

How the world reacted to the Tiananmen Square bloodbath

United States

Many members of the U.S. Congress June 4 chastised the Bush administration for its do-nothing approach. "It's folly. We should stand with these young people," said Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.)

tronics components to the Chinese as an expression of U.S. anger. Rep. Mickey Edwards (R-Okla.) act on an outrage like this immediately or it has no impact."

On June 5, the White House announced the suspension of government-to-government sales and commercial exports of weapons to China and private military exports. According to congressional sources, however, no arms sales to China are currently pending.

Bush stated that the United States would not break relations with the P.R.C. government, nor break commercial ties. He added that the June 12 visit to the United States of P.R.C. Foreign Minister Qian Qichen would not be canceled.

On June 7, the Senate unanimously urged consideration of further sanctions against China because of its "brutal use of force . . . against unarmed advocates of democracy and human rights in China." The resolution, approved by all 100 senators, commended Bush's suspension of U.S. military sales but urged further steps: 1) Bush's consultation with major U.S. allies to determine whether they should jointly take further sanctions; 2) review of any new loans for U.S. trade with China by the U.S. Export-Import Bank and Overseas Private Investment Corp. to determine if China still meets the human rights requirement for such loans; 3) consideration of the situation in China by government agencies before they liberalize regulations to allow more U.S. trade with China; 4) an increase of the number of U.S. Voice of America broadcasts into China.

On June 8, as the hardliner consolidation in Beijing became clearer, Bush maintained his position: "What I want to do is preserve this relationship as best I can. We can't have totally normal relations unless there's recognition of the validity of the students' aspiration. And I think that will happen. What I do want to do is take whatever steps are most likely to demonstrate the concern that America feels. And I think I've done that. . . . In terms of our trying to find our their internal order, it is extraordinarily difficult. And I did try to contact a Chinese leader today and it didn't work. But I'm

going to keep on trying. I want them to know that I view this relationship as important and I view the life of every single student as important."

Center for Strategic and International Studies fellow Dr. William Taylor told the Cable News Network that he likened the Tiananmen Square massacre to the Kent State University killing of 1970 in Ohio, adding that in Kent State no one had really been in charge. CNN's moderator came back in amazement: "Are you saying that what happened in Beijing was an accident?"

On the other side, the *New York Post* June 5 editorialized: The Tiananmen Square massacre "has reminded the world that [China]—for all the talk of reform—remains a Marxist totalitarian state." There is a tendency in the West "to forget that China—and the U.S.S.R.—are fundamentally different from Western states, a tendency to ignore the fact that the moral principles which animate governance are entirely irrelevant to the Communist universe." And a *New York Times* opinion column June 6 by A.M. Rosenthal stated: "How strange it is that at the very time when Communism is in its vicious death agonies in China, contemptuously rejected in Poland and a disaster wherever it still clings to power, the U.S. and its Western allies are committing themselves to support a desperate attempt to keep it alive in the Soviet Union." Commenting on Bush's non-action, Rosenthal noted: "All those mumbled arguments in Washington that strong American support for the students would annoy the Beijing regime and make it nasty—what mockery they are now."

East bloc

Soviet Union. The Soviet Parliament June 6 condemned all outside attempts to put pressure on Beijing over the clashes between troops and civilians. "The events happening in China are an internal affair of the country. Any attempts of pressure from outside would be inappropriate. Such attempts only blow up passions but do not promote stabilization of the situation," said a resolution adopted by a large majority of the new Congress of People's Deputies.

A columnist for the party newspaper *Pravda* stated June 8: "The use of force to maintain public order is a measure as extreme as amputating a sick man's leg. It always hurts; it is always undesirable. But it is sometimes necessary to save a

human life. Crowd elements easily become a weapon in the hands of evil forces. We in the U.S.S.R., alas, have such examples here. It seems that in connection with the tragic events of Tiananmen Square, none of us can play role of prosecutor or defense, because the image of armored vehicles at the crossroads touches one of our sensitive nerves."

Poland. In a rare special news bulletin that interrupted normal broadcasting in Warsaw on Sunday, a Polish state television reporter said he saw Chinese soldiers firing into the backs of students fleeing from Tiananmen Square. Poles held a demonstration outside the P.R.C. embassy in Warsaw in protest.

