

Washington kowtows to Beijing tyrants

by Linda de Hoyos

In a singularly impolite signal to the United States of foreign-policy proclivities of the ruling clique of the People's Republic of China, Beijing Foreign Minister Qian Qichen canceled his scheduled June 12 trip to the United States. The foreign minister had been visiting Ecuador and Cuba, and was supposedly to head for Washington, but at the last minute canceled out, and made an unexpected detour to Beijing through East Germany and Moscow. In East Germany, it is likely he met June 11 with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, who was there at the time, and on June 12, Qian spent a few hours at the Moscow airport meeting with Soviet Deputy Prime Minister Igor Rogachov.

Another such signal came from Beijing itself, where Vice Premier Yao Yilin, who the week before the Tiananmen Massacre had declared China's ready willingness to turn away from the "West" and seek economic aid only from the East bloc, warned at the June 13 State Council meeting: "We must clearly understand that we must not establish a bourgeois republic, otherwise China will become a vassal of the bourgeois country and we will lose our independence."

Anti-U.S. venom

Beijing rhetoric toward the United States has been more than blunt. On June 12, China State Television quoted from a viewer's telegram asking: "The American government has wantonly condemned China's efforts to stop violence and has given protection to the ringleader of those creating disorder. . . . Is this your so-called freedom and democracy?" The same day, the *People's Daily* singled out the Voice of America for its casualty reports, claiming that all the VOA reports on events in Beijing and elsewhere were lies. These vituperations against the United States and its press have been accompanied by a harsh crackdown on nearly all Western reporters, including detentions and expulsions.

According to the *South China Morning Post* of June 15, Beijing is now considering breaking relations with both Australia and the United States over the harboring of refugees from the political atrocities committed now nationwide in the P.R.C. In particular, China is piqued because the U.S. embassy in Beijing has given asylum to the dissident physicist Fang Lizhi, who, Beijing claims, is the "mastermind" of the democracy movement.

Meanwhile, the Beijing regime has gone on a rampage to round up the "counterrevolutionary" clique that posed a

"mortal threat" to the party in Tiananmen Square. The methods come straight from the pages of 1984. Beijing television is filled mostly with pictures of those to be tracked down and rounded up, tortured, and then put on display to the public with their "confessions" of anti-party and anti-government activities. Many of those imprisoned will suffer the same hideous fate as the founder of democracy movement, Wei Jingsheng, who has been imprisoned and continuously tortured physically and mentally for the last ten years.

And the clamp has been put on the P.R.C. media, as the nation's cities are "brought under control." The press is rife with congratulatory messages and laudatory pledges of allegiance from all party organizations and institutions to Deng Xiaoping, now referred to in China as the "great helmsman"—a nomen heretofore reserved only for Mao, the great leader of the Cultural Revolution.

Placid in Washington

Yet, despite the conclusive evidence that Deng Xiaoping was fully responsible for the massive butchery in Beijing June 3-5, despite the evidence that China has turned its back once again on civilization and is acting once again to impose hideous conditions of tyranny upon its own people, the analysts, foreign policy experts, and powers in Washington continue to attempt to assuage the feelings of China's criminal ruling clique.

The posture of Ambassador James Lilley is enough to indicate the point. When asked June 11, if he thought the Fang Lizhi incident could be ironed out between Washington and Beijing, Lilley, indicating his mission to maintain the Henry Kissinger "China card" at all costs, retorted: "I hope to God it can. We don't want irritants like this in the U.S.-China relationship."

Another Washington kowtow came from ex-President Ronald Reagan, who scrambled to find a way to blame the democracy movement for the Beijing butchery. "It could be that maybe the young people tried to make the move too far and too fast with what they did."

The "party line" coming out of Washington coheres with the analysis put forward by the Royal Institute of International Affairs from London (see Kissinger Watch, page 65). Despite the drama of the last weeks, China is not really in that deep a crisis. This will blow over and relations with Deng Xiaoping can resume at their steady pace once again. This view is disgustingly immoral, more so since the inspiration for the democracy movement is not Gorbachov's glasnost, but the United States.

It is also stupid. Either the Chinese ruling clique is slamming the door on the cowering West, as it has done so before, or it is attempting to place itself in a far stronger bargaining position for the future. In the latter case, the question is: What maximal concession is the P.R.C. demanding that war-rants such arrogant displays of pique toward the West? The answer might be summed up in one word: Taiwan.