SUMMARY:  The 38th Army is CMC strategic reserve. 39th Army took only three days after alert to arrive in Beijing. Elements of 39th Army said to be ready to stay in Beijing for six months to a year.

TEXT:  1. The 38th Army is the strategic reserve of the Central Military Commission (CMC). During normal times, the 38th Army is subordinated to the Beijing Military Region (MR). However, during periods of crisis, such as the current period of martial law, the 38th is directly subordinated to the CMC. That most armies would have a regiment or division ready to roll on short notice as a rapid reaction type unit.
2. In both the 38th and 39th armies, both units are able to mobilize on short notice. The 39th army received its initial order to deploy to Beijing on 21 May 1989. Elements of the 115th division of the 39th army had arrived in the city by 24 May. Both the 115th and the 116th divisions of the 39th are currently deployed in Beijing. The 39th army's 117th division is located in Dalian. When these elements of the 39th army were alerted for movement to Beijing, soldiers immediately set out on the road to Beijing after being allowed to take only one change of clothing. The troops were not told their ultimate destination.

3. The PLA has three levels of readiness. Level one represents a unit's ability to move its forces within 24 to 48 hours. Level two is the designation given to units with an ability to mobilize within a week or two. Level two units are manned at eighty-five (85) percent strength. Level three units are able to mobilize after a month's time and have only fifty (50) percent of its authorized strength currently assigned.

4. How long the PLA would continue to maintain martial law forces in the city of Beijing.

5. The 38th Army had entered the city on three occasions during the recent period of unrest. In addition to the day martial law was declared (20 May 89) and the assault on Tiananmen (03-04 June 89),

6. The 38th Army has command of four (4) divisions and two independent brigades, with a strength of 50,000 troops. The 39th Army has five assigned divisions and one independent brigade. These five organic divisions include three infantry divisions, one tank division, and one anti-aircraft division. Did not identify the type of independent brigades organic to either the 38th or 39th armies.

7. The commander of the 39th Army is (Fu) Meiyang (phonetic). The commander of the 115th division of the 39th Army is (Zhang) Zuo Li (phonetic). Zhang is 45 years old. The 115th division's deputy commander is