

# Politics

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THE BATTALION

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## U.S. provides missile defense plans to China

WASHINGTON (AP) — China will get an update on U.S. missile defense plans before President George W. Bush visits Beijing next month as the United States tries to convince other countries that the proposed shield is not a threat, the White House said Sunday.

"This is part of the administration's outreach to China and other nations such as Russia to discuss with them the reason why we are developing a missile defense system and how it is designed to protect us from rogue nations or accidental launches," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said in a telephone interview.

"It is something we are hoping they will support because it is not aimed at China," he said. The president thinks it is important to consult with our allies and other nations."

Fleischer denied that the Bush administration was courting China's support of the missile defense system in exchange for U.S. acceptance of a nuclear or military buildup by Beijing, as reported in Sunday's *New York Times*.

The White House is pursuing missile defense "separate and apart" from the issue of China's desire to expand its limited arsenal of nuclear missiles, Fleischer said. "The United States has made it clear and continues to make it clear that military buildup there is not necessary."

He also said there was no change in U.S. policy on the testing of nuclear weapons, now precluded by a worldwide moratorium. "We have no plans to resume testing," Fleischer said.

The United States might raise the future possibility of underground tests being resumed in both nations, according to the *Times* and *The Washington Post*.

Initial Capitol Hill reaction to those reports was mixed.

"I would not like to see the Chinese expand their nuclear capabilities," said Sen. Arlen Specter said Sunday on CBS' "Face the Nation." "I think it is much too soon to even think about matters that offset our missile defense."

China is "the coming colossus of the world and a superpower," said Specter, R-Penn., who added he had just returned from a China trip where he talked with government leaders. "I would not want to see them become any more powerful in the nuclear line. I think we ought to formulate our policy in many different ways to try to avoid just that."

Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-North Dakota, said on CNN's "Late Edition" that the United States "ought to try to continue to put pressure on the Chinese and others not to have offensive weapons buildup. Our entire approach ought to be to reduce the nuclear threat, not increase it."

Fleischer said the system is intended to protect the United States and its allies from hostile nations with missile capabilities such as Iran, Iraq and Libya.

"Other nations have nothing to worry about from American development of a missile defense system," he said. "It will protect the peace in the world ... when the real threat to peace are these rogue nations."

China fears the missile shield would undercut the deterrent effect of China's small nuclear arsenal.

"China's position on missile defense is clear-cut and consistent," China's Foreign Ministry said in late August after Bush said the United States would withdraw a 1972 arms control treaty signed by Washington and Moscow. "We hope the U.S. government will seriously consider the position of the international community and proceed with caution."

**Other nations have nothing to worry about from American development of a missile defense system. It will protect the peace in the world ... when the real threat to peace are these rogue nations.**

— Ari Fleischer, White House spokesman

## Jiang seeks to rewrite Communist charter

### Chinese capitalists vie for party affiliation

BEIJING (AP) — President Jiang Zemin has saved his biggest battle for last: changing the bedrock dogma of China's Communist Party.

In July, Jiang surprised the world by inviting capitalists to join the ruling party. Now, as he nears the end of his years in power, he wants to give them a formal place in the charter that has guided the party through 80 years of war, revolution and reform.

Doctrinaire Marxists are furious.

Picking such a risky ideological fight is a striking change for Jiang, a cautious dealmaker who has survived as party leader for 12 years by avoiding battles.

But, having confounded skeptics who wrote him off even as he became party leader in 1989, the 75-year-old former soap factory manager has finally amassed enough power to force a major decision and make it stick.

"Jiang Zemin's position as 'first among equals' is now beyond dispute. You can't challenge him," said Joseph Cheng, director of the Contemporary China Research Center at the City University of Hong Kong.

Mao Tse-tung led China through its revolution. Deng Xiaoping unleashed forces of free enterprise that have turned it into an economic power.

To Jiang Zemin fell the task of meshing his country into the globalized world. While keeping up intense pressure on dissidents in defiance of human rights critics, he has presided over strong economic growth, launched a military modernization drive and led Beijing out of the diplomatic isolation that followed the 1989 crackdown at Tiananmen Square.

Now he has set out to write a new party line.

Jiang's contribution to official theory maintains that the Communist Party — until now, "vanguard of the working class" — has to change and embrace forces that are creating jobs and prosperity in China. That means making peace with entrepreneurs who are viewed with suspicion and disgust by party hardliners.

Jiang's term as president ends in 2003, but he is expected to give up his more important post as party general-secretary next year. Rewriting the party charter is the biggest item on an agenda meant to secure his power and place in history.

But Jiang still faces resistance within his party, mainly from doctrinaire Marxists, though also from nationalists who think he's too soft on the United States and party veterans unwilling to share power with newly arrived entrepreneurs.

Jiang, however, is bolstered by some recent high-profile successes.

The leader who cultivates a common touch shook hands with jubilant crowds in the streets of Beijing after the Chinese capital was awarded the 2008 Olympics. His government is on the brink of achieving its 15-year-old goal of joining the World Trade Organization. He has traveled the world building up China's image as a benign power and valuable trading partner.

Yet Jiang does not just want to be a frequent flier who played piano at the White House. He wants to qualify for greatness by making his mark on communist history as a weighty Marxist thinker.

Senior officials are barnstorming the country talking up Jiang's campaign. State television carries nightly reports quoting people from all walks

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— Joseph Cheng, director of the Contemporary China Research Center at the City University of Hong Kong

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