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GE 01 BEIJIN 15388 01 OF 02 030526Z
SECTION EAP-00

TO	LOG-00	AD3-00	INR-07	ZUR-00	SS-00	CIAE-00	BB-00
	R-01	XSCE-00	NSAR-00	COMB-00	BSO-00	HA-09	L-03
	TRSE-00	PN-10	AIT-02	PA-01	OMB-D1	STR-10	SIL-01
	INRE-00	AMAH-00	USIE-00	SP-02	SNP-01	PRS-01	P-02
	T-01	/060 W					

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030515Z JUN 89 ZFP4
 AMEMBASSY BEIJING
 SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0041
 TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
 EMBASSY SEOUL
 EMBASSY MOSCOW
 EMBASSY LONDON
 EMBASSY PARIS
 EMBASSY BANGKOK
 CONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE
 TAIPEI IMMEDIATE
 CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE
 CONSUL GUANGZHOU IMMEDIATE
 CONSUL SHANGHAI IMMEDIATE
 CONSUL SHENYANG IMMEDIATE
 WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 CONSUL CHENGDU (POUCH)

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 02 BEIJING 15388

ACT IMMEDIATE FOR CHINA WATCH ONLY

C FOR DOUG PRAL
CINCPAC FOR PPA

9. 12386: DECL: OADR
 S: PGOV, PHUM, SOCI, CH
 SUBJECT: SITREP NO. 27: MARTIAL LAW WITH CHINESE
 CHARACTERISTICS

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C - EFFIRE TEXT.

THE PEOPLE OF BEIJING AWOKED ON SATURDAY, JUNE 3,
 WITNESS AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT: THOUSANDS OF YOUNG
 DIERS, BEDRAGGLED, BEPUDDLED AND SOME EVEN WEEPING,
 DERRING THROUGH THE CITY IN GROUPS RANGING FROM A
 DFUL TO HUNDREDS, IN AN UNORGANIZED RETREAT OUT OF
 CITY CENTER. FROM ABOUT 0530 TO 0800 WE WITNESSED

U.S. Department of State
 Office of Privacy & Classification Review
 Authority: MTI, ER, ROBERT
 3/98
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THE FOLLOWING STRANGE EVENTS:

A BUS FULL OF ABOUT FORTY SOLDIERS SURROUNDED BY A CROWD OF SEVERAL THOUSAND ANGRY CITIZENS AT THE CORNER CHANGAN (THE CITY'S MAIN EAST-WEST ROAD) AND KIDAN. ON TOP OF THE BUS, STUDENTS AND OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE TOOK UP POSING FOR PHOTOS HOLDING A RIFLE TAKEN FROM ONE OF THE SOLDIERS AND WEARING A HELMET AND OTHER "CAPTURED" PARAPHERNALIA.

ANOTHER BUS WITH A SIMILAR NUMBER OF SOLDIERS ABOUT TWO BLOCKS AWAY, IMMOBILIZED BY A LARGE CROWD AND BUSES PARKED ACROSS THE ROAD. SEVERAL PEOPLE IN THE CROWD SAID THAT SOLDIERS WERE ARMED WITH RIFLES AND BAYONETTES.

IN FRONT OF THE MAIN GATE OF THE ZHONGNANHAI LEADERSHIP COMPOUND, A STUDENT WAS DISPLAYING TO A CROWD OF SEVERAL HUNDRED A FLEXIBLE METAL ROD WHICH A SPEAKER SAID WAS CARRIED BY ALL THE SOLDIERS. THE SPEAKER SAID THE ROD COULD BE USED FOR BEATING OR KICKING PEOPLE. THIS SAME SCENE WAS REPEATED IN SEVERAL LOCATIONS AROUND THE CITY. (NOTE: THE RODS IN FACT ARE FLEXIBLE LOOPS USED TO HOLD THE SOLDIERS' HELMETS.)

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WE SAW BRONZE HELMETS IN SHOPS. LIKE A BELT BUCKLE, THE RODS COULD BE USED TO INFLICT INJURY. (END NOTE.)

NEAR THE OLD OBSERVATORY ABOUT 300 SOLDIERS WERE TRYING TO MARCH ON THE GROUND WERE SURROUNDED BY SEVERAL TIMES BY CROWDS OF MANY CITIZENS WHO STERNLY LECTURED THE SOLDIERS ON THEIR ERRORS OF THEIR WAYS. ELDERLY WOMEN COULD BE SEEN SCOLDING 17-YEAR-OLD SOLDIERS WHO LOOKED SHAME-FACED AS THEY STARED AT THE GROUND.

