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ACTION EAP-08

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ACTION OFFICE SI-05
INFO J-05 TC-01 P-01 RA-01 LAB-01 WK-01 EAP-05 /020 A3 BDX

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 IMR-07 EUR-00 SS-00 OIC-02 CIAE-00
N-01 IO-10 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 NA-03 L-03
TRSE-00 PM-10 AIT-02 PA-01 OMB-01 IMRE-00 CA-02
SP-02 SMP-01 PRS-01 DS-00 P-02 T-01 /065 V

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O 220112Z JUN 89 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACI IMMEDIATE 1411
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8551
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
FMEMBASSY BANGKOK 042Z
AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE
AIT TAIPEI IMMEDIATE
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL SHANGHAI IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL SHENYANG IMMEDIATE
DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CHENGDU (POUCH)

FILE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIJING 16846

NSC FOR DOUG PAAL

CINCPAC FOR FPA

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, PNUM, SOCI, CH
SUBJECT: WHAT HAPPENED ON THE NIGHT OF JUNE 3/47

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. (C) INTRODUCTION: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ACCORDING TO
OFFICIAL PRESS REPORTS, PLA TROOPS AND SECURITY
FORCES EMPLOYED MAXIMUM RESTRAINT IN MOVING INTO THE
CITY CENTER, ONLY FIRING WHEN THREATENED BY GROUPS OF
VIOLENT "COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES." OFFICIAL ACCOUNTS
NATURALLY STRESS THE VIOLENCE WITH WHICH GROUPS OF
CITIZENS ATTACKED AND/OR KILLED SOLDIERS.

3. (C) IN THE FOLLOWING NARRATIVE AND CHRONOLOGY,
THE EMBASSY ATTEMPTS TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT. OUR
NARRATIVE IS BASED ON EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS OF EMOFFS,
WESTERN DIPLOMATS, WESTERN REPORTERS AND AMERICAN
STUDENTS PRESENT ON OR NEAR TIANANMEN SQUARE, AND ON
CREDIBLE SECOND HAND INFORMATION. WE CONCLUDE THAT,
CONTRARY TO A NUMBER OF EARLY WESTERN PRESS ACCOUNTS,
THE MASSACRE TOOK PLACE ON CHANGAN AVENUE AND OTHER
OF BEIJING'S MAIN THOROUGHFARES RATHER THAN IN
TIANANMEN SQUARE ITSELF. MANY -- IF NOT MOST -- OF
THE DEATHS OCCURRED AS THE MILITARY MOVED TOWARD THE

SQUARE FROM THE WEST.

4. THE PLA DID NOT FIRE DIRECTLY ON STUDENTS
GATHERED AROUND THE MARTYRS MONUMENT ON TIANANMEN
SQUARE. TROOPS BEAT, AND PROBABLY KILLED SOME
STUDENTS AFTER THEY EXITED THE SQUARE, HOWEVER.
OTHER STUDENTS WHO FACED OFF TROOPS IN THE STREETS
AROUND THE SQUARE WERE SHOT. MANY MEMBERS OF THE
CROWDS ATTEMPTING TO SLOW THE PLA ADVANCE THREW
BRICKS AND STONES AT SOLDIERS AND BEAT AND/OR KILLED
A NUMBER OF THEM. BUT GIVEN THE PREPONDERANCE OF
FORCE ON THE MILITARY SIDE, IT IS UNCONCEIVABLE THAT
MILITARY CASUALTIES EXCEEDED THOSE ON THE CIVILIAN
SIDE. CIVILIAN DEATHS PROBABLY DID NOT REACH THE
FIGURE OF 3,000 USED IN SOME PRESS ACCOUNTS, BUT THEY
SURELY FAR OUTNUMBERED OFFICIAL FIGURES.

5. IT SHOULD BE KEPT IN MIND THAT WHATEVER THE
CASUALTY FIGURES, WHATEVER THE OCCUPATION OF THE
CIVILIANS WHO WERE KILLED, AND HOWEVER VIOLENT SOME
MEMBERS OF THE CROWD MAY HAVE BECOME, THE ORDER TO
MOVE HEAVILY ARMED TROOPS ON TIANANMEN WAS CYNICAL
AND INHUMAN.

[REDACTED] END INTRODUCTION.

