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## **Chinese Foreign Minister Visits Ecuador; Comments On Massacre In Beijing**

*by John Neagle*

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On June 2, Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen arrived in Quito for a five-day official visit, en route to Cuba and the US. The minister's visit to Ecuador was his first to a South American country. The objectives of his trip were to discuss bilateral trade and scientific agreements. Last year bilateral trade between China and Ecuador favored Beijing for the first time. Chinese exports to Ecuador totaled \$2.66 million while Ecuador sold \$1.35 million worth of goods to China. Ecuadoran exports to China include banana trees, cotton, coffee, cocoa beans and shark fins. Ecuador buys Chinese industrial machinery, tools, farm equipment and chemicals. On June 5, in statements at a conference at Ecuador's Diplomatic Academy, Qian justified the Chinese army's massacre of protestors in Beijing as necessary to defend order and development. He was the first senior Chinese official to speak on the assault which hospital sources cited by AFP say left 1,400 people dead. According to Qian, the attack was launched "to protect the interests of the people" against "bandits" who had infiltrated the student-led protests. He described student demands as "logical and in keeping with the goals of the government to deepen reforms and perfect democratic institutions." However, demands of "others" (the "bandits") were aimed at "provoking a riot against the government." The minister asserted that China will not become an isolated nation: "An open and stable China will benefit all the world." Advancing necessary reforms, he added, is not possible "without stability and cohesion." Special circumstances triggered the army's intervention, said Qian: "Certain bandits killed army troops and hanged them from public places." In addition, he said, they destroyed 30 army trucks, burned another 20 police vehicles and 20 buses, looted stores and robbed army weapons and munitions. (Basic data from AFP, 06/02/89, 06/05/89)

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