

News Release

Communiqué

Department of  
External  
Affairs



Ministère des  
Affaires  
extérieures

No. 117

May 20, 1989.

SITUATION IN BEIJING

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, called on the Chinese leadership to exercise restraint and to avoid the use of force in managing the current student and public demonstrations in Beijing.

Earlier today the Government of the PRC imposed martial law on parts of Beijing, and army units were dispatched to disperse public gatherings in the centre of the city. It appears that those units remain some blocks away from their alleged destinations, and that hundreds of thousands of city residents are in the streets. There have thus far been only isolated and unconfirmed reports of violence in outlying areas.

Mr. Clark said "the Chinese Government, and indeed the students themselves, appear to have shown considerable restraint in the past weeks and we would hope that restraint will continue to be exercised. We trust that the current difficult situation will be resolved peacefully and the use of force avoided."

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Secretary of State  
for  
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État  
aux  
Affaires extérieures

Canada