6. (C) PRECIS OF EVENTS: THE MAIN MILITARY THRUST
THAT NIGHT CAME FROM THE WEST. LARGE CROWDS ENGAGED
IN PITCHED BATTLES WITH ARMED TROOPS AND ARMORED
COLUMNS AT MAJOR INTERSECTIONS ALONG FUXING AND
CHANGAN AVENUES. THESE CLASHES LED TO HIGH CIVILIAN
CASUALTIES AS TROOPS FIRED DIRECTLY AT BEIJING
CITIZENS.

7. (C) SOLDIERS IN AN ARMORED COLUMN OF TANKS AND
APC'S THAT ENTERED TIANANMEN FROM THE EAST AFTER
(08) JUNE 4 ALSO FIRED INDISCRIMINATELY AT
CROWDS ALONG THE ROUTE.

8. BATTLES BETWEEN TROOPS AND
CITIZENS ALSO APPARENTLY TOOK PLACE SOUTH OF
TIANANMEN SQUARE, PROBABLY AT THE CHONGMENMEN
INTERSECTIONS AND ALONG QIANMEN AVENUE. WE HAVE ALSO
HEARD OF HEAVY FIGHTING IN THE DAZHALAN DISTRICT,
JUST SOUTH OF QIANMEN. WE HAVE NO WESTERN EYEWITNESS
ACCOUNTS OF THE EVENTS AT CHONGMENMEN, QIANMEN
AVENUE, AND DAZHALAN, HOWEVER.

9. (C) CASUALTIES ALSO OCCURRED IN THE TIANANMEN
AREA AFTER TROOPS AND ARMOR ARRIVED AT THE NORTH END
OF THE SQUARE SOMETIME BETWEEN 0130 AND 0200,
JUNE 4. HERE, CROWDS ON CHANGAN AVENUE ON THE
NORTHEAST SIDE OF THE SQUARE FACED OFF TROOPS WHO HAD
ENTERED FROM THE NORTHWEST. TROOPS FIRED DIRECTLY AT
THIS CROWD THROUGHOUT THE MORNING BETWEEN TIANANMEN
SQUARE AND THE BEIJING HOTEL.

10. (C) THE BATTLES RAGED AROUND THE SQUARE RATHER
THAN ON IT. WITNESSES PRESENT AT THE MARTYRS
MONUMENT DESCRIBE AN EERIE LACK OF ACTION ON THE
SQUARE PROPER DURING THE SHOOTING IN THE STREETS. WE
HAVE HEARD NO ACCOUNTS OF SOLDIERS FIRING DIRECTLY AT
STUDENTS CROWDED AROUND THE MARTYRS MONUMENT ON THE
SQUARE. EYEWITNESSES ALSO STATE THAT, AS FAR AS THEY
COULD TELL, NO STUDENTS WERE PRESENT IN THE TENTS

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WHICH APC'S ROLLED OVER AS THEY ENTERED THE SQUARE PROPER BEFORE SUN RISE ON JUNE 4. THE SEVERAL THOUSAND STUDENTS WHO REMAINED AT THE MONUMENT DEPARTED THE SQUARE VIA THE SOUTHEAST CORNER BEGINNING AT ABOUT 0500, JUNE 4.

10. (C) EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS OF WHAT HAPPENED TO THE STUDENTS ONCE THEY LEFT ARE FEW. WESTERN JOURNALISTS WHO WERE PRESENT OR WHO HEARD FROM EYEWITNESSES AGREE THAT STUDENTS DEPARTED VIA THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE SQUARE ONTO QIANMEN AVENUE. THEY THERE SPLIT INTO GROUPS, SOME OF WHICH TRAVELLED EAST, SOME WEST.

11. (C) JOURNALISTS PRESENT ON THE SQUARE AT THIS TIME STATE THAT POLICE OR PLA TROOPS IN RIOT GEAR BEAT SOME OF THE DEPARTING STUDENTS. AN EYEWITNESS TOLD AN AMERICAN JOURNALIST THAT TANKS MOVING WEST ON CHANGAN AVENUE RAN OVER AND KILLED ABOUT TEN STUDENTS WHO MARCHED WEST FROM THE SQUARE AND THEN NORTH TO THE VICINITY OF THE BEIJING CONCERT HALL. THE EYEWITNESS TOLD THE JOURNALIST THAT SOLDIERS SHOT AND KILLED AT LEAST ONE OF THE STUDENTS ACCOMPANYING THOSE WHO WERE RUN OVER BY THE TANKS.

