

Oral Questions

decisively on behalf of the people of Canada in the United Nations.

Could the Secretary of State be good enough to advise us what consultations his Government has had with the United States, Great Britain, and other nations as to the possible consequences for the world if the current thrust of the Chinese Government persists in that country?

Will the Chinese Government be advised that we in this country will have great difficulty in accepting a transfer of Hong Kong to the jurisdiction of the People's Republic of China if these events continue?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition and the House would expect, we are in active consultation with a range of other countries, not simply our normal allies but a range of other countries with an interest in the stability of China. We are doing that bilaterally. We are doing it at the United Nations, particularly with regard to other members of the Security Council. To a limited degree we are exchanging information on the ground in Beijing among missions that are there.

There are a number of other questions that will have to be faced in the days, perhaps early days to come with relation, for example, to the status of the Chinese application to the GATT, with relation to the future of CIDA projects, with relation to the EDC line of credit, and with relation to the specific question the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition has raised concerning the status of Hong Kong.

We are fortunate in this country to have very experienced officials who have spent a lot of time in China. We are making full use of their expertise.

The Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition would agree that we do not want to make any of those decisions too quickly, but we want to be in a position to take them immediately when the time is appropriate. I hope that we

are following the course that I believe will put us in that position.

[*Translation*]

REQUEST AS TO PLANNING OF HUMANITARIAN AID

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Finally, Mr. Speaker, could the Minister inform the House of the new steps that have been taken or will be taken by Canada to provide humanitarian aid through the Red Cross or other volunteer organizations?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I made it clear last night during the emergency debate here in the House that Canada is prepared to offer humanitarian aid, in response to official requests from the Red Cross and other organizations. So far, I don't think we have received any official requests, but I made it clear that Canada is prepared to make an affirmative response to such requests.

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[*English*]

IMMIGRATION

SPONSORSHIP OF FAMILIES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Immigration and it too concerns the situation in China.

Yesterday's announcement to halt deportations of all rejected Chinese refugees for 60 days, along with the Secretary of State's decision not to send back some 4,500 Chinese students presently studying in Canada, was an exemplary response to the tragedy we have all witnessed during the past few days. I commend the Minister and her colleagues in the Government for those decisions.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Marchi: Last year, only 2,700 people were landed in Canada from the People's Republic of China. Today the Canadian-Chinese community, which numbers somewhere in the area of 400,000 across Canada, is somewhat concerned for the safety of family members, not only in Beijing but throughout China.

Given the circumstances of the events in China, and the low acceptance rate in the last number of years of Chinese citizens, is the Government prepared to specifically relax the family class and the assisted family class criteria in order that more Canadian-Chinese families will have an easier and more successful time in sponsoring relatives from China to Canada?