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Series: China Chronological Files
Subseries: Post-Tiananmen Files

OA/ID Number: 91133
Folder ID Number: 91133-005

Folder Title:
China: Post-Tiananmen (July 1991)

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	34	3	4	5

UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/S PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9101834
RECEIVED: 12 MAR 91 11

CHRON FILE

TO: DIXON, ALAN J

FROM: SCOWCROFT

DOC DATE: 25 JUL 91
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: CHINA P R

CO

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: REPLY TO SEN DIXON RE TRIALS OF CHINESE DISSIDENTS

ACTION: SCOWCROFT SGD LTR

DUE DATE: 15 MAR 91

STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: STATE

LOGREF:

FILES: WH

NSCP:

CODES:

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO
NSC CHRON
PAAL

COMMENTS: _____

DISPATCHED BY WMS DATE 7/25 BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSRCB

CLOSED BY: NSMJT

DOC 4 OF 4

UNCLASSIFIED



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 25, 1991


Dear Senator Dixon:

Thank you for the letter that you and 24 of your colleagues sent the President on February 22 concerning the trials of Chinese political activists in Beijing. He shares your deep concerns over these trials, and your hope that we all speak with one voice on this issue.

We have been trying since June 1989 to persuade the Chinese government to release all those imprisoned for nonviolent expression of political views. That was one of the main reasons Deputy Secretary Eagleburger and I were sent by the President to China twice in 1989. We are continuing to press this point in occasional high-level meetings and more frequent diplomatic exchanges. When Foreign Minister Qian visited Washington in November 1990, in the context of the United Nations Security Council vote on Iraq, Secretary Baker and the President stressed to him that the American people are deeply concerned about respect for internationally recognized human rights in China, and that these concerns will constrain our ability to work together unless the Chinese government addresses them forthrightly and effectively.

As a result of the Qian visit, the Chinese government issued an unprecedented invitation for our Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, Richard Schifter, to visit China. During his December 17-21 visit, he reinforced and amplified our message in meetings with a wide range of senior Chinese officials. We are cautiously hopeful that Ambassador Schifter's trip will mark the beginning of a productive dialogue with the Chinese leadership on human rights issues.

Nearly 100 cases of persons detained in the wake of the 1989 Tiananmen tragedy have been resolved in Beijing since the beginning of 1991. About 70 were released without further punishment; the others received prison sentences ranging from two to 15 years. Chinese officials have said that the trials of the Tiananmen-era detainees are "basically complete," but they acknowledge that 21 persons remain in pretrial detention in

Beijing. An undetermined number probably remain in detention elsewhere in China.

While we were pleased at the release of many of the detainees, and recognized that others received less severe sentences than many had feared, we found the outcome of the trials overall to be deeply troubling, and have said so to the Chinese, publicly and privately.

Please be assured that, like you, I will not be satisfied until all those imprisoned for nonviolent political activities have been released.

Sincerely,


Brent Scowcroft

The Honorable Alan J. Dixon
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

June 27, 1991

Natl Sec Adviser
has seen

SIGNED

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR BRENT SCOWCROFT

FROM: DOUGLAS PAAL *DP*

SUBJECT: Reply to Senator Dixon on Trials of Chinese
Dissidents

At Tab A is a letter replying to Senator Dixon and 24 colleagues
regarding the trials of Chinese dissidents.

Concurrence by: Virginia *DP* Lampley

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter at Tab A.

Attachments

Tab A Letter to Senator Dixon
Tab B Incoming Correspondence



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520 9105337
NSC-1834

April 9, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR BRENT SCOWCROFT
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Draft Reply to Senator Dixon

Attached is a draft reply to Senator Dixon, who wrote President Bush concerning China's continued persecution of pro democracy leaders.

