

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

#### VIOLENCE IN CHINA—EVACUATION OF CANADIANS

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question or two for the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Canadians and the world watch in horror as events unfold of the terrifying spectacle in the most populous nation on earth. The world watches as young Chinese are killed because Government leaders there are playing power games and because the Chinese authorities refuse to recognize the legitimacy of a valued and brave struggle for freedom.

When does he anticipate that Canadians will have been evacuated from China? How many Canadians does the Government expect will remain in that country?

I would like to ask him whether, upon reflection overnight, he has come to a decision, which I urge him to take, to use our seat on the Security Council of the United Nations to initiate a motion of censure in that body against the People's Republic of China.

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition for his questions. He placed three.

A chartered Canadian Airlines International aircraft is on its way to Beijing. It will be leaving Beijing, carrying more than 200 Canadians out. It will be leaving in about 12 hours from now en route to Tokyo. There are about 210 Canadians who have indicated an interest in being on the aircraft. There are still spaces available.

It is our intention to remove all Canadians from Beijing with the exception of about 20 of the more senior officials of the Department of External Affairs who will remain on site for the foreseeable future. If circumstances require their removal, then that will be done.

• (1420)

At the moment we are not recommending the evacuation from other points in China of other Canadians who are there. There are about 300 other Canadians else

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where in China. We have identified the whereabouts of virtually all of them, although we are checking to make sure that we know the exact location of tourists or business persons who might be in some more remote parts of the country. We have arrangements in place, if necessary, to bring them out.

We have dispatched today a Canadian Air Force plane which will stand by on a military base in Japan in case there is a need for further evacuation.

With respect to the actions in the United Nations, as the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition and other Members of the House made clear last night, this country has been very active in the recent and, until this point, progressive history of China. We have excellent credentials to exercise a leadership role in responding to these tragic events.

The Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition will know the judgment of the Secretary General of the United Nations who drew attention yesterday to the requirements of the Charter of the United Nations, that the United Nations should abstain from intervention in regard to matters that are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of states. Obviously, disorder and conflict in a country as large and as powerful as China cannot long remain an internal matter.

One hour ago I was in touch with Ambassador Fortier in the United Nations. He is continuing his active consultations with members of the Security Council and other members of the United Nations to explore every possible and practical opportunity for Canada to exercise leadership in allowing the United Nations also to express its outrage at these actions and perhaps to have an influence that could encourage Chinese leaders to adopt a more positive, less dangerous course.

#### CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER NATIONS

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the thoroughness of the Minister's answers on the information I requested in the first part of my question.

I would urge him with respect to the United Nations to recognize that human rights know no boundaries or frontiers and that this is an issue involving human kind. I know he wants to act prudently. I hope that he acts