12. (C) CASUALTIES: WE MAY NEVER KNOW PRECISELY HOW MANY TROOPS AND CIVILIANS DIED OR WERE INJURED ON THE NIGHT OF JUNE 3/4 AND IN FOLLOWING DAYS. THE TRUE FIGURE IS PROBABLY OVER ONE THOUSAND; NOT OVER ONE HUNDRED, AS CHINESE OFFICIALS CLAIM. SOON AFTER THE MASSACRE, THE KYODO NEWS SERVICE REPORTED THAT THE CHINESE RED CROSS GAVE A FIGURE OF 2,600 MILITARY AND CIVILIAN DEATHS WITH 7,000 ON BOTH SIDES WOUNDED, BASED ON A CANSASS OF BEIJING HOSPITALS. (NOTE: THESE DEATHS WERE RECORDED IN HOSPITALS AND REPORTEDLY DO NOT INCLUDE DEATHS ON THE STREET. END NOTE.) BEIJING BASED JAPANESE DIPLOMATS FIND THE KYODO SOURCE CREDIBLE AND THE ESTIMATE CONVINCING.

OUR BAO BELIEVES THAT THIS IS NOT AN UNREASONABLE ESTIMATE, GIVEN THE NATURE OF THE CONFLICT AND THE WEAPONS USED BY THE PLA.

13. (C) OFFICIAL CASUALTY STATISTICS DIFFER MARKEDLY FROM THIS, BUT THEY ARE CONTRADICTORY. AT A JUNE 7 PRESS CONFERENCE, STATE COUNCIL SPOKESMAN YUAN HU STATED THAT TOTAL DEATHS OF TROOPS AND CIVILIANS NUMBERED "AROUND 300 PEOPLE." ACCORDING TO YUAN, "OVER 5,000 TROOPS" SUFFERED INJURIES, WITH "OVER 2,000" CIVILIANS INJURED. HOWEVER, A JUNE 14 XINHUA RELEASE REPORTED THAT "NEARLY 100 SOLDIERS AND POLICEMEN (00) AND THOUSANDS OF SOLDIERS AND POLICEMEN WERE WOUNDED." "SOME 100 CIVILIANS WERE KILLED AND NEARLY 1,000 WERE INJURED," ACCORDING TO XINHUA.

14. BEIJING HOSPITALS HAVE BEEN UNWILLING TO DISCUSS CASUALTY FIGURES. ENBOFFS VISITING THREE HOSPITALS ON THE AFTERNOON OF JUNE 4 WITNESSED OR WERE TOLD OF A TOTAL OF 80 CIVILIAN DEAD AT THESE THREE HOSPITALS ALONE. AMONG THE DEAD WERE WOMEN AND AT LEAST ONE CHILD. A WESTERN JOURNALIST WHO VISITED SEVEN HOSPITALS BETWEEN JUNE 4 AND JUNE 7, INCLUDING THOSE VISITED BY ENBOFFS, WAS TOLD OF 156 CIVILIAN DEATHS AT THESE HOSPITALS. THESE FIGURES ARE NECESSARILY LOW, GIVEN OUR INABILITY TO VISIT HOSPITALS SYSTEMATICALLY.

15. (C) STUDENT DEATHS: AT HIS JUNE 7 PRESS

CONFERENCE, YUAN HU CLAIMED THAT AS OF THAT DAY, ONLY 23 BEIJING STUDENTS HAD DIED AS A RESULT OF THE MILITARY MOVEMENT ON THE CITY'S CENTER. HE SAID THAT THIS FIGURE RESULTED FROM INVESTIGATIONS AT LOCAL UNIVERSITIES. WESTERN JOURNALISTS WHO HAVE VISITED MAJOR BEIJING CAMPUSES HAVE FOUND THAT STUDENT SOURCES CAN CONFIRM BY NAME THE DEATHS OF ONLY 3-10 STUDENTS AT EACH OF SEVERAL MAJOR UNIVERSTIES, BUT A WESTERN ACADEMIC WAS TOLD BY PROFESSORS THAT A LARGER NUMBER OF STUDENTS ARE STILL UNACCOUNTED FOR (E.G., 17 EACH AT BEIJING AND GINGHYI UNIVERSITIES). THE STATE COUNCIL HAS RELEASED NO FIGURES ON THE DEATHS OF STUDENTS WHO FROM UNIVERSITIES OUTSIDE THE CAPITAL. THE NON-BEIJING STUDENTS FORMED THE MAJORITY OF STUDENT DEMONSTRATORS IN THE SQUARE ITSELF BY JUNE 3.

