

World and Nation

China's minister of culture fired

By KARI BARLOW
Staff Writer

China fired its minister of culture, Wang Meng, last week in another example of renewed hard-line control of the government since the military crackdown on student protesters in Tiananmen Square in June.

Meng is the highest ranking government official to be fired since Communist Party leader Zhao Ziyang was ousted.

Meng is a novelist who was exiled in 1957 during the Cultural Revolution for writing short stories that were said to be contrary to the Communist Party philosophy.

The official press in Beijing said Meng was dismissed from his position. But Meng asked to be relieved of his position to work on his writing, said Wu Zurong, a spokesman in the press office of the Chinese Embassy in Washington, D.C.

The request for Meng's removal was made by Premier Li Peng, Zurong said.

China in Perspective

Deng Xiaoping, military and political leader of China, allowed Meng to return to Beijing in 1979 and to write about his experiences during his exile. In 1986, Meng was appointed cultural minister, and many have considered the last three years a time of literary freedom for China.

It appears that firing the minister of culture is an attempt to clamp down on art and literature, said Larry Kessler, UNC-CH associate professor of history.

The Chinese government has made many moves like this one since the crackdown on student protesters in Tiananmen Square.

Chinese students were calling for major political reform and a chance to discuss their demands with Xiaoping.

While occupying the square day and night, the students built a version of the Statue of Liberty called the "Goddess of Democracy." Many students went on long hunger strikes in hopes of getting their demands met.

After about seven weeks, Xiaoping and Premier Peng ordered a military crackdown on the students. Thousands of protesters were killed in the chaos that followed, and hundreds were arrested for their involvement.

Students have been silenced for the time being, but somewhere down the road there will be more protests, Kessler said.

The Chinese government is trying to present a picture of stability despite the Communist Party's recent unrest and the fact that martial law still exists in some areas of Beijing.

"The vast majority of the students who participated in the protest have come to understand that stability is important to China's economic devel-

opment and modernization," Zurong said. The students who participated in the protest were misled by a small faction of people who intended to lead an anti-government rebellion, he said.

The actions of the Chinese government have created a lot of tension at a political level between China and the United States, Kessler said.

A spokeswoman for the State Department, who asked not to be identified, said the situation in China was still not normal, and Americans are being warned not to travel to China unless it is necessary.

The United States is trying to stimulate economic reform which is necessary if China is going to achieve modernization, she said.

"We've been basically saying that the Chinese government might be able to clear Tiananmen Square, but they can't clear the conscience of the people," the spokeswoman said.

Longtime mayor Koch loses in New York City primary

From Associated Press reports
NEW YORK — New York Democrats chose calm, deliberate David Dinkins over brash Mayor Edward Koch, bringing the nation's largest city closer to electing its first black mayor.

Detroit Mayor Coleman Young, one of the first blacks to lead a major U.S. city, savored a big primary victory over a dozen challengers, and Democrats foiled Republican designs on House seats in Texas and California that were vacated by Speaker Jim Wright and Democratic Whip Tony Coelho.

Tuesday's primary election signaled the end of an era in New York, although Koch reminded supporters that it wasn't quite up.

"You'll have me from now to December 31st," he said in a concession speech. "I do not intend to keep my mouth shut."

Dinkins, the Manhattan borough president, will face former federal prosecutor Rudolph Giuliani in the Nov. 7 election.

Namibian president ends exile

WINDHOEK, Namibia — The president of Namibia's independence movement will end a 30-year exile and return to his homeland despite the assassination of another nationalist leader, officials said Wednesday.

A Namibian newspaper on Wednesday said callers claiming to represent a white supremacist group claimed responsibility for the killing Tuesday of Anton Lubowski, an official of the South-West Africa People's Organization.

Sam Nujoma, president of the nationalist group, will return from exile Thursday even though there have been threats against his life, the organization said in a statement.

News in Brief

Posters appeared in Windhoek on Wednesday with a photograph of Nujoma and a target superimposed on his face.

Nujoma is returning to Namibia to take charge of his group's campaign for elections scheduled for early November, a prelude to Namibian independence from South Africa.

