

KEYWORD: CHINA

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CHINA-BROKEN BIKERS

WITH CHINA-STUDENTS

POLICE CLAIM TO BREAK BEIJING'S WILD BUNCH

BY DAN BIERS

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BEIJING (AP) - CHINA'S WILD BUNCH RIDES NO LONGER.

A GROUP OF ABOUT 400 MOTORCYCLISTS THAT ROARED THROUGH THE STREETS OF BEIJING IN SUPPORT OF PRO-DEMOCRACY DEMONSTRATORS IS THE LATEST VICTIM OF A GOVERNMENT CRACKDOWN ON THE PROTESTS, OFFICIAL MEDIA REPORTED TUESDAY.

POLICE ARRESTED 11 LEADERS OF THE GROUP WHO WERE ACCUSED OF DISTURBING PUBLIC ORDER, THE STATE-RUN XINHUA NEWS AGENCY REPORTED. THE 'FLYING TIGER BRIGADE' THAT WAS ARROGANT FOR A WHILE IN THE CAPITAL HAS BEEN BROKEN," CROWED THE BEIJING DAILY, MOUTHPIECE OF THE CITY'S COMMUNIST PARTY.

THE GANG, ALSO KNOWN AS THE "IRON-RIDING GUARD TEAM," WAS A HUGE HIT WITH THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PROTESTERS WHO FILLED

TIANANMEN SQUARE EARLIER THIS MONTH TO DEMAND A FREER SOCIETY.

BEIJING RESIDENTS HEARTILY CHEERED THE MOTORCYCLISTS AS THEY REPEATEDLY ZOOMED AROUND THE SQUARE, EXHAUST FLYING AND HORNS HONKING.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES, HOWEVER, WERE NOT AMUSED.

ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL MEDIA, THE MOTORCYCLISTS THREW STONES AND SOFT-DRINK BOTTLES AT SOLDIERS SENT TO BEIJING TO ENFORCE MARTIAL LAW. THEY ALSO SMASHED COMMUNICATIONS OFFICES, RAN OFF WITH FUEL FROM GASOLINE STATIONS AND INCITED WORKERS TO STRIKE.

A TRAFFIC COP WHO STUCK OUT HIS HAND TO STOP THE GANG AT AN INTERSECTION WAS KNIFED IN THE PALM, THE BEIJING DAILY REPORTED.

THE BIKERS SHOUTED SLOGANS AND SPREAD RUMORS "TO CONFUSE AND POISON THE PEOPLE'S MINDS," AND KEPT PEOPLE FROM GETTING A PEACEFUL SLEEP, THE REPORTS SAID.

"ACCORDING TO INITIAL INVESTIGATIONS, THE BACKBONE ELEMENTS OF THE TEAM INCLUDED (PEOPLE) RELEASED AFTER SERVING A PRISON SENTENCE OR AFTER RECEIVING JUVENILE DELINQUENT RE-EDUCATION, RASCAL RUFFIANS, AND IDLE BUSINESSMEN AND WORKERS FROM PRIVATE ENTERPRISES," XINHUA QUOTED AN UNNAMED POLICE OFFICIAL AS SAYING.

END

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CHINA-STUDENTS, 9TH LD-WRITETHRU, 0427
5TH LD-WRITETHRU TO SOME POINTS
EDS: UPDATES THROUGHOUT WITH DETAILS
BY JOHN POMFRET;
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER;

BEIJING (AP) - CHINA'S LEADERS DELAYED A MEETING SET UP TO PURGE MODERATES FROM THE GOVERNMENT BECAUSE TOP OFFICIALS STILL ARE LOCKED IN A POWER STRUGGLE CAUSED BY UNRELENTING STUDENT-LED PROTESTS, SOURCES SAID TUESDAY.

A MILITARY SOURCE SAID THE 200,000 TROOPS SURROUNDING BEIJING UNDER MARTIAL LAW ORDERS HAVE BEEN TOLD TO "PREPARE FOR WINTER," MEANING HARDLINERS ARE ANTICIPATING A LONG BATTLE WITH MODERATES IN THE PARTY LEADERSHIP.

WORKERS AND STUDENTS CHANTED "DOWN WITH POLICE THUGGERY" OUTSIDE POLICE HEADQUARTERS TUESDAY TO PROTEST THE ARREST OF LABOR LEADERS SYMPATHETIC TO THEIR MOVEMENT FOR GREATER FREEDOM AND AN END TO OFFICIAL CORRUPTION.

THE BEIJING DAILY SAID 11 MEMBERS OF MOTORCYCLE CLUBS THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE DEMONSTRATIONS ALSO WERE JAILED.

STUDENTS CONTINUED THEIR OCCUPATION OF TIANANMEN SQUARE, TRIUMPHANTLY UNVEILING A 10-METER (33-FOOT) SCULPTURE INSPIRED BY THE U.S. STATUE OF LIBERTY IN THE CENTER OF THE VAST PLAZA.

THOUSANDS CHEERED AS THE "GODDESS OF DEMOCRACY" -- A ROBED WOMAN HOLDING A TORCH -- WAS CHRISTENED. THE STATUE FACED THE PORTRAIT OF COMMUNIST CHINA'S FOUNDER, MAO TSE-TUNG.

A CORE OF ABOUT 10,000 STUDENTS HAVE MAINTAINED A ROUND-THE-CLOCK PROTEST IN THE SQUARE, BUT THE NUMBERS SWELLED INTO THE TENS OF THOUSANDS FOR THE STATUE'S UNVEILING.

