

April 17, 1989 National Intelligence Daily for Monday, 17 April 1989

Citation:

"National Intelligence Daily for Monday, 17 April 1989", April 17, 1989, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Approved for Release by the Central Intelligence Agency, March 2001, Document #0000531114. Contributed by Mark Kramer. https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/209627

Summary:

The CIA's National Intelligence Daily for 17 April 1989 describes the latest developments in China.

Original Language:

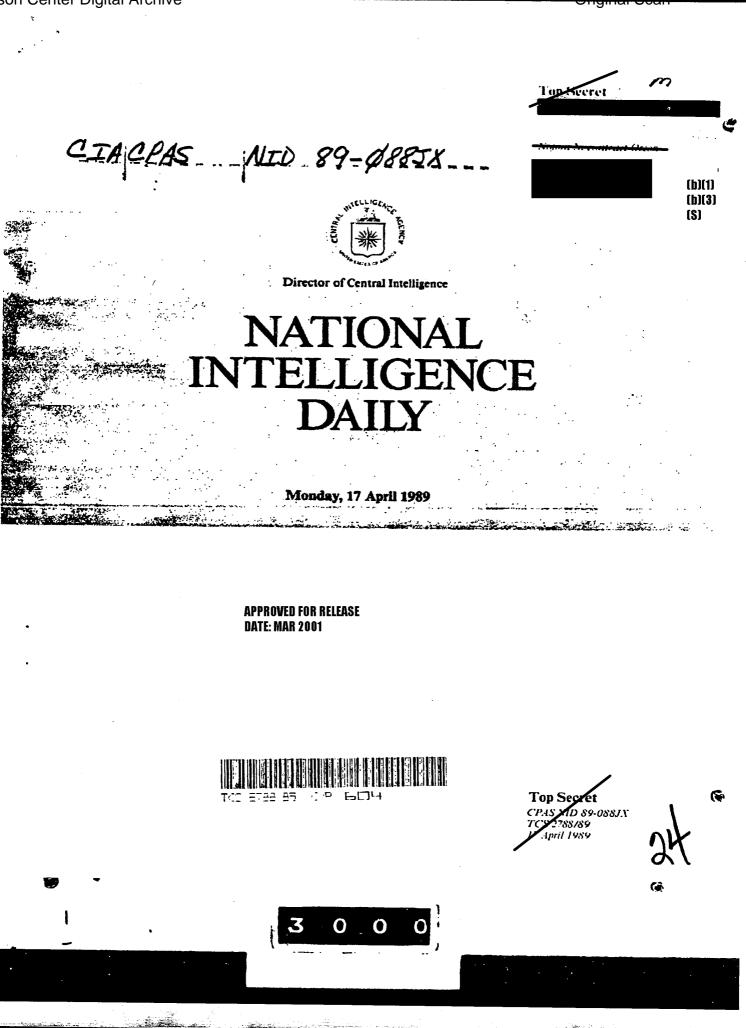
English

Contents:

Original Scan

Wilson Center Digital Archive

Original Sean



Wilson Center Digital Archive-

Top Secret RUELUMBRA

CHINA: Reformer's Death Triggers Demonstrations

The death of former Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Hu Yaobang has become a rallying point for the largest demonstrations since late 1986, when students demanding more democracy contributed to Hu's downfall. Hundreds of students gathered on Beijing campuses to read illegal posters mourning Hu and calling for greater freedom. Leading dissident intellectuals. including Fang Lizhi, criticized the party's treatment of intellectuals since the ouster of Hu, their longtime protector, as party chief in 1987.

Comment: Hu's death removes one of the few remaining advocates of aggressive reform from the top echelons of China's leadership. Although his power was diminished, he retained a popular following and may have been important behind the scenes in attempts to bolster reformers' position in the face of economic retrenchment. Continued student demonstrations may further polarize the political situation and give hardliners a pretext to crack down on trends they already find worrisome. Hu's departure will probably intensify the political jockeying by underscoring the mortality of other aging leaders, especially Deng Xiaoping—Hu's senior by 10 years.



7

TCS 2788/89

17 April 1989

(b)(1) (b)(3) (T)

é