

Deng calls massacre 'a pretty good experience'

The following is the text of a confidential report delivered by Red Chinese "Paramount Leader" Deng Xiaoping to a group of government and party officials in the wake of the June 4 Tienanmen massacre. These minutes of the meeting have been distributed at the provincial and army level. The text is that of a translation made by the Taipei China News from an account published in the Chinese-language United Daily News of Taipei:

The recent student incident began as a serious turmoil and evolved into counter-revolutionary rioting. We have to deal with it with severity. Party members [who took part in the student demonstrations] must be expelled from the party and dismissed from public offices. Their domicile permits must be withdrawn, and they must be exiled so that they will be completely uprooted. Otherwise, there could be another riot in three or five years, or even in ten months. . . .

Some people say that we have no experience in handling mobs and that we over-reacted by using tanks. I say it was a pretty good experience. We have been accused of killing many innocent people in the streets. It's all right. We had given advance notice warning the people not to go to the streets. Those who were killed in the streets were counter-revolutionaries. . . .

Some people are worried that the families of the victims will make trouble. There is no need to worry. We will handle whoever starts trouble. If 1,000 families in Beijing are dealt with, no trouble will ever arise. . . .

Some people have advised me to make arrangements for my death. My answer is that I'll work for the party as long as I live. . . .

The number of people killed this time is below what we had expected. . . .

There are people calling for a multiparty system. They had better forget about it. The Communist Party will hold power for a hundred years. We had considered inviting members of the democratic parties to fill some ministerial and vice ministerial posts for the sake of democracy. Now it appears that this is not necessary. . . .

There has been some international reaction to this incident. France overdid it. The response of the Soviet Union and Japan was all right. Although the Americans have

readjusted their policy, they will be back sooner or later, because China is a large piece of juicy meat. . . .

Looking back, we can see there have been three anti-party groups since 1949. The first was the "Kao-Yao" group of Kao Kang and Yao Shu-shih. The second was the "Gang of Four." The third was the Hu Yao-bang and Zhao Ziyang anti-party group. I have observed Zhao for many years. He is ambitious. If he had become chairman of the Military Affairs Commission, we old comrades would have been beheaded. . . .

Li Peng does not have to seek the advice of Yao Yilin [the deputy premier] on everything. Li Peng worked very hard this time. But he did not have to consult with me on whatever he did. He even asked me whether to knock down the statue of the so-called "Goddess of Democracy." All he had to do was pull it down. The incident [the student demonstrations] lasted more than a month. Li Peng and others concerned did not know how to handle it. I summoned Li Peng and Yang Shang-kun for a 15-minute talk, and the matter was resolved. . . .

Li Peng does not have to seek my instruction for everything. I have only 15 minutes a day to listen to briefings and will not take care of other things. I still exercise four hours daily. . . .

Those in the military who did not take a clear-cut stand [against the democracy movement] must be completely purged. Some people say they will return their party cards. That's good. If they renounce their party membership, it would save us the trouble of expelling them. . . .

I have been told that some 1 million Hong Kong residents demonstrated against us. Don't be afraid. One million people are just a drop in the bucket compared with 1 billion. By 1997 Hong Kong will still be prosperous.

The report also quotes P.R.C. President Yang Shang-kun, the chief warlord and dynastic controller of the People's Liberation Army, as interrupting Deng to add the following:

"Some people say we have a problem as a so-called 'party of crown princes' [i.e., nepotism by party officials and corruption by the children of top leaders]. Comrade Xiaoping is concerned about the charge. Someone had suggested that Deng Pu-fang [Deng's elder son] be made vice chairman of the National People's Congress. Comrade Xiaoping opposed the idea. Recently somebody proposed that Li Tieh-ying [thought to be Deng's illegitimate son] be made General Secretary of the party. Comrade Xiaoping said, 'Li is immature. Let's reconsider the matter in a couple of years.' "

Deng concluded by saying: "Now the five-member work group [consisting of Deng Xiaoping, Yang Shang-kun, Li Peng, Qiao Shi and Wang Chen] will be in charge."