THE OFFICIAL XINHUA NEWS AGENCY CALLED THE STATUE "AN INSULT TO THE NATIONAL DIGNITY AND IMAGE" AND SAID IT SHOULD BE TAKEN DOWN BY THURSDAY.

INDICATIONS APPEARED THAT THE POWER STRUGGLE BETWEEN THOSE WHO OPPOSE POLITICAL REFORM AND MODERATES WHO BACK SOME DEMOCRATIC CHANGE HAD REACHED AN IMPASSE.

DIPLOMATIC AND CHINESE SOURCES SAID A MEETING OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE RULING COMMUNIST PARTY, SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN ABOUT 10 DAYS, HAS BEEN POSTPONED BECAUSE THE LEADERSHIP IS TOO DIVIDED.

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO RATIFY A PURGE OF COMMUNIST PARTY CHIEF ZHAO ZIYANG, WHO LAST WEEK REPORTEDLY WAS STRIPPED OF POWER. THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MUST APPROVE LEADERSHIP CHANGES.

THE SOURCES SAID THE CONSERVATIVE FACTION, REPRESENTED BY PREMIER LI PENG, HAD YET TO GAIN THE NECESSARY SUPPORT IN THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO OUST ZHAO AND OTHERS SYMPATHETIC TO THE STUDENTS.

SOURCES SAID THEY BELIEVED THAT OPPOSITION TO THE PURGE WAS TEMPORARY AND THAT SENIOR LEADER DENG XIAOPING, WHO REPORTEDLY IS BEHIND LI, WOULD MAKE ZHAO STEP DOWN.

IN ANOTHER INDICATION ZHAO WAS IN DANGER, THE NIGHTLY NEWS DID NOT INCLUDE HIS NAME WHEN MENTIONING A SERIES OF IMPORTANT SPEECHES BEING STUDIED BY HIGH-RANKING PARTY MEMBERS.

MORE

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CHINA-STUDENTS, 9TH LD-1ST ADD, 0406

BEIJING: PARTY MEMBERS.

THE HARD-LINE FACTION GAINED ANOTHER SUPPORTER WHEN THE COMMUNIST PARTY COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS, CHINA'S LEGISLATURE, ISSUED A STATEMENT BACKING MARTIAL LAW IN BEIJING.

LI DECLARED MARTIAL LAW MAY 20, BUT TROOPS HAVE BEEN UNABLE, UNWILLING OR NOT ORDERED TO MOVE AGAINST THE PROTESTERS WHO ON OCCASION HAVE NUMBERED 1 MILLION.

AT BEIJING POLICE HEADQUARTERS, ABOUT 1,000 STUDENTS AND WORKERS STAGED A SIX-HOUR SIT-IN DEMANDING INFORMATION ABOUT THE THREE UNION LEADERS WHO DISAPPEARED MONDAY.

THE BEIJING INDEPENDENT WORKERS' UNION WAS FORMED MAY 19 IN DEFIANCE OF A GOVERNMENT BAN ON ALL BUT THE OFFICIAL ALL CHINA FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS. THE UNION, WITH A CLAIMED MEMBERSHIP OF ABOUT 3,000, HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN GETTING BEIJING CITIZENS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MOVEMENT.

UNION HEAD ZHAO PINGLU, SAID ONE OF ITS LEADERS, SHEN YINHAN, A 27-YEAR-OLD OFFICIAL WITH THE NATIONAL AIRLINES, WAS GRABBED BY POLICE MONDAY IN FRONT OF THE BEIJING HOTEL.

ILWAYS, ALSO WERE ARRESTED, HE SAID.

LI ZHIHUANG, WIFE OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEE QIAN YIMING, SAID HER HUSBAND'S WORK UNIT CLAIMED HE WAS ARRESTED BY POLICE "TO FIND OUT ABOUT THE SITUATION AT TIANANMEN SQUARE."

A THIRD MAN, BAI DONGPING, 26, WAS SUPPOSED TO TAKE HIS WIFE TO THE HOSPITAL ON MONDAY BUT DIDN'T SHOW UP, SAID HIS FATHER, BAI BAOFU.

"HE WOULD NEVER JUST DISAPPEAR," THE FATHER SAID.

MILITARY SOURCES SAID ALL MILITARY PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN THREATENED WITH COURT MARTIAL IF THEY JOINED OR EXPRESSED SYMPATHY WITH THE MOVEMENT.

THE OFFICIAL MEDIA CONTINUED ITS CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE 18-DAY-OLD OCCUPATION OF THE SQUARE.

THE PEOPLE'S DAILY PUBLISHED A LETTER FROM SEVEN INTELLECTUALS RECALLING THE TRAGIC LEFTIST PURGES OF THE 1966-76 CULTURAL

REVOLUTION.

"WARN YOUR SONS AND LOVED ONES NOT TO ALLOW A REPEAT OF THIS TRAGEDY OF HISTORY," IT SAID, REFERRING TO THE PERIOD OF TURMOIL WHEN MAO UNLEASHED YOUNG RED GUARDS IN A POWER STRUGGLE.

THE RED GUARDS RULED THE STREETS FOR TWO YEARS BEFORE THE ARMY WAS CALLED IN TO RESTORE ORDER. GANGS OF YOUTHS TORE DOWN TEMPLES AND CHURCHES, BURNED BOOKS, SEIZED GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES, RANSACKED HOMES AND PERSECUTED INTELLECTUALS.

ESTIMATES OF DEATHS FROM POLITICAL TURMOIL DURING THE DECADE ARE AS HIGH AS 1 MILLION, WHILE MILLIONS MORE WERE PERSECUTED AND HAD THEIR LIVES DESTROYED.

END