South Africa, which has ruled Namibia for 74 years, has agreed to implement independence in the territory under United Nations supervision. Independence is expected early next year.

Mine fire kills 10

WHEATCROFT, Ky. — Methane gas ignited in a flash "like a flame thrower" in a coal mine Wednesday, killing 10 miners and burning three, authorities said.

It was the nation's worst coal mine disaster since 27 miners were killed in 1984 in a mine in Utah, said Frank O'Gorman of the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration.

There was nothing to indicate that anyone was trapped underground at the Pyro Mining Co.'s William Station Mine in western Kentucky, said Nancy Toombs, a secretary for state Commissioner of Mines and Minerals Willard Stanley.

The ignition point of the fire was apparently near part of a mining machine that was being dismantled to be moved, O'Gorman said.

Thirteen miners were in the vicinity when the explosion occurred, State Police Capt. Robert Forsythe said. Three miners escaped with burns.

Rescue teams were sent into the shaft to remove the bodies, said state Trooper Ed Brady.

Infant deaths, prenatal care linked

By KYLE YORK SPENCER
Staff Writer

North Carolina has the fourth highest infant mortality rate in the nation, and this ranking is strongly linked to the fact that 22 percent of all pregnant women in the state receive little or no prenatal care.

The General Assembly recently increased Medicaid reimbursement rates by 50 percent to help women who cannot afford prenatal care.

Due to rising malpractice insurance costs and low reimbursement rates, many N.C. doctors are no longer accepting Medicaid as a form of payment, said Carla Weinfeld, coordinator of the prenatal program at Orange-Chatham Comprehensive Health Serv-

ices (OCCHS). She said she could not find a private doctor in Chapel Hill, Durham or Hillsborough who would accept Medicaid as payment from a pregnant patient.

In 1987 the infant death rate rose by 4.3 percent, and according to a study by the N.C. Institute of Medicine, black infants are two times more likely to die than white infants.

"The most important cause of infant death is low birth weight," Weinfeld said. OCCHS provides federally funded community services, including prenatal care for pregnant women.

Of all the babies born in North Carolina, 7.9 percent of them have low birth weights — more than 1 percent above

the national average.

"Prenatal care is the single most important factor in low birth weight," Weinfeld said. Women with no prenatal care are three times more likely to have a baby of low birth weight, she said. This puts these babies at a 90 percent greater risk of infant death than a baby of normal weight.

Experts argue that free prenatal care is not available for all the women who need it.

"The truth is a lot of women can't afford it," Weinfeld said.

But there are state programs designed to combat infant mortality among the poor. One such program, "Baby-Love," covers all medical costs for pregnant women in a family of three with total

monthly incomes of \$838.

By 1990, the General Assembly will expand this program to include 6,700 more women by increasing economic eligibility.

But some experts argue the main problem is lack of available information.

"We need to educate more publicly about prenatal care," said Emily Mauney, the maternal health coordinator at the Orange County Health Department.

"It is not unusual for us to see women for the first time during their second trimester who didn't know it was necessary to come in. Some women don't see it as a priority."

Hungary to keep borders open to fleeing East bloc citizens

From Associated Press reports

BERLIN — Hungary said Wednesday it would break its Warsaw Pact commitment and keep open its borders to the West, and an East German newspaper said it is time to consider why the country's young, skilled citizens are fleeing.

In Austria, the Interior Ministry said 12,158 East Germans had passed through that country en route to West Germany in the two days that refugees have been taking advantage of Hungary's newly opened border.

In Budapest, a government official said Wednesday that Hungary had no intention of reversing its dramatic new pathway to the West and that it reflected the increasingly liberal communist nation's new role in the world. "The Hungarian government's policy of opening the country's borders will continue," said Ferenc Somogyi, the No. 2 official in the Foreign Ministry.

He said that as long as a third country was willing to accept refugees from other East bloc countries, Hungary would allow them to leave.

But he said the current orchestrated migration was a "unique step" that applied only to East German citizens.

