### **The Battalion VORLD & NATION** alg

uesday, July 18, 1989

# **China criticizes 'gross interference'** of 7 nations in freedom protest issue

BEIJING (AP) — China denounced the seven ding industrialized nations Monday for their pross interference" in calling on Chinese au-orities to stop the crackdown on participants in ro-democracy protests.

Instead, the government made clear it plans to ntinue rounding up anyone involved in the ven weeks of protests for freedom, democratic form and cleaner government. A report in the ommunist Party newspaper, the *People's Daily*, id those who surrender will get lenient treat-

"All hesitation is useless," it said. "Surrenring, thoroughly confessing (and) doing merrious work . . . is the only way out for all crimi-

The strongly worded message to the Group of even echoed earlier Chinese reaction to sancons individually imposed by some of the seven, cluding the United States and France, after the ninese army crushed the protests June 3-4.

The Foreign Ministry expressed "great regret" ver the Paris summit's statement, which it said iolates the most basic criterion of diplomatic re"China absolutely cannot accept this," the statement read on state TV said.

A front-page editorial the People's Daily called on the Group of Seven to consider China's global strategic importance" and potential as a market.

The Group of Seven statement, it said, made 'groundless charges, which only represent gross interference in China's internal affairs.

The seven nations — the United States, Great Britain, West Germany, Italy, France, Japan and Canada — included their comments on China in a communique issued at the end of their summit.

'We urge the Chinese authorities to cease action against those who have done no more than claim their legitimate rights to democracy and liberty," it said. It also urged the World Bank to postpone examining new loans to China.

More than 200 civilians were killed by official count in the army attack on protesters and supporters. Western intelligence sources said up to 3,000 may have died. Thousands have been arrested nationwide and at least 12 have been exe-

The Foreign Ministry lodged a separate pro-test with France for having allowed Chinese stu-dents in Paris to march in Friday's parade for the bicentennial of the French Revolution. The students carried a large banner reading, "We Carry On," in implied support for their Beijing classmates.

For years, China crafted its own foreign policy with a heavy ideological content, but in the past decade it has shifted to a more hard-nosed policy based on practical interests. Foreign investment and technology are now key to its modernization

But the People's Daily said foreign sanctions would only encourage a spirit of self-reliance.

It also warned Hong Kong residents who try to help the mainland democracy movement that they should not "lift a rock only to crush their own feet." The British colony reverts to Chinese rule in 1997.

MAJOR LEAGUE

In other developments, the party's Central Disciplinary Inspection Commission issued a strong warning against corruption by party members in state-run factories and businesses.

#### **T**eam practices for launching of Columbia

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CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. AP) — The launch team Monday began a two-day practice count-down for next month's launching of space shuttle Columbia on a Defense Department flight.

The rehearsal concludes with the five mission astronauts board-ng the spacecraft for the final two hours.

The test covers the final 24 nours of an actual count, includ-ng planned hold periods, and provides training for both the as-ronauts and the launch team.

NASA plans to launch Columia during the first week in August, but shuttle managers won't set a firm date until they com-plete a flight readiness review on July 26.

The astronauts checked their pace suit fits Monday and were riefed on emergency procedures at the launch pad. The all-military crew is com-

manded by Air Force Col. Brewster Shaw.

## **GOP** points to slow turnover, attacks 'permanent Congress'

WASHINGTON (AP) - Republicans think they have a promising target in challenging what they call the permanent Congress — even though the numbers show a turnover rate that doesn't match their description. Those records of changing House

membership and high re-election rates indicate that Republican problems go deeper than the incumbent re-election advantages now under GOP fire.

It is true that House incumbents have the advantage when they seek new terms, and that they almost always have.

Those odds confront the GOP minority with a particular problem, but it is not new business. House incumbents usually have won, from the be-ginning. The incumbent return rate was overwhelming 35 years ago, in the last elections that awarded the Republicans control of the House.

"Today, incumbents stay in office for decades, amassing huge war chests to scare off strong challenges in election after election," President Bush said in proposing legislation to overhaul campaign finance laws and curb free congressional mailing priv-

Former HUD secretary defends role

in easing restrictions on company

ileges. "This is not democracy at all." But Speaker Thomas S. Foley counters with records showing the shifting makeup of a House in which 55 percent of the seats are held by people elected since 1980. Only 19 percent of House members were in office 15 years ago.

Besides, he adds with a smile, what's wrong with incumbency and experience in Congress? After all, they're valued in other lines of work.