J. Stapleton Roy
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

1. Draft response.
2. Incoming Correspondence.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE DRAFT REPLY
TO LETTER SENT BY SEN. DIXON ET AL
CONCERNING TRIALS OF CHINESE DISSIDENTS

Dear Senator Dixon:

Thank you for the letter that you and 24 of your colleagues sent me on February 22 concerning the trials of Chinese political activists in Beijing. I share your deep concerns over these trials, and your hope that we all speak with one voice on this issue.

We have been trying since June 1989 to persuade the Chinese government to release all those imprisoned for nonviolent expression of political views. That was one of the main reasons I sent General Scowcroft and Deputy Secretary Eagleburger to China twice in 1989. We are continuing to press this point in occasional high-level meetings and more frequent diplomatic exchanges. When Foreign Minister Qian visited Washington in November 1990, in the context of the United Nations Security Council vote on Iraq, Secretary Baker and I stressed to him that the American people are deeply concerned about respect for internationally recognized human rights in China, and that these concerns will constrain our ability to work together unless the Chinese government addresses them forthrightly and effectively.

The Honorable

Alan J. Dixon,

United States Senate.

As a result of the Qian visit, the Chinese government issued an unprecedented invitation for our Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, Richard Schifter, to visit China. During his December 17-21 visit, he reinforced and amplified our message in meetings with a wide range of senior Chinese officials. We are cautiously hopeful that Ambassador Schifter's trip will mark the beginning of a productive dialogue with the Chinese leadership on human rights issues.

Nearly 100 cases of persons detained in the wake of the 1989 Tiananmen tragedy have been resolved since the beginning of 1991. About 70 were released without further punishment; the others received prison sentences ranging from two to 13 years. Chinese officials have said that there will be no further trials related to the Tiananmen demonstrations, but have not yet announced the disposition of some 250 detainees who remain unaccounted for.

While we were pleased at the release of many of the detainees, and recognized that others received less severe sentences than many had feared, we found the outcome of the trials overall to be deeply troubling, and have said so to the Chinese, publicly and privately.

Please be assured that, like you, I will not be satisfied until all those imprisoned for nonviolent political activities have been released.

Sincerely,

9105337

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ID 9101834

REFERRAL

DATE: 26 MAR 91

MEMORANDUM FOR: STATE

STATE SECRETARY

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:

TO: PRESIDENT

SOURCE: DIXON, JULIAN C

DATE: 22 FEB 91

SUBJ: LTR RE CHINAS CONTINUED PERSECUTION OF PRO DEMOCRACY LEADERS

REQUIRED ACTION: DRAFT REPLY

DUE DATE: 01 APR 91

COMMENT:

FOR

George Van Eron
GEORGE VAN ERON

DIRECTOR NSC SECRETARIAT

*Received in S/S-IRM/RM1
3/26 at 4:00 pm (C&D)*

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 22, 1991

F. McClure

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing at this time of urgent concern about China's continuing persecution of pro-democracy leaders. We urge that you put China on notice that actions it takes to improve human rights and release political prisoners will affect decisions on renewal of most-favored-nation trade status.

We are alarmed in particular because of the recent convictions and sentencing of the persons who, as the State Department stated on January 8, "were guilty of nothing more than the peaceful advocacy of democracy..." These persons were apparently charged, tried and convicted for actions which under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "any person should be allowed to take without fear of punishment." We also agree with the State Department that "No sentence of any length on purely political charges can be characterized as lenient."

While the world's attention is focused on the Middle East, China apparently intends to hide behind the Persian Gulf crisis to "convict and sentence" in the next several days or weeks other peaceful pro-democracy advocates. We urge you to add your personal condemnation to the State Department's protest.

We hope that the Chinese government would respond positively if you express in a personal communication, as the State Department already has stated, the hope that "anyone convicted solely for the exercise of their right peacefully to express their views will be released and that...other political prisoners now held for non-violent activities protected by the Universal Declaration will be released without having to stand trial."

