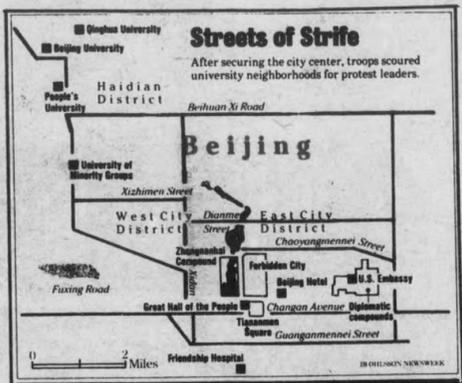


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ABOVE: Map of Beijing including Tiananmen Square and surrounding universities. LEFT: Thousands of students gather in Tiananmen Square.



... stands strong against government  
... liberty in Tiananmen Sq. - the students

But equally as quickly, Chinese students abroad reacted with public anger and private action. Within days, students at universities across North America, including UNB, began to send information to China by way of long distance telephone lines, fax machines and computer mail.

"We immediately set up links to get information in, to counter what the government was saying," says Mr. P. "We couldn't let those people die for nothing."

But it soon became apparent that Chinese receiving the communications could be in danger. Many who accepted fax messages or computer mail in the first couple of weeks later refused as the government continued its crackdown.

"We suspected that these people were running the risk of being discovered so we slowed down the process. These people were risking their lives just by accepting the information we sent. We realized that the movement for democracy is over or has at least finished a certain phase in China."

According to Mr. P., Chinese students in Los Angeles and San Francisco are setting up permanent networks to get information safely into China. They are also establishing a Chinese radio station in San Francisco and a newspaper and two magazines in Los Angeles, to promote the drive for democracy.

"We've begun to organize on a world level outside of China," says Mr. P. "Those of us here have to continue... we're not in the same danger. And we watch the Communist newspaper in China. Already it has had articles saying that we are counter-revolutionaries. That means they are scared."

Soon after the massacre of Tiananmen Square, Foreign Minister Joe Clark announced all Chinese students in Canada would have their visas extended indefinitely. Later, he said Canadian officials would look favorably upon landed immigrant application made by Chinese students.

There was a fear that student who joined the protest in Canada would be punished when they returned to the People's Republic. In Fredericton, dozens of Chinese students braved television cameras and reporters' microphones at demonstrations and memorial services. "We absolutely had to express our outrage," says Mr. P.

And the Chinese government keeps a close watch on its students here. "They've been contacted and told the whole thing was misinterpreted by the West," says Dr. Shyu.

"And there's a distinction made between party members and non-members. Some get information the others don't. It's exactly how the government works. It's repressive. It keeps people nervous."

Indeed, one UNB source says that some Chinese students at Dalhousie University were keeping dossiers on the activities of protesting students in Canada.

Did that happen at UNB? "That's it," says Mr. P. "We don't know. Maybe. Maybe not... but I can't consider my own personal safety. There are those who died."



UNB History Professor  
Dr. Larry Shyu

In August, a representative meeting of the Chinese embassy in Ottawa came to UNB and called a meeting of all Chinese students. About 40 of UNB's 70 Chinese student turned out.

"He came and told us the government's version. We didn't believe him but we didn't challenge him," says Mr. P. "Many of us knew him. He had no choice. He couldn't have answered out questions anyway."

According to Dr. Shyu, more than fifty of UNB's 70 Chinese students have applied for landed immigrant status. "I think virtually all will apply when they near the end of their education here," he says. "It's a very unsettling process for them. Landed immigrant status means they'll be in limbo for a year."

But it goes beyond that, according to Mr. P. who has yet to decide whether he will stay. "The danger in going back is obvious. They won't come to the airport, but maybe later. You never know. However, we are the same people as those who died. They were our friends, classmates. They died. Maybe you can't live with yourself if you stay. It feels like betrayal. I think I'll stay until the situation changes."

That is the key for many Chinese students - the waiting game. Deng Xiaoping is over 80. His health is reportedly poor. Many students hope his death, the death of the leader who was once their hero and himself purged by Mao in the Cultural Revolution, will again open the door to a way for democracy.

"We have a long fight - a long struggle," says Mr. P.

Special Thanks To  
Dr Shyu, UNB History, and Mr.P.