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MINISTER CLARK COMMENTS ON VIOLENCE IN BEIJING

Late this evening Beijing time, the Chinese authorities began to use what appears to have been significant military force to deal with the situation in the streets of Beijing. It is now clear that people are being killed in substantial numbers. Fighting continues in Tiananmen Square, and confrontations continue in streets approaching the city centre.

Commenting on the violence, the Secretary of State for External Affairs the Right Honourable Joe Clark said "We greatly regret that, following a period of evident restraint, the Chinese authorities initiated the use of force. It is clear that because of this, lives are being lost unnecessarily and the situation is being made more confrontational and intractable. We call on the Chinese Government to cease its military action and to return to peaceful methods to resolve the current crisis."

The Department of External Affairs remains in constant contact with the Canadian Embassy in Beijing. As far as we are aware, no Canadians are in any danger.

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Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures

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