

WORLD & NATION

Critics say that Clinton should take real action

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Critics who thought the U.S. view on human rights abuses in China was one of "see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil" were at best only mildly grateful for the verbal sparring between President Clinton and Chinese President Jiang Zemin after their Oct. 29 summit meeting.

Clinton raised eyebrows when he said China was on "the wrong side of history" in its 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy students at Tiananmen Square.

He also spent about a third of his opening statement on the issue of human rights.

It was a reporter's question on Tiananmen that provoked a point-counterpoint exchange between Clinton and Jiang, who said the democracy movement "seriously disrupted social stability and jeopardized state security," without which China "cannot possibly have the situation of reform and opening up that we are having today."

"Nothing. We got nothing," said Joseph Kung, who runs the Cardinal Kung Foundation, named after his uncle, Cardinal Ignatius Kung Pin-mei of Shanghai, who was permitted to leave China in 1988.

"That little debate before the reporters was really hollow," Kung complained. "I don't think there is any substance."

Clinton knew human rights would be raised at the press conference, he added, and was "well prepared" with an answer. Rep. Christopher Smith, R-N.J., who took part in a closed-door breakfast with Jiang and congressional leaders the day

after the summit — said he liked Clinton's words, but "Clinton needs to back it up with deeds."

"He had the right words as a candidate. He has the right words (at the summit)," said Smith. "Now let's see some of the right deeds."

Said Mica Hoodbhoy, Asia coordinator for the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights: "Human rights was not central to the discussion. There was give and take but there was still disagreement."

Clinton let Jiang know at the press conference his displeasure with China's human rights stance — and congressional leaders did the same at the breakfast.

But Jiang didn't budge from the party line, which was to deny that any human rights abuses happen in China, and that what some people call human rights abuses are actually part of Chinese law.

"Those are questions we should continue to ask," Hoodbhoy said. "It just has to be raised repeatedly. The next visit we'll raise it again."

Clinton's comments were "more forthright than he's been," she added. "That's slightly better" than the lawyers' group had expected. Agreeing with Smith, "the important thing is that it be followed through," Hoodbhoy said.

Bhuchung Tsering, communications director for the International Committee on Tibet, said Clinton was "pricked by his conscience" to "raise an issue his conscience told him he should raise but you could see from his face it wasn't pleasant for him or for President Jiang Zemin."

Jiang's denials about rights abuses in China signal that he "doesn't have the



CNS/Reuters

Chinese President Jiang Zemin and President Clinton listen as national anthems are played at a welcoming ceremony for Jiang at the White House Oct. 29. Human rights groups protested the meeting between the two leaders.

courage to face reality," Tsering said.

One example, he said, was Jiang comparing the situation in Tibet to slavery in the United States. "There's no way to compare (the two)," Tsering said.

"He launches into a tirade with a smile on his face," said Smith of Jiang, who added his persistent questioning on forced abortions in China drew a response from Jiang that lasted nearly 15 minutes.

"I could go on," Jiang told congressional leaders, according to Smith, but he didn't, except to deny forced abortion happens in China.

Leaders from both sides of the aisle asked tough questions of Jiang. House Minority Rep. Richard Gephardt, D-Mo.,

raised religious persecution and forced abortion issues, Smith said.

On the subject of religious persecution, Jiang held up his hands, according to Smith, and said, "Rumor! That's rumor!"

The Chinese government in a report issued Oct. 16 said China respects and promotes the religious freedom of all its citizens, who can "freely choose and express their religious faith and publicly declare their religious affiliation."

Father Joseph Chaing, head of the National Pastoral Center for the Chinese Apostolate, based in Newark, N.J., dismissed the Clinton-Jiang exchange.

Clinton "attacked a little but not very strong," he added. "He should have said more."

Most people say they
don't volunteer because
they were never asked.

We're asking.



Margaret Thirtle Rosa Wims Andy Meloni J. Ernest Du Bois



LIFESPAN's Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) matches your life experience and interests with community needs.

If you are age 55 or older, call today to volunteer.
We're asking.

LIFESPAN'S RSVP
454-3224

LIFESPAN'S RSVP is funded by the Corporation for National Service, NYS Office for the Aging and the United Way. RSVP

BUYING AND SELLING

Coins • Stamps • Gold & Silver Jewelry
Antiques & Collectibles • Perfume Bottles

Open Monday through Saturday 10-6
Thursday and Friday until 8

1434 Buffalo Road,
Rochester

(716) 235-5441
(800) 213-2542



Catholic Courier (USPS 135-580)
Vol. 109 No. 5 November 6, 1997

Published weekly except first Thursday in January.

Subscription rates: single copy, 75¢; one-year subscription in U.S., \$20.00; Canada and foreign \$20.00 plus postage. Offices: 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624, 716/328-4340. Periodicals postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Catholic Courier, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, N.Y. 14624.

Women Needed for Hormone Therapy Research

As they search for the combinations of hormone replacement therapy that are both safe and effective, the Reproductive Endocrinology Unit and Menopause Center at the University of Rochester Medical Center seek women to participate in a study.

Volunteers must be healthy, post-menopausal women between the ages of 40 and 65. After a physical examination, women will be randomized to one of 8 treatment groups and receive various combinations of an FDA-approved estrogen and/or progestin, or placebo.

During this one-year study, volunteers are seen every three months. Benefits to volunteers include free Pap smears and lab tests, free mammogram, and possible relief of menopausal symptoms based on the medication(s) they receive. Compensation of \$450 is available. Women who have had a hysterectomy are not eligible.

Women interested in participating can call Kathy DeRider at 275-4149.