

## UPHEAVAL IN CHINA; China Exchange: From Gossip to Trash Bags

By KATHERINE BISHOP and SPECIAL TO THE NEW YORK TIMES MAY 28, 1989

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The message went up on the international computer network that links thousands of corporations, universities and research centers around the world: the students demonstrating in Tiananmen Square in Beijing needed garbage bags.

Through the cooperation of Chinese students at the University of California's campuses at Davis and Berkeley and at Stanford University, 1,800 bags were bought at a discount store near the San Francisco airport and sent to Beijing on Thursday night along with a few pairs of walkie-talkies by way of a trusted courier.

The garbage-bag airlift was the latest in the efforts of Chinese students studying in the United States to assist students in Beijing by raising money and keeping information flowing.

Participants in the computer network also discuss the meaning of democracy and how freedom of the press is supposed to function.

Some have recommendations for the students at the square. They should build shelter, divide people into shifts to save energy and "devote great care to sanitation," suggested a Berkeley student. Another expressed the wish that the Beijing students had taken control of a television or radio station.

There is also discussion of Prime Minister Li Peng, whose resignation has been one of the demonstrators' demands. One anonymous writer said, "The problem of

China for thousands of years is that the Emperor won't retire." The writer suggested that Mr. Li be killed "before all the soul of spirit of China be killed."

Another suggested that Mr. Li be sent to the Soviet Union, but added, "Some friends say that I am too lenient."

One exchange that has recurred throughout the week concerns a rumor that Mr. Li's son is a student at a major United States university. An anonymous writer asked that he be found and identified, prompting a series of exchanges.

"What is the purpose of identifying Li Peng's son?" one writer asked. "Even if Li Peng is a murderer, that is nothing to do with his son." 'A Potential Spy'

"Because he is a potential spy," came the reply. "If Li Peng were a murderer, his son is possibly his informant."

Others responded to an anonymous threat that read simply: "Blood must be paid in blood. Where is Li Peng's son?"

"Please do not stoop to this low level," replied a student at the University of Washington in Seattle. A student from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology responded: "Calm down - victory is at hand. Let's not become Red Guards."

On Wednesday, students at the University of California's Los Angeles campus were celebrating having received a response from China to the information they had been blindly faxing to a number of machines in Beijing.

They posted the message as it had come to them: "We welcome and are truly grateful to you for sending us the message. The country is under news blackout, so your message is really valuable to us. Hope to receive more latest news from you."

By Thursday, morale was sinking. "The situation is terrible," an unsigned message said. "I think nobody will admit that he is going to give in to the Li regime."

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