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situations so that word and image can get out to the world so people can know exactly what is going on.

There is an irony here that should not be missed. People are doing a lot of talking about the hardliners. In this context, if I understand it correctly, the hardliners are the people who want to see the economy of China westernized. Deng Xiaoping and others have become known for their economic reforms. In that sense they have not been hardliners when it comes to economic ideology. It turns out that they have been hardliners when it comes to political ideology. It is important to say that because so often the concept of being a hardliner is used with a broad brush and implies both political and economic rigidity which in this case is not an accurate way of describing what is going on.

The task for the western world will be to drive home the point, particularly if the so-called hardliners, in this case the people who ordered the troops on the students are the people who emerge victorious from the struggle which is now going on from the chain of violence that they set in motion, not only in rhetoric and motions here in the House of Commons, however important they may be, but to drive home the point in practical and concrete actions about how much offence is taken by the world at what has happened in China. At the same time China must not be driven into isolationism and hostility toward the rest of the world. That will be dangerous for us all. In this I do not care one whit about who happens to have investments in China or joint ventures. I am not talking about the economic dimension. Economic matters should always be subordinate to larger moral and political values. I am talking about the fact that we are dealing with one of the largest countries in the world, a country which, if things go awry in China, can affect all kinds of things which are either progressing well at this point or have the hope of progressing well.

Recently I had occasion to speak to the Asia-Pacific Foundation in Vancouver. It was an opportunity for me to have a good look at many things that are happening in the Asia-Pacific region. One of the things one was delighted to note was that it was an era of reconciliation and so many old enemies were reconciling. When I spoke in late April it was just previous to the first visit by a Taiwanese Minister to the mainland since the revolution.

China-Japan relations are warming, Russian-Chinese relations are warming, Russian-Japanese relations are warming, and the Southeast Asian countries are trying to find a solution to problems in Indochina. Without a China that knows its mind it may be very difficult to solve the problem in Cambodia. All of this will have a profound effect on a great many international situations that are important to us all.

Therefore it is incumbent upon all of us to think very carefully and of course it is even more incumbent upon the Government because they are the ones who have to act, but it is incumbent upon us to think how we react to these events. Whatever we do, we have to do actual things. We cannot be guilty of saying our piece tonight and being done with it. Whatever we do, we have to do it from that sense of outrage which is unanimously shared by Canadians, and particularly shared by Chinese Canadians and others who have had the good fortune to visit China over the last few decades. I notice that people who have been to China in the last decade or so have had a special pain in their hearts about what has gone on there. I believe that speaks well of the Chinese people. It speaks well of the hopes that many have had and should still have for the future of China. China as a civilization and as a nation has been around for a long time. It will be around for a long time yet. What those students were after, and what I believe in great measure they will have achieved by their deaths, will yet come to pass.

• (2220)

Mr. Patrick Boyer (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, there is a great distance between our country and China in geographic terms. There is a great distance as well between the Chinese and most Canadians in cultural terms. There is no distance between us whatsoever tonight in the shared emotional response to the tragedy that is unfolding in China.

This century which in so many ways highlights steps of human advancement and progress, is also the century of the most unspeakable horrors inflicted by mankind upon other humans. It is perhaps one of the most discouraging things for people around the globe tonight to see on the news that has just been broadcast, the unfolding events in China. The often hoped for sense of progress towards civilized methods of government, orderly and peaceful methods of resolving differences, in fact represents a stage of human progress. It is black chapters like the one