post at the next Communist Party Central Committee meeting.

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