

Prime Minister

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MR POWELL

c. 9/6


c Sir Robin Butler

China: Developments on 9 June

Deng Xiaoping appeared on Chinese TV (7.00 pm local time). Others present included Li Peng, Yang Shangkun, Vice-Premier Yao Yilin, Vice-President Wang Zhen, Qiao Shi and, somewhat surprisingly Wan Li (previously considered to be in Zhao camp). Deng blamed the chaos on a "very small number of people" aiming to overthrow the Communist party and the Socialist system. He asserted that China's open door policy of reforms would continue. "Our basic direction, our basic strategy and policy will not change". The media have described him as looking frail, but he appears to have entered the meeting unaided.

2. Although there were reports that on the morning of 9 June troops entered the University district in north west Peking and made some arrests, there has not yet been a campus raid by martial law troops. Earlier in the day troops surrounded the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.
3. A telephone hot-line has been set up for the public to report on the ring leaders of the "Counter-Revolution".
4. This morning, the Consulate-General in Shanghai described the situation there as calm and returning to normal. However, we have just received a report that more than 40,000 people held a mass rally later in the day. The Nanjing military region (which includes Shanghai) has said that troops would "quickly make preparations for stopping the turmoil and putting down the rebellion". However, up till now we have seen considerable restraint on the part of the authorities there, so this may simply be bluster.

5. Peking radio has reported more messages of support from the regions for the actions of the military in suppressing the "Counter-Revolution". The new messages are from 5 military regions, as well as Liaoning, Hebei and Tibet.



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