

Professor declines invitation China

By RON BAKER
News editor

A world-renowned physicist and USC professor has refused to attend a scientific seminar in China because of recent human rights violations by the Chinese government.

Physics instructor Jeeva Anandan, in a July 24 letter to Professor J.Q. Liang of Shanxi University in Shanxi Province, China, declined an offer to attend the International Symposium on Advanced Topics of Quantum Theory. The symposium will take place in the summer of 1990.

In the letter, Anandan refused the offer "because of the massacre at the Tiananmen Square on June 3 and 4, 1989, and the continuing executions of the people who participated in the democracy movement."

"I think it's against my conscience to participate in any conference in China," Anandan said Monday. "I believe that what the Chinese government has done in sending the troops which fired on unarmed students and workers is a serious human rights violation."

Anandan said the students are neither criminals nor thugs the way the government portrays them.

Anandan said he hopes his decision will encourage others in his position to follow suit and consider avoiding ties with the Chinese government.

"I'm aware that at this point the Chinese government needs foreign

scientists, and they also need foreign technology," Anandan said. "I want to put pressure on the Chinese government, and I hope that other people will also do the same."

"If a sufficient number of scientists, engineers and other technical personnel do this, I think that it would put a certain amount of pressure on the Chinese government so that they will not continue to execute and imprison their dissidents," Anandan said.

"There's nothing that we can do about what has already happened, but I'm very much distressed by the fact that they are continuing to execute and imprison people, many of them just because they have said what happened in Tiananmen Square," Anandan said.

Anandan received the award of the international Gravity Research Foundation in 1983 for his work on gravitation and quantum mechanics. He was also awarded the Humboldt Fellowship, and international award given by a German foundation.

In his letter to Shanxi University, Anandan said that he would reconsider his position and attend the seminar if the human rights situation improved in China.

"I would like them to stop imprisoning and executing their dissidents, those who demonstrated for democracy, and I would want the government to have a dialogue with the students, give some concessions

to the students and come to some kind of an agreement with them," he said.

"And certainly not use force as they have done before," he added.

Anandan compares the unrest in Beijing with the recent strike by miners in the Soviet Union.

"When the miners went on strike in Siberia, their demands were somewhat similar to the demands of the Chinese students. Gorbachev, instead of criticizing the miners and attacking them, identified himself with the workers," he said.

"Deng Xiaoping, on the other hand, sent troops to fire on them."

Anandan said he regrets that the Beijing protests were not handled like the Soviet strike.

"If Deng Xiaoping did not agree with the students, he could have at least had a dialogue with them and tried to resolve it peacefully," he said.

Anandan visited China to attend a similar symposium in 1982. He reflects fondly on the visit.

"I enjoyed my visit very much, because the Chinese people I found to be very friendly, and I think perhaps the happiest people in the world," Anandan said. "I have been to about 20 different countries and I have found that the people of China are the happiest."

Anandan, a citizen of Sri Lanka, seemed impressed with China and its people.

TRAVEL

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those flights amounted to \$538,000.

The university reimbursed the foundation at least \$423,000 in airplane operating expenses for trips taken by Holderman, other school officials, their family members and guests.

Holderman's president's account, which is funded with state tax dollars, paid for those trips, foundation fiscal affairs officer John O'Donnell said.

Holderman's trips amounted to 36 percent of the plane's flight time, and totaled \$193,000 of the \$423,000.

Holderman said on July 24 the university used the plane to fly faculty and staff to places such as Washington, D.C., for fund-raising purposes.

"Is \$129,000 too much to spend for \$40 million in grants? I don't think so," he said, referring to how much his president's account spent on plane trips in the 1988-89 fiscal year, which ended in June.

The flight logs do not record the purpose of each trip, and Holderman said he was not sure if the university keeps other records for that purpose.

The foundation's records were released in response to the July release of a Legislative Audit Council report on the relationship between USC and its foundations.

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