

Top Chinese scientist expelled from party for preaching views

PEKING (AP) — Fang Lizhi, an astrophysicist who gained national prominence by standing up for student demonstrators, was expelled from the Communist Party for preaching Western liberal ideas, the official media reported Monday.

Fang, 50, was fired last week from his position as vice president of Peking University and Technology University in Hefei.

Fang's expulsion from the party came as Zhao Ziyang, the premier and acting party chief, issued assurances that intellectuals would not be criticized by another ideological purge. Zhao reiterated that Deng's market-oriented policies that are revolutionizing the economy will continue.

Zhao became party head Friday after the resignation of Hu Yaobang, who reportedly was driven from office because of his soft handling of student protests and the growing open criticism of socialism.

The official media said the local party branch decided to expel Fang Saturday because he "attempted to incite intellectuals against the party and students to make trouble, causing grave consequences."

The evening news led with a five-minute segment on an Anhui provin-

ince party official citing Fang's alleged misdeeds to about 4,000 party officials gathered in Hefei, the provincial capital.

The official said Fang denied Marxism, vilified China's socialist system as "modern feudalism" and called for independence of universities from party leadership.

Fang, a graduate of Peking University who became one of China's pioneer researchers in laser theory, gained a reputation for speaking out for democracy and pointing out anomalies in the socialist system.

Soviets threaten SALT II breach with launching of two new subs

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Soviet Union has launched two new missile-carrying submarines, setting the stage for the Kremlin to exceed one of the limits contained in the SALT II arms accord, administration sources said Monday.

The sources, who agreed to discuss the matter only if not identified, said shipyard activity at the northern Soviet port of Severodvinsk indicated the two submarines had been launched in December.

One of the new subs is a Typhoon-class submarine — the largest such vessel in the world — and the other is a Delta IV-class submarine, the sources said. The Typhoon normally carries 20 multiple-warhead nuclear missiles; the Delta IV carries 16.

The new launches would bring to five the number of Typhoons completed by the Soviets and the number of Delta IVs completed to four.

The launching of the two submarines, assuming normal schedules are met, would mean that sea trials for the two vessels could start this spring or summer, one source said. Once sea trials begin, the submarines and their missiles would be counted as additions to the Soviet arsenal.

The addition of 36 new multiple-warhead missiles, in turn, would push the Soviet arsenal beyond one of the so-called "sub-limits"

contained in the SALT II accord.

In another naval development, albeit one that has no bearing on arms control issues, the Soviets are also preparing to launch their fourth Kiev-class carrier "very soon," one source said Monday.

The Kiev-class carriers are much smaller than American aircraft carriers, capable of carrying only helicopters and vertical-takeoff jets. But they are the largest ships currently deployed by the Soviet navy.

The SALT II agreement was negotiated in 1979 by former President Carter but never ratified by the Senate. Until last year, however, both the United States and Soviet Union had pledged to abide by its terms.

Love letters reveal tender side of H.L. Mencken

NEW YORK (AP) — H.L. Mencken, "The Bad Boy from Baltimore" who was known for his cynical style and wit, revealed joy and despair in letters he exchanged with the woman he eventually married, a new book shows.

The collection of love letters, titled "Mencken & Sara," will be published Feb. 14 by the McGraw-Hill Book Co.

"The letters reveal a tender and soft side," said the collection's editor, Marion Elizabeth Rodgers. "We tend to think of Mencken as an old cur-

mudgeon who hated everything, but it is not so."

The book contains about 450 letters Mencken exchanged with writer Sara Haardt, whom he married in 1930. They wrote from 1923 until her death from tuberculosis in 1935.

Rodgers found the letters in 1981 in the rare book room of the Goucher College library in Baltimore. Mencken, who died in 1956, had donated them in 1936 but ordered that they not be opened for 45 years.

The Baltimore-born writer's best-

known works included, "The American Language," "Prejudices: A Selection," and an autobiographical trilogy, "The Days of H.L. Mencken."

Mencken met Haardt in 1923 at Goucher College in Baltimore, when she attended a lecture he was giving called "How to Catch a Husband." At the time, Mencken, a bachelor, was 43 and Haardt 25.

"He and Sara were very traditional in their way, but he was just as confused as men are today — it took him seven years to propose to Sara," Rodgers noted.

Haardt started the correspondence on May 20, 1923. Referring to Mencken's critique of her short stories, she wrote: "These suggestions of yours would make a villain laugh."

Many other letters also centered on the couple's craft. But their tone grew fonder and more whimsical after Oct. 7, 1923, when Haardt wrote: "I know one thing: that for a mortal with a sense of humor you are the most perfect gentleman I have ever seen or heard tell of."

The pair's marriage on Aug. 27,

1930, did not halt their correspondence.

A letter written sometime in April 1935 was the last Haardt received from Mencken. It accompanied a record player he sent her in the hospital.

"Darling," it read, "this needs no special adjustment. Simply hook the end of the thin wire to the valve of the radiator, or to the radiator itself, and plug the power wire in on your light. You will then bathe in art. The house is a desert. H."

Haardt died May 31.

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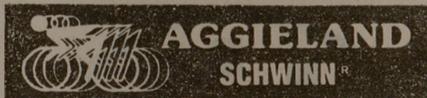
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