Hungary. Hungarian Foreign Minister Gyula Horn stated June 5: "I consider it to be a horrible tragedy from two points of view. First, it is an assassination against thousands of people which, I think, cannot be excused by anything. Second, I very much fear for the political consequences of this, that is, that this can strengthen, not the resurgence, the reform, but on the contrary, the camp of those who believe in violent solutions in China."

Endre Aczel, chief commentator for Hungarian television, stated June 6 that "similar operations" could occur in other socialist countries. He said, "The murderers in Beijing are true devotees of order," and such persons "exist in great number also in other socialist countries. They kill in the name of order, at a time when history has already gone beyond them. The bloody methods which he [Deng] has resorted to, will not solve China's problems. The gruesomeness which has begun in Beijing, has showed the world the kinds of reserve capabilities that the anti-reformers in the socialist lands still have at their disposal."

East Germany. The Parliament June 8 passed a unanimous resolution supporting the Li Peng regime, welcoming the "use of the state's full might against elements hostile to the constitution."

Western Europe

Great Britain. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher stated on June 4: "It is a reminder that despite some recent easing of East-West tension, a great gulf remains between the democratic and Communist societies. We are all deeply shocked by the news from Beijing and appalled by the indiscriminate shooting of unarmed people."

On June 6, Thatcher further stated: "Communism stands ready to impose its will by force on innocent people. Everyone who witnessed those scenes on television was afflicted with utter revulsion and outrage at what happened. . . . Clearly, normal business with Chinese authorities cannot continue." Great Britain said it would not abrogate its arrangement to turn Hong Kong back to the mainland's sovereignty in 1997.

France. French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas stated June 4: "Brutal force was used to stop, to break the growing movement for the ideas of liberty. This action clearly runs

counter to the cause of history." On June 6, French Prime Minister Michel Rocard reported that "France has decided to freeze relations with China at all levels." He said "the member states of the [European] Community are at this moment coordinating their position regarding China."

Federal Republic of Germany. See *Report from Bonn*, page 48.

Asia

Japan. Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Ryohei Murata June 7 told the P.R.C.'s ambassador: "Japan has been adhering to a stance of maximum restraint on internal matters of China, but the Chinese government's actions are intolerable from a humanitarian standpoint. Japan greatly regrets the lamentable turn of events in which many lives were lost owing to the use of military force."

A Japanese government committee is considering plans to impose economic sanctions against China. Japan's assistance currently makes up 68% of China's total bilateral aid. Representatives of the 100 Japanese corporations operating in Beijing were called back to Tokyo June 6.

Australia. Prime Minister Bob Hawke said June 7 that Communist Party leader Zhao Ziyang offers the only hope for China to emerge from its present crisis. "The welfare of his country very significantly depends on his capacity to survive and to be reinstated to his position of leadership. He is in my judgment not merely the voice for moderation but the person who has the capacity and the vision to bring China together and to enable it to come out of this absolute tragedy."

Republic of Korea. On June 7, the South Korean government called for suspension of direct investment in the P.R.C. It asked Korean firms to evacuate their employees and halt negotiations on investments with China.

Thailand. Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan stated June 6: "Right now the world is talking about this event but we cannot say much about it because we are close to China." Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Sunthorn Kongsompong is quoted: "Not even the U.S. and the Soviet Union have officially criticized the Chinese government." He said the Thai army would refrain from making any criticism because it might affect its good relations with China.

Hong Kong. On June 4, there was a call by legislator and teachers' union leader Szeta Wah for a general strike June 7. Wah and legislator Martin Lee said they would no longer take part in drafting the mini-constitution that will rule Hong Kong after it is handed back to China. Lee told a crowd: "This is the darkest hour of human civilization. I think they have gone completely mad." Hong Kong's most senior legislators, Dame Lydia Dunn and Allen Lee, issued a statement condemning the violence.

Vietnam. The state radio broadcast that the Chinese Army "could in no way refrain from taking action after a number of hooligans and ruffians insulted or beat up soliders" took some of their weapons and destroyed military vehicles.