



United States Department of State

Washington, D. C. 20520

June 4, 1989

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ACTION MEMORANDUM
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TO: The Secretary
THRU: P - Mr. Kimmitt RMK
FROM: William Clark, Jr., Acting
SUBJECT: Administration Response to Events in Beijing

ISSUE FOR DECISION

Whether to sign the attached memorandum to the President recommending a number of actions to be taken by the U.S. in response to the Chinese military action in Beijing.

ESSENTIAL FACTORS

Attached for your signature is a memorandum to the President containing our recommendations for the U.S. Government's response to the bloody crackdown in Beijing. Attached to the memo to the President is a draft press statement for him to issue after the Congressional leadership meeting Monday afternoon (the Department's and White House's June 5 noon press briefing will build on statements made by you and the President over the weekend, describe developments on the ground, and address such matters as Americans in China and actions being taken to maximize their safety).

It is critical for the President to announce a strong, balanced reaction as soon as possible, both in order to express the United States' outrage and condemnation of the PLA's action and to preempt legislation that might do long-term damage to US-PRC relations and be difficult to reverse.

The recommendations, talking points, and proposed draft statement reflect:

--the assumption that we cannot conduct business as usual;

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--the highly unstable situation in China, which may take some time to clarify;

--the necessity for our response to reflect that uncertainty;

--our belief that the demonstrators in the cities have been expressing values with which we strongly sympathize, and our adoption of measures that will indicate our support for them and those values.

The recommendations for action by the President, which we have discussed in an interagency meeting, include the following:

We have scrutinized other areas of the relationship as well and have concluded that action at this stage would not be appropriate. We would like to call them to your attention as additional options, especially since some may be raised by Congress, allies, and the media or public:

[

b1, b5

]

--Diplomatic options. [

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]

We believe it is important to consult with our Asian and European allies about the measures that we are taking and that they may contemplate once the President decides upon the specific steps we will take.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the attached memorandum to the President.

Approve _____

Disapprove _____

Attachment:

Memorandum to the President.

Drafter: China Task Force - JBaeder
Clearances: China Task Force - RWilliams
EB -MPlatt
L-LVerville
PM-Totis
HA-GPrice
P - JStroiz
PA - RBoucher

No. 763