16. (U) BELOW IS A CHRONOLOGY OF THE EVENTS OF THE NIGHT OF JUNE 3/4. BEGIN CHRONOLOGY:

JUNE 3

1500 LARGE CROWDS OF BEIJING CITIZENS AROUND TIANANMEN SQUARE; SEVERAL THOUSAND UNARMED PLA TROOPS METTED IN BY CROWDS AT WEST GATE OF GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE (G-OP)

1600 VIOLENCE FLARES AT XINHUANEN SOUTH ENTRANCE TO ZHONGNANHAI AS TROOPS GUARDING GATE FIRE INTO AIR AND BEAT SOME DEMONSTRATORS WITH BELTS

1800 PLA TROOPS FIRE ON CROWD SURROUNDING TROOP TRUCKS AT MUXIDI, NEAR FUXINGMEN; NUMBER OF CASUALTIES UNKNOWN

2000 CROWDS ENCIRCLE CONVOY OF 20-30 TRUCKS

BEARING ARMED TROOPS AT JIANGUOMEN AND THIRD RING ROAD, THIS SCENE REPEATED ON MAJOR INTERSECTIONS SURROUNDING CITY

2030 TROOPS AT WEST GATE OF G-OP RETREAT INSIDE

2200 TROOPS ON TRUCKS AT YANJING HOTEL, BETWEEN MUXIDI AND FUXINGMEN, FIRE ON CROWDS IN STREET, CASUALTIES UNKNOWN

2300 ARMED PLA TROOPS IN TRUCKS SURFOUNDED BY CROWDS IN FRONT OF BEIJING HOTEL

JUNE 4

0000 BUS BLOCKADE AT FUXINGMEN BURMS, PLA FIRES ON CROWDS, COLUMN OF APC'S APPROACHES FUXINGMEN, AT LEAST 30 CASUALTIES REPORTED REPORTED AT THIS SITE

POLICE OR TROOPS IN RIOT GEAR WITH SHIELDS ENGAGE IN PITCHED BATTLE WITH CROWD OF OVER 10,000 PEOPLE IN FRONT OF MINZU HOTEL; CROWD COMPOSED OF PEOPLE OF ALL AGES AND SEXES; THEY JEER AT RIOT POLICE, SOME THROW BRICKS AND STONES, RIOT POLICE RESPOND WITH SMALL ARMS FIRE ABOVE CROWD AND TEAR GAS

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- SEXES; THEY JEER AT RIOT POLICE, SOME
- THROW BRICKS AND STONES, RIOT POLICE
- RESPOND WITH SMALL ARMS FIRE ABOVE CROWD
- AND TEAR GAS
/
- CROWD DISPERSES AS INFANTRY LINE AVENUE TO
- SECURE LANE FOR APPROACHING APC'S; MEMBERS
- OF CROWD STILL LINING AVENUE THROW ROCKS
- AND FIRE BOMBS, INFANTRY RESPONDS WITH
- DIRECT FIRE; CASUALTIES WITNESSED, BUT
- NUMBERS UNKNOWN
/
0800- FIRST TWO APC'S ENTER VICINITY OF TIANANMEN
0830 SQUARE
/
0100 DEMONSTRATORS SET AFIRE ONE APC NORTH OF
- SQUARE ON CHANGAN AVENUE; FIRST OFFICIAL
- WARNINGS TO LEAVE SQUARE BROADCAST OVER
- TIANANMEN PA SYSTEM; COLUMN OF APC'S
- FROM WEST PASSES ZHONGNANHAI
/
0150 INFANTRY HEADING FOR SQUARE PASSES NORTH
- GATE OF GWOP, FIRES DIRECTLY ON LARGE CROWD
- GATHERED ON CHANGAN AVENUE NORTH OF SQUARE;
- CROWD RETREATS EAST, MANY CASUALTIES
- REPORTED, BUT NUMBERS UNKNOWN
/
0200 MAJORITY OF STUDENTS REMAINING AT SQUARE
- GATHER AT BASE OF MARTYRS MONUMENT, IMBOFF
- ESTIMATES THEIR NUMBER AT 5,000; RELIABLE
- WESTERN DIPLOMAT WITNESSES "MANY"
- DEMONSTRATORS WITH SEVERE HEAD AND CHEST
- WOUNDS CARRIED OFF CHANGAN AVENUE
/
0210 "SUICIDE BUS" HEADS WEST ON CHANGAN FOR
- APPROACHING ARMOR COLUMN
/
0300 STUDENTS REQUEST NEGOTIATIONS WITH PLA;
- ARMED INFANTRY ENTERS SQUARE FROM SOUTHWEST
- TO ENTER GWOP; THEY ARE JEERED BY
- CROWDS
/
0330- STUDENTS VOTE TO LEAVE SQUARE

