

# Ambassador says group of activists 'cowards'

SEATTLE (AP) — United States Ambassador to China James Lilley called demonstrators against Chinese human-rights abuses "cowards" and suggested that one man, a Tibetan, "go back to China and serve China."

But in a speech a few minutes later, Lilley said the United States wanted to see "concrete improvement on China's human rights record," and referred to the lifting of martial law in Tibet as "window dressing."

U.S. Rep. John Miller, R-Wash., on Sunday said Lilley should apologize for his remarks made Saturday night to protesters outside the closing ceremony of a four-day trade exposition and symposium on U.S.-China relations.

Lilley got into the argument with a handful of demonstrators outside Union Station before going inside to make his speech.

Most of those outside the former train station didn't notice the exchange, but it was taped by a cameraman for Seattle television station KIRO.

Lilley and Chinese Ambassador Zhu Quizhen arrived in cars at the side of the station. About 50 demonstrators were at the front of the building, waving

signs and chanting slogans condemning the Chinese government's slaying of hundreds of demonstrators in Beijing in June 1989 and its 40-year occupation of Tibet.

Jim Berman, 32, a Seattle man whose wife is Tibetan, said he and a half-dozen others left the main group on the chance the ambassadors might use a side entrance.

They chanted "China — human rights!", "Tibet for Tibetans!", and "Remember Tiananmen Square!" he said.

Zhu ignored the demonstrators and went inside, Berman said.

But Berman said, and the KIRO videotape corroborated, that Lilley suddenly shouted, "Were you at Tiananmen Square? I was there."

"So what?" Berman said he replied. "I know it wasn't the greatest retort," Berman said afterward, "but I certainly didn't expect his outburst."

Lilley then shouted to a Tibetan man, "What are you doing about it? I'm doing something about it. You should go back to China and serve China."

"You're cowards," Lilley told the demonstrators before entering the build-

ing. Dan Hodel, spokesman for the Tibetan Rights Campaign, said he was left "speechless and flabbergasted" by the incident.

China invaded Tibet in 1950, crushed an uprising in 1959 and introduced repressive measures, including suppressing Tibetan Buddhism.

At a news conference after his speech, Lilley was asked about the exchange. "I looked at one man from China and thought that the best thing he could do to help his country is to go back to China and work for it," he said.

Asked what message he intended to give the demonstrators, Lilley replied, "Nothing much, I guess."

In a news release Sunday, Miller said he was appalled by Lilley's remarks. Miller said protesters who returned to China could face arrest, trial and execution for speaking out in favor of democracy.

"This treatment by a U.S. ambassador of those seeking freedom and democracy is beyond comprehension," Miller said.

If Lilley does not apologize, Miller said he would bring the matter to the at-

ention of both President Bush and Secretary of State James Baker.

"As a representative of the United States, Ambassador Lilley should understand the importance of people seeking human rights and work to move forward, not backward, in the pursuit of that cause," Miller said.

Both Lilley and Zhu were at meetings Friday between Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and Bush and Baker.

In his speech, Zhu said relations have been warming between the two countries, and that political changes around the world have made the relationship more important. He noted that China supported most U.S. positions in the Middle East crisis.

More than 350 Chinese delegates attended the symposium, the largest trade delegation ever to the United States. But organizers were disappointed when only about 60 Americans showed up to opening sessions.

The conference has received a cool reception since the Chinese first suggested it last year. The state government and two major Washington trade organizations refused to endorse the meeting, saying it was poorly timed politically.

## Oregon racists brand past leader as traitor

MEDFORD (AP) — Racists "skinheads" in southern Oregon say they are better off now that former leader Dave Mazzella has been branded a traitor.

Mazzella was the star witness this fall in a successful wrongful death lawsuit against California white supremacist leaders Tom and John Metzger.

He told a jury in Portland that the Metzgers had promoted violence against blacks.

Based primarily on Mazzella's testimony, jurors ruled the Metzgers were responsible for the 1988 killing of a black man in Portland by three young racists.

The jury awarded \$12.5 million in damages, the nation's largest civil judgment for racial violence.

The three racists were convicted on criminal charges and are serving prison sentences for the killing.

Mazzella, who is wrapping up a jail sentence for kicking another skinhead in the jaw, said in court that he had renounced white supremacist violence.

That is fine with Leif Barge, 21, who is Mazzella's successor as leader of the 40 or so racists in Southern Oregon Skinheads.

"Dave is a snitch," Barge, a laborer, said recently. "We

don't want nothing to do with Dave Mazzella."

Pictures of Mazzella labeled with the words "snitch" and "traitor" turned up around Medford after the trial.

Members of Barge's group say they agree with the sentiment but deny putting up the posters.

"Dave used to be our leader, but I think we're stronger now," said "Joe", a skinhead who asked that his real name not be printed.


Barge and his girlfriend, Laura Dailey, 21, testified at the trial that Mazzella, not the Metzgers, instigated the violence that led to the killing.


"He's sneaky and crafty," Joe said. "He has a really violent temper. He's beat me up a few times, too. Instead of talk, he'd use violence."


Barge and the others blame Mazzella for the damage their movement suffered following Seraw's murder and the Metzger trial.

"There is a better way than violence," Barge said. "I believe these people probably would have never done that without Dave."


"We're nice people. We're here for the good of the white race. This is our nation; they (non-whites) don't belong here," Joe said.


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