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China: Situation Report

Notes

In Brief

Special Analyses

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: AUG 2000
CHINA:  

New Leadership Lineup

Deng Xiaoping has met publicly with military officers to express deep condolences over the loss of military "martyrs" and to congratulate them for successfully suppressing a "counterrevolutionary rebellion." Other top leaders present at yesterday's televised session were President Yang Shangkun, Premier Li Peng, Defense Minister Qin Jiwei, Politburo member Qiao Shi, National People's Congress Chairman Wan Li, and several of China's octogenarian hardliners. Zhao Ziyang and Politburo member Hu Qili were absent.

Comment: The appearance of Deng and the new leadership indicates they are now confident of their ability to remain in power. Although Deng chaired the meeting, the status of his health is uncertain; he may now be sharing power with Yang, party elders, and other military leaders who supported the crackdown. As a result of the upheavals, the military has become an influential player in Chinese politics, and the military's share of the state budget may increase markedly at the price of its support.

Detaining Suspects

continued

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10 June 1989
The Public Security Bureau announced yesterday that students on Beijing campuses have 48 hours to turn themselves in and confess membership in the independent student union. Beijing University has hurriedly declared the start of summer vacation a month early.

In Shanghai, an estimated 150,000 demonstrators have held a peaceful memorial march; student leaders there escalated their demands yesterday, calling on the municipal government to lower flags to honor those who were killed in Beijing. Police in Shanghai are out in force today.

Comment:

The authorities probably hope to coerce frightened protesters into identifying each other in exchange for promises of leniency and thereby make it difficult to build an underground organization. Although a hard core of students may try to resist efforts to pacify the campuses, the departure of most students means continued resistance would be short lived.

Diplomatic Activity

China's Foreign Ministry today issued a note advising diplomats in Beijing not to travel at night, apparently in an attempt to hide some of the extent of the crackdown. The note also warned that vehicles should only be used for diplomatic purposes because "safety cannot be guaranteed" otherwise; it added that armed squads will patrol in and around the embassy areas. Meanwhile, many Chinese diplomats overseas appear outraged at recent developments.

A Chinese representative yesterday told a UNESCO meeting in Paris that he shares the concerns of foreigners over the killings in Tiananmen Square.