It is also important that any "trials" be held in public, open to the world press and international observers in order to cast international scrutiny upon the Chinese judicial process.

The President
February 22, 1991
Page 2

Most urgently, we hope that you will join us in making clear to the Chinese government that the American people expect the release of all pro-democracy prisoners and compliance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We do not intend to allow China to use a public relations campaign of "lenient sentences" or the release of a handful of political prisoners to mask the reality that hundreds if not thousands more continue to languish in prison.

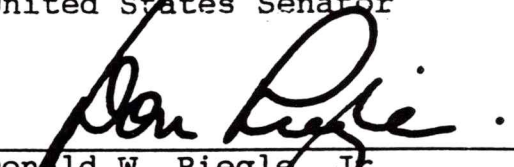
Mr. President, we are aware of the burdens of your international responsibilities at this time. We are writing you with a sense of urgency because the actions which you and we take in the next few days may be critical to the fate of hundreds of pro-democracy leaders now detained in China's prisons.

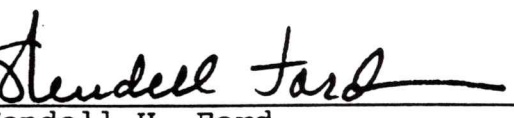
We fervently hope that the American people will speak with one voice on this matter of vital interest to the community of nations.

Sincerely,

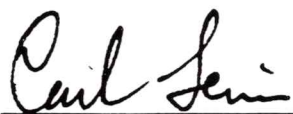
28 ✓ 
Alan J. Dixon
United States Senator

90 ✓ 
Paul Simon
United States Senator

80 ✓ 
Donald W. Riegle, Jr.
United States Senator

34 ✓ 
Wendell H. Ford
United States Senator

 24
Alfonse M. D'Amato
United States Senator

 61
Carl Levin
United States Senator

 62
Joseph I. Lieberman
United States Senator

 69
Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator

2 Daniel K. Akaka
Daniel K. Akaka
United States Senator ✓

49 Ernest F. Hollings
Ernest F. Hollings
United States Senator ✓

97 Malcolm Wallop
Malcolm Wallop
United States Senator ✓

51 James M. Jeffords
James M. Jeffords
United States Senator ✓

9 Bill Bradley
Bill Bradley
United States Senator ✓

100 Timothy E. Wirth
Timothy E. Wirth
United States Senator ✓

37 John Glenn
John Glenn
United States Senator ✓

56 Edward M. Kennedy
Edward M. Kennedy
United States Senator ✓

29 Christopher J. Dodd
Christopher J. Dodd
United States Senator ✓

Dennis DeConcini
Dennis DeConcini
United States Senator ✓

Patrick J. Leahy
Patrick J. Leahy
United States Senator ✓

Dave Durenberger
Dave Durenberger
United States Senator ✓

George J. Mitchell
George J. Mitchell
United States Senator ✓

Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
United States Senator ✓

Howard M. Metzenbaum
Howard M. Metzenbaum
United States Senator ✓

Daniel Patrick Moynihan
Daniel Patrick Moynihan
United States Senator ✓

Thomas A. Daschle
Thomas A. Daschle
United States Senator ✓

27 ✓

60 ✓

32 ✓

70 ✓

5 ✓

68 ✓

71 ✓

26 ✓

March 7, 1991

Dear Alan:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President, cosigned by 24 of your colleagues, regarding China's continued persecution of pro-democracy leaders.

We appreciate being apprised of your interest in the release of political prisoners and compliance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Please know that I have shared your comments with President Bush. Additionally, I have taken the liberty of providing your remarks to the President's foreign policy advisors so that they, too, are aware of your recommendations.

Thank you again for your interest in writing.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Frederick D. McClure
Assistant to the President
for Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Alan J. Dixon
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

FDM/TSB/emu (3FDMG)
China.spf

bcc: w/ copy of inc to NSC - for Direct Response
bcc: w/ copy of inc to Dept. of State - FYI