

To supporters of freedom around the world:
Beijing is bleeding. Early Saturday morning, the army opened machine-gun fire on the on the students in Tian'an men square. Hundreds have been killed and thousands wounded. On a street nearby, a tank ran over four civilians. A child three years old was killed by a stray bullet.

We call on the people and governments of the world, as well as on international organizations, to condemn the brutality of the Chinese government and demand an end to the massacre.

- ACSSY news release,
June 5, 1989

"The government is so bad, it has lost contact, lost touch with the people."

Personal insights into China

Dr. Kexing Liu is from Beijing. He now works at U of T's Aerospace Institute. He has not been able to reach his family in China, and he believes that his brother may have been demonstrating in Tiananmen Square. Dr. Liu offered his insights into the Chinese crisis to *Excalibur's* Nancy Phillips.

On the fight

The students in China are fighting for what is taken for granted in Canada and most Western countries. Their first demand was a televised dialogue between them and the government. They also want the freedom of assembly.

People never understand that Chinese people are very moderate. They have a very high tolerance, a very high obedience to rule. When they start up it is definitely the end for the government. When they start up against the government, it means they can no longer take it.

There are 13 to 14 cities where people are demonstrating, as far as I am aware. It's difficult to get the news. The government will try and put them down.

I heard that Shanghai is surrounded by troops, and that students there have paralyzed the public transportation system.

On the government

The government is so bad, it has lost

contact, lost touch with the people.

Since they assumed power in 1949, the communists have taken the power for granted. Corruption in the government has increased over the past few years.

The government introduced economic reforms, and access to information about the western world was very open if one was interested. You could get *Time* and *Newsweek*, and could listen to the BBC or VOA on shortwave. And then, the government tried to suppress the spiritual development of the people.

I believe the hardliners never wanted economic reforms. They know if there is an open dialogue it means the end of their rule.

The communist party has to go. This is the first time we've really felt that there's no hope if the Chinese communist party stays in power. It has to give the power back to the people.

On the people

The last time I was home was 1985. What I found was that people were actually adopting new ideas much faster — in the way they spoke and pursued material life and spirituality. They were very liberated. Foreign students and teachers helped to spread the idea of democracy. There was direct access to information from Hong Kong.

The Chinese people are disillusioned and disappointed in the communists. They didn't want to overthrow the government, just change the situation.

The government has got the army, but the people have the reason and the justice.

On the army

The army used to be the most privileged group, but the salaries of army personnel have been considerably cut. They suffered quite a bit financially, and they are angry. They want more money. This makes the situation more critical in terms of civil war. Some of the army already support the people.

On himself

When I first heard the news, I couldn't sleep, couldn't do anything. I was full of anger and hatred.

If I were in China, I would have been outside the square to stop the troops. My brother could have been around the square, as he was involved in the '86 demonstrations. I've tried to phone but I can't get through.

I don't want to go back to China because I don't want to work for the glory of these rulers. There is no point in working to support the government. I want to work for the glory of the people. If there is real democracy, I will go back.



York students sign letters of protest at the Association of the Chinese Scholars and students at York's demonstration in Central Square.

York alumnus in China speaks with Excal

Graham Caswell graduated from York last year with a degree in psychology and economics. He is currently teaching English as a Second Language at the Sichuan Foreign Language Institute, in the city of Chongqing. *Excalibur's* Nancy Phillips reached him by phone on the evening of June 5.

NP: What can you tell me about what is going on in Chongqing?

GC: We have had quite a lot of student demonstrations in Chongqing. They've been the most popular student demonstrations in Sichuan province and there have actually been more than just students.

Since martial law was imposed in Beijing, things have quieted down a bit. But since the shooting began on Saturday, there's been a few demonstrations, but the government has blocked all the roads, they have put buses across the roads to prevent demonstrations from reaching the downtown area.

NP: What is life like?

GC: It's semi-normal. There's no public transportation but people are trying to work around it. At the moment there have been no reports of shooting or any fighting in Chongqing.

Many of the students are leaving the city to go to their hometowns to join protests and demonstrations there. The student leaders have asked them to do that.

There were reports in Chengdu, which is the capital of Sichuan province, they say 20 people died in fighting with police; not army, but police, yesterday (June 4). They've been trying to get through to the Voice of America (VOA) with that

report. That was using tear gas, rubber bullets and things like that. It wasn't the army, it was conventional crowd control, but extremely harshly applied.

NP: We've heard reports that Deng might be dead and I was wondering if you've heard anything about that?

GC: Oh, I haven't heard anything about that. We've been listening to the BBC and the VOA every hour. So far, neither has mentioned that.

NP: I was speaking to a Chinese student here who said that if Deng dies there is a very good chance of civil war.

GC: They say it may have started already. There may be soldiers fighting other soldiers in Beijing. The BBC and VOA don't have confirmation but they have had stories from Chinese sources. (As of press time, it was confirmed that soldiers have turned on other soldiers.)

I'm leaving in about 20 minutes or so to go to the university district to see what is happening there. All of the students are extremely hyper, many of them are talking about dying for democracy and things like this. The enthusiasm is amazing.

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Chinese students respond to crisis back home

A massive, savage massacre took place at midnight on June 3, 1989 in Tian'an Men Square in Beijing. Thousands of peaceful pro-democracy demonstrators were shot by soldiers or crushed to death by tanks. Some news reports from Hong Kong said the death toll exceeded 10,000.

The people killed were mainly students, but also killed were women and children. They were slaughtered only because they were demanding an open dialogue with the government, a free press and freedom of expression, which all seem so natural to a human being.

But the Chinese fascist regime simply could not tolerate this. Troops armed with automatic machine guns and tanks were sent to the square to suppress the demonstration and started shooting.

Nobody imagined that guns and

tanks would be used against the unarmed and peaceful demonstrators. When the news came, we could not believe what we were seeing. How could the "people army" kill the people in such an inhuman, brutal, senseless and massive manner?! How naive we were.

But the butchering in Tian'an Men Square was not the end of it. A friend called from Beijing the night of June 5 and said that after the massacre in the square, the soldiers shot anybody who gathered together on the streets. She came to the telephone at the risk of being shot at any moment. She saw three people killed on her way to the nearby telephone.

She said that the Chinese news reporters were forced to tell the people lies under the gun point of the soldiers who seemed to have been treated with special medicine to animalize them. A reporter for

Radio Beijing, Li Bing, who was brave enough to tell the truth, was killed immediately together with his editor.

Our friend said troops were sent to university campuses to shoot people who were mourning for the dead. Soldiers went to hospitals taking away the dead and the fatally wounded to be cremated or disposed of otherwise. They shot doctors who wanted to rescue the wounded. Student leaders and intellectuals were missing with nobody knowing where they were, whether alive or dead. Military trucks collected bodies on the streets. Nobody was able to find out how many people have been killed and how many are missing.

She said that almost every family has someone missing. Nobody's life is secure in Beijing. Plainclothes

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