0430
/
0400 SEVERAL THOUSAND ARMED PLA TROOPS APPEAR ON
- EAST STEPS OF GWOP, THEIR BAYONETS
- FIXED; PLA OR PEOPLE'S ARMED POLICE UNITS
- ALSO APPEAR ON STEPS OF HISTORY MUSEUM
- ARMED WITH TRUNCHEONS
/
- LIGHTS OUT ON TIANANMEN SQUARE
/
0430- APC'S THAT ENTERED FROM THE WEST NOW LINED
0445 UP AT THE GATE OF HEAVENLY PEACE FACING
- SOUTH; THEY BEGIN TO MOVE INTO THE SQUARE
- PROPER, RUNNING OVER STUDENT TEXTS
/
- SOUND OF HEAVY FIRE REPORTED FROM SOUTHEAST
- OF SQUARE; COULD HAVE COME FROM
- CHONGMENHAI AREA, WHERE HEAVY FIGHTING AND
- MANY CASUALTIES WERE LATER REPORTED
/
0420 LIGHTS ON IN SQUARE
/
0430 TROOPS OR POLICE IN RIOT GEAR APPEAR WITHIN
- GROUNDS OF MAO MAUSOLEUM, SOUTH OF MONUMENT

0500- STUDENTS BEGIN TO LEAVE MONUMENT FOR
0530 SOUTHEAST END OF SQUARE AND EXIT FROM THERE
- ONTO QIANMEN AVENUE; SOME MOVE EAST, OTHERS
- WEST
/
0500 TANKS ENTER TIANANMEN SQUARE FROM SOUTH
/
0510 "GODDESS OF LIBERTY" STATUE IS BOMB
/
0545 ARMORED COLUMN OF 8 TANKS, 25 APC'S, AND
- MANY TROOP TRUCKS ENTERS TIANANMEN FROM THE
- EAST; ELEMENTS OF THIS COLUMN FIRE HEAVILY
- AND INDISCRIMINATELY AT CROWDS GATHERED
- ALONG CHANGAN AVENUE
/
0600 LAST STUDENTS DEPART SQUARE, SOME BEATEN BY
- TROOPS IN RIOT GEAR
/
0620 ANOTHER ARMORED COLUMN ENTERS TIANANMEN
- FROM THE EAST; ITS TROOPS ALSO FIRE
- INDISCRIMINATELY AT CROWDS
/
0650 APPROXIMATELY 35 TANKS ENTER SQUARE
/
1025- FOUR SEPARATE INCIDENTS OF INDISCRIMINATE
1210 FIRE ON CROWDS IN FRONT OF BEIJING HOTEL;
- AT LEAST 50 CIVILIAN CASUALTIES
/
END CHRONOLOGY.
/
17. NOTE: SPORADIC KILLING CONTINUED AT LEAST
THROUGH WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6. WE HAVE HEARD NUMEROUS
FIRST AND SECOND-HAND REPORTS OF SOLDIERS FIRING ON
GROUPS OF STUDENTS AND OTHER CITIZENS WHO EXPRESSED
OPPOSITION TO THE CRACKDOWN. LILLEY

NOTE: (44) OMISSION PARA. 7 AND 13, CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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