NEAR THE RAILWAY STATION, GROUPS OF 5-10 SOLDIERS WERE SEEN WANDERING AIMLESSLY, GAFING AT THE BIG CITY SQUARES PROCEEDING IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION FROM THEIR REGIMENTS ON THE PARALLEL MAIN ROAD.

MOST OF THE SOLDIERS WHO WERE NOT IN SOME WAY MOBILIZED BY CROWDS PROCEEDED OUT OF THE CITY CENTER, RETURNING BACK TO THE EASTERN SUBURBS OF TONGXIAN, FROM WHICH THEY HAD DEPARTED EARLIER IN THE EVENING. WE SAW SEVERAL GROUPS OF SEVERAL HUNDRED EACH, HOWEVER, WHICH WERE STATIONED AT SITES CLOSE TO THE CITY CENTER. IT WAS NOT CLEAR HOW LONG THEY WOULD STAY AT THOSE LOCATIONS.

COMMENT: OUR BATT HAS DESCRIBED THE ONGOING EVENTS AS "A CHINESE VERSION OF NAPOLEON'S RETREAT FROM RUSSIA." AT LEAST NAPOLEON'S TROOPS DID NOT HAVE THE

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...ILIATION OF BEING LECTURED IN THEIR OWN LANGUAGE
GRANDMOTHERLY WOMEN CALLING THEM "BAD BOYS" OR
DISGRACE TO THE PLA." AS DATT HAS REPORTED, ONE
POSSIBLE EXPLANATION OF THE "PLAN" FOR LAST NIGHT WAS
THAT THE TROOPS WHO ENTERED BY FOOT WERE TO CORDON
OFF TIANANMEN SQUARE WHILE THE PAP AND OTHER TROOPS
WOULD USE BUSES TO TAKE IN BY BUS WOULD USE CLUBS AND POSSIBLY OTHER
WEAPONS TO IN SOME WAY FORCE THE STUDENTS OUT OF THE

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DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CHENGDU (POUCH)

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BEIJING 15388

NIACT IMMEDIATE FOR CHINA WATCH ONLY

NSC FOR DOUG PAAL
CINCPAC FOR FPA

H.O. 12356; DECL: OADR
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SQUARE. WHATEVER THE PLAN WAS, THE RESULT WAS A COMPLETE
DISASTER. A CITY WHICH -- WITH THE NOTABLE EXCEPTION OF
THE CENTRAL SQUARE -- HAD BEGUN TO RETURN TO NORMAL
IS NOW GALVANIZED AGAIN TO CONFRONT THE AUTHORITIES.
BARRICADES HAVE BEEN RESTORED AT MANY APPROACHES TO THE
SQUARE AND THE CENTER OF THE CITY SEEMS TO BE ONCE
AGAIN IN THE CONTROL OF DEMONSTRATORS. CITIZENS ARE
ANGERED BY THE EVIDENCE THAT SOME SOLDIERS WERE
CARRYING FIREARMS AND THAT A LARGER NUMBER POSSESSED

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THE FLEXIBLE METAL RODS, WHICH MOST PEOPLE SEEM CONVINCED WERE TO BE USED FOR PULLING PEOPLE BY THE NECK. MANY PEOPLE WHO APPROACHED US ON THE STREET SEEMED TO PROFESS A GENUINE DISILLUSIONMENT THAT THE SOLDIERS HAD AFTER ALL COME PREPARED TO USE VIOLENCE. WITH THE UNSSEENLY RETREAT, THE CITIZENS' ANGER TOWARDS THE MILITARY (AND THE AUTHORITIES BEHIND THEM) NOW IS MIXED WITH RIDICULE AND CONTEMPT. ONE MAN COMMENTED TO US ON THE STREET AT 0700 THAT ONE SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED AT THE NIGHT'S EVENTS SINCE THROUGHOUT CHINESE HISTORY, WHENEVER RULERS HAVE NO SOLUTION FOR PROBLEMS WHICH THEY THEMSELVES HAVE CREATED, "THEY DO VERY FOOLISH THINGS." OF COURSE THERE ARE OTHER REPLANATIONS WHICH WE CAN NEITHER PROVE NOR DISCARD AT THIS POINT: THAT IT WAS A PLAN WHICH THE EXECUTORS KNEW WOULD FAIL, BUT INTENDED EITHER TO PROVE THAT MUCH STRONGER FORCE WILL BE NECESSARY TO REGAIN CONTROL OR, ALTERNATIVELY, TO DEMONSTRATE THAT ANY MILITARY SOLUTION WILL BE COUNTERED BY THE POPULACE. END COMMENT.

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