

Eye on Washington by Nicholas F. Benton

Chinese students take aim at Kissinger

A spokesman says the students are now committed to the overthrow of the bloody Communist regime.

‘U ntil there is a government in my homeland that is of the people, for the people and by the people, I will not recognize my passport as a legitimate document,” a leading spokesman for Chinese students in the United States said in an address to a Third Generation forum here June 7.

Shengping Feng, a leader of the Chinese Alliance for Democracy and the *China Spring* newspaper, said he disagreed with those in the U.S. who claim the Chinese students in the People’s Republic of China don’t know what democracy is.

“We do know what we want,” he said. “We want to speak freely, live without fear, and walk freely without being followed.”

Feng’s reference to a government “of the people, by the people, and for the people,” was a not only a quotation from Lincoln’s Gettysburg address; it was a direct reference to the great Chinese nationalist of the early 20th century, Sun Yat-sen, who adopted Lincoln’s policies as his “three principles of a fighting democracy,” with a vision of American-styled democracy in his country.

Feng said he was “very angry” at the attitude toward the current crisis expressed by former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. Speaking of Kissinger, he said, “Many people don’t know about China. Others know and don’t understand. Then there are those who do understand, and choose to forget the extent of human rights abuses there.”

He said that the military hierarchy that ordered the Beijing massacre is dominated by a single family—relatives of Yang Shuang Qun, the Presi-

dent of the P.R.C. His brother is head of the General Political Department of the military, his son-in-law is the Deputy Chief of the Chief of Staff of the military, and his nephew commanded the 27th Army, which carried out the massacre. Many other leaders in the military have reasons to hate this family, he said.

Feng denied the P.R.C. government’s accusation that the “China Spring” movement is the “black hand” behind the student uprising there. On the contrary, he said, if anyone has had a major hand in this movement, it is Premier Deng himself. By his actions, he has turned his people against him.

He said that in the past, the Chinese people thought that the key to improving their situation would be new leadership, rather than a new system, but that has now changed.

For example, another student, Yuan Xiao-ping, pointed out that when the latest round of student protests began, they did not advocate the overthrow of the Communist regime, but only some specific reforms.

Then, he said, failure of the government to respond led the students to escalate their demands to call for the ouster of certain leaders, such as hard-liner Li Peng.

However, when the Beijing massacre began, the attitude of the mass of students quickly changed. He said that since the massacre, the sentiment has shifted toward demanding an overthrow of the government. “We now realize that system always produces bad leaders,” he said, and therefore, it is the system itself which must change.

Feng recalled the atrocities of Communism since Mao’s victory in 1949, including the 13 million peasants killed as a result of Mao’s “people’s communes” agricultural reform begun in the late 1950s, and the 10 to 20 million killed during the Cultural Revolution begun in the 1960s.

He said that he himself has been to the P.R.C. on secret missions three times to plot the overthrow of the regime there.

One questioner from the audience was skeptical about whether segments of the military would turn on the government, given that 80% of those in the military are members of the Communist Party. Feng said it was not a question of formal membership, but of the depth of loyalty to a party that has turned on its own people with such savagery.

He announced that a new group, the International Committee for the Support of Chinese Democracy, is being formed to elicit support from freedom-loving people around the world.

When another questioner expressed skepticism about China’s ability to ever progress toward democracy, given its history, a lively debate ensued in the audience, with others pointing out how the tradition of Sun Yat-sen could provide the basis for such progress, as it has in Taiwan.

When the skeptic complained that none of the current generations of Chinese is familiar with Sun Yat-sen’s writings because he has been suppressed by 40 years of communist rule, others responded that a campaign to circulate millions of copies of Sun Yat-sen’s works into China would be a worthy cause that pro-democracy forces worldwide could get involved in.

Suddenly, the skeptic’s face lit up, and he exclaimed, “Now, I could go for that!”