

The U.S. Policy toward China since the Tiananmen Square Incident

by Akihiko TANAKA

This paper describes and analyzes the development of the U.S. policy toward China since the Tiananmen Square crackdown in June 1989. It first summarizes the state of Sino-American relations immediately before the Tiananmen Square incident in terms of (1) mutual exchanges, (2) Chinese arms transfer issues, (3) U.S. relations with Taiwan (4) human rights issues, and (5) Sino-Soviet relations and points out that the relations between Washington and Beijing appeared one of the most favorable in the postwar history despite some differences especially over human rights issues.

The paper then argues that the Tiananmen Square incident changed this situation by examining the initial reactions of the U.S. administration, Congress, and the U.S. business. The next part of the paper describes the development of U.S. policy toward China from the secret trip of Brent Scowcroft and Lawrence Eagleburger to Beijing in July 1989 to their second secret trip to Beijing in December 1989. How the sanctions that the U.S. government imposed immediately after the Tiananmen Square incident evolved and were relaxed is described in detail. The reasons of the secret trips and the relaxation of sanctions as presented by Eagleburger is also analyzed.

The final part of the paper examines the development of U.S. China policy in 1990 and 1991, focusing on the issue of the MFN (most favored nation) status for China. The paper concludes itself with the

observation that despite the willingness of the Bush administration to maintain more or less normal relations with Beijing, it has become increasingly difficult for the administration to do so unless China makes significant improvements in various issues including human rights, arms exports, and trade.