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Human rights protests begin

■ The Chinese president will hear American views throughout his visit.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Chinese President Jiang Zemin will get a full picture of how Americans feel about China's human rights record, both from protest demonstrations outside and tough talk inside the White House, Madeleine Albright said Sunday.

The secretary of state also made clear that while human rights is just one aspect of increasingly important U.S.-China ties, "We will never have a completely normal relationship with them until they have a better human rights policy."

Jiang, who arrived Sunday in Honolulu to begin the first U.S. visit by a Chinese leader in a dozen years, is expected to face protest rallies at each of his stops in Williamsburg, Va., Washington, Philadelphia, New York, Boston and Los Angeles.

Christian groups were to kick off the demonstrations Sunday with a prayer vigil across from the White House to protest religious persecution in China and that country's abortion policies.

Speaking of the historic locales Jiang is visiting in the United States, Albright said on NBC's "Meet the Press" that he "will not have a totally fuzzy time at these places. I think that it is important for him, actually, to see where our liberty came from."

"Everywhere he goes in the United States, President Jiang Zemin is going to meet with protesters. He's going to see and hear American voices on this. I can't think of anything better than that," Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., said on CNN's "Late Edition."

Jiang, who rose to power in the Chinese Communist Party hierarchy in the wake of the 1989 Tiananmen crackdown, meets Clinton Wednesday for talks expected to cover trade, weapons proliferation, Taiwan, drug trafficking and the environment as well as human rights.

"The important part here for us is to engage with China but not endorse everything that they're doing," Albright said.

She said "substantial progress" has been made toward an agreement where China would pledge not to give nuclear assistance to Iran, Pakistan and other countries. An agreement would include the lifting by the Clinton administration of restrictions on the sale to China of U.S. nuclear reactors.

The secretary said some good news also has come on human rights, the recent release from custody of a Roman Catholic Chinese bishop imprisoned for preaching outside the government-sanctioned church.

Sen. Orrin Hatch, a conservative Republican from Utah who recently visited China, praised the administration's position on human rights, pronouncing it "the best way to work with China."

He predicted on "Fox News Sunday" that while China, not wanting to appear to surrender to pressure, will avoid making human rights concessions at the summit, "I do believe that shortly after that, you'll see some changes in human rights."

Other lawmakers with grievances against China continued to demand that Clinton be as blunt as possible with Jiang.

Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., sponsor of legislation that would sanction nations that punish people for religious beliefs, asked Clinton to hand Jiang a letter seeking the

Poll: Quality of life going up in China

BEIJING (AP) — Few homes have hot running water but most have televisions in today's China, where Coca-Cola is the best-known foreign brand and more and more men care about their hair.

The findings of a nationwide Gallup Poll — the biggest conducted in China — reflect the huge changes that have swept the country since it began embracing market economics and opening to foreign investors in the 1980s.

The survey found that while just 2 percent of Chinese homes have hot running water, 89 percent have televisions. Chinese also are increasingly likely to have a refrigerator, a telephone and a pet, the poll showed. And the percentage of Chinese men using hairstyling products doubled from three years ago to 21 percent, it said.

But American businesses that are encouraged by the increasing consumerism should also know that 73 percent of those polled said they generally prefer Chinese-made goods. Foreign goods were favored by 22 percent of the respondents.

Coca-Cola replaced Hitachi as the best-known foreign brand in China, with 81 percent of Chinese recognizing the soda's name, the poll said. But of the 20 best-known foreign brands, half were Japanese, unchanged from Gallup's last China survey, in 1994.

But of the top five best-known foreign brands, three had American origins: Coca-Cola, Beijing Jeep — a Chrysler Corp. joint venture — and the shampoo Head and Shoulders. The remaining two were Volkswagen's Santana automobile and Panasonic of Japan.

Economic reforms have improved life for hundreds of millions of people, although development has been far quicker in cities than in the countryside, where most Chinese live.

The average household annual income, according to the poll, was \$1,250, a 75 percent gain over the \$710 reported in 1994.

And people said they expect their living standards to continue rising. They rated their quality of life as being nearly a third better than it was five years ago — at 5.09 on a scale of one to 10 — and expected it to improve by a further 32 percent over the next five years, Gallup said.

Gallup said its poll was based on 3,727 interviews conducted in May and June in all of China's provinces and regions. The margin of error was 2 percentage points.

Chinese leader's approval to visit China and Tibet to examine religious persecution.

Sen. Dirk Kempthorne, R-Idaho, also sent Clinton a letter asking him to press Jiang to remove a Chinese ban on wheat and barley from the U.S. northwest.

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