

Operations Room Information for Transmission

Subject: The Situation in China (Student Demonstrations)

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Transmitting Section: China Division, Asian Affairs Bureau

Message: Important Information Related to the Situation as of the Night of June 3

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Situation on the Afternoon of June 3 (See Map)

1. On the afternoon of June 3, armed police on one side and students and civilians on the other confronted one another with scuffles and clashes breaking out, some of which apparently resulted in injuries. A summary of what Embassy personnel observed is as follows:

(1) At Xinhua⁽¹⁾, at around 14:30, armed police (approximately 100), using tear gas, tried to force students and others who had been conducting a sit-down for some time to withdraw. Driven back by students and civilians, however, the armed police retreated to the west (No Embassy officer was at the scene where the armed police used tear gas, but Japanese press witnessed the scene and an Embassy officer, Minami, confirmed tear gas shells at the site).

(2) On a road⁽²⁾ on the west side of the Great Hall of the People, some 2,000-3,000 civilians used two buses this afternoon to block and face some 2,000-3,000 soldiers (wearing helmets, without weapons) believed to have come there from the south. At 17:30, the civilians overwhelmed the soldiers and broke through the “U” shaped line of defense (An Embassy officer, Minami, saw and confirmed it).

It appears that some people were injured in the scuffles at that time. Ambulances were seen carrying away bleeding students.

(3) In Xidan⁽³⁾, two buses (each with 12 or 13 soldiers riding in it) that were heading at dawn in the direction of the Gate of Heavenly Peace (Tiananmen) were stopped by students and civilians. Unable to get away, the buses as of 17:30 were still surrounded by civilians.

2. (1) As a result of the above, a little after 18:00 in the vicinity of Xinhua Gate, soldiers and armed police were gone. In Xidan, barricades were built using buses and general traffic was blocked. An area to the east of Xidan has become a kind of liberated zone. Also, some of the soldiers mentioned above in subsection (2) of section 1 seem still to be in the vicinity of Tiananmen Square.

(2) Also, Embassy personnel have witnessed several dozen trucks full of soldiers confronting civilians in the vicinity of Beijing’s Shunyi Road and the Lido Hotel⁽⁴⁾.

Furthermore, a little after 19:00, approximately 50 military trucks advancing north from the south on the Second Ring Road⁽⁵⁾ entered Chang'an Avenue but were stopped by several thousand civilians. The situation has come to a standstill.

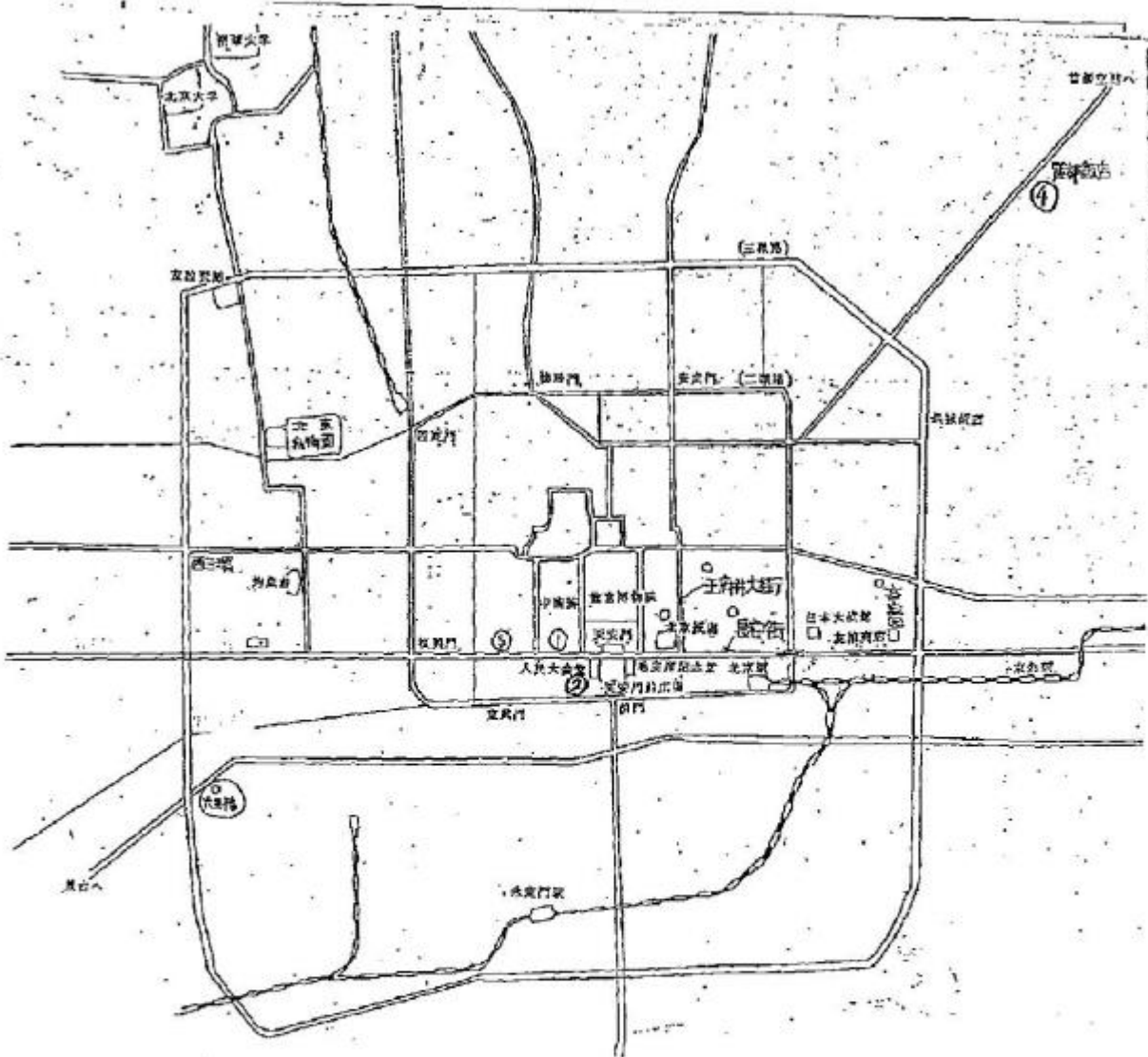
The situation from June 3, seen and confirmed by Embassy personnel, is as follows:

