

Chinese Students Try Networking

By **SHERYL WUDUNN** and **SPECIAL TO THE NEW YORK TIMES** MAY 2, 1989

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Students from several Chinese cities gathered today at Beijing University to discuss plans to expand their pro-democracy movement and to form links with schools throughout the nation.

Although there have been demonstrations in other cities, none has come close to the scale of the rally in Beijing on Thursday, when 150,000 protesters marched through the streets with spectators cheering them on.

While some people studying in Beijing took advantage of the May Day holiday to travel to other cities to spread the gospel of democracy, students from elsewhere have trickled into the capital to compare notes.

There is talk of a major rally in the capital on Thursday to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Chinese nationalist demonstrations.

Zhang Z., a 24-year-old electrical engineering student from Fudan University in Shanghai, said he had come to Beijing to forge ties with members of the unofficial student union here. He acknowledged that the demonstrations so far in Shanghai have been feeble, attracting just a few thousand demonstrators who were outnumbered and forced home by the police.

Mr. Zhang and several other Shanghai residents said the focus at his university had been on press freedom, especially since the authorities banned an issue of the

Shanghai-based World Economic Herald, China's boldest newspaper. The students have also shown support for Qin Benli, the newspaper's editor in chief, who was dismissed for trying to publish comments supporting the student protests.

A poster at Beijing University said Shanghai's universities were planning a joint demonstration on Tuesday, but several people in Shanghai who were reached today by telephone said they did not know of plans for the march.

A student delegate from Tianjin, not far from Beijing, said that 20,000 students from eight universities marched through the city on Thursday and that students at most universities there were boycotting classes.

A student delegate who had come Sunday to Beijing from Wuhan, a city in central China, pasted up a poster describing a recent march to commemorate Hu Yaobang, the former Communist Party secretary, who died April 15.

The poster said the police had attacked students with pepper gas, tear gas and cattle prods. The result was that students halted their pro-democracy activities, the poster added.

A version of this article appears in print on May 2, 1989, on Page A00006 of the National edition with the headline: Chinese Students Try Networking.