The re-election rate for incumbents is overwhelming, 98.3 percent in 1988, 98 percent in 1986. But it was 97 percent in the 1968 elections, and it has been over 90 percent in every election but one for the past 20 years, according to the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress

Nor has the number of incumbents seeking re-election changed markedly; it has ranged between 85 and 95 percent in most 20th century elections

As long as we retain 99 percent re-election of incumbents, we're going to have scoundrels, because power does corrupt," Rep. Newt Gingrich of Georgia, the Republican

whip, said in a speech on that GOP theme

'How many of you think the founding fathers intended for Con-gress to be a lifetime event, unless you're incredibly corrupt or stupid or you happen to die? Otherwise you're just re-elected automatically," he said.

Some of those founding fathers were still around when the rate of return for House incumbents seeking re-election hit its record high: 100 percent, in the elections of 1792.

In the 1952 elections, the last time Republicans won control of the House, 91 percent of the members who sought re-election won new terms. When they lost it in 1954, the incumbent re-election rate was 93.1 percent.

The advantages of incumbency have grown in the era of television, political action committees and ex ploding campaign costs. But the Library of Congress numbers show trends that have been fairly stable since World War II.

The numbers do not dampen the rhetoric

"I think there's a growing prairie fire out there where people are going to rise up and say 'Hey, we'd like these elections back in our hands,'' said Rep. Guy Vander Jagt of Michigan, who heads the Republi-can Congressional Campaign Com-mittee. "We'd like a House of the people again instead of the house of



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WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Housing Secretary Carla Hills on Monday defended her role in helping persuade a successor to ease restrictions on a client mpany that eventually would cost the government

panel, her dealings with HUD have been "purely in my capacity as a lawyer, representing clients to the best of my ability on the merits of their cases.'

The housing agency, after determining that DRG did not use sound financial practices in making loans, required the firm beginning in 1984 to seek advance approval for all loans made under the government pro-

ons of dollars in bad loans.

"I don't disagree that the company had misbehaved nd was being spanked, . . . thrashed if you like, and ou feel that it should be strung up," Hills said of DRG funding Corp., which hired her law firm in 1981 to present it in housing matters.

But Hills told a House subcommittee she was hired because of her housing expertise and not because of any influence she might still have at the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Currently the U.S. trade representative, Hills served as secretary at HUD uring the Ford administration.

She said DRG paid \$33,500 for her representation, ncluding a one-hour meeting with then-Secretary Samuel Pierce.

Hills was the latest in a string of well-connected Reblicans to testify at congressional hearings into alletions of mismanagement and influence peddling at HUD during Pierce's eight years as secretary in the Reagan administration.

She also was the latest to describe her ability to inter-vene successfully with top-level HUD officials concern-ing the spending of millions of dollars in housing

Former Interior Secretary James Watt, for example, estified in connection with a consultant's fee in excess of \$300,000 he received to help a client win money rom HUD to develop a housing project. Unlike Hills, e claimed no special housing expertise or background. Since leaving the department in 1977, she told the

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Hills said this imposed a "competitive burden" on

" don't disagree that the company had misbehaved and was being spanked, ... thrashed if you like, and you feel that it should be strung up."

#### Carla Hills, former HUD secretary

DRG, which asked for her help in the matter. After pleading her case before two political appointees at HUD, both of whom turned down her requests to ease up on the restrictions, Hills arranged a meeting with Pierce.

"During this meeting of about one hour, I presented DRG's case in some detail, strictly on its merits," Hills said.

Pierce then lifted the restrictions, requiring that the department review each loan after it had been made instead of in advance, and warning DRG in a nine-page letter that it was to follow the rules

incumbents which it has become.' "In 1989, you were 16 times more

likely to be defeated if you were a provincial leader of the Communist Party in the Soviet Union than if you are an American congressman," Gingrich said.

Foley said the Republicans' real concern stems less from a perma-nent Congress than from frustration at their seemingly permanent minority status in the House.

The lineup now stands at 257 Democrats, 175 Republicans, with special elections coming for three va-cant seats that were held by Democrats.

The speaker said incumbent advantages can't be the real reason be-cause Democrats hold their own or better in contests for open seats, in which no incumbent is involved.

In competition for open seats in the last four elections, there has been no net change in party strength, he noted. In special elec-tions during that period, the Democrats made a net gain of one seat.

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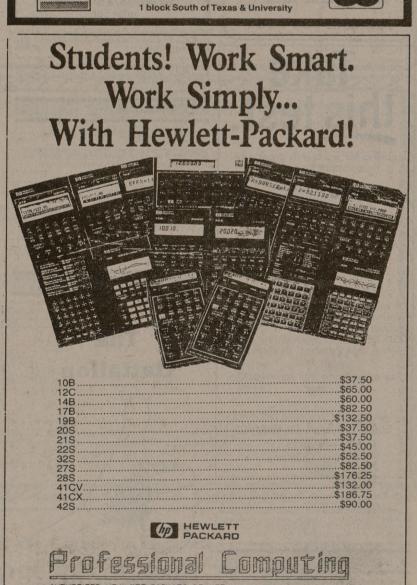
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