

China top censor out over book controversy

by UPI

BEIJING - China's top censor Long Xinmin, whose banning of eight books this year caused a hue and cry on the Internet, reportedly has been transferred.

The Times of London reported Wednesday the government quietly removed Long from his post as head of the powerful General Administration of Press and Publication but gave no reason.

Simultaneously, the government as part of its campaign against corruption and misrule also announced new rules to ensure greater transparency.

The Times report said it wasn't clear how much transparency would now be allowed considering the silence over Long's transfer and his appointment as a deputy director of the Central Party Literature Research Center.

The report said there is, however, speculation his banning of the books dealing with sensitive events in recent Chinese history may have embarrassed party leaders.

The ban raised public anger on the Internet, forcing authorities to allow the sales to continue until the books were sold out, the report said.

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