The People’s Liberation Army (PLA) around 19:00 attempted to go along Chang'an Avenue in the direction of Tiananmen but were stopped by many students and civilians, who were crowding into the area. As of 20:00, in the middle of a huge crowd, the situation had come to a standstill.

A PLA unit, believed to be advancing from the Second Ring Road toward Tiananmen, was stopped by students and civilians in the vicinity of the interchange near Jianguomen Outer Street and stuck there. There has been no use of force, and clashes with civilians have not yet occurred. The unit’s scale is one of approximately 50 trucks, including two communication vehicles, with each vehicle full of soldiers (20 to 30 soldiers in each vehicle). Each soldier is armed with an automatic rifle, wearing a helmet, and

has six or more rifle magazines. Civilians have surrounded the vehicles and have been reasoning with the soldiers, most of whom have kept silent and seemed a little uneasy.

(Embassy note: The above is the situation in front of us. We are now investigating whether or not PLA units are advancing from the west, south, and north. There is still no change to the confrontation with civilians near the Lido Hotel.)



- ① 新华门
- ② 人民大会堂西侧道路
- ③ 西单
- ④ 利多酒店
- ⑤ 二环路

[Key to map on page 4 of document]

- (1) Xinhua Gate
- (2) Road to the west of the Great Hall of the People
- (3) Xidan
- (4) Lido Hotel
- (5) Second Ring Road

Li Peng's Statement (June 3)

1. The Central Television news at seven o'clock on the evening of June 3 broadcast a statement by Premier Li Peng, a television speech given at the invitation of the chairman of the international "Common Future" conference (As for when Li Peng's statement was given, it is thought to have been very recently, in advance of "World Environment Day," which starts on June 5).
2. The aforementioned statement, related to the start of "World Environment Day," was given in regard to international cooperation to stop future worsening of the environment. What was impressive was Li Peng's stony expression from start to finish. As with his speech on the evening of May 19 on suppressing the "turmoil," he made his remarks with the same hard tone.

The contents of the aforementioned statement are reported in a Xinhua News Agency telegram of June 3.

Movements of Qin Jiwei (Defense Minister) (June 3)

The Central Television news here on June 3 reported as following regarding the movements of Defense Minister Qin Wei, around whom speculation has been flying for some time that he has suffered a loss of position.

(Regarding Qin, a Xinhua New Service telegram of May 30 reported that he had sent a wreath for the funeral service of May 20, but this was the first time since the declaration of martial law that he had appeared.)

1. On the morning of June 3, General Qin Jiwei, Member of the Standing Committee of the Central Committee's Central Political Bureau, State Councilor, and Defense Minister, and General Zhang Zhen, Deputy Chief of the General Staff, visited commanders and soldiers of martial law units outside of Beijing. Qin Jiwei conveyed greetings from Central Military Commission Chairman Deng Xiaoping and Vice Chairman Yang Shangkun to the units. He was very pleased to see that the units were observing military discipline, that their fighting spirit was high, that their military training was good, that their political education was solid, and that they were living in an orderly way.

He said: "Your actions have gained the understanding, support, and trust of Beijing's residents. Our units will do their best in all sincerity for the people, receive directions from the Party, have a high level of political awareness, and be able to stand this test."

2. On May 31, Hong Shuizhi and Liu Huaqing, each a deputy secretary-general of the Central Military Commission, visited martial law units on behalf of Central Military Commission Chairman Deng Xiaoping and Vice Chairman Yang Shangkun.

(China Division, Asian Affairs Bureau Note: First Vice Chairman Zhao Ziyang's name is not there.) [TN: handwritten arrow points in subsection 2 above to the names of Deng and Yang, underlined by hand.]