

TOKYO ('AP)—A\_ strong earthquake struck Peking today, rocking tall buildings and sending people screaming into the streets, according to reports from the Chinese capital. There was no immediate word of damage or casualties.

The National Earthquake Information Service in Golden, Colo., said the quake registered 6.5 on the Richter scale and the Seismological Institute in Uppsala, Sweden, rated it at 6.8. That would make it considerably weaker than the July 28 killer quake in Tangshan, southeast of Peking, but still capable of causing severe damage.

The Richter scale is a measure of ground motion as \_ recorded on seismographs. Every increase of one whole number corresponds to a ten-fold increase in ground motion, A reading of six is considered a strong quake, seven means a major earthquake.

The earthquake that devastated Tangshan registered 8.2 on the Richter. Kyodo said today's quake was apparently an aftershock from the July blockbuster.

The official Chinese media made no mention of the quake. Japan's Kyodo News Service, in a dispatch from Peking, said the tremor was felt at 9:54 p.m.—8:54 am. EST, The Japan Meteorological Agency said the quake was apparently centered in the northern Hopei province.

The Kyodo correspondent wrote that the iS-story apartment where his Peking bureau is housed swayed vigorously. He said screaming people ran out of apartment houses in Peking's foreigners' quarters.

After the Tangshan quake the Chinese refused any foreign aid and never announced casualty figures or estimates of damage. But unofficial sources estimated the death toll in the tens of thousands and reported extensive devastation in Tangshan, an industrial city of 1.6 million. The quake rocked nearby Tientsin and Peking,

about 100 miles to the northwest.

On Aug. 16, a quake registering 7.9 on the Richter struck a mountainous region of central China but reportedly caused only slight damage.