"The East Germans were not treated as refugees and they did not request asylum as refugees," Somogyi said.

East Germans are automatically considered citizens of West Germany and therefore do not qualify as refugees.

Somogyi said the country's open-border policy was consistent with Hungary's status as a signatory of the U.N. Convention on Refugees. Hungary is the only East bloc country that signed it.

He indicated such agreements with the West took precedence over Warsaw Pact commitments. By allowing citizens of a Warsaw Pact ally to flee

across its borders, Hungary violated those Warsaw Pact obligations.

"There are agreements with other Warsaw Treaty countries similar to the one Hungary just suspended with East Germany, and these agreements are no longer in line with Hungary's newly assumed international responsibilities, such as our having signed the Geneva Convention," Somogyi said.

"We are working to bring these various agreements into harmony with (our) new foreign policy."

In East Berlin, the Communist Party youth daily Junge Welt said that East German citizens could no longer avoid the discussion about why a "minority" has fled the country of 16.6 million people.

"How do we make this country indisputably the focal point for dedication and happiness for every individual? How do we make it a homeland for even more people in which one accepts

burdens and from which one is not lured away just by shop windows full of bananas or glossy travel guides?" Junge Welt asked.

The newspaper often contains articles and commentaries reflecting official views.

The new arrivals have said they were dissatisfied with the economy and the political oppression at home. Many of the arrivals are young, skilled craftsmen.

They also said East Germany has failed to adopt political and economic reforms being tried in other Communist nations.

The main East German party daily, Neues Deutschland, continued Wednesday its criticism of West Germany,

which it contends has "lured the refugees West."

It also criticized Hungary for allowing their "unsanctioned departure." The refugees have traveled by car, train and bus through Austria to their new homeland since midnight Sunday, when Hungary opened its border completely.

West German border officials said the number of refugees could top 15,000.

The exodus comes at a time of dramatic change in the East bloc. Poland has installed the bloc's first government led by non-Communists, and Hungary's leaders are promising free elections.

West Germany and Hungary have worked together to coordinate free

passage for the East Germans, and that has added to the strain in relations between those countries and East Berlin. It is the first time an East bloc nation has helped citizens from a Warsaw Pact ally in an exodus to the West.

On Tuesday, Yegor Ligachev, a hard-line member of the Soviet Politburo, arrived in East Berlin and accused West Germany of "slander, enticement and luring away" East Germans.

East German leader Erich Honecker's prolonged recovery from gall bladder surgery has complicated the situation. Communist Party officials acknowledge that decision-making in East Berlin is virtually paralyzed.

SRC

"You're really opening up a Pandora's Box of funding issues and referendums each year."

Mark Bibbs (Dist. 12) said he could not deny his freshman constituency the right to vote on the SRC. "The right to vote is the most basic formulated right we have in this country. I, in clear conscience, cannot vote that we vote against the students' right to vote again."

Sam Bagenstos (Dist. 14) agreed, saying the freshmen in his district expressed anger about having no say in something they had to pay for.

Jonathan Martin (Dist. 8) said he wasn't convinced that students had made an informed choice in February. "A lot of people chose 'yes' or 'no' because they didn't know a lot about it. It bothers me to think that Student

Congress should not want to reconsider what the students have to say."

Beall argued that members of the physical education department faculty also said they had not been sufficiently informed about the center. He quoted associate professor John Silva as saying, "I don't think most people (in the

physical education department) know what the hell's going on with the SRC. We, the physical education department, feel like we have been jerked around."

Frye said she met with physical education faculty Tuesday, and they voted to support the concept of the center and the site next to Fetzer.

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For the Record

In Tuesday, Sept. 12's article "Experts weary of dollar's rising value," several attribution errors were made.

The French-American wine market example was compiled by the article's author, Alan Martin. Also, the phrases "As a whole, the country has been consuming more than it has been pro-

ducing" and "The trade deficit is being financed by issuing IOU's to foreigners and allowing them to purchase American assets" were stated by Patrick Conway, professor of international economics at UNC. The Daily Tar Heel regrets the errors.

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