

BEIJING DISMISSES OUTSPOKEN EDITOR

By NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF and SPECIAL TO THE NEW YORK TIMES APRIL 27, 1989

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In a clear move to clamp down on criticism, the Communist Party dismissed the editor of the nation's boldest newspaper today and announced that the paper would be reorganized.

The party also summoned urgent meetings of 20,000 Communist Party officers in Beijing and Shanghai to press what it called a "grave political struggle" against student unrest.

Despite widespread fears that a crackdown is beginning, university students today planned a march for Thursday that could lead to a direct confrontation with the authorities.

The Government also declared three student organizing committees illegal, and residents of the northwestern district of Beijing, where several universities are, reported that they had seen soldiers moving in the area. There were widespread but unconfirmed reports that at least 10,000 troops from the 38th Army Corps have been moved from Hebei Province to Beijing. Editor Is a Party Member

The decision to dismiss Qin Benli, editor of the World Economic Herald, and reorganize the newspaper seemed certain to send shock waves throughout the country. Mr. Qin, 70 years old, is a Communist Party member whose newspaper, which is based in Shanghai, has for several years been regarded as the most

outspoken and perhaps the best newspaper in the country.

The decision was announced in the middle of the night, and so there was no immediate reaction.

A little more than two years ago, in the last crackdown on "bourgeois liberalization," or Western influences, the Government shut down a few local publications, including a newspaper in the southern city of Shenzhen that had urged the retirement of the senior leader, Deng Xiaoping. But the Herald, a weekly with a circulation of 300,000, is far better known and respected than any of the publications that have faced "reorganization" in the past.

The newspaper has enjoyed strong support from those in the Communist Party who favor more rapid political and economic change. Such prominent Communist Party members as the theorist Wu Jiaxiang and the economist Li Yining frequently write for the Herald. In the past, the Communist Party leader, Zhao Ziyang, is said to have intervened to save Mr. Qin from dismissal, but Mr. Zhao is now on a trip to North Korea, and in any case his influence is widely regarded as waning.

'Violations of Discipline'

The official New China News Agency reported that the Shanghai city government had decided to dismiss Mr. Qin "on account of his serious violations of discipline." This probably referred to the present issue, which the Government banned after discovering that it quoted a range of prominent people criticizing the Government and supporting the student demonstrations.

Meanwhile, professionally printed posters, unlike those that students normally write, appeared on campuses today accusing a party critic who is the wife of a prominent dissident of being behind the student unrest. The woman, Li Shuxian, wife of the dissident Fang Lizhi, is a physics professor at Beijing University, and although she is a party member she also criticizes the party.

This morning's newspapers all printed a harsh editorial calling for a "grave political struggle" against student unrest. The editorial, which was read over television and radio news programs Tuesday night and tonight, said of the organizers: "Their purpose is to poison people's minds, create national turmoil and sabotage the nation's political stability. This is a planned conspiracy which, in essence, aims at negating the leadership of the party and the socialist system."

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