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CRACKDOWN IN BEIJING; PRESIDENT ASSAILS SHOOTINGS IN CHINA

By **ROBERT PEAR** and **SPECIAL TO THE NEW YORK TIMES** JUNE 4, 1989

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President Bush said today that he deeply deplored the shooting of protesters by Chinese troops.

The President said it was "clear that the Chinese Government has chosen to use force against Chinese citizens who were making a peaceful statement in favor of democracy."

"I deeply deplore the decision to use force against peaceful demonstrators and the consequent loss of life," said Mr. Bush, who was spending the weekend in Kennebunkport, Me. "We have been urging and continue to urge non-violence, restraint and dialogue. Tragically, another course has been chosen. Again, I urge a return to non-violent means for dealing with the current situation." Baker Is Careful

Secretary of State Baker, appearing on the Cable News Network television program "Newsmaker Saturday," declined to say whether the Bush Administration would seek to penalize China by such steps as cutting off sales of American arms to Beijing.

He said that the Chinese Government and the thousands of protesters seeking greater democracy had displayed "a significant amount of restraint" over the last

few weeks.

But today, he said, "it would appear that there may be some violence being used here on both sides," not only by Chinese soldiers, but also by students throwing firebombs. Comments Called Stronger

Mr. Baker said that his comments today were "considerably stronger than what we've said heretofore." But they did not go as far as many members of Congress and human rights groups say the Administration should have gone in expressing concern.

Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina, the ranking Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, expressed alarm at China's effort to suppress the student protests.

"The Chinese Communist leaders apparently are not willing to cease their historic repression of human rights," Mr. Helms said from his home in Raleigh. "I will be working with my colleagues to insure that, as a first response against this brutality, all U.S. military cooperation and sharing of technology with the Communist Government must be terminated."

In a letter to President Bush this week, Freedom House, a human rights organization founded in 1941, said the United States should condemn China for "any significant violations of political rights and civil liberties." Kampelman's Argument

The chairman of Freedom House, Max M. Kampelman, said that such violations would justify an immediate review of the full range of economic and military cooperation between Washington and Beijing.

Secretary Baker said today, "The army of China calls itself the army of the people, and we think it would be unfortunate indeed if the army of the people were used to suppress the people."

He declined to say if the United States should impose sanctions against China. He said that the shooting of demonstrators by troops today was "the first really significant use of force" since the student protests began seven weeks ago.

"Before we get into hypothetical situations, let's see how this most recent and extremely deplorable development unfolds," Mr. Baker said. "Let's see what happens over the course of the next few days before we start hypothesizing about what we might or might not do in the future." Off-Limits Area

He said that the State Department had ordered employees of the American Embassy in Beijing to avoid Tiananmen Square, the site of the demonstrations

where soldiers opened fire today. In addition, he said, the department has issued a notice urging Americans to avoid travel to China at this time.

Saying he did not want to interfere in China's political affairs, Mr. Baker declined to speculate on the political calculations that might have led Prime Minister Li Peng to send troops into Tiananmen Square.

"There has been a power struggle in conjunction with this very passionate statement that these hundreds of thousands of students are making for democracy," Mr. Baker said. "This has triggered a power struggle within China. I'd really rather not go into the details of who's up and who's down, and where we think the various parties are."

If he offered such an analysis, the American official added, "that would be seen to be interfering in the internal affairs of China, and that would probably not be appropriate for us to do."

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