

HONG KONG (AP) — Mao Tse-tung's widow, Chiang Ching, and three other radical members of the Chinese Communist party Politburo have been arrested on charges of plotting to seize control of the Chinese government, according to unconfirmed reports circulating today in Peking.

Residents in the Chinese capital, contacted by telephone from Hong Kong, said the reports were first heard in the city Monday evening and were the topic of open conversation today.

No official confirmation of the reports could be obtained. The Japan Broadcasting Corp. reported from Peking that all was "quiet and normal" there. But the open discussion of the reports emphasized that the power struggle between pragmatic moderates and revolutionary radicals which began with the death of Premier Chou En-iai last January is still raging.

Those reported arrested with Mao's 62-year-old widow were Wang Hung-wen, 38, the Shanghai "boy wonder" whom Mao elevated from a factory assembly line to a _ party vice-chairmanship for his services to the revolutionary cause in the 1966-69 Cultural Revolution; First Vice-Premier Chang Chun-chiao, 55, a member of the Politburo's standing committee; and Yao Wen-yuan, 51, a leading ideologist and polemicist since the Cultural Revolution purge 10 years ago.

The London Daily
Telegraph's Peking

correspondent, Nigel Wade, reported that reliable sources told him the arrests were announced to political organizers at special weekend briefings.

The London Financial Times said the four radicals were under house arrest, according to 'unconfirmed reports from Peking.' It said the reports suggested that "the power struggle which surfaced within the leadership before Chairman Mao died has since intensified."

Wade said few details of the alleged plot were known. He said the plotters apparently got

little support from the army, and he speculated that they may be charged with such "'treasonable'" actions as forging statements and sayings attributed to Mao during the last months before he died on Sept. 9.

The Telegraph report said the four radical leaders' last known public appearance was on Sept. 30, at a meeting on the eve of China's national day.

Japanese correspondents in Peking reported that none of the

four was at the airport Monday to welcome Prime Minister Thomas Somare of Papua New Guinea when he arrived for a visit to China. Official airport welcomes are important occasions in Peking, and political significance is deduced from the lineup of officials present. Somare was greeted by Premier Hua Kuo-feng and Vice-Premier Li Hsien-nien, 71, an expert in financial and

economic affairs. according to
the official Chinese news

agency Hsinhua. There had
been speculation that Chang
would become premier if Hua
succeeded Mao as Communist
party chairman. But the Lon-
don Financial Times reported
that Li fulfilled the duties of
premier at Somare's arrival.
Japanese reports from
Peking reiterated that Hua had
been chosen for the party
chairmanship. This succession
was announced in wall posters
last weekend, but there has
been no official announcement.